



## **NEVADA LEGISLATURE**

### **NEVADA SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE FORUM**

*(Nevada Revised Statutes 427A.320 through 427A.400)*

#### **SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT**

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The second meeting of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum (NSHLF) for the 2013-2014 interim period was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was video-conferenced to Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada, and to the Conference Room, Chilton Circle Modular, Great Basin College, Elko, Nevada.

A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Interim>. In addition, copies of the audio-video record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835).

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Herbert E. Randall, Ed.D., President, Silver Senator  
Barbara Altman, Senatorial District No. 9  
Clo Banks, Senatorial District No. 3  
Colleen Brown, Senatorial District No. 5  
Evelyn A. Cannestra, M.S.W., Senatorial District No. 8  
Verlia Davis Hoggard, Senatorial District No. 4  
Rick Kuhlmeier, Senatorial District No. 2  
Paul A. LaCombe, Ph.D., Senatorial District No. 21  
Lucy Peres, Silver Senator  
Mary D. Roberts, Senatorial District No. 1  
Russ Schoenbeck, Silver Representative  
Ronald E. Stoller, Senatorial District No. 6  
Lonnie Strait, Silver Representative  
Clare Tobler, Senatorial District No. 12  
Harriet Trudell, Senatorial District No. 10

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Reba June Burton, Senatorial District No. 15

John (Jack) Paul Ginter, Jr., Senatorial District No. 14

John Yacenda, Ph.D., M.P.H., P.A.H.M., Senatorial District No. 16

**COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT IN ELKO:**

Ray B. Jones, Senatorial District 19

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joann M. Bongiorno, Senatorial District No. 7

Margaret Spooner, Senatorial District 17

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF, Administrative Division, Las Vegas Office

## **CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS**

Herbert E. Randall, Ed.D., Forum President, called the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum's (NSHLF) meeting to order. President Randall welcomed guests and members of the public.

Ms. Shope conducted the roll call and a quorum was determined to be present.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Randall called for public comment.

Mr. Roy Aragon, Public Affairs Specialist/Consultant, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, explained the importance of the organization's advocacy to protect senior benefits. He stated their grassroots campaign addresses Social Security concerns, including potential reductions in funding and benefits due to the "Chained Consumer Price Index" upon which cost of living adjustments are proposed to be based. He encouraged the public and members to sign the petition against Social Security funding cuts. Additionally, Mr. Aragon invited everyone to attend the National Committee's upcoming Nevada Volunteer Summit where participants will receive advocacy training. ([Exhibit B](#))

## **PRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ACCESS TO AND AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE FOOD FOR SENIORS AND OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO FOOD**

President Randall introduced Ms. Angela Owings, Food Security Coordinator, and Ms. Laurie Olsen, both with the Grants Management Unit, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. They presented an overview of Nevada's Food Security Strategic Plan, which Governor Sandoval supports, along with many statewide community partners.

Ms. Owings stated hunger is an issue that Nevada cannot ignore as hunger continues to increase, and is three times higher for disabled seniors. She mentioned Nevada's Food Security Strategic Plan was initiated to address the major areas: Lead, Grow, Feed, and Reach. ([Exhibit C](#)) and ([Exhibit D](#))

Ms. Verlia Davis Hoggard inquired about the Food Policy Advisory Council and its process for assessing the community's nutritional needs. She recommended the State would be better served if the Council's makeup included senior representatives.

Dr. John Yacenda shared his concerns for food access and referenced the statistics of senior hunger that were listed in the Food Strategic Plan. He inquired about the progress of the goals and the listed target dates. Ms. Owings answered that the projects encourage ongoing public awareness and includes ambitious guidelines. She concluded that the timelines might need to be adjusted based upon goals that are more realistic.

Ms. Reba June Burton complimented the many partners that provide services to the seniors, especially throughout Northern Nevada.

Ms. Davis Hoggard inquired about the Seniors Family Nutrition vouchers and the availability for the seniors. Ms. Olsen answered that the program was successful but has limited resources, unfortunately creating wait lists.

Jane Gruner, Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), provided an overview of the senior nutrition services. She mentioned that sequestration reduced ADSD's funding, which resulted in reduced senior nutrition services. In order to correct this situation, she recommends increased State funding which could be dedicated for congregate meals and homebound deliveries transportation services. ([Exhibit E](#))

Ms. Harriet Trudell had a concern about individuals who might have access to food, but do not have the means to fix the meal or to be served. Ms. Gruner stated ADSD collaborates with the Division of Welfare and Supporting Services to provide additional nutrition services that would assist those seniors.

Mr. Rick Kuhlmeier shared a concern that Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTCNS), Paratransit services limits the riders' packages and creates a hardship for seniors. Ms. Gruner stated she would notify RTCNS of this concern.

