

Sun City Democrats

www.suncitydems.org

November 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, **November 7, 2009**

9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Speaker

Place: Sun City Activities Center Atrium

Program: **Dr Richard Dusansky, Ph.D.**, will present a short talk on "The Economics of Health Care". He plans a question and answer period after his talk. Please bring your concerns to the meeting for Dr. Dusansky's comments.

Dr. Dusansky came to the University of Texas in 1989 to become chairman of the Economics Department. As the Richard Gonzalez Regents Chair, he was responsible for expanding the Economics Department. His current research deals with consumer speculation as a force in housing market "bubbles" and the roles of "moral hazard" and insurance-contract choice in determining consumer demand for medical care.



twitter

Tweet from Wes Rackley of Arkansas:

"Republicans take great pride in finding loopholes in common decency and turning technicalities of democracy against itself."

Saturday, **December 5, 2009**

9:30 AM Holiday Party

Place: Sun City Activities Center Atrium

Program: Let's kick off the season with good cheer and a holiday breakfast! A short annual business meeting will follow, celebrating the past year and looking forward to the future.



Precinct Chairs: "Pre-Election Event"

Wednesday, **November 11, 2009**

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Place: Sun City Legacy Hills ~ The Oaks

Program: TX State Board of Education

Discussion Topics:

The Role of the State Board of Education, Partners in Education and mentoring for local schools.



Two new studies say Texas schools are among the worst in the nation! We have been invited to join the Precinct Chairs for an event with a focus on improving education in Texas schools.

There will also be conversations with candidates seeking election to the State Board of Education and our local school officials and mentors. More information regarding expert guests will be provided as the event nears. This is a pre-election event sponsored by the Sun City Precinct Chairs of the Williamson County Democratic Party.

Refreshments and light snacks will be provided. Please let them know if you are interested in attending by contacting your Precinct Chair (**names and numbers are listed bottom right on page 2**).

SUN CITY DEMOCRATS OFFICERS

President: Jodi Salyers 864-2812 jodotcom@aol.com
Vice-Pres: Jim Stauber 515-0486 jcstauber@ecpi.com
Secretary: Joan Baker 869-5611 mizbaker@suddenlink.net
Treas: Margaret Donaldson 818-1594 mariohndonaldson@yahoo.com
Past Pres: Mary Kay Pierson 864-9909 mkatpie@aol.com
Communication: Carol Flynn 864-3544 flycar@verizon.net
Website Editor:
Newsletter Editor:
Hospitality: Fred Becker 864-0704 fb.becker@suddenlink.net
Meeting Setup Mgr:
Coffee Mgr:
Food Mgr:
IMPACT: Don Lelong 869-1714 donandjackie@verizon.net
Membership:
Meeting Sign-In Mgr:
New Homeowner Orientation Mgr:
Database: Frank Wentworth 864-3385 f.wentworth@yahoo.com
Programs: Craig Whitney 869-2690 cbwhitney@verizon.net
Special Events: Nancy Danley 864-1544 nrdanley@suddenlink.net
Decorations Mgr:

Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats ~ Volunteer

The **Sun City Democrats** provide many activities and services for members. We have educational meetings, provide speakers, social events, maintain a website, and a monthly newsletter. We receive no money from national, state or local Democratic Headquarters; nor do we have full-time paid staff to manage and run the Club. We exist only because of loyal volunteers. Many of the same people have been performing these duties for over 10 years, and they are getting tired! Many others have been siphoned off to work for "other" local Democratic groups.

Please consider volunteering to keep our Club viable and active. The following positions are currently unfilled: **Membership Chair, Coffee Manager, Food Manager, Meeting Sign-In Table Manager, New Homeowner Orientation Manager, Decorations Manager, Website Editor and Newsletter Editor.** Some of these positions will require you to store a couple boxes at your home. Please call any of the above officers to volunteer your time or to ask questions.

Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats ~ Financially

Please join us by supporting our activities and by paying your annual dues. The **Sun City Democrats** receive no money from national, state or local Democratic Headquarters; nor do we have full-time paid staff to

SUN CITY DEMOCRATS

manage and run the Club. As a Sun City "Interest Group", we pay for using all Sun City facilities. We exist only because of paid annual dues.

Pay your 2010 dues early! 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.

Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats ~ Political Action Committee

Our PAC is known as **IMPACT: Informed Members Political Action Committee of Texas.** **IMPACT** is the only way that the Sun City Democrats organization can legally contribute to candidates. **IMPACT's** goal is to raise **10 Grand By 2010**, just after the primaries. Send donations to **IMPACT** Treasurer, **Don Lelong**, 101 Crosby Street, Georgetown TX 78633.



