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August-September 2014

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REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held on August 16, at the Rec Center in Castle Rock. The location was selected to continue our goal of reaching out to seniors outside the metro area.

The program featured a talk by Ryan Call, Chair of the Republican Party. This was important outreach by the Senior Lobby, which is non-partisan per its charter. But as our annual scorecard shows, the Democrats in the legislature support the positions of the Senior Lobby significantly more often.

The impact of the expanding senior population in the next 20 years has a significant impact on the state budget. The impact of this requires detailed long term planning.

During the next 20 years there will undoubtedly be administrations and legislatures controlled by both parties.

Any plan that is developed must be supported by both parties in order to minimize any disruptions and change in direction when there is a shift in control.

Accordingly we have met with the Chair of both parties to start the process of finding long-term solutions for the needs of seniors.



Bob Epstein, Chair Senior Lobby
 Ed Shackelford, President Senior Lobby
 Ryan Call, Chairman
 Colorado Republican Party

Reproduction of newsletter provided by Ed Shackelford,
REALTOR® Real Living CO Properties 720-353-3775
National award winner, Premier Service

This was a transformative meeting. Four directors chose not to run for reelection. These individuals have been leaders in promoting senior issues and meeting with legislators to convey their opinions and beliefs.

Eileen Bond — who will continue to be active with the Legislative Committee

Roger Doherty

Barb Martig

Betty Proctor

This, along with the death of Herb Holman, constitutes a significant loss of experience and stature with the legislature.

We are proud of our new Board of Directors.

Dorothea L. Yancy

John Stoffel

Michelle Mathewson

Shellilyn Weese

George Yardley

We have also added diversity to the Board and we anticipate this will expand our perspective on issues facing seniors now, and as the senior population grows.

RECOGNITION

Presentation of the second annual Serving Our Seniors recognition:

Recipients: for their contribution to legislation protecting seniors from abuse.

Scott Storey: *(Scott was unable to attend. He was represented by three key members of his team.)*

Evie Hudak



Evie Hudak

3 members of Scott Storey's team:

Candace Werth

Cary Johnson

John Bunting

A special thank you to the Volunteers of America for providing the Senior Lobby with meeting rooms for the weekly Legislative Committee meetings and for the monthly Directors meeting.

CPA

John P. Moran 720-635-3180

Provides important pro bono support for the Colorado Senior Lobby

Tara Franck and Steve Grund with Ed Shackelford.

Special Recognition for their valued contribution to the success of SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL — April 2, 2014

This is an important event for improving the quality of life for Colorado Seniors.



The Creation of the Colorado Senior Lobby

The origins of the Colorado Senior Lobby began in the late summer and fall of 1979. At the time, there were two major models in the country for legislative advocacy by and for seniors: Silver Haired Legislatures, and the Senior Lobby. A number of states had established Silver Haired Legislatures, and there was interest in Colorado among several senior leaders to create such a program in Colorado. Under the Silver Haired Legislature model, seniors around the state elected other seniors to be “mock” state senators and representatives who met for several days in a legislative session in the state capitol at a time when the official state legislature was not meeting. The senior legislators elected leaders, were assigned to committees, drafted and voted on “bills” of interest to seniors, and presented those bills to real elected officials to consider during the real legislative session.

The Senior Lobby model had been developed in the states of Washington and Idaho under the leadership of a former lobbyist for public employees, Norm Schut. Under this model, seniors met around the state during the off-session, studied issues, were trained in legislative advocacy (lobbying), developed issue papers and legislative proposals, and prioritized the issues they agreed to pursue during the next state legislative session. Several senior leaders in Col-

orado were more interested in the Senior Lobby model, especially because it was “real lobbying” in the “real legislature,” rather than a “mock” legislative session without a mechanism for follow-through during the regular legislative session.

Bob Robinson, who was the leading force behind the founding of the Colorado Senior Lobby, had been hired in the late ‘70’s as the “Legislative Liaison” for a statewide senior advocacy organization (the Colorado Congress of Senior Organizations – CCSO - no longer in existence). In that role, Bob produced a bi-weekly legislative report, and created the first “scorecard” – originally called “Robinson’s Senior Scorecard.” Bob was known and respected throughout the state, as he had been the first director of the State Division of Services for the Aging and the Colorado Commission on Aging.

Because of issues with his heart, Bob had to resign from that state position in the mid-‘70’s. But his energy and commitment were still strong, and Bob was eager to continue serving seniors through the Legislative Liaison role. With support from CCSO, in the summer of 1979 Bob travelled to the state of Washington to meet with Norm Schut to learn as much as he could on how to create and operate a Senior Lobby.

