

# Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors, their children and grand children

The

# NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 13, Issue 8

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

August 14, 2014

## Special Points of Interest

### WORLD WAR I – AUGUST 1914 100 YEARS AGO

- ♣ 1 - OUTBREAK OF WAR — GERMANY DECLARES WAR ON RUSSIA
- ♣ 3 - GERMANY DECLARES WAR ON FRANCE
- ♣ 4 - GERMANY INVADES NEUTRAL BELGIUM AND SO...
- ♣ 4 - BRITAIN DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY
- ♣ 4 - US PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON DECLARES POLICY OF US NEURALITY
- ♣ 14 - BATTLE OF THE FRONTIERS BEGINS IN EASTERN FRANCE AND SOUTHERN BELGIUM
- ♣ 17-19 - RUSSIA INVADES EAST PRUSSIA
- ♣ 23 - JAPAN DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY
- ♣ 23 - SEPTEMBER 2 - AUSTRIA-HUNGARY INVADES RUSSIAN POLAND (GALICIA)
- ♣ 26 - 30 - RUSSIA LOSES BATTLE OF TANNENBERG; GERMANY'S GREATEST SUCCESS OF THE WAR ON THE EASTERN FRONT

## NVE, HMO, D O D O I

By Vice President Knight Allen

Let's start with a follow up regarding NV Energy's (NVE) proposed rate increase. The headline read "No shock: Electricity rates soar" "PUC report: Customer bill that was \$67 in 1985 now costs \$161." That's an increase of 140%. When I stepped back and thought about it that didn't seem so terrible to me. Three decades 140%? When you consider the insane growth we experienced here in Clark County and the amount of capital Nevada Power had to invest to keep up with it the 140% comes close to being a loaves and fishes miracle. Now before you get all upset with me, I'm not in love with NVE. I never owned a share of the company's stock when it was NVP or when it became NVE before the Buffett buyout. Also, I own no shares of any public utility so I've got no self interest in praising NVE. Assuming the PUC's numbers are accurate the company did one heck of a job. Just to get a little perspective I dove into my files and found the average wage in Clark County in 1985 and compared it to now: \$18,000 to \$44,142 equals 145%.

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Are you a Medicare Advantage (MA) member? Do you like it? I am and I do. I've had two major incidents both requiring hospitalization and rehab and in both cases I have been very satisfied with the care I received. I have this very uncomfortable feeling MA has a bulls eye on it. Back in February the Wall Street Journal reported the Health & Human Services (HHS) Department has "warned the insurance industry.....to expect a cut (to MA) of roughly 6% to 7%. That's a real decline in funding, not a slower growth rate and much steeper than anticipated." The same report said the number of MA plans has shrunk from 48 in 2009 to 20 now.

On the other hand, all the articles I've seen telling me not to worry, that MA is fine are coming from inside of government and I admit that I can no longer accept those assurances. At some point in time

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the talking points coming from both sides go by the wayside and you get to the bottom line. United Healthcare, which runs the Senior Dimensions MA plan here in Clark County, reported a 2 percent drop in second-quarter earnings primarily due to the Affordable Care Acts' MA funding reduction. Two percent isn't much but it's really just the beginning.

I ran across a report about the Declaration of Independence. It pointed out the Declaration is really two documents. One declaring the natural rights of man, "We hold these truths to be self evident---" and the other a statement to the nations of the world documenting twenty eight actions by the King & Parliament justifying why "...these United Colonies are and of Right ought to be Free & Independent States..."

Here's where it gets very interesting. Over one half of the 193 member countries of the United Nations actually have a Declaration of Independence. Every one of them, like ours, documents the reasons why they should be recognized as new nations. But...are you ready for this? Only a couple declares commitment to the natural rights of man. In other words the people had no rights under the old regime and they still have no rights under the new one.

