

Bonanza

Friday, June 18, 2004

letters to the editor

A call to action for tax protesters

This letter is to let everyone know where we've been, where we are and where we are going with our tax protest. In addition, it serves as a call to action for a large scale, one-voice, and united front to the taxing authorities on June 25 -- mark your calendars now!

By way of background we, (united as a community), signed 4,460 petitions and emails protesting our Assessor's unfair taxation methods and results, paid our taxes under protest, presented our cases to the authorities, and filed two lawsuits. Each of these activities has made an impact and has born results. We'll speak to these in a minute.

While all of this has gone on, a small group of dedicated and knowledgeable people have been working diligently, for almost a year, with the Department of Taxation and the Nevada Tax Commission in a series of 17 workshops to tackle the major issues we have with the Assessor's appraisal techniques and to get them changed, to prevent the type of injustices we have seen in the past. This effort has been extremely

successful to this point -- we are comfortable with mutually agreed changes to the Rules and Regulations that have resulted from these meetings.

However, we now learn, at the last minute, that the Washoe County Assessor has been engaged in back door efforts to subvert both the process and the changes. We must not let this happen! The final presentation of the changes, where they will be adopted into Law, is to be held on Friday, June 25, at 9 a.m. at the Nevada Legislative Building, 401 Carson Street, Room 1214. We must fill the room to show our solidarity and support for these much needed reforms and to with stand any attempt by the Washoe County Assessor to undermine our efforts.

In addition to the struggle to change the appraisal methods, two lawsuits have been filed against the taxing authorities to protest illegalities and seek appropriate redress. One of these suits was dismissed because not everyone had, "exhausted all Administrative Procedures". It is interesting to note that the taxing authorities did not want to have the substantive legal issues heard, but

Washoe County and the State chose to file motions on a technicality to get our lawsuit dismissed. Makes one wonder what they were afraid of, doesn't it?

An Appeal of this decision to the Nevada Supreme Court was filed last Friday. The other lawsuit is moving forward, as that judge declined to hear their Motion to Dismiss:, so the legal merits will be heard and we strongly feel that our positions will be ruled on favorably.

Finally, another piece of good news, Ina Haupt, a long-time Incline resident and Realtor has been appointed to the County Board of Equalization. Now, we will have a fair, knowledgeable, and sensitive representative.

Again, we need you to take a few hours out of your busy schedule to join your friends and peers in Carson City on the 25th. Thanks for your support.

*Maryanne Ingemanson
President
Village League to Save
Incline Assets*