Ms. Jenelle Gimlin, representing Nevada Department of Agriculture, provided an overview of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodity programs. She stated the Department provides USDA commodity supplements to fill the void of monthly food needs for adult day care facilities, emergency food programs, and tribal jurisdictions. ([Exhibit F](#))

Dr. Yacenda inquired about the eligibility thresholds for the programs. Ms. Gimlin reassured the members that the program offers small increments of money to make it easier to purchase products.

Ms. Cherie Jamason, President and CEO, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) provided information and detailed statistics regarding their services like the commodity supplemental food program and what it takes to live in Nevada. She mentioned their services complement state programs, but still fall short of providing adequate resources to all individuals. ([Exhibit G](#))

Ms. Jamason emphasized that the state agencies and non-profit organizations work closely to develop the Food Security in Nevada Plan. In addition, she mentioned that FBNN has been making a concerted effort to collect surplus produce and make it available.

Ms. Jodi Tyson, Government Affairs Director, Three Square Food Bank mentioned that the private food banks provide the supplemental assistance for food when the federal and state services are not available. Besides federal nutrition funding, Ms. Tyson stated that Three Square Food Bank relies on the community for the donations. She mentioned Three

Square coordinates with other partners to offer the best services to seniors, and encouraged seniors to volunteer if available. ([Exhibit H](#))

Ms. Davis Hoggard inquired about collaborating with the Salvation Army. Ms. Tyson stated they assist the Salvation Army and other community partners through shared purchasing and transportation programs.

Mr. Mark Zellmer, Senior Services Director, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, stated they provide Meals on Wheels for disabled seniors and to those in the greatest need, faith based but nondenominational, and not necessarily income qualified. He stated they receive funding from the Older Americans Act and community donations for their programs. He mentioned their food services involve an educational component with nutritional assessments, especially clients with special needs. ([Exhibit I](#))

Mr. Ginter inquired about church affiliations and partnerships. Mr. Zellmer mentioned they collaborate with other churches to serve the community at large.

Ms. Davis Hoggard inquired about the quality and nutritional constraints of Meals on Wheels, while Mr. Clare Tobler asked about the effectiveness of the programs and monitoring. Mr. Zellmer acknowledged limitations, but stated Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada continually evaluates its programs and coordinates with other providers for successful programs.

Mary Shope, Coordinator, provided the National Conference of State Legislatures' hunger policy articles as reference material. ([Exhibit J](#))

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 MEETING AND AUGUST 27, 2013 MEETING**

President Randall presented the minutes for September 18, 2012 and August 27, 2013 and requested the members review the meeting minutes.

### **The NSHLF APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:**

VERLIA DAVIS HOGGARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. EVELYN A. CANNESTRA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

LUCY PERES MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 27, 2013 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VERLIA DAVIS HOGGARD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FROM AUGUST 01, 2013 TO AUGUST 31, 2013 AND APPROVAL OF RECENT EXPENDITURES**

Lonnie Strait, Treasurer of the NSHLF, provided an overview of the "Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum Summary of Receipts and Expenditures of Sources/Uses of Funds and Encumbrances," for Fiscal 2013-2014 Period Ending 08/31/2013. ([Exhibit K](#))

Ms. Strait explained the recent expenditures, which included in-state travel to meetings, but deferred to Mr. Brian L. Davie, Legislative Services Officer, Legislative Counsel (LCB), Las Vegas Office, to discuss the details of the Interim Study Committee budgets.

Mr. Davie stated the Legislative Commission recently approved the Forum's Fiscal Year appropriations, which provides for the majority of the money during the first year of the Interim period for its functions. In addition, he shared background information on the creation of Interim Study budgets, accounting for the utilization of LCB's videoconference, thereby reducing travel expenditures for offsite meeting locations. He stated the Forum's appropriation represents mainly in-state travel, including reimbursement for transportation expenses and per diem allowance, to which compensation the members are entitled.

Mr. Davie reviewed the NRS that allows the Forum to accept gifts, grants, and donations. Additionally, he referenced another statute that permits Legislators to donate unused campaign funds. Mr. Davie stated collectively the statutes could benefit the Forum.

**The NSHLF APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

**LUCY PERES MOVED TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT FROM AUGUST 01, 2013 TO AUGUST 31, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RUSS SCHOENBECK AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Peres inquired about the budget reporting form and asked if it could be revised. Mr. Davie stated the budget forms are standardized; however, staff would supplement the report with better explanations of the monthly expenditures and adjustments.

## **DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU'S INTERIM COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

Mr. Davie, previously identified, provided an overview of the Interim Study process and shared LCB's commitment to provide support for the Forum's efforts during this period. ([Exhibit L](#)) He mentioned the deadline for the Forum's BDR would be September 1, 2014. He stated that the June 2014 meeting would include the Work Session, in preparation for the Forum's recommendations. Mr. Davie proposed the Forum members encourage its guest speakers to address desired changes to the statutes by asking these questions: What are the problems in state law? Moreover, how can those problems be fixed? The questions would elicit information and understanding for recommendations.