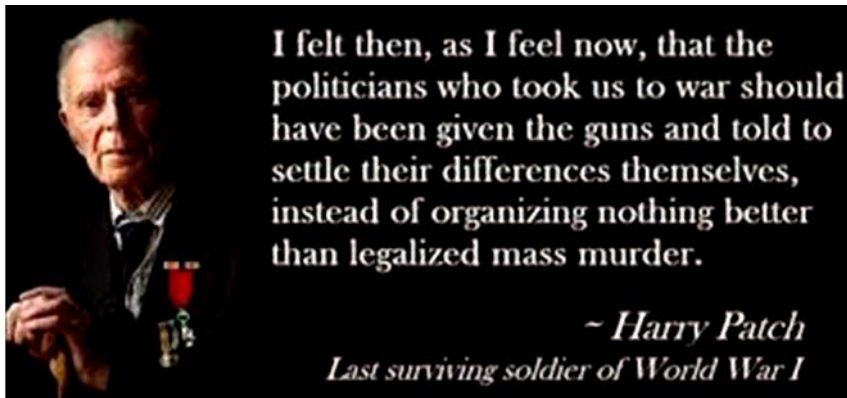
Authoritarians, dictators and tyrants in all forms, including benevolent, and in every age can't stand "We hold these truths..." and that seems to include more than a few sitting in Washington DC right now.

Knight can be reached at: [knightallen702@yahoo.com](mailto:knightallen702@yahoo.com)

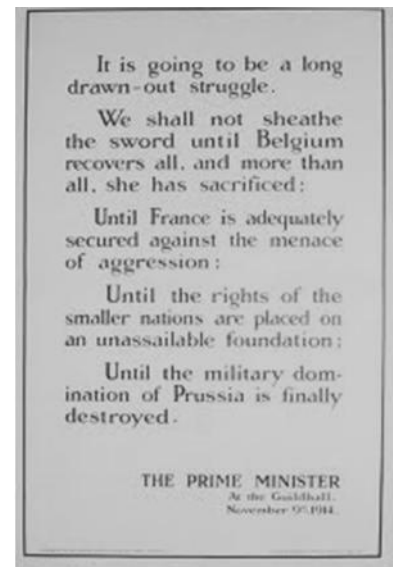
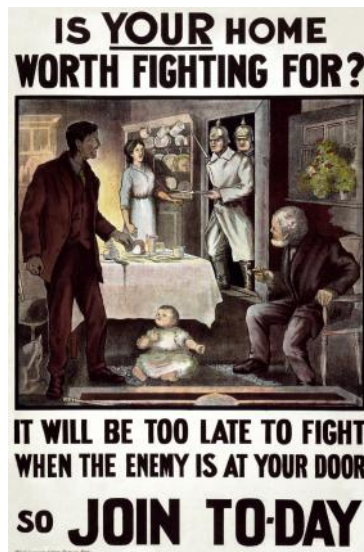




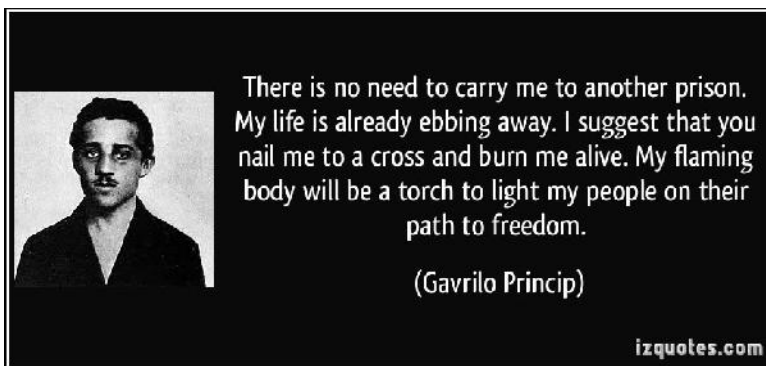
# “Please Don’t Quote Me”



Henry John "Harry" Patch, dubbed in his latter years "the Last Fighting Tommy", was a British supercentenarian, briefly the oldest man in Europe and the last surviving soldier known to have fought in the trenches of the First World War. Patch was, with Claude Choules and Florence Green, one of the last three surviving British veterans of the First World War and, along with Frank Buckles and John Babcock, one of the last known five veterans worldwide.



