



## GENERAL MEETING

May 28, 2014

President Dan Kruger called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Virginia Kruger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Edith Byrd presented the Treasurer's report with a balance of \$ 3264.00

Edith and Rose have secured a donation of \$ 1000 from the Electrical Union IBEW local 357.

Dan Kruger introduced the guest speakers, Cathy Kama and Michael McAvoyAmaya from Nevada Coalition against the Death Penalty. Support for the death penalty has dwindled in later years: all of Europe (except for Belarus), Canada, Australia, and many African nations have done away with capital punishment. For the moment, 32 American states still have the death penalty, Nevada is one of them. In fact, Nevada has 83 inmates on death row, one of the largest per capita in the nation; 100% of them are poor, indigent and unable to pay for legal representation. In these cases where the quality of legal representation is crucial the court-appointed defense lawyers are usually overworked or un-experienced. 70 % of death sentences are reversed due to grave error. Prosecutors have broad discretion in these cases but there is obviously a racial bias: 40% of inmates on death row are African American while only 8% of the population is African American.

One of the myths about the death penalty is that it works as a deterrent; this is not true. Far more murders occur in states that still have the death penalty.

The moral question of this punishment is important for most people: is it right for the government to kill people? Is killing people to show that killing is wrong sending the right message? Interestingly, it costs more to execute people than to keep them in jail for life without parole. Death sentences usually involve long appeal processes that are very costly.

Several candidate ofor office introduced themselves:

Jane Famiano, Nicholas Perrino, J. Cahill, Jeffrey Rugg, Bobby B. Gronauer, Gary Fisher, Gloria Sternum, Gary LeDuff, Monti Levy, Ted Moody, T ed Moody, and Susan Busch.

The pot of gold was won by Edith Byrd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.30

*Lisa Kershaw*

Recording Secretary 2013