Additionally, he encouraged the Forum foster coordination with other Legislative Committees to improve senior services. Mr. Davie shared his background information and the NSHLF Coordinator job description. ([Exhibit M](#)) He recommended the Forum members utilize the resources that LCB offers.

Mr. Davie suggested the Forum provide ideas for web site enhancements and upgrades. He mentioned the NSHLF brochure was finalized and made available, including the location on LCB's web site. ([Exhibit N](#)) He encouraged the members to be the voice of the seniors in their district, to continue communication with their Legislators, and to continue attendance and participation at the Forum meetings.

Ms. Davis Hoggard inquired about the utilization of alternative meeting locations, especially during the Session. Mr. Davie stated that off-site locations might not have the required broadcast and production functions, but just as importantly, might not have adequate support staff during the legislative session.

Ms. Peres raised concerns about the remaining budgetary monies and questioned what constitutes valid expenditures. Mr. Davie stated that expenditures related to the business of the Forum and events that promote the Forum would be worthy of consideration as valid expenditures.

President Randall indicated the Forum benefits from the National Silver Haired Congress' (NSHC) meetings and therefore, this expenditure is worthy of consideration. As a possible solution to limited funding, Mr. Davie mentioned that the Forum might want to investigate the issue of dedicated funding sources.

Mr. Clare Tobler inquired about the avenues of communication with the Legislators, specifically addressing the sharing of the minutes. Ms. Shope mentioned that the minutes are not routinely sent to all Legislators. Mr. Davie stated town hall meetings might be considered as an avenue to solicit ideas and enhance communication.

Ms. Davis Hoggard shared concerns about the NSHC and its organizational operations. She requested further information about their organization. Mr. John (Jack) Ginter, Jr. asked about the NSHC benefits. President Randall stated the NSHC provides a national voice for Nevada's senior citizens and serves as a partner for resources and ideas.

Mr. Rick Kuhlmeier and President Randall expressed their appreciation for Mr. Davie's presentation and support. Mr. Davie reiterated LCB's research assistance and support.

## **DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF NEVADA SILVER HAIRIED LEGISLATIVE FORUM'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

President Randall reviewed the Goals and Objectives and provided a progress report. ([Exhibit O](#)). He stated the goal to strengthen the Forum's membership shows

improvement, but he would contact Legislators regarding appointments and advise members of importance of their attendance and participation. Ms. Shope will provide a meeting attendance summary. President Randall mentioned that meetings are now scheduled on the third Tuesday of alternate months with the next meetings scheduled Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup> (2014.)

President Randall mentioned he would continue to offer suggestions for website enhancements. Regarding the brochure, President Randall stated the brochure was successfully completed and available for the members.

He suggested Ms. Altman and Ms. Cannestra assist with the public relations working group, and Ms. Altman stated she would accept the chairperson appointment. Next, President Randall recognized the members who participate with other organizations in efforts of cooperative extension. Dr. Randall volunteered to serve as the chair of the cooperative extension working group. He shared information regarding Older Americans Day at the Session, and requested Ms. Peres continue as the chair of this working group. After the past meeting, Ms. Davis Hoggard and Mr. Rick Kuhlmeier offered contact information for distribution avenues for meeting notices.

#### **DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO SENIORS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN LEGISLATION FOR THE 78<sup>th</sup> (2015) Session**

John Yacenda, Ph.D., M.P.H., explained his working document, which he stated could be beneficial during the BDR drafting process. He suggests it be used to identify and clarify issues related to seniors. ([Exhibit P](#))

Ms. Joann M. Bongiorno provided additional senior concerns, such as proper prescription administration and appropriate senior housing that would warrant additional research and discussion. ([Exhibit Q](#)) President Randall clarified the Forum's purpose as including seniors and vulnerable persons.

#### **STATUS REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SILVER HAired CONGRESS AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SILVER HAired LEGISLATORS**

Ms. Lucy Peres, President of the Nevada Delegation of the NSHC, asked Dr. Randall to share his position paper on Social Security Reform. ([Exhibit R](#)) He submitted the article for review. Additionally, Dr. Randall mentioned he is working with Nevada's Congressional members to authorize The White House Conference on Aging (2015).

At this time, President Randall stated that he does not have a status report on the National Council of Silver Haired Legislators.