For a century, British governmental policy and public opinion was against **conscription** for foreign wars.



Gavrilo Princip was a Bosnian Serb who assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. Princip and his accomplices were arrested and implicated by several members of the Serbian military, leading Austria-Hungary to issue a protest to Serbia known as the July Ultimatum. This was used as pretext for Austria-Hungary's invasion of Serbia, which then led to World War I.

## The following remarkable sequence of events led inexorably to the 'Great War' - a name that had been touted even before the coming of the conflict.

June 28, 1914 – Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, is assassinated in Sarajevo. Austria-Hungary's reaction to the death of their heir (who was not greatly beloved by the Emperor, Franz Josef, or his government) was three weeks in coming. Arguing that the Serbian government was implicated in the machinations of the Black Hand (which appears unlikely), the Austro-Hungarians opted to take the opportunity to stamp its authority upon the Serbians, crushing the nationalist movement there and cementing Austria-Hungary's influence in the Balkans. It did so by issuing an ultimatum to Serbia which, in the extent of its demand that the assassins be brought to justice effectively nullified Serbia's sovereignty. Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, was moved to comment that he had "never before seen one State address to another independent State a document of so formidable a character. "Austria-Hungary expected Serbia to reject the remarkably severe terms of the ultimatum, thereby giving her a pretext for launching a limited war against Serbia. However, Serbia had long had Slavic ties with Russia, an altogether different proposition for Austria-Hungary. Although not really expecting that Russia would be drawn into the dispute to any great extent other than through diplomatic protest, the Austro-Hungarian government sought assurances from her ally, Germany, that she would come to her aid should the unthinkable happen and Russia declared war on Austria-Hungary. Germany readily agreed and even encouraged Austria-Hungary's warlike stance.

**July 28, 1914 – Austria-Hungary**, unsatisfied with Serbia's response to her ultimatum (which in the event was almost entirely appeasing; however her procrastinating over a couple of minor clauses gave Austria-Hungary her sought-after cue) declared war on Serbia.

**July 31 – Russia**, bound by treaty to Serbia, announced mobilization of its vast army in her defense, a slow process that would take around six weeks to complete. On August 17<sup>th</sup> the Russian 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> armies entered East Prussia.

**August 1 – Germany**, allied to Austria-Hungary by treaty, viewed the Russian mobilization as an act of war against Austria-Hungary, and after scant warning declared war on Russia. **France**, bound by treaty to Russia, found itself at war against Germany and, by extension, on Austria-Hungary following a German declaration on 3 August. Germany was swift in invading neutral Belgium so as to reach Paris by the shortest possible route.

**August 4 – Britain**, allied to France by a more loosely worded treaty which placed a "moral obligation" upon her to defend France, declared war against Germany. Her reason for entering the conflict lay in another direction: she was obligated to defend neutral Belgium by the terms of a 75-year old treaty. With Germany's invasion of Belgium on August 4, and the Belgian King's appeal to Britain for assistance, Britain committed herself to Belgium's defense later that day. Like France, she was by extension also at war with Austria-Hungary. With Britain's entry into the war, her colonies and dominions abroad variously offered military and financial assistance, and included **Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand** and the **Union of South Africa**.

**August 23 – Japan**, honoring a military agreement with Britain, declared war on Germany. Two days later Austria-Hungary responded by declaring war on Japan.

**Italy**, although allied to both Germany and Austria-Hungary, was able to avoid entering the fray by citing a clause enabling it to evade its obligations to both. In short, Italy was committed to defend Germany and Austria-Hungary only in the event of a 'defensive' war; arguing that their actions were 'offensive' she declared instead a policy of neutrality. The following year, in **May 1915**, she finally joined by siding with the Allies against her two former allies.

