

# Sun City Democrats

[www.suncitydems.org](http://www.suncitydems.org)

March 2009



## General Meeting

The General Meeting is typically on the first Saturday of each month. The meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information on the Sun City Democrats, please contact President Jodi Salyers at 864-2812 or Communications Chair Carol Flynn at 864-3544.

## Saturday, March 7, 9:30 AM

**Place:** Sun City Activities Center Atrium

**Program:** **Megan Morrow**, the Outreach Director for Texas Watch, an activist organization, will speak. Ms. Morrow is the liaison between Texas Watch and consumers on media and policy matters. [www.texaswatch.org](http://www.texaswatch.org)

Ms. Morrow, a New Yorker until her teens when she moved to Texas, is a recent graduate of the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in government. She is known for her passionate support of social change and empowerment of the average citizen.



## Saturday, April 4, 9:30 AM

**Place:** Sun City Activities Center Atrium

**Program:** **Dr. Mary Lou Lustig** is a Professor Emerita of History and has a Ph.D. from Syracuse University. Her field is Anglo-American colonial and revolutionary history. Her subject today will be Thomas Paine's "Common Sense"

## Wednesday, April 22, 1:00 to 6:00 PM

**Place:** Sun City Legacy Hills Park Pavilion

**Program:** **Earth Day Fair**, Sun City is joining us in sponsoring this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event. The event will feature several ecologically minded clubs and organizations from Sun City and Georgetown. The focus is on actions that Sun Citizens can take to ensure that our world will be safe and clean for now and the future.

## Saturday, May 2, 9:30 AM

**Place:** Sun City Activities Center Atrium

**Program:** **Judy Hetherly**, Mayor of Lampasas. Her subject will be: Texas Board of Education.

## SUN CITY DEMOCRATS OFFICERS

President: Jodi Salyers 864-2812 [jodotcom@aol.com](mailto:jodotcom@aol.com)

Vice-Pres: Jim Stauber 515-0486 [jcstauber@prismnet.com](mailto:jcstauber@prismnet.com)

Secretary: Joan Baker 869-5611 [mizbaker@suddenlink.net](mailto:mizbaker@suddenlink.net)

Treas: Margaret Donaldson 818-1594 [marjohndonaldson@yahoo.com](mailto:marjohndonaldson@yahoo.com)

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Hospitality: Fred Becker 864-0704 [fb.becker@suddenlink.net](mailto:fb.becker@suddenlink.net)

IMPACT: Don Lelong 869-1714 [donandjackie@verizon.net](mailto:donandjackie@verizon.net)

Membership: Frank Wentworth 864-3385 [f\\_wentworth@yahoo.com](mailto:f_wentworth@yahoo.com)

Programs: Craig Whitney 869-2690 [cbwhitney@verizon.net](mailto:cbwhitney@verizon.net)

Social: Nancy Danley 864-1544 [nrdanley@suddenlink.net](mailto:nrdanley@suddenlink.net)

## VOLUNTEER and Help Make a Difference!

Volunteers are needed on all committees; please help us make the Club the best that it can be. To volunteer for a committee, please contact the chair of that committee listed above.

## 2009 DUES ARE DUE

As a Political Interest Group, the Sun City Democrats must pay for rental of Sun City facilities, as well as for the coffee, cookies, and printed items that are provided at our General Meetings. Most of our Social Events are free as well. Our Club can only afford to do this if **\*you\*** join as a member. Please help us continue these activities by paying your dues.

Dues are **\$20** per member. You may pay at the sign-in table at the meetings, or mail a check made out to Sun City Democrats to our Treasurer: **Margaret Donaldson**, 107 Rosecliff Drive, Georgetown TX 78633

DEMOCRATS — YES, WE CAN!

