

Sun City Democrats

www.suncitydems.org

April 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, April 4

9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Speaker

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. In addition to teaching at WVU, she has taught at New York University, where she was also the co-project director and co-editor of *The Papers of William Livingston*. She is the author of three books: *Robert Hunter (1666-1734): New York's Augustan Statesman*; *Privilege and Prerogative: New York's Provincial Elite, 1710-1776*; and *The Imperial Executive in America: Sir Edmund Andros, 1637-1714*.

Now living in Round Rock, Texas, Dr. Lustig continues to supervise those graduate students who began their degree programs under her direction. She is currently researching a study on the Loyalist DeLancey family and frequently lectures to groups in the Austin area about colonial and revolutionary history.

Her subject will be **Thomas Paine's "Common Sense."**



Thomas Paine

"These are the times that try men's souls"



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

Place: Sun City Legacy Hills Park Pavilion

Program: **Earth Day Fair**, this 2nd annual 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.

NOTE: See Page 6 for a full schedule of events.

Saturday, May 2, 9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Speaker

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

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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 free 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



Sun City Democrats

DEMOCRATS — YES, WE CAN!

Support the Sun City Democrats POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

~Don Lelong

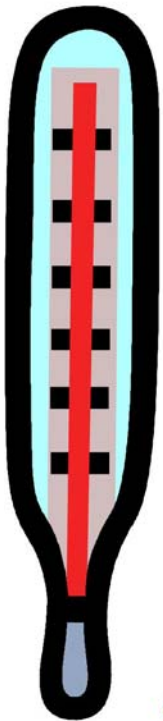
Our PAC is known as **IMPACT**: “**Informed Members Political Action Committee of Texas**”. **IMPACT** is the way that the Sun City Democrats organization can legally contribute to candidates. Send donations to **IMPACT** Treasurer, **Don Lelong**, 101 Crosby Street, Georgetown TX 78633.

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. 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 ***YOU*** Can Get Involved ...

Megan Morrow, our February speaker and the Outreach Director for TEXAS WATCH, really got everyone interested in **Homeowner Insurance Reform!** Several members asked what we as individuals can do to support the efforts of TEXAS WATCH. All of these suggestions may be found at their excellent website: www.texaswatch.org.

TEXAS WATCH is dedicated to providing individual Texans with a platform to become engaged in the legislative process. It is crucial for state leaders to hear from Texans who are directly impacted by the decisions they make. At TEXAS WATCH, they help facilitate communication between activists and their lawmakers by organizing and mobilizing Texans from every corner of our state on issues that are important to them.

TEXAS WATCH issues have included insurance and credit scoring problems, third party liability, workplace safety, medical malpractice, dangerous products, and many more. To learn more about the issues that TEXAS WATCH works on, please visit the Issues section on their website. **Insurance** is the first issue listed.

You choose your level of involvement. Whether it is coming to Austin to meet with your lawmaker, calling your legislator's office to voice your opinion, using their efficient and easy **Legislative Action Center** (<http://capwiz.com/texaswatch/home/>) to send an e-mail, or sharing your story, TEXAS WATCH can help you become engaged in the legislative process.

To become a part of their **Citizen Lobby Team** and receive e-mail updates that include legislative reports and actions you can take, please take moment to complete the form at: <http://www.texaswatch.org/TW/>.

Sharing Your Story: TEXAS WATCH helps activists engage in the legislative process by providing a platform to advocate for real legal and insurance reforms. Your story helps them better understand the problems their activists face so that they can promote common sense reforms that strengthen accountability measures and make our marketplace fair for all Texans. Stories shared with the Legislature, media and communities have helped shape decisions with the needs of citizens in mind, not just special interest lobbyists.

UPDATE! TEXAS WATCH will be hosting an Insurance Reform Lobby Day at the Capitol!

When: April 1, 2009, from 9am to 4pm

Where: The Texas Capitol

RSVP: By calling 1-888-738-4226 or emailing grassroots@texaswatch.org

PRECINCT 381 NEWS

~Kay Walker, Precinct Chair
864-2874 klwalker@suddenlink.net

The **Williamson County Democratic Party** met Thursday, March 12, in their headquarters at I-35 and Highway 620. The Search Committee recommended a candidate (out of 36 who applied) be confirmed as our new Executive Director. You may recall that this person's salary is to be paid by a PAC connected to Annie's List on the condition that our organization raise enough money to pay the rent on the headquarters. This candidate was confirmed, and her name is **Lindsey Ellerbach**. She is from Oklahoma and has political experience in Oklahoma, Virginia, Washington DC and Iowa. She will begin work about the first of April.

