

The

# NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 10, Issue 7

Our Web Site is at <http://www.nevadaseniors.com>

July 14, 2011

*Special points of interest:*

**July 1861**

- July 2 - the right of habeas corpus is suspended by Lincoln in exceptional cases in a limited area between Washington, D.C. and New York.
- July 21 - Battle of 1st Bull Run (1st Manassas) the first major battle of the war. (McDowell in command.)
- July 22 - the Crittenden resolution states that the war is being fought to “preserve the Union”, not to abolish slavery.
- July 27 - Lincoln replaces General Irvin McDowell with General George B. McClellan to head what will later be called the Army of the Potomac. (Surprise.)



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## A Break for NV Energy Ratepayers & Other Goodies from the 2011 Legislature

*By Knight Allen, NSC Director of Legislation*

I admit I tend to judge any Legislative session more on what doesn't happen rather than what does. By that standard 2011 was pretty good.

The failure of NV Energy's AB416 which was a classic attempt to “socialize risk and privatize profit” died when Governor Sandoval vetoed it. The last hour (literally) manipulations to push the bill through were well reported by the media and probably had a hand in the Governor's veto. Some cynics have said the publicity was the only reason he vetoed it. I don't buy it. I read the veto message. It was clearly written by a man with a ton of experience in public utility oversight. He did an outstanding job of explaining the statutes, the principles and the PUC's place in overseeing utility rates and showed how AB416 conflicted with the regulatory structure. The final passage of his veto message sums up the Governor's position very well and is worth repeating here.

“This bill threatens not only to undermine the value of the resource plan approval process in maintaining reasonable electricity rates and prudent facilities approvals, but it will provide for increased rates to cover utility expenditures unrelated to the provision of electricity in this state.”  
\*\*\*\*\*

Another attempt to "socialize risk and privatize profits" namely the stadium deals, hit a brick wall in the person of Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick who took the exercise in corporate welfare apart piece by piece until there was nothing left. Kudos Ms. Kirkpatrick.  
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For the second session in a row the National Popular vote for President (SB344) failed. This bill which attempts to get around the Electoral College should really be called the National Bill to Kick the Small Population States out of the Presidential Election Process. Our electoral votes were crucial in 2008 (remember?) and will be again next year. Under the Popular Vote system if we voted the “wrong” way our choice would be irrelevant. Our electoral votes would go to

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whoever won New York, California, Illinois, Texas, et. al. The Electoral College is an integral part of our republican (small "r") system that gives a real voice to the minority (that's us) and we would be out of our minds to throw it away.

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Something called the North American Electric Reliability Corporation which oversees the nations power grid is about to conduct an experiment to see if anyone "is using the grid to keep track of time". How might this affect us? Well, the most interesting quote in the article (LVRJ 6/21/11) from Mr. Demetrios Matsakas, head of the Time Service Department at the U.S Naval Observatory: "A lot of people are going to have things break and they're not going to know why."

Good grief.

## **I Didn't Know What Time It Was...**

### **To amplify on Knight' s last paragraph...**

Posted Friday, Jun. 24, 2011

By Seth Borenstein

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- A yearlong experiment with the nation's electric grid could mess up traffic lights, security systems and some computers -- and make plug-in clocks and appliances like programmable coffee makers run up to 20 minutes fast.

"A lot of people are going to have things break, and they're not going to know why," said Demetrios Matsakis, head of the time service department at the U.S. Naval Observatory, one of two official timekeeping agencies in the federal government.

Since 1930, electric clocks have kept time based on the rate of the electrical current that powers them. If the current slips off its usual rate, clocks run a little fast or slow.

Power companies now take steps to correct it, keeping the frequency of the current as precise as possible.

The North American Electric Reliability Corp., which oversees the U.S. power grid, is proposing an experiment that would allow more frequency variation without corrections, according to a June 14 company presentation obtained by The Associated Press.

The test is tentatively set to start in mid-July.

Tweaking the power grid's frequency is expensive and takes a lot of effort, said Joe McClelland, head of electric reliability for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"Is anyone using the grid to keep track of time?" McClelland said. "Let's see if anyone complains if we eliminate it."

No one is quite sure what will be affected. This won't change the clocks in cell phones, GPS or even on computers. (Sun dials also won't be affected—Vern) (I was talking to a guy the other day who uses his cell phone not a watch or clock—Vern)

But wall clocks and those on ovens and coffee makers -- anything that flashes "12:00" when it loses power -- may be a bit off every second, and that error can grow with time.

VCRs or DVRs that get their time from cable systems or the Internet probably won't be affected, but those with clocks tied to the electric current will be off a bit, Matsakis said.

