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A NEW YEAR A NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION

For the first time in several years revenues are increasing. There was a surplus for the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2013. Even after providing expenses for the flood.

Forecasts even predict that we may see TABOR refunds in a couple of years.

Colorado is fortunate that the State Constitution requires that expenditures cannot exceed revenues. This requires the legislature to make difficult decisions in real time. Compare this to states that are dealing with large debts.

There also is legislation, SB 09-228, that would require the legislature to appropriate general fund moneys to transportation and capital construction in the next year, if state personal income grows more than five percent. All of this makes the legislature cautious about committing funds in a manner that would require painful cuts in years when revenues decline.

When analyzing the decisions made by the Joint Budget Committee, it is important to recognize their perspective, and appreciate that they are looking out for the best interests of the state over the long term. That said: the Senior Lobby is committed to promoting legislation that we deem to be in the best interest of seniors. A particular concern has always been and will continue to be programs that benefit those in need.

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At the federal level there is pressure on reducing expenditures for programs that most affect seniors. The Senior Lobby position is that there are many things that should be evaluated and implemented that will reduce or eliminate the need for reducing expenditures for current senior programs.

Colorado needs a long-term plan to prepare for and effectively handle the increase in the senior population. The development of this plan should include stakeholders.

There are many things to consider but ones we consider important are:

1. Keeping the population healthy.
2. Keeping seniors in their home as long as reasonable.
3. Committing funds to research: It is estimated by *Business Week* and the World Health Organization that Alzheimer's disease will dwarf other senior health and care issues.
4. Letting seniors die with an advanced directive. Make them aware of this opportunity.

We call on all our members and readers of the newsletters and web page to be involved and work with your legislators to focus on the long term and develop pragmatic solutions for the needs of an aging population.

**INTERESTED IN TESTIFYING
ABOUT PROPOSED LEGISLATION?
WANT TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES
STATE, LOCAL, OR NATIONAL?**

The Colorado Senior Lobby will accompany anyone interested in senior issues to the State Capitol and provide assistance in locating the right committee meeting room and direction on how to arrange to testify. The legislature is designed to be friendly to citizens who want to express their opinions. You can make your voice heard in many ways: write a letter, send an email, call or visit your legislator, or testify at a committee hearing.

We have also posted on our website — coloradoseniorlobby.org — a video of our training session held on December 9th. This will provide clear, specific details on how the legislature works and how you can be involved.

The Senior Lobby reviews all proposed legislation and selects those bills that affect seniors for weekly discussion. The result is that the Senior Lobby will either support or oppose proposed legislation. If there is uncertainty, then the Senior Lobby will monitor the proposed legislation. As the bill proceeds through the process, it is frequently amended. This may result in the Senior Lobby changing its position.

The ultimate folly is to think that something crucial to your welfare is being taken care of for you.

—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

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

Bookkeeping

Doug Windes 303-722-9277

CPA

John P. Moran 720-635-3180

These individuals provide important pro bono support for the Colorado Senior Lobby

As a citizen interested in following legislation, you will be kept informed by the Senior Lobby about any bill as it progresses through the legislative process.

If you want assistance to contact federal or local legislative representatives, we will provide assistance so you can communicate effectively. If you want to communicate with your legislators or would like to be informed about a specific bill, please contact Ed Shackelford, 303-832-4535 or email at President@ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

The Senior Lobby Legislative Committee meets every Monday morning when the legislature is in session. The Committee prepares a legislative summary of bills that are considered important to seniors. This information is available on the webpage — coloradoseniorlobby.org.

The most current information is posted Sunday evening or early Monday morning. This is available to anyone who has an interest in legislation being considered. There are five possible positions: **strongly support, support, strongly oppose, oppose, monitor.**

Anyone can participate in these meeting via phone connection by calling the following number: 530-881-1200. Use code 638013#.

TRACKING BILLS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bills in the current and past sessions of the legislature can easily be tracked at either of the two websites listed below. The most user-friendly way to find and track bills initially is through the Colorado Capitol Watch website.

Go to <http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com>

Ignore the invitation to log in (you don't need to). Just go down to "Look Up Bills" and click on "Advanced Search."

Once that page comes up, you can search for all bills filed in whatever committee you are interested in, or you can search for any bill by key word or phrase.

Click on a bill that appears interesting, and a summary of the bill will come up, along with its legislative history, who voted for or against it, etc.

Once you have the number of a bill that you want to track, you can see when it's scheduled for a hearing and where, through the General Assembly website, as follows.