After this business was taken care of, **Billie Reaney** of the Fundraising Committee reported that the number of sustaining members needed to pay the aforementioned rent is now at 110. One hundred thirty are needed. These sustaining members are people willing to pay \$10/month to the Williamson County Democratic Party. Contact Billie Reaney or me if you are willing to step up to this volunteer effort.

County Chairperson Richard Torres introduced five Democrat candidates for the May election. We in Sun City do not get to vote for any of these, but you may want to support them in some way such as with money or your time.

1. **Patti Eason** (incumbent) will run for a third term in the Georgetown City Council. She does have an opponent. Her campaign has already kicked off at the Harper-Chesser Inn Bed and Breakfast in Georgetown.
2. **Carl Wake** will run for Place 2 on the Leander City Council.
3. **Dr. Victor Villareal** will run for mayor of Leander. He asked for volunteers to be at early voting and election day there. vicforleander.com
4. **John Moman** will run for Place 5 on the Round Rock City Council. johnmoman.com
5. **Antonio Chapman** will run for a place on the Round Rock School Board.

Additional candidates in Georgetown are:

Georgetown City Council, District 1

- **Patty Eason (i)**
- **Ric Spencer**

Georgetown City Council, District 5

- **Pat Berryman (i)**

Georgetown ISD Trustee, Place 6

- **Greg Eady**
- **Linda Larsen (i)**

Georgetown ISD Trustee, Place 7

- **Nicholas Brumder**
- **Brad Smith (i)**



PRECINCT 396 NEWS

~Billie Reaney, Precinct Chair
868-0098 billie_reaney@msn.com

Sustaining & Annual Donors support Williamson County Democratic Party (WCDP). Fundraising continues for the support of the new Democratic Party headquarters in Round Rock. To achieve our first and most basic goal which is to "pay the rent", we are seeking donors among our local Democrats. We intend to recognize all donors for their generosity by displaying their names on a wall plaque at headquarters. Let me know if you would like to help support our party by becoming a donor.

There are two categories of donors: Sustaining and Annual. **Sustaining Donors** are those who pledge to contribute a minimum of \$10.00/ month or \$30.00/ quarter. These donors are the life blood of the party. It is their commitment to provide continuous ongoing support that sustains our party into the future. These donors make it possible to keep the doors open at our new Headquarters. That achievement has encouraged other major donors to commit to providing the funds for an Executive Director who will work full time for our party. **Annual donors** are those who make a one time donation of any amount with no clear obligation for further contributions. The many ongoing programs and activities that keep the party visible and that help to elect Democrats at all levels of government depend on these donors.

The Bus. The Georgetown City Council has agreed to appoint a steering committee charged with working out a business plan for a city transit system. The committee plans to employ a consulting firm to investigate and evaluate options for funding of a bus system. I expect to be named to the steering committee. The plan will not be worked out in time to make Georgetown's budget for the coming year.

CA election. So far, four people have filed to run for the three open positions on the CA board. One of those candidates is our own **Kim Moran**. This is an election where candidates run without party labels. The city and school district elections are also nonpartisan. That does not mean, however, that the political parties are not involved. Republicans are very good at finding and providing support for conservatives who will run on the usual "no tax increase" platform. Democrats are learning they, too, must recruit citizens willing to run. Their goal is to find candidates whose primary aim is good government and service for the good of the school and community.

City County Elections. Judges, clerks and workers are being recruited right now for upcoming elections. One slate of Democrats willing to serve as Judges and Alternate Judges for elections conducted by Williamson County is due at the end of June. These are the judges who will serve in elections through the November 2010 election. The County Democratic Party asks you to volunteer to help your party and community by agreeing to serve as a judge. Workers earn 8-10 dollars per hour. Usually the work is done right here or in the nearby voter precincts. Training for our workers is part of the deal.

PRECINCT 394 NEWS

~Don Mohr, Precinct Chair
868-2850 donmohr@netzero.net

The Precinct has experienced a 110% percent increase in residents from January to March with the total now at 193 people. Given that the majority of Sun City residential construction will be within the boundaries of Precinct 394 over the next several years for the remaining 2K plus homes, this should be one of the fastest growing Precincts in Williamson County. Precinct 394 starts at the new Independence Creek Lane and wraps around the new Cowan Creek Golf Course area to the south and east of Cool Springs Way.

