



PO Box 102662  
Denver, CO 80250-2662  
303-832-4535  
president@coloradoseniorlobby.org  
ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

April 2015

**Chairman**

Bob Epstein  
303-470-0438

**President**

Ed Shackelford  
720-353-3775

**Treasurer**

Karin Hall  
303-794-0799

**Secretary**

George Yardley  
303-489-3732

**Immediate**

**Past President**

Michael Drake  
303-862-8555

**Board Members  
at Large**

Jeanette  
Hensley  
303-249-5598

Michelle  
Mathewson  
720-291-1517

Rich Mauro  
303-480-6778

Mary Catherine  
Rabbitt  
303-722-0300

John Stoffel  
303-757-6302

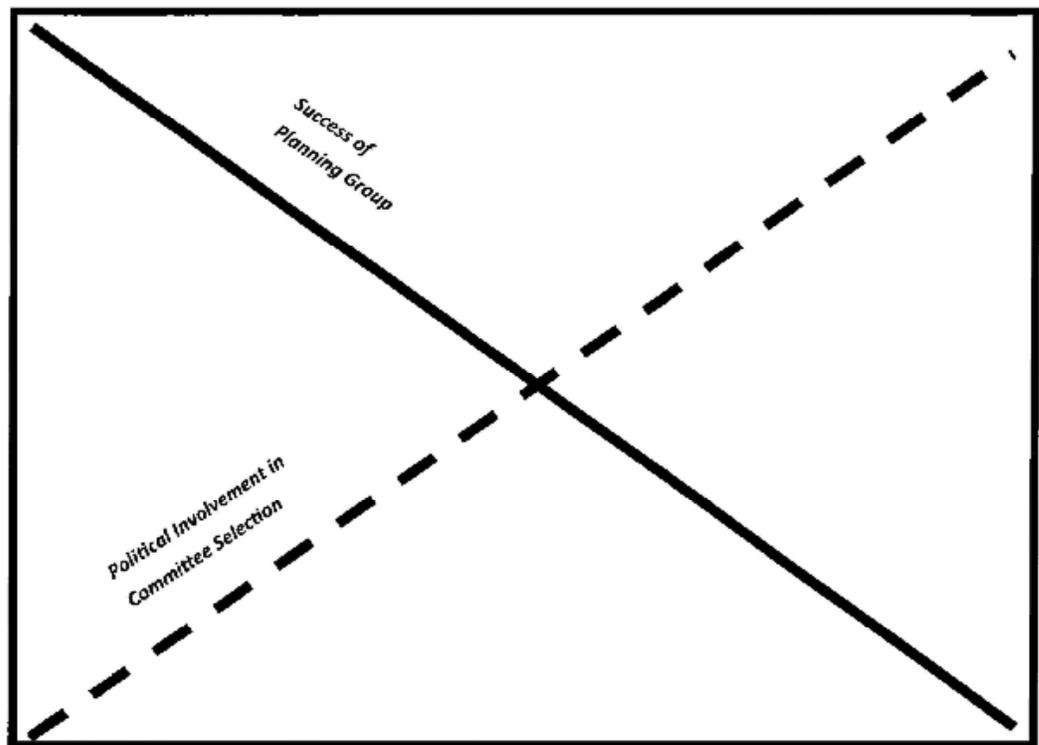
Shellilyn Weese  
720-356-2552

Dorothea L.  
Yancy  
303-274-1061

WEB Master — pro bono  
SeniorsResourceGuide.com  
Karin Hall 303-794-0799

# HOW TO PREDICT THE SUCCESS OF A COMMITTEE

*Analyses by Ed Shackelford*



HB15-1033 has become law. It establishes a strategic planning group to prepare for the aging of the population to 2030 and beyond. What is important now is: **the care used by the governor and others** involved in selecting the planning group — that will bring to the attention of the legislature the prudent actions that will maximize the benefits to seniors of every dollar that will be available.