Go to <http://www.leg.state.co.us>, and click on "Session Information," then on "House" or "Senate" — depending on which chamber the bill of interest originated in, then on "Calendar" at the top. This will bring up the current day's calendar.

Use the "find" search function (Cntrl-F on PCs) to enter the bill number. If it has been scheduled for a hearing, you should be taken directly to a listing of the bill, showing the committee in which it is being heard, the date, time, and room number.

You can also use this website for tracking bills directly. From the Home page, click on "Session Information," then on "House" or "Senate" — depending on which chamber the bill originated in, then on "Bills and Fiscal Notes." This will bring up all bills, fiscal notes, committee actions, with links to votes in committee and by the full chamber. If you are primarily interested in who voted for what, or the text of the bill, the coloradocapitalwatch website is probably easier to navigate.

Finally, if you want to hear archived recordings on any committee hearing, or House or Senate session, click on "Session Information," then on "Audio and Video Broadcasts."

*Jewelry takes people's
minds off your wrinkles.
~Sonja Henie*

*A New Year's resolution
is something that goes in
one year and out the oth-
er. ~Author unknown*

*An optimist stays up until
midnight to see the new
year in. A pessimist stays
up to make sure the old
year leaves. ~Bill Vaughn*

*I personally think we de-
veloped language be-
cause of our deep inner
need to complain.
~Jane Wagner*

THIS IS THE YEAR WHEN SENIORS GET INVOLVED

It is time to look out for your own interests!

Follow us on our webpage!

Be informed about state legislative issues!

Read our positions on the weekly bill sheet!

Be alert for amendments that can change meaning!

Contact your legislators — make your voice heard!

Contact the governor's office!

Get your local newspaper on board!

**Attend Senior Day at the Capitol. After our event go to
your legislator's office and/or arrange a meeting
in advance!**

**Who is prepared to stand on the front steps of the
Capitol and make your voice heard?**

SAVE THE DATE!
When: Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Senior Day at The Capitol

Hosted by
Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL)

This event is held in Downtown Denver at The Colorado State Capitol

2014 Proposed Event Agenda

8AM – 9AM: Continental Breakfast (North 2nd Floor Mezzanine)

9AM – Noon: Old Supreme Court Chambers (2nd Floor)

Noon – 2PM: Lunch & PM Program

Why attend?

Meet your Legislators, Elected Officials & Senior Day Sponsors

- And ... Learn about programs available for Seniors
- Learn about Legislation affecting Seniors
- Improve your skills on Advocating on behalf of Seniors
- **And most important:
*Let the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President and your Legislators know your Concerns !***

- ***Join Colorado Senior Lobby today to have advance notice of this great event
Individual Annual Membership is only \$30 a year!***
- ***Visit our website for more information about Individual and Family Memberships.
Learn about an Organizational & Business Membership and consider becoming a "Senior Day Sponsor."***



Questions?

**Call Colorado Senior Lobby President, Ed Shackelford
at 720-353-3775**

www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

No Email, No Problem

A jobless man applied for the position of office boy at a large company. He performed well and was offered the job. The interviewer said, "Now, I just need your email address to send you some documents to sign and verify, and then you can start."

The man replied, "I don't have a computer or an email account."

"Oh, I'm sorry," said the interviewer. "Without an email address, we can't hire you."

The man left feeling frustrated. He had only \$10 in his pocket, so he went to the market, bought a large crate of tomatoes and began selling them door to door. In two hours, he succeeded in doubling his money.

He repeated the operation three times and made \$60. He realized that he could survive by this way, and started to go earlier and return later. Thus, his money doubled or tripled every day. Eventually he had earned enough to buy a cart, then a truck, and then a fleet of delivery vehicles.

Five years later, the man's company was one of the biggest food retailers in the area. He started to plan his family's future and was purchasing life insurance. He called an insurance broker and when the conversation was concluded, the broker asked him for his email address. The man replied "I don't have an email address."

The broker said, "You don't have email, and yet you have built a small empire. Imagine what you could have become if you had email!"

The man thought for a moment and said, "I would have been an office boy!"

Sometimes missing an opportunity is the best thing that can happen to us.



Top 5 Dog New Year's Resolutions

5. I will not suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
4. I will no longer be beholden to the sound of the can opener.
3. I resolve to get a bite in on that demon who gives me a shot every year.
2. I will break into the pantry and decide for MYSELF how much food is 'too' much.

And the Number 1 New Year's Resolution made by pets . . .

1. I will NOT chase the ball until I see it leave the hand.

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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

Go Green:
Recycle This Newsletter!
After you've enjoyed our newsletter, please recycle it by passing it along

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 \$ _____

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