

Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

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

The

NSC FOGHORN™



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Special Points of Interest

The dollar was chosen as the monetary unit of the United States on July 6, 1785. The word "dollar" actually is an Anglicized form of "thaler," a silver coin that was first minted in Bohemia in 1519 more than 250 years before. "Dollar" came to be used as a sort of generic term for any large silver coin, like the Spanish eight-real ("pieces of eight"). There was a shortage of British currency in the American colonies, and Spanish dollars were widely circulated in their place - as well as Indian wampum and certificates for tobacco held in Virginia warehouses. During the Revolutionary War, colonists printed their own paper bills, called Continentals, in a variety of denominations; some were in British pounds, others were in dollars. When independence was won, the British units were rejected in favor of the dollar.

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Us vs. Them, SCOTUSCARE, NVE vs. PUC

By Vice President Knight Allen

Well, socialist Bernie Sanders brought his presidential campaign of hatred and venom to Las Vegas last month and put on a good show of pretense in support of the "little guy" against the filthy, corrupt "rich." Using the classic technique of all demagogues he pounded away at his scapegoat (the rich) blaming them for every ill and political, social and economic injustice that plagues our country.

There is nothing new about Sanders or his tactics. This political garbage has been around forever: "Of those men who have overturned republics, the greatest number has begun their career by paying an obsequious court to the people, commencing demagogues and ending tyrants." "Alexander Hamilton Federalist Paper #1".

When will we ever learn?

So, what do you think about the latest Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act or as Justice Scalia calls it - SCOTUSCARE? A perfectly reasonable title since the Court basically re-wrote the law twice.

As I have noted before, the anti-Federalists lost their battle against the proposed Constitution but along the way raised some remarkably prescient warnings about its weaknesses. Consider anti-Federalist #11, January 31, 1788 on the subject of judicial independence written by "Brutus":

The plan (of judicial independence) is modeled so courts can rule not only within powers expressly given but also, in gray areas, can supply what they want by their own decisions.

Courts are given the right to rule on equity under law. This means they can rule on the "spirit" of the Constitution "without being confined to the words or letter."

"This power in the Judicial will enable them to mold the Government into almost any shape they please."

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

We'll give the last word to Patrick Henry: "We have divided power between three branches of government and erected checks and balances to prevent abuse of power. However, where is the check on the power of the judiciary? If we fail to check the power of the judiciary, I predict that we will eventually live under judicial tyranny."

They didn't. We do.

The subject of net metering and rooftop solar is becoming a bigger question for all of us starting with the Legislature's dumping the whole thing onto the PUC. Right now NVEnergy (NVE) is supposed to present numbers to the PUC to try to get a handle on what kind of rate structure is needed to protect the vast majority of people not generating electricity from substantially higher electric rates to maintain the grid.

I don't think I want to be a PUC Commissioner right now. Besides the rooftop solar situation there's the fact four major NVE customers want out. Add in the politics and you've got a brew as dangerous as a thirty gallon drum of unstable nitro.

For most of us, the vast majority, who are going to be left behind we had better hope the PUC staff along with the Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection will come up with a rate structure that will not leave us twisting in the wind.

Stay cool. It's gonna be a long, hot summer.

Knight can be reached at: knightallen702@yahoo.com



The United States Postal service introduced ZIP codes on July 1, 1963. "ZIP" stands for "Zone Improvement Plan," and they're designed to make sorting and delivering mail more efficient. The first three digits represent the part of the country the mail is going to, and the last two identify the post office within that region.

In 1983, the U.S. Postal Service rolled out "ZIP + 4," which added a hyphen and four additional digits to the end of the current ZIP code to speed things up even more. The first two digits of the addendum stand for a specific group of streets or cluster of large buildings, and the last two narrow it down further, specifying one side of the block or even one floor in a large building. ZIP codes start with zero in the Northeast and get bigger as one moves south and west. There are more than 42,000 ZIP codes in the United States.