According to the June presentation, East Coast clocks may run up to 20 minutes fast over a year, but West Coast clocks are only likely to be off by eight minutes. In Texas, it's only an expected speedup of two minutes.

## *“Please Don’t Quote Me”*

Lincoln needed special Congressional permission to pay for the war against the Confederacy. He called Congress into special session on **July 4, 1861**, and below explains his actions at the outbreak of the war. He goes on to explain the purpose of the conflict in defense of the Union and its ideal of equal opportunity.

It might seem at first thought to be of little difference whether the present movement at the South be called "secession" or "rebellion." The movers, however, well understand the difference. At the beginning they knew they could never raise their treason to any respectable magnitude by any name which implies violation of law. They knew their people possessed as much of moral sense, as much of devotion to law and order, and as much pride in and reverence for the history and Government of their common country as any other civilized and patriotic people. They knew they could make no advancement directly in the teeth of these strong and noble sentiments. Accordingly, they commenced by an insidious debauching of the public mind. They invented an ingenious sophism, which, if conceded, was followed by perfectly logical steps through all the incidents to the complete destruction of the Union. The sophism itself is that any State of the Union may consistently with the National Constitution, and therefore lawfully and peacefully, withdraw from the Union without the consent of the Union or of any other State. The little disguise that the supposed right is to be exercised only for just cause, themselves to be the sole judge of its justice, is too thin to merit any notice.

With rebellion thus sugar coated they have been drugging the public mind of their section for more than thirty years, and until at length they have brought many good men to a willingness to take up arms against the Government the day after some assemblage of men have enacted the farcical pretense of taking their State out of the Union who could have been brought to no such thing the day before.

This sophism derives much, perhaps the whole, of its currency from the assumption that there is some omnipotent and sacred supremacy pertaining to a State-to each State of our Federal Union. Our States have neither more nor less power than that reserved to them in the Union by the Constitution, no one of them ever having been a State out of the Union. The original ones passed into the Union even before they cast off their British colonial dependence, and the new ones each came into the Union directly from a condition of dependence, excepting Texas; and even Texas, in its temporary independence, was never designated a State. The new ones only took the designation of States on coming into the Union, while that name was first adopted for the old ones in and by the Declaration of Independence. Therein the "United Colonies" were declared to be "free and independent States"; but even then the object plainly was not to declare their independence of one another or of the Union, but directly the contrary, as their mutual pledge and their mutual action before, at the time, and afterwards abundantly show. The express plighting of faith by each and all of the original thirteen in the Articles of Confederation, two years later, that the Union shall be perpetual is most conclusive. Having never been States, either in substance or in name, outside of the Union, whence this magical omnipotence of "State rights," asserting a claim of power to lawfully destroy the Union itself? Much is said about the "sovereignty" of the States, but the word even is not in the National Constitution, nor, as is believed, in any of the State constitutions. What is "sovereignty" in the political sense of the term? Would it be far wrong to define it "a political community without a political superior"? Tested by this, no one of our States, except Texas, ever was a sovereignty; and even Texas gave up the character on coming into the Union, by which act she acknowledged the Constitution of the United States and the laws and treaties of the United States made in pursuance of the Constitution to be for her the supreme law of the land. The States have their status in the Union, and they have no other legal status. If they break from us, they can only do so against law and by revolution. The Union, and not themselves separately, procured their independence and their liberty. By conquest or purchase the Union gave each of them whatever of independence and liberty it has. The Union is older than any of the States, and, in fact, it created them as States. Originally some dependent colonies made the Union, and in turn the Union threw off their old dependence for them and made them States, such as they are. Not one of them ever had a State constitution independent of the Union. Of course it is not forgotten that all the new States framed their constitutions before they entered the Union, nevertheless dependent upon and preparatory to coming into the Union.

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This is essentially a people's contest. On the side of the Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men; to lift artificial

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weights from all shoulders; to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all; to afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life. Yielding to partial and temporary departures, from necessity, this is the leading object of the Government for whose existence we contend.

I am most happy to believe that the plain people understand and appreciate this. It is worthy of note that while in this the Government's hour of trial large numbers of those in the Army and Navy who have been favored with the offices have resigned and proved false to the hand which had pampered them, not one common soldier or common sailor is known to have deserted his flag.

Great honor is due to those officers who remained true despite the example of their treacherous associates; but the greatest honor and most important fact of all is the unanimous firmness of the common soldiers and common sailors. To the last man, so far as known, they have successfully resisted the traitorous efforts of those whose commands but an hour before they obeyed as absolute law. This is the patriotic instinct of plain people. They understand without an argument that the destroying the Government which was made by Washington means no good to them.