DEMOCRATIC PARTY INFORMATION

Texas Democratic Party

Boyd Richie, Chairman. www.txdemocrats.org

Address: 707 Rio Grande Street, Austin, TX 78701

Phone: (512) 478-9800

Williamson County Democratic Party

Richard Torres, Chairman. Phone: 512-964-5054

Williamson County Democratic Headquarters

<http://www.wilcodemocrats.org>

Address: 110 North Interstate 35 (at Highway 620)

Phone: 512-388-1993

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 11AM to 6PM, Sat: 10AM to 2PM

Precinct 381

~**Kay Walker**, Precinct Chair

864-2874 klwalker@suddenlink.net

November Report:

<http://suncitydems.org/precincts/precinct-381/>

Precinct 394

~**Don Mohr**, Precinct Chair

868-2850 donmohr@netzero.net

Precinct 396

~**Billie Reaney**, Precinct Chair

868-0098 billie_reaney@msn.com

November Report:

<http://suncitydems.org/precincts/precinct-396/>

Precinct 399

~**Bill Blair**, Precinct Chair

868-9180 billblair3@verizon.net

What a Peace of Work!

~ Matte, on Shoq Value blog, posted 10-10-2009

Let's be clear on what the Nobel Peace Prize is about. It is NOT about specific achievement; but rather, whatever the Nobel committee – however subjectively – decides what a person's "work" is. Notice that it's more about hope and aspiration, than any accomplishments.

According to **Alfred Nobel's** will, the Peace Prize should be awarded "to the person who shall have done the most or the best **work** for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."



The Committee's Statement

The following is the text of the announcement by the Norwegian Nobel Committee giving the Nobel Peace Prize to President Barack Obama:

"The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. The Committee has attached special importance to Obama's vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons.

"Obama has as president created a new climate in international politics. Multilateral diplomacy has regained a central position, with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play. Dialogue and negotiations are preferred as instruments for resolving even the most difficult international conflicts. The vision of a world free from nuclear arms has powerfully stimulated disarmament and arms control negotiations. Thanks to Obama's initiative, the USA is now playing a more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges the world is confronting. Democracy and human rights are to be strengthened.

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future. His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population.

"For 108 years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has sought to stimulate precisely that international policy and those attitudes for which Obama is now the world's leading spokesman. The Committee endorses Obama's appeal that "Now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges."

Source: Wikipedia: Nobel Peace Prize

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"
~Jesus



twitter

Tweet from iamneverright from SE Missouri:

"Strategy of the "Right": "I will simply scream lies louder than your truth."

Tweet from techweenie from El Lay Kulifornia:

"Only 'rightwing nutjobs' would classify statements of verifiable truth as 'attacks' on Fox News."

and:

"Rightwing nutjobs are furious over how Obama has conducted the war in Afghanistan since he invaded 7 years ago."

Letters to the Editor:



Whom do our Senators think they're kidding?

From the Austin American Statesman, 10-23-2009:

US Senator John Cornyn, R-Texas, says he is against the Senate health care bill partly because it was "rushed out of the Finance Committee".

What does he mean "rushed"?

For weeks, the legislation has been debated by five congressional committees. For months, it has been cussed and discussed by editorial writers, columnists, think tanks, writers of all stripes and every industry connected with the issue.

The truth is, Cornyn and other Republicans are against the bill simply because, if it passes, a Democratic president will get credit for it. These obstructionists are putting party interest before the national interest.

Whom does Cornyn think he's kidding?

~ Bill Metz, Georgetown (and Sun City Democrat!)

I think it's great that US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, stays in Washington to fight against health care reform as long as she gives up her government-supplied health care.

Until she does that, her words ring hollow.

~ Dave Byrne, Austin

Hutchison says she wants to fight health care reform with every bone in her body.

Well, she's convinced me. We don't want her for senator or governor.

~ Jerry Goodrich, Cedar Park

Editorial:

City of Taylor unfurls its true colors

From the Austin American Statesman, 10-20-2009:

Supporting the troops means more than waving a flag as they leave. A society should be judged on how the troops are treated on their return.

Receiving returning troops – scars and all – is a tough task and obviously not one that all communities will shoulder. Take Taylor, for example.