Bob came back with information and enthusiasm about the possibility of creating a Senior Lobby organization in Colorado. Bob recruited a few additional senior leaders, and they held preliminary discussion meetings around the state in the summer and fall. Consensus quickly built that a Senior Lobby should be tried. Following the discussion meetings in the counties and regions, a major statewide organizational meeting was held on December 18, 1979 at the then “Davis Institute for the Care and Study of the Aging,” a new care and research facility in Denver. Representatives from over fifty organizations met in an all day brainstorming session. The group was both geographically and ethnically diverse, with representatives coming from all areas of the state and most senior organizations.

At the end of the day’s discussions, the group decided to form an “Ad Hoc Organizational Committee” of ten members, with two representatives from Colorado’s then five Congressional Districts. The Ad Hoc Organizational Committee met again on January 16, February 20, and March 19, 1980. Purposes, principles, membership and board criteria, finances, office location, bylaws, etc. were worked on. Additional meetings were held to select a name, elect a board, finalize the bylaws and articles of incorporation, and – as they say – the rest is history. The Colorado Senior Lobby became an

*We think in generalities,
but we live in details. —
Alfred North Whitehead*

*The thousand mysteries
around us would not
trouble but interest us, if
only we had cheerful,
healthy hearts. —
Friedrich Nietzsche*

*A bodily disease, which
we look upon as whole
and entire within itself,
may, after all, be but a
symptom of some ail-
ment in the spiritual past.
—Nathaniel Hawthorne*

official nonprofit corporation in Colorado with the filing of the original Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State on July 2, 1980.

The first President was Bob Hubbard, and the first Vice President was Ted Rice – both were very thoughtful, committed and selfless individuals. Bob Robinson never wanted to be an officer of the Lobby, preferring to be its legislative liaison and consultant – but no one would question that his role was immense and essential. Of the original fifty individuals who met in December 1979, only ten or fewer are still alive. But that early leadership set a solid base that has enabled the Colorado Senior Lobby to continue for 34 years to be an influential force on behalf of older persons at the state capitol. Having been part of that original group, I am confident that those who created the Lobby would be very proud of the commitment and accomplishments of the leaders and volunteers over the past 34 years, and would be especially grateful and offer their best wishes for those who continue serve on the board and all the other roles that makes the Lobby the respected organization it is.

*At the end of the day,
the goals are simple:
safety and security. —
Jodi Rell*

*Your own safety is at
stake when your neigh-
bor's house is ablaze. —
Horace*

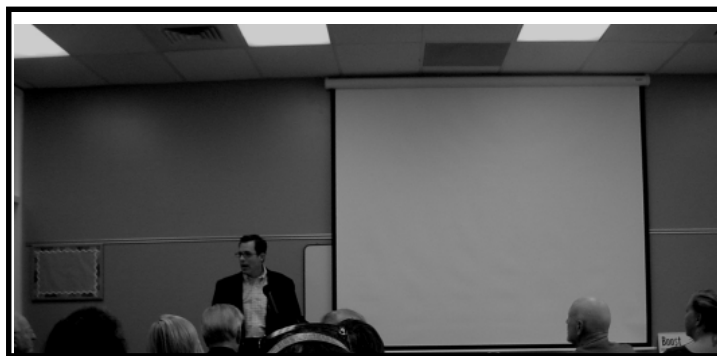
*Work is a part of life, not
the point of it. —
Sean Adams*

*Work is either fun or
drudgery. It depends on
your attitude. I like fun.
—Colleen C. Barrett*

Prepared by Bill Hanna, August 10, 2014



Evie Hudak receiving her award



Ryan Call talking to the group
at the annual meeting

Assumptions Lead To Impatience

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"50 cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out and studied the coins in it.

"How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he inquired. People were now waiting for a table and the waitress said impatiently, "35 cents."

The boy again counted the coins. "I'll have plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and left. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed.

When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were 15 cents – her tip.

As I read this, it reminds me to be less impatient. After all, I may be the one who's in the wrong.



What They Made

A student sat with his grandfather at a football game. Many of the fans checked their phones during the game, and grandfather said, "Things sure have changed since I was your age."

"I bet," his grandson agreed. "You didn't have smartphones, or personal computers, or the Internet, or hybrid cars, or the space shuttle. I mean, what did you do?"

The man paused, then said, "We invented them."

SAVE THE DATE

SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Tentatively the date is set as

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

We have typically had more attendees than the Old Supreme Court Chambers could hold. It is important that we hold the meeting at the Capitol and this has been the largest room available. There is currently remodeling underway and a new conference room is being created on the second floor, in the room between the elevators.

We will follow the construction and see if it will provide larger space.

In the past we have not been permitted to have voice transmitted to a “back-up” room, but will also continue to pursue this possibility.

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*The ultimate folly is to think that
something crucial to your welfare is being taken
care of for you.*
—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

“Healthy citizens are the
greatest asset any
country can have.”
— Winston Churchill

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Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

Additional contribution to support our vision for seniors' quality of life \$ _____

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