Our popular Government has often been called an experiment. Two points in it our people have already settled—the successful establishing and the successful administering of it. One still remains—its successful maintenance against a formidable internal attempt to overthrow it. It is now for them to demonstrate to the world that those who can fairly carry an election can also suppress a rebellion; that ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors of bullets, and that when ballots have fairly and constitutionally decided there can be no successful appeal back to bullets; that there can be no successful appeal except to ballots themselves at succeeding elections. Such will be a great lesson of peace, teaching men that what they cannot take by an election, neither can they take it by a war; teaching all the folly of being the beginners of a war.

Lest there be some uneasiness in the minds of candid men as to what is to be the course of the Government toward the Southern States after the rebellion shall have been suppressed, the Executive deems it proper to say it will be his purpose then, as ever, to be guided by the Constitution and the laws, and that he probably will have no different understanding of the powers and duties of the Federal Government relatively to the rights of the States and the people under the Constitution than that expressed in the inaugural address.

He desires to preserve the Government, that it may be administered for all as it was administered by the men who made it. Loyal citizens everywhere have the right to claim this of their government, and the government has no right to withhold or neglect it. It is not perceived that in giving it there is any coercion, any conquest, or any subjugation in any just sense of those terms.

The Constitution provides, and all the States have accepted the provision, that "the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government." But if a State may lawfully go out of the Union, having done so it may also discard the republican form of government; so that to prevent its going out is an indispensable means to the end of maintaining the guaranty mentioned; and when an end is lawful and obligatory the indispensable means to it are also lawful and obligatory.

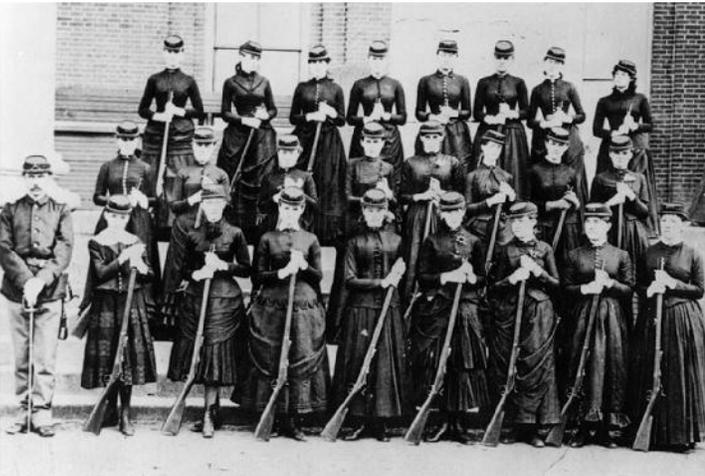
It was with the deepest regret that the Executive found the duty of employing the war power in defense of the Government forced upon him. He could but perform this duty or surrender the existence of the Government. No compromise by public servants could in this case be a cure; not that compromises are not often proper, but that no popular government can long survive a marked precedent that those who carry an election can only save the government from immediate destruction by giving up the main point upon which the people gave the election. The people themselves, and not their servants, can safely reverse their own deliberate decisions.

As a private citizen the Executive could not have consented that these institutions shall perish; much less could he in betrayal of so vast and so sacred a trust as these free people had confided to him. He felt that he had no moral right to shrink, nor even to count the chances of his own life, in what might follow. In full view of his great responsibility he has so far done what he has deemed his duty. You will now, according to your own judgment, perform yours. He sincerely hopes that your views and your action may so accord with his as to assure all faithful citizens who have been disturbed in their rights of a certain and speedy restoration to them under the Constitution and the laws.

And having thus chosen our course, without guile and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God and go forward without fear and with manly hearts.

**Source: Abraham Lincoln, "Special Session Message, July 4, 1861," in A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, vol. 7, ed. James D. Richardson (New York: Bureau of National Literature, 1897), pp. 3227-29, 3231-32.**