Faced with a proposal to open its community to female veterans traumatized by their war experiences, Taylor said no. The troops would have been housed in a vacant nursing home. The city said the land wasn't zoned properly. Neighbors said they feared that applicant Center Point Inc., a California-based firm that specializes in substance abuse treatment, was going to pull a bait and switch. The neighbors alleged that Center Point's real intent was to open a halfway house for ex-cons. The company vigorously denies that.

The neighbors declared they support troops. They just don't want the center in their backyard.

Center Point hasn't given up but if things don't work out to open a center in Williamson County, it has an invitation to open up a center in Smithville in Bastrop County.

In Smithville, at least, city officials understand that supporting the troops means more than slapping a decal of a yellow ribbon on your car.

~ Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board



I am amazed that any city in Texas would be so unsupportive of our troops that they would vote against allowing a group of female veterans to occupy a vacant nursing home in Taylor while they recuperate. This level of uncaring selfishness sickens me. All I can do is vow the following: "I will not visit the City of Taylor. I will not shop in the City of Taylor. I will not dine in the City of Taylor. I will recommend that none of my friends and family support the City of Taylor in any manner." The City of Taylor doesn't wish to support our troops; I don't wish to support the City of Taylor. Please join me.

Five Moves to Watch in Healthcare Reform

~ Gillian Hubble, published October 19, 2009
http://healthcare.change.org/blog/view/5_moves_to_watch_in_healthcare_reform



With the frenetic activity of the last few months, you may be wondering what's going to happen next in the healthcare reform carnival. First there was the breathless buildup to bill ... after bill ... after bill. Then the ensuing media circus took over. Tea partiers continue to spout hyperbolic nonsense we hope bears no resemblance to 18th century history, and many members of Congress regularly emit scaremongering tripe that has nothing to do with [campaign contributions](#) from the insurance industry. Really. Meanwhile private insurers progressively expose their ugly underbellies. What's next?

Take a deep breath and take heart: there is an actual semi-logical legislative process. And you can follow it, in between sideshows. In fact a simplified outline of the complexities follows on the next page of this newsletter, adapted from the National Health Council (you can also download the entire [Health Reform Legislation: Potential Impact on Patients](#) PDF).

That final orange step that is a little hard to read is "President signs or vetoes the bill." Thanks to the NHC for actually putting patients first in this debate and trying to make the process understandable. Now that you've got a feel for the overall process (and that there's a long way to go by the end of the year) here are the five things to watch in the next few weeks.

Senate

1. **Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR):** Consideration of bill to repeal it will be early this week. The SGR, enacted in 1997, has been overridden every year since. Why? It mandates

significant cuts to physician Medicare reimbursement rates, which would negatively impact physician willingness to continue treating Medicare patients. *One year cost:* \$11 billion. *Ten year cost:* \$230-247 billion. So why is money to expand patient insurance coverage so hard to come by?

2. **Committee of Three combine HELP and Finance Committee bills:** Harry Reid, Max Baucus, and Chris Dodd (and lots of White House reps) first met last Wednesday. Will Reid insert some sort of public option into the combined bill – meaning it would take 60 senators to remove it and only 41 to defend it? Stay tuned.
3. **Threats of anti-trust reform:** Late last week Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid responded to AHIP's [pseudo-report](#) promising skyrocketing premiums in an unusual way. He appeared as a witness before the Judiciary Committee to argue that insurers' anti-trust exemption should be repealed. The potential effects? Large insurer positions would be weakened versus providers, and small insurers (the few that exist) would be weakened versus large ones, as rate-setting information could no longer be shared. Given a nearly identical 2nd insurer [study](#) (this time from Blue Cross Blue Shield Association), it's a good threat, but it doesn't seem very smart.

House

1. **Medicare +5% for hospitals:** House legislation currently offers physician reimbursement under the public option at Medicare +5%, but not hospitals. Nancy Pelosi is now proposing that hospitals also receive that rate, due to rural hospital pushback. *Added cost:* \$20 billion. Will centrist Democrats bite? We'll see.
2. **Pelosi calls for caucus:** Last week's meeting was cancelled to discuss Medicare +5% instead. But Pelosi wants Democrats to lay their cards on the table regarding a public option. She will ask which of the various public options members can support, or if they cannot support any at all. That feedback will determine which plan she includes in the legislation for a final floor debate.

Meanwhile we can expect more idiotic sound bites like Chuck Grassley's assertion that healthcare reform is unconstitutional or at least in violation of the 10th Amendment. Funny, medical bankruptcies don't seem to violate the 10th Amendment. Maybe they don't have those in the capitol.