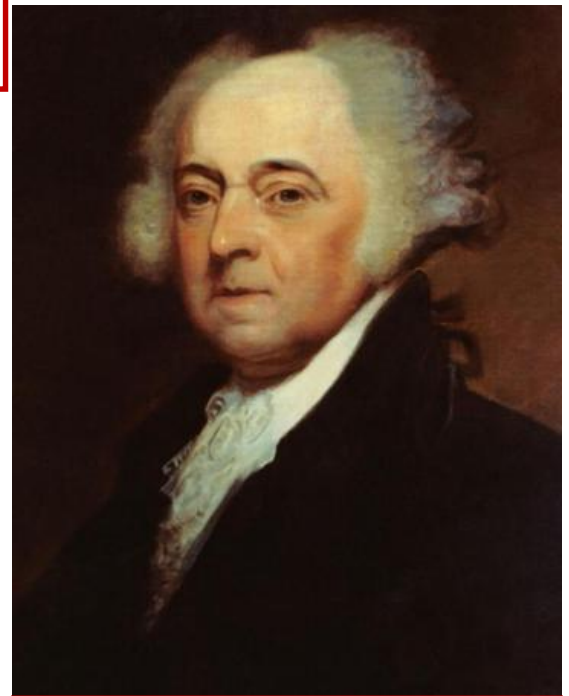


“Please Don’t Quote Me”

...The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more... excerpt from a letter from John Adams to his wife Abigale on July 3rd 1776

While Adams appropriately described the revelry, he was wrong on the date finally chosen. Instead, we celebrate independence on the 4th, the day the Continental Congress **ratified** the text of the document. (John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest for the rest of his life.)

Ratified — but not signed. Many of those who signed the famous piece of parchment simply were not present on the 4th of July and the document was not signed until August 2nd. This belief is buttressed by the journals of the Continental Congress itself; as stated by the National Archives, “on August 2, the journal of the Continental Congress records that ‘The declaration of independence being engrossed and compared at the table was signed.’ One of the most widely held misconceptions about the Declaration is that it was signed on July 4, 1776, by all the delegates in attendance.”



John Adams
(Oct.30, 1735—July 4, 1826)
Second President of the U.S.
1797-1801

Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.

"While all other sciences have advanced, that of government is at a standstill - little better understood, little better practiced now than three or four thousand years ago."

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it.

HALF A CENTURY OF HELP WITH MEDICARE



By Eric Hegland

Social Security Operations Supervisor in Henderson, NV

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare into law with these words: “No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime.”

For 50 years, the Medicare program has provided essential health care services for millions of people who are age 65 or older, disabled, or have debilitating diseases. Without Medicare, many people would not be able to pay for hospital care, doctor’s visits, medical tests, preventive services, or prescription drugs.

Your Medicare card is the most important piece of identification you own as a Medicare beneficiary since medical providers will request it when you seek their services. If you need to replace a lost, stolen, or damaged Medicare card, you can do it online with a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Requesting a replacement card through my Social Security is safe, convenient, and easy. Going online saves you a trip to your local Social Security office or unproductive time on the phone. Request your replacement Medicare card the easy and convenient way — online — and you’ll get it in the same amount of time as you would if you applied in an office or over the phone — in about 30 days.

Fifty years ago, Medicare didn’t have as many options as it does today. As the largest public health program in the United States, Medicare includes four parts to keep you covered:

Part A is insurance that covers inpatient hospital stays, outpatient care in nursing facilities, hospice, and home health care.

Part B includes medical insurance for doctor’s services, medical supplies, outpatient care, and preventive services.

Part C is a Medicare advantage plan that allows you to choose your health care coverage through a provider organization. You must have Part A and Part B to enroll in Part C. This plan usually includes Medicare prescription drug coverage and may include extra benefits and services at an additional cost.

Part D is prescription drug coverage. There is a separate monthly premium for this plan; however, people with low resources and income may qualify for the Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs from Social Security. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp to see if you qualify. (Or call SHIP 702-486-3478 for any Medicare help you need. – Vern)

A recent survey to Medicare beneficiaries asked: Why do you love Medicare? One person stated, “It gives peace of mind not only for seniors, but for veterans and disabled as well.” Another satisfied recipient replied, “I most likely wouldn’t be alive today without Medicare.” These are

just two of the millions who endorse Medicare’s half-century strong success story. For more information about Medicare, visit www.medicare.gov.