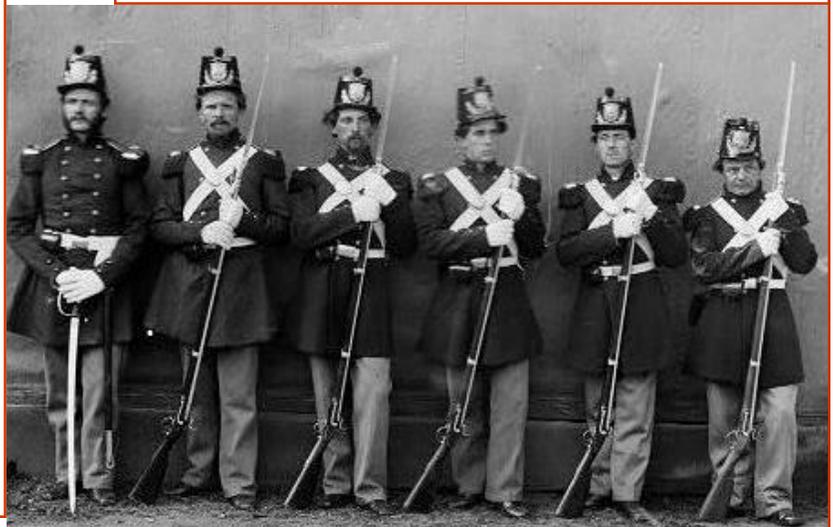
## Civil War Wacs, Marines & Sailors



This is a picture of a group of Union female volunteers. I don't actually know what they are but they may be vivandieres. Dressed in a feminine version of the prescribed uniform, the vivandieres accompanied their regiment into active service and combat. They functioned as the regimental mascots, sutlers and field nurses but received little or no pay, relying on donations from officers and soldiers for income.

Often married to a soldier in their regiment, the vivandieres were source of emotional comfort for their comrades during the grueling life of warfare. Of course many women, disguised as men, fought on both sides. The most mentioned number for the Union is 400 but the number was probably much larger. Some served during the entire war and were never discovered to be women.

Marine Commandant Colonel John Harris felt that invasions to take over southern ports and forts were better left to the army. The marines were kept to their standard practice of guarding ships. The reason for this were sound considering the Congress only authorized increasing the Corps to 3,000 men but since there was no enlistment bonus and the term of service was longer than the Army—good luck. However a battalion of Marines were routed at First Bull Run (with the Army) and Marines took part in landings at New Orleans and other battles. During the war 148 marines were killed in action and 17 received the Medal of Honor for bravery.



Twenty-four percent of the U.S. Navy's officers resigned and joined the Confederate States Navy, including 95 graduates and 59 midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy.

The academy was move from Maryland to Rhode Island in 1861 (Maryland had a lot of southern sympathizers but remained in the Union).

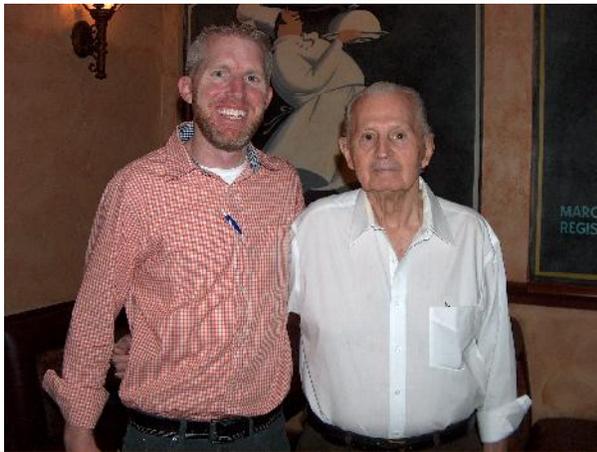
The first Superintendent, Admiral Franklin Buchanan, joined the Confederate Navy as its first and primary Admiral.

The midshipmen and faculty returned to Annapolis, Maryland in the summer of 1865 after the war ended.

Very few seamen defected to the Confederacy.



### At the June Meeting



Our featured speaker was Bronson L. Mack from the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Bronson gave a very comprehensive talk on the Water problems and third straw problems and progress.



Thanks to all members who have contributed time and money to NSC – especially The Duffys & Ted. Mendalski.

### Members

#### Renewing Members:

- \*Bernice Borge\*
- \*Judy Cvetkovic\*
- \*Edward & Mary Ann Duffy\*
- \*Mary Le Pire\*
- \*Alma Graham\*
- \*Ted Mendalski\*
- \*Elaine Siegel\*
- \*Richard Thomas\*

**Thanks for your continued support.**

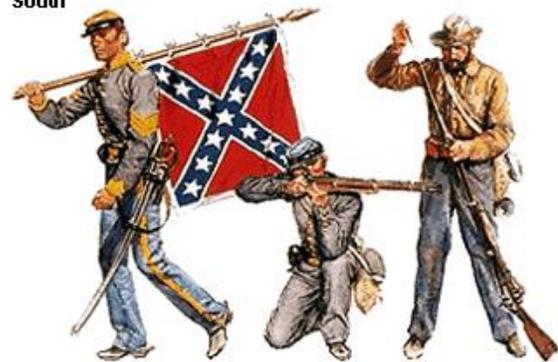
#### New Members:

- \*Don Hathaway\*
- \*Marcia Koben\*
- \*Aida P. Raymond\*



WELCOME!