**United States President Woodrow Wilson** declared a U.S. policy of absolute neutrality, an official stance that would last until 1917 when Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare - which seriously threatened America's commercial shipping (which was in any event almost entirely directed towards the Allies led by Britain and France) forced the U.S. to finally enter the war on **April 6, 1917**.

## What Tax System Taxpayers Want (From NTU.Org August 6, 2014)



In honor of the economist Milton Friedman's birthday, NTU Foundation once again opened up the polls to taxpayers across the country to see which fundamental tax system change they support. As many Americans know, Friedman was a supporter of tax reform in favor of broadening the base and increasing bureaucratic efficiency. This poll has become a tradition for Americans as NTU and Foundation continue to research the different revenue collecting proposals in Congress and state capitols. Taxpayers were given several different options to choose from:

**FairTax:** A consumption-based national sales tax on all new goods and services. It would repeal the 16th Amendment and eliminate all income-based taxes, including refundable tax credits that are counted as increases in federal spending. The Internal Revenue Service would also be phased out over a four-year period. A monthly "prebate" would be sent to every household to cover taxes on necessities up to the federal poverty level. While the measure is said to be revenue-neutral, NTUF found that it would decrease budgetary outlays by \$96.9 billion over five years if enacted in FY 2014.

**Flat Tax:** A modification of the current income-based system where progressive income brackets would be replaced with a single 17 percent rate for everyone above the poverty line. The measure would repeal all income tax credits (including refundable credits) and would likely lead to reductions in costs associated with IRS enforcement and staff. If S. 173 was signed into law in FY 2014, the federal government would cut spending by \$85.8 billion in the first year.

**Keep the Current System:** A hybrid-progressive income-based system with thousands of credits and deductions. In the modern seven-bracket system, the more that one earns, the more they must pay to the IRS. Many measures have been proposed, including Congressman Dave Camp's (R-MI) idea to consolidate the number of brackets and reduce the number of credits. New spending would occur if the reform was introduced and then signed into law by simplifying the Tax Code (and decreasing costs for the IRS) and dedicating new funds to infrastructure projects. NTUF determined that Rep. Camp's plan could increase spending by \$126.5 billion over eight years but that does not include lower IRS costs and possible savings from consolidating refundable tax credits.

**National Transaction Tax:** A defined percentage tax on every financial transaction or transfer involving currency, stocks, or bonds. Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-PA) proposed, specifically, a one-percent transaction tax in the 112th Congress as well as a repeal of the income-based tax system. Individuals making under \$100,000 and households making under \$250,000 each year would receive a one-percent credit to help offset the tax. Though H.R. 1125 did not call for an increase or decrease in the federal budget, it is likely that monitoring the millions of transactions would require new funds and personnel; exactly how much is unknown.

**Value-Added Tax:** A flat rate imposed on goods and services each time they change hands within a supply chain until sale. Currently in operation in Europe, a VAT is a fee on the value added to a product as it makes its way through the levels of production. The tax is ultimately passed onto the consumer in a similar end-result like a sales tax. Though a VAT has been discussed in the past, few legislators have put forth a version that would replace the current system. Back in the 102nd Congress, Congressman Robert Wise (D-WV)\* proposed to have the Department of the Treasury study the VAT. Similar to the Transaction Tax, a VAT would likely require more federal funds to keep track of the millions of transactions of goods and services throughout the supply chain.

What did taxpayers vote for this year? Over 170 people voted in our poll with half voicing their support for the FairTax. The Flat Tax came in second at 39 percent. Demand for a National Transaction Tax, Keeping the Current System, and a VAT fell into the single digits, similar to last year.



# At the July Meeting



Our July speaker was social worker Carl Bahr who talked on a multitude of subjects concerning senior citizens. He was a hit with the audience.