## **DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, MEETING DATES, AND EXPENDITURES**

President Randall opened the discussion on future agenda items, meeting dates, and expenditures. He mentioned that the Forum would participate at the Senior Dimensions Fall Fair. ([Exhibit S](#))

Ms. Evelyn Canestra requested the Forum research medical abuse and neglect of the elderly. She suggested regulations are being adopted that have unforeseen consequences of inappropriate care and medical care rationing. Mr. Davie offered LCB's assistance with future research issues.

Ms. Davis Hoggard requested future meetings, especially lengthy meetings, have appropriate recesses.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. John Yacenda, NSHLF member, provided testimony that addressed concerns of elder abuse, in the area of financial exploitation, specifically for mobile home park residents. He indicated there are protocols that impede investigation and prosecution by ADSD if the residents and/or possible victims move out of state. ([Exhibit T](#)) President Randall requested Dr. Yacenda provide additional bill draft language for review and consideration.

Ms. Reba June Burton, NSHLF member, provided testimony whereas she recently learned Medicare Part B provisions covered services such as supplemental food distribution. She encouraged seniors make inquiries about their policy coverage and take advantage of benefits offered.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Forum, President Randall entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The NSHLF **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

LUCY PERES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LONNIE STRAIT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Randall adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Shope, Coordinator  
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

APPROVED BY:

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Herbert E. Randall, Ed.D., President  
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY:

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Clo Banks, Secretary  
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **LIST OF EXHIBITS**

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” for October 15, 2013, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF, Administrative Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit B](#) is the collection of documents relating to the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and NCPSSM’s Nevada Volunteer Summit, provided by Roy Aragon, NCPSSM.

[Exhibit C](#) is the collection of documents titled “Food Security in Nevada”, “Food Security in Nevada, Nevada’s Plan for Action, 2/7/2013, provided by Angela Owings, Food Security Coordinator and Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF.

[Exhibit D](#) is the document titled “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services”, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF.

[Exhibit E](#) is the biography of Tracey D. Green, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit F](#) is the collection of documents highlighting Nevada Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Foods programs, titled “The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)”, “Commodity Foods Administration Office”, “Commodity Food Distribution Programs”, “RSVP, USDA Commodity Foods”, “United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development”, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF.

[Exhibit G](#) is the collection of documents highlighting Food Bank of Northern Nevada, titled “President and CEO, Ms. Cherie Jamason”, “Food Insecurity in the State of Nevada”, What it takes to Live in Nevada”, and “Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Making Hunger History, Annual Report, 2010-2011”, provided by Ms. Jamason, President and CEO, NNFB, and Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF.

[Exhibit H](#) are the documents highlighting Three Square Food Bank, titled “Directors” and “Working together, we serve hope-overview”, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit I](#) is the collection of documents highlighting Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, and Senior Services, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit J](#) is the collection of National Conference of State Legislators’ articles on hunger policy, titled “How to Address Hunger in Your Community: A Checklist for State Legislators”, “State Legislation on Hunger”, and “Feeding People, Not Landfills: Why Reducing Food Waste Matters”, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit K](#) is the document titled “Budget Report, For Fiscal 2013-2014 Period Ending 08/31/2013”, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF.

[Exhibit L](#) are the documents titled “Points of Discussion with NSHLF”, dated October 15, 2013, Meeting, Brian Davie, LCB, Legislative Services Officer, and “NRS: Chapter 427A- Services to Aging Persons, NRS 427A.320 – 427A.400”, “Senate Bill No. 178”, as provided by Brian L. Davie, Legislative Services Officer and Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF.

[Exhibit M](#) are the documents titled ““Brian L. Davie, Background Information”, and “Coordinator. Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum”, provided by Brian L. Davie, Legislative Services Officer, LCB, Las Vegas Office.

[Exhibit N](#) is the document highlighting the “Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum Pamphlet” on the Legislative Counsel Bureau Publications web page, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF.

[Exhibit O](#) is the document “Goals and Objectives Progress Chart, as of October 15, 2013”, provided by President Herbert E. Randall, NSHLF.

[Exhibit P](#) is the document titled “Discussion of Issues Relating to Seniors for Possible Inclusion in Legislation for the 78<sup>th</sup> (2015) Session of the Nevada Legislature”, dated October 15, 2013, presented by Dr. John Yacenda, NSHLF Member.

[Exhibit Q](#) is the document provided for “Discussion of Issues Relating to Seniors for Possible Inclusion in Legislation for the 78<sup>th</sup> Session”, provided by Joann Bongiorno, NSHLF member.

[Exhibit R](#) is the document titled “Social Security Reform”, authored by Dr. Herb Randall, provided by President Randall, NSHLF.

[Exhibit S](#) is the document titled “Senior Dimensions, Invitation to participate in the Senior Dimensions Fall Fairs”, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit T](#) is the document titled “Public Testimony – Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum”, dated 10-15-13, authored by John Yacenda, Ph.D., MPH, PAHM, NSHLF member.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at [www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: 775/684-6827.