



GENERAL MEETING Jan. 23 2013

President Mark Brandon was sick so Frank Fopiano called the meeting to order at 7.05PM. Melody Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Frank introduced the evening's guest speaker, **Brian Fadie**, the Executive Director of Progress Now Nevada. He talked mainly about Governor Sandoval's State of the State speech. The Governor started his term with a 50 % shortfall of revenue compared to earlier years. Originally he proposed all cuts and no new revenue. Progress Nevada Now did a lot of work to balance this. Since the Nevada Supreme Court stopped the Governor's plans to raid county and city funds, Sandoval drew on the state's rainy day fund. Luckily, temporary taxes were extended till 2015.

Brian Fadie lauded the Governor for expanding the state's Medicaid program but Sandoval's proposal of co-pay may prove a disincentive. What Brian Fadie missed in the Governor's speech was bold leadership, above all when it comes to expanding the tax base which is too narrow and relies mostly on tourism and gaming. The mining tax is part of the Constitution, and in order to change it, the Legislature has to vote for it twice, then it has to be approved by the people. This process is ongoing.

Education had a broad place in the Governor's speech but unfortunately, the 130 million funding increase he proposed is just enough to cover the cost of living expenses. Magnet schools may become a hot-button issue. The Governor wants to expand all-day kindergarten but so far that does not extend to everybody.

While the economy is doing better, we still have a 10 % unemployment rate and job creation in Nevada is lagging far behind the job creation in our neighboring states. The jobs that have been created have about a \$ 30,000 price tag in incentives. This is clearly not sustainable.

Issues that will come up in the Legislature are: taking off the ban on same sex marriage. Labor's collective bargaining will come under attack but such a law will probably not pass.

Gun violence prevention and background checks will come up as well as the Tahoe Regional Authority that wants to keep the area pristine. Some want to pull us out.

The Treasurer's report was approved. The club has a balance forward of \$ 4,535.14.

Joyce Brink had compiled a list of addresses and telephone numbers of elected officials that was distributed to everyone who wants to contact their elected representatives.

The Pot of Gold raffle this month totaled \$ 28 and was won by Jimmie Franklin
The meeting was adjourned at 8.20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kershaw

Lisa Kershaw, 2013 Recording Secretary