South



Cavalry sergeant, 1862

Infantry private, 1861-1862

Infantry private, 1863-1865

Your membership anniversary date is on the Foghorn Mailing label. If the label is **RED**, please renew your membership, either by mail, or at the next meeting you attend. Your name is removed from the membership list 90 days after expiration.

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person.





From basic needs to any health and human service program, one call to Nevada 2-1-1 offers access to:

- Basic human needs resource
- Physical and mental health resources
- Financial stability
- Programs for children, youth and families
- Support for older Americans and persons with disabilities
- Volunteer opportunities and donations
- Support for community crisis or disaster recovery

Callers can access:

- Basic human services (food, clothing, shelter, rental assistance, utility assistance)
- Physical and mental health resources (medical information lines, crisis intervention, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, Medicaid/Medicare, maternal health, children's health, insurance)
- Employment support services (unemployment benefits, financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs)
- Support for seniors and persons with disabilities (home health care, adult day care, meal services, respite care, transportation, homemaker services)
- Programs for children, youth, families (childcare, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services)

**Just dial 211**

Website Address: nevada211.org

## From the Editor

Longtime NSC Member Don Fuller reports his wife Dorothy is in the Nathan Adelson Hospice. Dorothy has been suffering with cancer for a long time. The hospice address is 3391 Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89129. She is in room 50. Visiting is allowed. The phone number is 733-0320. Call and ask for Dorothy Fuller. Please call and send her a card. She and her husband were very active for many years in the Las Vegas Valley.

Another NSC member and activist, Marie Marenado, fell on Memorial Day and broke her right hand. She is recuperating at home and is becoming active in the community again.

I was a speaker at a tree planting ceremony honoring Lois and Fred Olsen at Paradise Park on June 4th. Lois and Fred were two more very active people in the community and long time members of NSC, the Nevada Association of Manufactured Home Owners, Seniors United, the Paradise Democratic Club, etc., etc. Fred passed away in 1996 and Lois last year. They will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives they touched over their many years of service.

**Vern**

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 11th starting at 10 a.m. at >>>>>



**After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day?**

***Our August Speaker will be:***

***Patty Gurney, Elder Rights Advocate***

***State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services  
Aging and Disability Services Division***

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**July 14, 1861**

## **TRIBUNE TAKES TRIUMPHANT TONE**

Sunday July 14 1861

Horace Greeley is best known today for his travel advice ("Go west, young man! and grow up with the country!") but today he was waxing eloquent with military suggestions. "FORWARD TO RICHMOND!" screamed the headlines in Greeley's New York Tribune today. Gen. Irwin McDowell was supposed to be putting an end to this ludicrous secession matter, was the attitude. Towards this end he had been given the largest army by far ever assembled by the United States of America, some 35,000 strong. What the esteemed editor completely overlooked was the fact that this immense army had had so little training that it amounted to little more than an armed mob. Lincoln, with less excuse, felt the same way. When McDowell asked for more time for training, the President replied "You are green, it is true; but they are green also. You are all green alike."

The Union army began marching from Alexandria, Virginia on July 16. Many of the men were three-month volunteers that had joined shortly after Fort Sumter and their enlistments would be up this month. (It was thought the war would be over in about a week.)

Along with this army of undisciplined troops, who broke ranks to pick berries and fill their canteens, were many camp-followers, gay women and strumpets; families carrying picnic baskets, opera glasses, champagne and printed tickets for "a

The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

**The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.**

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

grand ball in Richmond"; senators and representatives, and the press. One representative captured during the ensuing battle spent six months in a Confederate prison before being exchanged.

The first Confederate sentries retreated when they saw the spectacle and gave the Union troops a false sense of confidence. McDowell delayed two days to try to organize his mob. This gave the Confederates time to reinforce their army using the railroad, the first time in history that this had been done. So what had seemed a sure Union victory before the reinforcements arrived turned into a rout of the inexperienced Union volunteers.

After fighting all day, when the volunteers saw the fresh Confederate troops, the volunteers nearing the end of their enlistment decided this was a good time to take an early discharge and retreat to Washington hampered by the civilians who were in complete panic and confusion.

The equally inexperienced Confederates, who had been in the battle, were very tired and in no condition to pursue the retreating army. Lincoln now knew this would be a long war.