## Support the Sun City Democrats POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

~Don Lelong

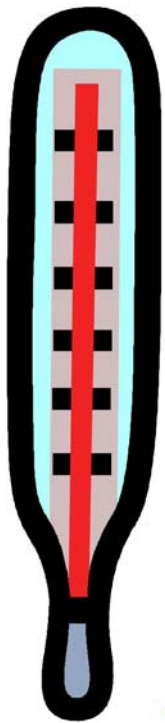
Our PAC is known as **IMPACT**: “**Informed Members Political Action Committee of Texas**”. **IMPACT** is the way that the Sun City Democrats organization can legally contribute to candidates. Send donations to **IMPACT** Treasurer **Don Lelong**, 101 Crosby Street, Georgetown TX 78633.

Guess what? It's already time to start raising money for the **2010 elections!** We need to elect Democrats from County Commissioner to Governor. Don't be intimidated; apparently Williamson County is now about 50% Democratic! Perhaps most important is election of two more Democrats to the Texas House. That will give us control of the House in a year of redistricting!

**IMPACT** 's goal is to raise **10 Grand By 2010**, just after the primaries. That's about the same as we raised during the last election cycle. We are shooting for broad participation and modest, frequent contributions (of course large ones will be gratefully accepted too). Be on the watch for **IMPACT** mailings, fundraisers, and other opportunities to support Democratic candidates.

Our **IMPACT** Goal:

# 10 Grand By 2010



- 10,000: Texas Redistricting !!!
- 8,000: Texas Governor
- 6,000: US Senator
- 4,000: US Congressperson
- 2,000: 2 TX House Members
- 1,500: Board of Education
- 1,000: County Commissioners

With *\*Your\** Help  
Yes, We Can!

## Sun City Democrats

## How **BIG BUSINESS** Covered Up Global Warming

~Aaron Swartz

In 1995, the UN's panel on international climate change released its consensus report, finding that global warming was a real and serious issue that had to be quickly confronted. The media covered the scientists' research and the population agreed, leading President Clinton to say he would sign an international treaty to stop global warming.

Then came the backlash. The **Global Climate Coalition** (funded by over 40 major corporate groups like Amoco, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and General Motors) began spending millions of dollars each year to derail the Kyoto Protocol, the international treaty to help reduce global warming. They held conferences entitled “The Costs of Kyoto,” issued press releases and faxes dismissing the scientific evidence for global warming, and spent more than \$3 million on newspaper and television ads claiming Kyoto would mean a “50-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax.”

The media, in response to flurries of “blast faxes” (a technique in which a press release is simultaneously faxed to thousands of journalists) and accusations of left-wing bias, began backing off from the scientific evidence. A recent study found only 35% of newspaper stories on global warming accurately described the scientific consensus, with the majority implying that scientists who believed in global warming were just as common as global warming deniers (of which there were only a tiny handful, almost all of whom had received funding from energy companies or associated groups).

It all had an incredible effect on the public. In 1993, 88% of Americans thought global warming was a serious problem. By 1997, that number had fallen to 42%, with only 28% saying immediate action was necessary. And so Clinton changed course and insisted that cutting emissions should be put off for 20 years.

US businesses seriously weakened the Kyoto Protocol, leading it to require only a 7% reduction in emissions (compared to the 20% requested by European nations) and then President Bush refused to sign on to even that. In four short years, big business had managed to turn nearly half the country around and halt the efforts to protect the planet.

And now most people think global warming is a hotly contested issue even when the science is clear. But all this debate about problems has kept us away from talk about solutions. As journalist Ross Gelbspan puts it, “By keeping the discussion focused on whether there is a problem in the first place, they have effectively silenced the debate over what to do about it.”



## PRECINCT 381 NEWS

~Kay Walker, Precinct Chair  
864-2874 [klwalker@suddenlink.net](mailto:klwalker@suddenlink.net)

### On the State level:

If **Kay Bailey Hutchison's** US Senate seat comes available, two prominent Democrats have already started campaign funds:

1. **John Sharp** (former State Comptroller, member of Railroad Commission, and State Legislator)
2. **Bill White** (Mayor of Houston, former Chairperson of the State Democratic Party and US Deputy Secretary of Energy).