**Senior Day — see page 4**

Reproduction of newsletter provided by Ed Shackelford, REALTOR®: Real Living CO Properties 720-353-3775 *National Award Winner, Premier Service*

*The pleasure of remembering had been taken from me, because there was no longer anyone to remember with. It felt like losing your co-rememberer meant losing the memory itself, as if the things we'd done were less real and important than they had been hours before. ~ John Green, The Fault in Our Stars*

Any group (committee, task force, etc.) has a fundamental goal to consider the interests of all stakeholders (as broadly defined). This goal is frequently attempted by making the group all-inclusive. If the subject to be studied is broad then the group will be large and frequently unwieldy.

Typically the group, no matter how large, will have a small number of participants who will have the dedication and commitment to the task at hand. Others of the group will attend meetings infrequently, usually unprepared, and not equipped to make informed, substantive contributions. This may have little effect. Frequently it becomes disruptive. In this situation the result is, unfortunately, to often a report that is neatly put on the shelf with little, or no impact.

The group authorized by HB15-1033 has one of the most important and difficult assignments confronting the state. It is clear that as the population ages available funds will not permit the state to continue doing the same things.

This becomes the challenge — looking out for all the stakeholders affected by the rapidly increasing population of Coloradan's 60 years and older. **The group utilizing the most resources, those 80 and older, will double by 2030.**

Preparing demographic information will be the most straight forward task. The state demographer has much of the information.

What is needed is to use the science of epidemiology to take this information to another level: one that looks at causes behind the statistics. For example we can statistically show how many people are in nursing homes, in total and those needing government assistance to pay the cost. But to make the statistics useful in problem solving, we need reliable information on all the circumstances surrounding the need for nursing home care.

Is it Alzheimer's, cancer, serious heart issues, lack of family support, or a multitude of other conditions and/or situations? Reliable statistics will lead to the best allocation of funds. This is why it is critical to go beyond demographics and get to more actionable information.

The law provides for 23 members of the group, specifying the background of the members. The chart on the first page shows the importance of finding the right committee members. For the group to be successful there needs to be a core number who commit at least 50 per cent of their time to the group, and have a background of accomplishment in creating actionable results.

The planning group has a broad range of areas to consider. Since it will be proposing solutions that will affect the allocation of resources it is critical that the members make value judgments independent of a political agenda.

One of the strengths of the law is that it provides for subcommittees, whose members are not required to be part of the group of 23. This provides the flexibility to find committed, knowledgeable participants with in-depth knowledge in the various topics that need to be considered.

An important criteria will be to have involvement of the business community, particularly finding those willing to commit the time. Many of the actionable items will come from business persons.

An example of the energy that could be available is:

10.10.10 — Ten CEO-entrepreneurs were selected to participate to solve 10 critical health issues and get the venture underway in 10 days.

BurstIQ accepts the challenge. Venture capital financing has been arranged and development of the first topic solution is underway. This deals with digital health data access.

This is the kind of energy needed to deal with the budget constraints of the next 15 years and beyond.

Government and non-profits will continue to provide much of the funding seniors will need to live at an acceptable minimum level of comfort, with satisfactory nutrition, and adequate medical care.

Business will provide much of the energy and technological expertise that will enable these goals to be accomplished within the limits of available funding.

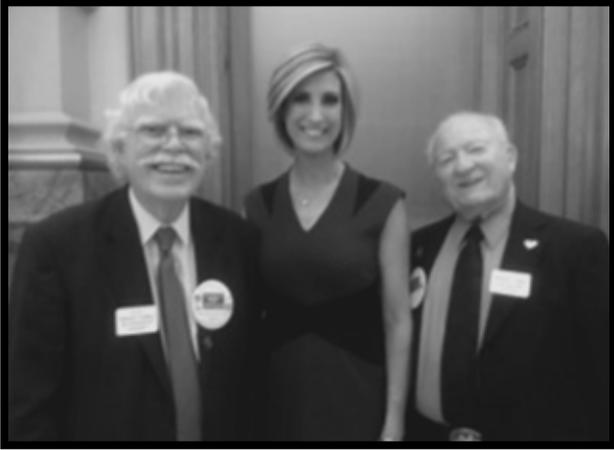
## SELECTION OF THE GROUP MEMBERS IS ALL IMPORTANT.

