

Sun City Democrats

www.suncitydems.org

January 2010



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.

Saturday, January 9, 2010 **NOTE: We are meeting 1 week later due to New Year's Holiday.**

Time: 9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 Speaker

Place: Sun City Social Center Ballroom

NOTE: We are meeting in a different location.

Program: Carmen Cortes-Harms

Carmen Cortes-Harms has been the **Director of Immigration Legal Services** at Catholic Charities of Central Texas since June 2008. Prior to her current position she was a Mexican Foreign Service Officer for fifteen years.

Mrs. Cortes-Harms served at the **Consulate General of Mexico in Austin, Texas** from July of 1998 to December 2007. Prior to being posted in Austin, Texas Mrs. Cortes-Harms served at the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago, Illinois where she also worked on criminal, civil, labor and human rights cases.



Saturday, February 6, 2010

9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 Speaker

Place: Sun City Activity Center Atrium

Program: Bill White

Bill White fights for the people he represents, and brings people together to get things done. That's why as **Houston's Mayor**, he's been re-elected twice with margins of 86% and 91%.

Bill White was a candidate for Kay Bailey Hutchison's Senate seat, until she changed her mind (again); so after many requests, he has agreed to run for **Governor of Texas!**



Special Event:

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Sun City Social Center Ballroom

\$20 Cabaret Seating, \$15 Auditorium Seating

Program: The Texcentric Radio Hour, with cast members from **Esther's Follies**, is an original musical comedy with singing, dancing and old radio ad parodies. Music and dancing will follow the show.

Seating is limited! Cabaret seating (with tables) is \$20 per person; auditorium seating (chairs only) is \$15 per person. Bring your own beverages and snacks, soft drinks available for purchase, ice and water will be provided.

Arrive together if you wish to sit together; or enclose all checks in one envelope to reserve a table of 10. Send checks (payable to **IMPACT**), names, and email addresses to **Don Lelong**, Treasurer, 101 Crosby Street, Georgetown, TX 78633. For more information call 869-1714.

This event is sponsored by **IMPACT**, a PAC of Sun City Democrats' Club.



SUN CITY DEMOCRATS 2010 OFFICERS

President: Roe Mackey 864-7948

Vice-Pres: Duane Florschuetz 868-2621

Secretary: Bonnie Boorman 863-2387

Treas: Margaret Donaldson 818-1594 marjohndonaldson@yahoo.com

Past Pres: Mary Kay Pierson 864-9909 mkatpie@aol.com

Communication:

Website Editor:

Newsletter Editor:

Hospitality: Fred Becker 864-0704 fb.becker@suddenlink.net

Meeting Setup Mgr:

Coffee Mgr: George Wagner 864-0641 wagywagy@suddenlink.net

Meeting Food Mgr: Betty Bendewald

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:

Decorations Mgr:

Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats

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 exist only because of loyal volunteers. Please call any of the above officers to volunteer your time or to ask questions.

Please join us by supporting our activities and by paying your annual dues. As a Sun City "Interest Group", we pay for using all Sun City facilities. We exist only because of paid annual dues.

Sun City Democrats Stimulus Package:

The Board voted to reduce our annual dues to **\$12** 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

****See Kay's report on the March 2010 Primary on Page 3 of this Newsletter.****

Precinct 394

~**Don Mohr**, Precinct Chair

868-2850 donmohr@netzero.net

Precinct 396

~**Billie Reaney**, Precinct Chair

868-0098 billie_reaney@msn.com

****Note from Billie regarding voting in the March 2010 Primary: "Staying home or voting in the Republican primary will erase your chance to go to the Democratic County Convention in March as a delegate. The Convention will be held out here at Reunion Ranch. John Hightower will be the keynote speaker."****

Precinct 399

~**Bill Blair**, Precinct Chair

868-9180 billblair3@verizon.net



March 2010 Primary

~ Kay Walker, Precinct 381 Chair

The March 2010 Primary is beginning to "heat up". I hesitate to say that any particular person is running for any particular office before the filing deadline of January 4, but since I attended the Williamson County Democratic Party executive council meeting last night, I did pick up some pieces of interesting news:

First of all the WCDP will open an office in Round Rock from which to run the Democrat Primary (March 2, 2010). This is funded by the office of the Secretary of State, and cannot be on the same site as the WC Campaign Headquarters. For one thing, there cannot be any campaign literature in the Primary Office. The WCDP Chairperson, Richard Torres, will be the director of the Williamson County Democrat Primary. His budget will cover election personnel and training, supplies such as ballots, and rent for the site. As you may know, election judges in general elections in Texas are selected from the party that won the most recent governor election in each precinct. In the past, these were almost entirely the Republican Party. However, in the last election, Democrats in Williamson County won in 26 precincts. So in those 26 precincts, a Democrat is selected as election judge. This is important because the judge selects the clerks. The judge is directed to select an even number of Democrats and Republicans as clerks, but if she/he cannot find enough Democrats, then she/he may select Republicans. You are probably beginning to get the drift of where this might lead. This is not a problem in primary elections.