**The Texas Board of Education** is concerned with evolution in the biology textbooks this spring. In a January preliminary vote, the TBOE agreed to refrain from watering down the science textbooks with requirements to add intelligent design or creationism to biology textbooks. However, this was not the final vote. The final vote will be in March, and the religious right is coordinating vast call-ins to board members against the teaching of evolution. If this is important to you, contact your board member. For more information, google TBOE.

### **Cynthia Dunbar, TBOE Chair**

Telephone: 512-463-9007

E-mail: [sboesupport@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:sboesupport@tea.state.tx.us)

**The Texas Legislature** has begun its 81st session, and as Molly Ivins said, "There is no better entertainmet to be had". More recently, Texas Observer editor Bob Moser said, "In the Texas legislature, gridlock is not necessarily a bad thing."

1. The Senate Republicans are planning to file a bill to require **voter ID at the polls**. There was not one single case of voter fraud proved last year in Texas. This bill is part of a nationally orchestrated effort to discourage and suppress turnout among low-income, minority and elderly voters who are more inclined to support Democrats.

2. **Sex Education**. Identical senate and house bills were filed in January with the purpose of requiring accuracy in sex education materials for the public schools. The opposition, again is organized and intent. It is time to let our legislators know what we expect of them. Google the bills for their complete content and authors.

**State Senator, Steve Ogden (R)** re: SB 515

Telephone: 512-463-0105

Email: [steve.ogden@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:steve.ogden@senate.state.tx.us)

**State Representative, Dan Gattis (R)** re: HB 741

Telephon: 512-463-0309

E-mail: [dan.gattis@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.gattis@house.state.tx.us)

### On the County Level:

At the last **Williamson County Executive Committee** meeting, Larry Yawn, of Round Rock, gave a report on the search for an executive director for the headquarters. Thirty two people have applied, and the search committee hopes to make a choice by March.

Billie Reaney, of Sun City, gave a report on ad hoc fund raising committee, which has as the goal to raise enough money to pay the Headquarters' rent. She has 100 of the 130 needed sustaining members needed, so please help. Call me.

The third item on the agenda was to approve a Strategic Plan made by the strategic planning committee. This included items such as:

- a. Grow the WCDP grassroots and volunteer programs.
- b. Grow a stable funding base for the WCDP.
- c. Develop a communications program that provides information to voters, precinct chairs, and candidates.
- d. Develop a political research program (includes a systematic opposition research program)
- e. Improve the process for recruiting Democratic candidates.
- f. Employ year round professional staff
- g. Increase the number of trained, active precinct chairs.

### **The Williamson County Commissioners Court:**

1. They renewed the T. Don Hutto contract with Corrections Corporation of America for two years to imprison immigrant children and their families while they wait for their ICE hearings. Several groups of concerned citizens and the ACLU have been working to prevent this renewal.

2. They renewed the no-bid land fill contract with Waste Management over objections by many who wanted time to study the danger to residents nearby and to groundwater.



Sun City Democrats

### On the Local Level:

Meanwhile, the **City Council** has been busy:

1. They terminated the trial bus service from Sun City to Georgetown, over requests by many citizens to keep it.
2. They placed a \$5. cap on per person expenditures for children and other charitable funding.

### **May 9, 2009 Local Elections:**

There are some 40 offices coming open in Williamson County. If you think you would like to run for office, contact County Democratic Chairperson Richard Torres at [torg@comcast.net](mailto:torg@comcast.net) or at the WCD Headquarters 512-388-1993 to see exactly what positions you would be eligible for and the amount of the filing costs.



### **MESSAGE FROM ARVELLA OLIVER ...**

Our January speaker advises: The correct web address for the "Open Mind" climate blog is [www.tamino.wordpress.com](http://www.tamino.wordpress.com). She also recommends Spencer Weart's book "The Discovery of Global Warming".

