



GENERAL MEETING March 27 2013

Vice President Dan Kruger called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Frank Fopiano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Treasurer's report was approved with a balance forward of \$ 4329. 00

The Vice President introduced the speaker, former Governor of Nevada and former US senator **Richard Bryan**. He mentioned how important the Democratic clubs are before he talked about his start in politics: His father was very active in politics and knew practically everybody. The son, Richard Bryan, inherited this interest and told how he and Harry Reid ran for the Nevada Assembly in 1960. At that time Reno and Las Vegas were about the same size. Bryan spoke with nostalgia of this older more genteel era when he more often aligned with moderate Republicans in Washoe County than with Democrats. There was none of the acrimony we see today, the whole dynamic was different. What worries him most on the national level today is the inability to make decisions. It is compromise that keeps the nation together but the extreme Right is true believers and zealots and are convinced that they are right. The Democrats are not without blame either; some of them are to the left of Mao Tse Tung. Entitlement programs have to be addressed and the Democrats have not been forthcoming here. Bryan mentioned what a bad effect gerrymandering of Congressional seats have had; now only 20-25 seats could go either way, all the others are safely Democratic or Republican. Even John Boehner has no real control over the Republican Party.

Luckily, at the state level the tone among elected representatives is much better. The Democratic and Republican leaders in Carson City are civil and on good terms.

Contrary to what many people seem to think, the Mob never ruled Las Vegas. They just wanted to be left alone and contributed to the political parties 50/50.

Announcements: Helen Haddes mentioned Stonewall Democratic Club that meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the Center on 2475 S Jones Blvd. # 7 at 6:30 PM.

The pot of gold was won by Leila Birnic who donated the money back to the Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Lisa Kershaw

Recording Secretary 2013