As Medicare celebrates 50 years, Social Security commemorates 80 years. Learn more about Social Security’s 80th anniversary at socialsecurity.gov/80thanniversary.###



The United States Army Seal and Flag



The Army Flag – A blue replica of the War Office Seal set on a white field. Beneath the seal is a broad scarlet scroll bearing the inscription in white letters, "United States Army". Beneath the scroll, in blue Arabic numerals, is "1775".

The Army flag was dedicated and unfurled to the general public on 14 June 1956 at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on the 181st anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Army by the Continental Congress in 1775. The first service—the last flag. Only took them 181 years.

The Army Seal was used originally during the American Revolution to authenticate documents. It displayed the designation "War Office", which was synonymous with Headquarters of the Army, and the Roman date MDCCLXXVIII (1778) the first time it was used. It remained unchanged until 1947, when the War Office banner was replaced with "Department of the Army" and the date was changed to 1775, the year in which the Army was established. The seal embodies the Army's ideals of loyalty, vigilance, perseverance, truth, courage, zeal, fortitude, remembrance, determination, constancy, achievement, dignity, and honor. The changes were legislated by the National Security Act of 1947, and authorized by Section 3011, Title 10, United States Code.

Prior to the establishment of the "Department of the Army Emblem", there was no official display item to identify the Army. The Seal had traditionally been used to authenticate documents only and was not authorized for public display. In recognizing the need to provide a display item, the Secretary of the Army approved the emblem design as the official emblem to represent the Army on January 29, 1947.

The central element of the seal and emblem, the Roman cuirass, is a symbol of strength and defense. The sword, esponent (a type of half-pike formerly used by subordinate officers), musket, bayonet, cannon, cannonballs, mortar, and mortar bombs are representative of Army implements. The drum and drumsticks are symbols of public notification of the Army's purpose and intent to serve the Nation and its people. The Phrygian cap (often called the Cap of Liberty) supported on the point of an unsheathed sword and the motto "This We'll Defend" on a scroll held by the rattlesnake is a symbol depicted on some American colonial flags and signifies the Army's constant readiness to defend and preserve the United States. The symbolism for the elements of the Emblem is the same as for the Seal with the deviations and additions noted under "Description" above: The colors of the design elements are those traditionally associated with the ideals of the United States and of the U.S. Army. The flags are depicted in their approved colors. Blue is symbolic of loyalty, vigilance, perseverance, and truth. Red denotes courage, zeal, and fortitude. White alludes to deeds worthy of remembrance. Black is indicative of determination and constancy. Gold represents achievement, dignity, and honor.

The 187 streamers attached to the Army Flag staff (not shown here) denote campaigns fought by the Army throughout our nation's history. Each streamer (2 3/4 inches wide and 4 feet long) is embroidered with the designation of a campaign and the year(s) in which it occurred. The colors derive from the campaign ribbon authorized for service in that particular war.

At the June Meeting



Our June 11th meeting speaker was Dr. Adam Schwartz, O.D. from the **Center for Sight**. Dr. Schwartz gave a lecture on explaining various eye diseases and surgical procedures including: cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration and answered many questions from the audience. Both Knight and I have done business at the Center for Sight and were very pleased with the results.

Members

♥ Renewing Members ♥:

Gerald and Judy Cvetkovic
Beverly Hansford
Albert Khan
Dr. Herbert E. Randall
Elaine Siegel

Thank you for your continued support

♥ New Members ♥

LaVerne Bower
Dorothy SunQuist

Welcome Welcome Welcome Aboard!



*Thanks to all NSC members
Who helped us.
It is very much appreciated.*

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.