## PRECINCT 396 NEWS

~Billie Reaney, Precinct Chair  
868-0098 [billie\\_reaney@msn.com](mailto:billie_reaney@msn.com)

**Volunteers.** Our Sun City precinct has been contributing in many ways to ensure the success of our party as we get ready for the election. At the risk of leaving out some helpers, I will note that Jean Carlson is among those volunteering behind the desk each week at the Williamson County Democratic Party headquarters in Round Rock. If you would also like to volunteer too, let me know.

**Strategic Plan.** WCDP has adopted its 2009-2010 Strategic Plan which will guide the party activity for the next two years. The Planning Committee (on which I serve) for the first time, had the happy task of adding a paid position, Executive Director, to our party organization. Resumes have already been received from all over the country and interviewing of the 36 applicants will begin shortly.

**Fundraising.** The party also has an ongoing effort, through the Fundraising Committee of which I am a member, to raise the funds our new headquarters requires to stay open year round. We are working to increase our sustaining membership in the party to 130. Sustaining members are those who give \$10.00 per month to WCDP. We have now reached 110 members. Fourteen of those donors are from all of the Sun City precincts. Thank you Sun City! Ask me how you can help. Phone 868-0098.

**Obama Store.** Another fundraising activity for the party is the Obama Store. At party headquarters in Round Rock, you will find jewelry, posters, T-shirts, pictures, caps and other items featuring our new president. These and other similar items are part of our effort to make sure Democrats are well prepared for the next election.

**City Bus.** Our City Councilman, Bill Sattler, voted with the city council majority to terminate the Sun City bus route. The Sun City bus was a trial intended to give city planners a good idea of how many of us would use the bus. Transit experts agreed the numbers for the Sun City trial were good, but the council members were clearly focused on money, not need or use. The Georgetown Transit Working Group, of which I am a participant, has now voted to cancel any further bus trials. Instead they are asking the city to look for sources of money that might be available to support a real bus system. Several weeks ago I sent emails to council members urging them to commit to finding funds to solve Georgetown's transit needs. I suggested that they make a strong effort to tap into the mass transit funds available in the Stimulus bill. Bill Sattler's email address is [dist4@georgetowntx.org](mailto:dist4@georgetowntx.org), if you want to add your two cents. An enterprising senior here in Sun City, named Jack Birchall, started his own blog on the subject of the need for a bus system for our city. Here is the web address: <http://www.sctxbusetc.blogspot.com>.

## PRECINCT 394 NEWS

~Don Mohr, Precinct Chair  
868-2850 [donmohr@netzero.net](mailto:donmohr@netzero.net)  
No report this month.



## PRECINCT 399 NEWS

Precinct 399 is currently without a chairperson. If you go home by crossing the White Wing Bridge, you live in Precinct 399. If, however, you continue so far as to cross the Cowan Creek bridge, you would be in Precinct 394. If you live in precinct 399 and are interested in becoming a Precinct Chair, please speak to one of the other Precinct Chairs.



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY INFORMATION

### Texas Democratic Party

Boyd Richie, Chairman. [www.txdemocrats.org](http://www.txdemocrats.org)  
707 Rio Grande Street, Austin, TX 78701  
Telephone: (512) 478-9800

### Williamson County Democratic Party

Richard Torres, Chairman. **NOTE: New Phone #:**  
**512-964-5054** or [www.williamsoncountymocrats.org](http://www.williamsoncountymocrats.org).

**Monthly meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Party headquarters, 110 South I-35 (corner of I-35 and Hwy. 620 behind McDonald's in Round Rock).

### Williamson County Democratic Headquarters

needs volunteer workers. Address: 110 North Interstate 35 (at Hwy 620) Phone: 512-388-1993

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri: 11 AM to 6 PM  
Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM

**Williamson County Obama Store** is located at the Williamson County Democratic Headquarters, featuring T-shirts, hats, posters, calendars, etc.



### FOLLOW THE MONEY ...

For an accounting of where the money is going in the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** (stimulus package), go to [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

### RUMOR CHECKING HEADQUARTERS

Still receiving toxic emails? Check it out and get the facts at [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com), [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org), and [www.mediamatters.org](http://www.mediamatters.org).

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