*Thank you Carl!*

# Thanks

*Thanks to all NSC members for your help. Especially Ted, the Cvetkovics the Duffy's and Ray Taylor (who is posting meeting notices).*

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.

# Members

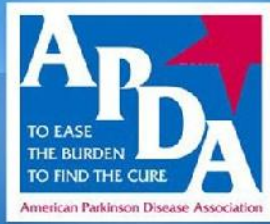
*Renewing Members:*

*\*Alma Mc Graham\**

*\*Kay Schnell\**

*♥Thanks for your continued Support♥*





**American Parkinson Disease Association of Southern Nevada's** mission is to provide personalized, high-quality care service for the Parkinson Community. The American Parkinson Association, founded in 1961, has sought to "Ease the Burden and Find the Cure" for the disease through research, patient and family support and education.

The education program provides information and resources to patients, their families, friends, doctors and other medical professionals and enhance public education and awareness of the disease. A set of booklet dealing with symptoms and medications, support, physiotherapy, speech problems and equipment to be used in the home is available free of charge. Some of the booklets have already been translated or are being translated into other languages.

Educational supplements dealing with specifics subjects related to Parkinson's disease are periodically issued. A quarterly newsletter which focuses upon the latest developments in research and treatment of the disease is also mailed to more than 200,000 addresses nationwide.

The Southern Nevada Chapter also sponsors medical symposia and conferences in cooperation with the Information and Referral centers

**Contact Us for more information**

**Office Hours Monday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00 pm**

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**702-464-3132**

**APDASouthernNevada@gmail.com**

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## FROM THE EDITOR

The Nevada Public Utilities Commission (PUCN) will hold their annual consumer informational sessions for Southern Nevada in Las Vegas on Tuesday, August 19, 2014.

You can learn about the process of determining utility rates and ask questions at the Info Session at 11:00 AM.

Later, on the same day, you can make your voice heard on any utility issue at Consumer Sessions held at two different times, 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

These sessions will be held in Hearing Room A of the PUC building located at 9075 W. Diablo Drive, Suite 250 in Las Vegas.



For further information:

Phone: 7024867210

Website: [pucnv.gov](http://pucnv.gov)

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be  
Thursday, September 11 starting  
at 10 a.m. at the



**Whitney Recreation Center**

**5712 E. Missouri Ave., Las Vegas, NV**

**702-455-7576**

**Sharon Goldstrohm, BA, MS**

**Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Coordinator**

**Medicare "Extra Help" Programs Facilitator**

**State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services**

**Aging and Disability Services Division**



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**August 14, 1935**  
**Social Security Begins**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) began life as the Social Security Board (SSB). The SSB was created at the moment President Roosevelt inked his signature on the Social Security Act (**August 14, 1935 at 3:30 p.m.**). The SSB, an entirely new entity, had no staff, no facilities and no budget. Initially personnel were donated from existing agencies, and a temporary budget was received from Harry Hopkins and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, offered one of her Assistant Secretaries, Arthur Altmeyer, to be an initial Board member, even gave her high-backed red-leather executive chair to Altmeyer since the SSB had no furniture. The Board consisted of three presidentially appointed executives and such staff as they needed to hire. On 7/1/39 the Social Security Board lost its independent agency status when the new sub-cabinet level Federal Security Agency was created. The FSA included the SSB, the Public Health Service, the Office of Education, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the U.S. Employment Service.



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc. (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan 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.

Under the President's Reorganization Plan of 1946, on 7/16/46, the SSB was renamed the Social Security Administration. Arthur Altmeyer, who had been chairman of the Board of the SSB, became SSA's first Commissioner.

On 4/11/53 President Eisenhower abolished the FSA and created a new Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) with SSA a part of this new cabinet agency.

HEW was replaced by the Department of Health & Human Services on 5/4/80. SSA was a major part of HHS until legislation signed by President Clinton on 8/15/94 returned SSA to its original status as an independent agency--effective 3/31/95. The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is under HHS.