I am currently creating a database for all Precinct Residents so that mailings can be made to announce key events such as: Sun City Democratic meeting speakers, local issues of interest, legislative initiatives and support efforts needed to get bill passage. The first mailing will be the last week of March to enlist support for the Texas Watch lobbying effort for Home Insurance Reform planned for April 1. I will also be requesting new residents to respond with their interests in getting involved in their Precinct

I am also hoping to create Precinct Discussion Groups to address key national issues in a bipartisan manner. These groups would be small and open to all party affiliations. They would discuss select issues and try to find common ground, something that our national parties seem to have a hard time accomplishing. The groups would then come together periodically to prepare a position statement that would be presented to local national representatives. Maybe "The People" can help to show the way for national bipartisan CHANGE.

The quarterly effort will center on getting new residents registered for the May elections and getting out the information on key issues to help promote voter turnout.

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

Williamson County Democratic Party

Richard Torres, Chairman. **NOTE: New Phone #:**
512-964-5054 or www.williamsoncountymocrats.org.

Williamson County Democratic Headquarters (and Obama Store) needs volunteer workers. Address: 110 North Interstate 35 (at Hwy 620) Phone: 512-388-1993

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 11 AM to 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM

DEMOCRATS — YES, WE CAN!

The Environmental Defense Fund responds to a false Republican claim ...

Claim:

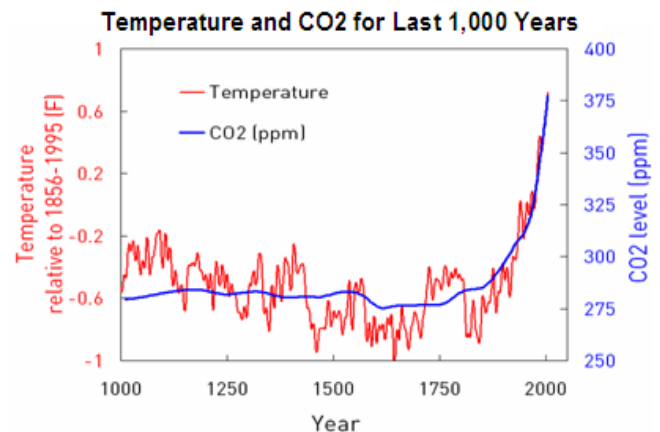
"We are cooling. We are not warming. The warming you see out there, the supposed warming, and I am using my finger quotation marks here, is part of the cooling process. Greenland, which is now covered in ice, it was once called Greenland for a reason, right? Iceland, which is now green. Oh I love this. Like we know what this planet is all about. How long have we been here? How long? Not very long."

~ RNC Chairman Michael Steele, guest-hosting Bill Bennett's Morning in America radio show, March 6, 2009

Truth:

As we've [posted before](http://blogs.edf.org/truthsquad) (<http://blogs.edf.org/truthsquad>), the planet is not cooling. Yes, 2008 was cooler than 2007, but it was still one of the top ten warmest years on record. And, the warmest decade on record is the last ten years.

Here is a graphic from our [Climate 411 blog](http://blogs.edf.org/climate411/) (<http://blogs.edf.org/climate411/>) that shows the extent of the current warming trend:



Folks who claim that the planet is cooling simply don't know what they're talking about.

Oh, and as for why Greenland is called Greenland when it's mostly covered in ice, it's an interesting historical story. It turns out that Viking settlers used the inviting name to entice more settlers to join them. In reality, Greenland's ice cap is hundreds of thousands of years old and covers more than 4/5 of the land. The rest of Steele's quote kind of loses focus. We are not sure how to politely respond. (<http://www.edf.org>)



SWEET NOTE TO JOHN MCCAIN:

"That One"... is now called "Mr. President".

WE'VE BEEN PUBLISHED !

... or at least two of our Sun City Democrats have had a "Letter to the Editor" published!

Billie Reaney, 396 Precinct Chair, had the following letter published in the **Williamson County Sun** newspaper on March 22, 2009 :

A Teachable Moment

I am responding to **Mary Fenoglio's** commentary because it presents a "teachable moment". Mary's major complaint is that legislators acted irresponsibly because they didn't have time to read and digest the 1,079 pages of the Stimulus Bill. Actually, legislators almost never read bills. They have staff to read, digest and write summaries for them. It would only take a few hours for 10 staff members, reading 100 pages each, to digest the whole thing. (Yes, they have that many staff members.)

But in the case of the Stimulus Bill (actually the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**), there was plenty of time for one individual to read the whole thing. I began reading it online shortly after it was passed by the House on January 28. I should add that the postings were in .PDF format, so they were easily "searchable". I wanted to learn, among other things, about the \$500 benefit for individuals. I learned that it went to "workers", but it was not clear how the money would be delivered or if I qualified since I am retired.