Refer to the graph on the first page. Group members must have the following:

- ⇒ Independent of any political agenda
- ⇒ Commitment of time and energy
- ⇒ Expertise (not necessarily with senior services)
- ⇒ Ability to comprehend a complex environment
- ⇒ Active participation
- ⇒ Organization
- ⇒ Perform within a group environment

At this time the state (and the current and future seniors) is dependent on the governor and his staff to wisely select the group members.

# Senior Day At The Capitol — April 1, 2015



Cheryl Preheim 9 News: Featured Guest  
Ed Shackelford & Bob Epstein



Ruth Yoshiko Yamauchi — Centenarian  
With family  
Sent to Japanese American Internment Camp



Kelli Fritts — AARP  
Rich Mauro — DRCOG  
Denver Regional Council of Governments



Governor Hickenlooper  
Congratulating Ruth



Mary Catherine Rabbitt: Director  
Jeanette Hensley: Director  
Ruth Long: CO Commission Aging



Meeting in the Old Supreme  
Court Chamber at the Capitol



Lunch and afternoon  
Program at  
1st Baptist Church



2B Fit — sponsor



Visiting Angels — sponsor



Representative Conti



Senior Hub — sponsor



Dennis Gallagher  
Denver Auditor



Legislators preparing to talk at the luncheon



Representative Roupé



Governor in training

One of these will be governor one day



Muriel Arvay  
Vivian Stovall  
Amber Rowell



Bob Epstein, Steve Grund  
Ed Shackelford

## *The Taxi Driver's Story A great story worth retelling*

*I want to share a story with you that touched me deeply, reminding me to slow down and focus on doing things that are really important. This is a true story, written by a NYC taxi driver:*

*I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I honked again. Since this was going to be the last ride of my shift I thought about just driving away, but instead I put the car in park and walked up to the door and knocked. "Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice.*

*After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her nineties stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets.*

*She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"*

*"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.*

*"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice." I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don't have very long."*

*I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?"*

*For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the area where she and her husband had lived as newlyweds. She had me pull up at a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had danced as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a building and would sit staring into the darkness.*

*[After dropping her off] I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?*

*On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.*

*~ This story is excerpted from the original, which can be found at: <http://www.snopes.com/glurge/cabride.asp>*

*Save the Date*

***COLORADO SENIOR LOBBY  
ANNUAL MEETING***

*August 22, 2015*

*Location not finalized but will be in  
Southwest Metro Denver*

*We will be honoring 4 legislators*

*Senator Crowder*

*Representative Primavera*

*Representative Lebsack*

*Representative Roupe*

This newsletter is intended for entertainment purposes only. Credit is given to the authors of various articles that are reprinted when the original author is known. Any omission of credit to an author is purely unintentional and should not be construed as plagiarism or literary theft. Copyright© 2015 Colorado Senior Lobby. This information is solely advisory, and should not be substituted for legal, financial or tax advice. Any and all financial decisions and actions must be done through the advice and counsel of a qualified attorney, financial advisor and/or CPA. We cannot be held responsible for actions you may take without proper financial, legal or tax advice.

**Colorado Senior Lobby**  
**P. O. Box 102662**  
**Denver, CO 80250-2662**

*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

**Go Green:**

**Recycle This Newsletter!**

After you've enjoyed our newsletter,  
please recycle it by passing it along  
to a family member, friend, neighbor  
or coworker.

**Colorado Senior Lobby** — Nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization

**MEMBERSHIP: Single \$30 Family \$40 Organization \$75** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

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

**Total (This payment is not tax deductible)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: **BILL ME** or **CHECK ENCLOSED** — payable Colorado Senior Lobby

P. O. Box 102662, Denver, CO 80250-2662 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter by **EMAIL** or **SNAIL MAIL**

**Join or renew your membership online at [coloradoseniorlobby.org](http://coloradoseniorlobby.org)**