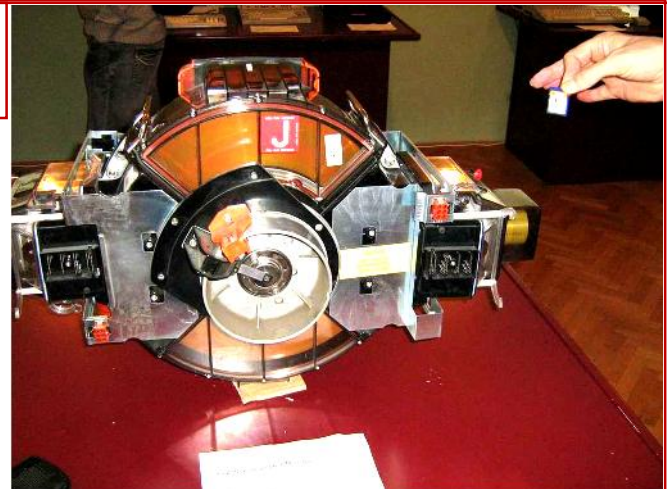
How Times Have Changed



A 1 Gigabyte (billion bytes) hard drive then and a 1 Gigabyte flash drive now.


Bill Gates (Microsoft) thought, in the 1970's, that 640 kilobytes (thousand) was all that would ever be needed by personal computers (PCs).

5 Megabyte (million bytes) Hard Drive 1956. Hard drives for PCs are now up to 8 terabytes (billion bytes)



Improvement of HDD characteristics over time Parameter	Started with	Developed to	Improvement
Capacity (formatted)	3.75 megabytes	eight terabytes	two-million-to-one
Physical volume	68 cubic feet (1.9 m ³)	2.1 cubic inches(34 cc)	57,000-to-one
Weight	2,000 pounds (910 kg)	2.2 ounces(62 g)	15,000-to-one
Average access time	about 600 milliseconds	a few milliseconds	about 200-to-one
Price	US\$9,200 per megabyte	< \$0.05 per gigabyte by 2013	180-million-to-one
Areal density	2,000 bits per square inch	826 gigabits per square inch in 2014	> 400-million-to-one

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 13, 2015 starting at 10 a.m. at 



Whitney Recreation Center

5712 E. Missouri Ave., Las Vegas,

Our August speaker will be:
From the AARP Nevada State Office –
Barry Gold
Director of Government Relations

NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.

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Las Vegas, NV 89183-5432

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July 9, 1868

The Fourteenth Amendment is Ratified

The 14th amendment to the US Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1868 during the Reconstruction era. The 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments are collectively known as the Reconstruction amendments. The 14th is the most complicated of the three and the one that has had the more **unforeseen effects**.

Four principles were asserted in the text of the 14th amendment. They were:

- ◆ State and federal citizenship for all persons regardless of race both born or naturalized in the United States was reaffirmed.
- ◆ No state would be allowed to abridge the "privileges and immunities" of citizens.
- ◆ No person was allowed to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without "due process of law."
- ◆ No person could be denied "equal protection of the laws."

Over time, numerous lawsuits have arisen that have referenced the 14th amendment. The fact that the amendment uses the word state in the Privileges and Immunities clause along with interpretation of the Due Process Clause has meant that state as well as federal power is subject to the Bill of Rights. Further, the courts have interpreted the word "person" to include corporations. Therefore, they too are protected by "due process" along with being granted "equal protection."

While there were other clauses in the amendment, none were as significant as these.

The United States was left in a mess, between 1865 and 1868, by the American Civil War and the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Wealthy white Southerners' commitment to pre-

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.

serve slavery had been the immediate cause of the war, and the Thirteenth Amendment had put an end to that, but a new state's rights movement had begun to strengthen around the idea of segregating black Southerners into a permanent underclass. Congress decided to make the Fourteenth Amendment part of their Reconstruction platform. The proposed Fourteenth Amendment drew the ire of President Andrew Johnson, a Southerner and noted white supremacist, but it passed - and was ratified - anyway.

Nearly 60 years after it was ratified, in fact - the Supreme Court would discover an implicit mechanism in the Fourteenth Amendment that would make it the most important constitutional amendment to date: the incorporation doctrine, which - by way of the Fourteenth Amendment - applied the Bill of Rights to the states, essentially leading to nearly every landmark civil liberties ruling of the past 90 years.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the evolution of the Fourteenth Amendment reflects the evolution of American civil liberties itself.