Next the U.S. Senate took its turn to make changes to the bill. Senate Republicans added amendments in well-publicized meetings with the Democrats. All Senators and their staffs were invited and urged to engage in the meetings. Most Republicans declined, but several Republican-sponsored amendments were agreed to for the final Senate version. That version moved on to a joint committee for reconciliation with the House version. One Senate amendment added tax relief for businesses. Costs were reduced by cutting out some of the money destined for state governments that were experiencing dire budget problems. Another Republican amendment reduced the \$500 going to workers to \$400 per worker. The media gave wide visibility to all of these changes, so any legislator could learn even if they refused to participate.

The final version of the Recovery and Reinvestment Bill came out of the usual reconciliation process on February 12. The Senate had insisted that the House accept the Senate version in total or they would filibuster the final bill. So there were no substantial changes in this last version of the bill. If you wanted to know about the changes, the bill was posted online in the early hours of February 13. There I learned about the \$100 cut to "workers". (I also learned that I was not a worker.) Workers would get their \$400 in their paychecks,

through cuts in their withholding tax. Added to the bill, however, was a \$250 benefit for retirees. Aha!

It was this 1079 page final version of the bill that **Minority Leader John Boehner** dramatically slammed to the floor of the House claiming that he was ignorant of what was in it. I was personally awed. I had been reading and keeping up. Boehner has a large, experienced staff, who are surely more adept at finding the right Web sites than I am. I do not mean to imply that I read all of the bill; but in the two weeks from the time the House passed its version on January 28 to February 13 when they had to vote on the final version, I certainly had time to do so. I conclude that there were a lot of legislators who chose ignorance as a tactic hoping to gain sympathy from the public. That tactic only works when the public is also ignorant.

BILLIE REANEY
721 Texas Drive
Georgetown



Bonnie Boorman wrote the following after hearing Bob Moser speak at our January meeting. The letter was published in **The Texas Observer** magazine, in the March 20, 2009 issue :

Tables Turned

The strength-and-weaknesses argument is evidence that the whole controversy about evolution requires Christians to face the fact that the scriptures are not literally true, but allegorical. As long as fundamentalists cling to the literal truth of the Bible, they won't understand science, and they limit the limitless power of God.

BONNIE BOORMAN
Posted at www.texasobserver.org



Farewell to a Founding Mom ...

Early in March, we lost one of the founders of the Sun City Democrats, **Poppy Hulsey**. We send our condolences to her family. Donations in her behalf may be sent to the Swisher Foundation in Tulia, Texas.

Second Annual Sun City EARTH DAY FAIR



Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Time: 1:00 to 6:00 PM

Place: Sun City Legacy Hills Park Pavilion

Program: EARTH DAY FAIR. This 2nd annual event is sponsored by the Sun City Democrats, with help from the City of Georgetown, the Sun City Community Association, the Sun City Garden Club, the Sun City Hiking Club, the Sun City Horticulture Club, the Sun City Nature Club, the Sun City Republican Club, the Sun City Wildlife Management Committee, and Texas Disposal Systems. In addition to speakers and nature walks, there will be tables with information, samples and items for sale. Refreshments will be available for purchase by Caddy Shack.

Schedule of Events

1:00 PM

Mayor George Garver

Sun City Earth Day Fair Proclamation
Official Opening of the Fair

1:05 PM

Sondra Carleton

Sun City Community Association
"Sun City's Environmental Progress and Plans"

1:30 PM

Dick Woolheater

Sun City Nature Club – Nature Walk
"How Imported Flora and Fauna Affects the Natives"

2:00 PM

Verna Browning

Texas Disposal Systems
"A Lovely Dump ... Recycling and Reusing Trash"

2:30 PM

Norm Ford

Sun City Nature Club
"Native Birds" Nature Walk

3:00 PM

Leroy Hampleman

Sun City Beekeeper, Sun City Horticulture Club
"The Buzz on Bees ... Why We Need Them"

3:30 PM

Julia Miller

Master Naturalist, Sun City Hiking Club
Nature Walk

4:00 PM

Randy Pensabene

Sun City Nature Club, Native Plant Society of Texas
"Rain Barrels ... Your Plants Will Love Them"

4:30 PM

To Be Announced

Master Naturalist, Sun City Hiking Club
Nature Walk

5:00 PM

To Be Announced

Sun City Club
"To Be Announced"

5:30 PM

Barbara Wilder

Master Naturalist, Sun City Hiking Club
Nature Walk

6:00 PM

Nancy Danley

Social Chair, Sun City Democrats
Official Closing of the Fair