At any rate, the Primary Election in Sun City will be held at the SC Social Center as usual. Remember in a primary, you must choose which party's ballot you wish to mark. You cannot choose some candidates from each party. In fact there will be rooms or areas marked off for the Democrat Primary and other areas marked off for the Republican Primary. So if you want to vote for Kay Bailey Hutchison in the Republican Primary, you will not be able to vote for any Democrat candidate in the Democrat Primary. Also, if you vote in the Republican Primary, you will automatically be ineligible to run for any Democrat office in the next election, should you wish to do so.

However, if you decide anyway to vote in the Republican Primary (Texas has open primaries), this has absolutely no effect on how you may vote in the General Election next November.

Important Dates:

February 1, 2010 - last day to register to vote

February 16-26, 2010 - Early Voting

February 23, 2010 - last day to apply for ballot by mail

Okay, enough civics. What about the candidates?

Federal Office

US Senate - there will be no race because Kay Bailey Hutchison has not resigned her seat and has stated she will not do so until after the primary.

US House District 31 - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: John Carter

State Office

Governor - Democrats: Bill White, Farouk Shami /
Republicans: Kay Bailey Hutchison, Rick Perry, Larry Kilgore, Deborah Medina

Texas Third Court of Appeals - Democrats: Kurt Kuhn (This is the Court for which the Democrats successfully elected as Chief Justice, Judge Woodie Jones two years ago. It represents 24 counties)

Attorney General - Democrats: Barbara Ann Radnofsky /
Republican: Greg Abbott

State Senate District 5 - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: Incumbent is Steve Ogden, but he has talked about switching places with Dan Gattis, Jr.

State House District 20 - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: Incumbent is Dan Gattis, Jr., but he recently decided not to run. We'll have to wait til Jan. 4 on these two.

State Board of Education District 10 - Democrats: Dr. Judy Jennings /
Republicans: Brian Russell (Incumbent Cynthia Dunbar declines to run and indicates that she wants Brian Russell in her place--does she think this is Mexico?)

County Office

District Attorney - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: John Bradley is the incumbent

District Clerk - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: Lisa David is the incumbent

County Court #1 Democrats: Teresa Duffin /
Republicans: Suzanne Brooks

County Court #3 - no one for either party.

County Judge - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: Dan Gattis, Sr. is the incumbent

County Treasurer - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: Vivan Wood is the incumbent

County Clerk - Democrats: _____ /
Republicans: Nancy Rister is the incumbent

Justice of the Peace, Precinct Three - Open for both parties: **This is our precinct and a candidate from Sun City would be appropriate.** Salary is about \$73,000 per year. Candidate need not be a lawyer.

Democratic County Chair - Paul Stempko

If the above blank spaces look dismal for the Democratic party, note that the Republicans hold every office, but I do not know if all or any of the incumbents have filed for the March Primary Election. Also, the WCDP Chairperson and a candidate search committee are making every attempt to fill the Democrat side of the ticket. Some of these blank spaces have a Democrat considering filing. It is difficult, mainly because it is almost impossible for any Democrat to win any election in Williamson County. On the other hand, Williamson County is slowly turning "Blue", and sooner or later we will begin winning a few of these elections.

If you are interested in running for office, contact County Chairperson, **Richard Torres** at torg@aol.com or at the WCD Headquarters 512-388-1993 to see what positions you would be eligible for and the amount of the filing costs.

Until then get ready for the fun. As **Molly Ivins** used to say, "**Texas politics is always great entertainment**".

Women and the Bible

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Austin American-Statesman:

Re: Nov. 28 commentary "Human failings, weakness pose biggest dangers to Christian church today."

The Rev. Dean A. Olson's column left me flat.

It is unfortunate that women were not allowed to read or write at the time this passage (John 8) was written.

There has been lots of talk lately about a Conservative Bible, and I am sure the scripture passage that Olson referred to will be included. What really needs to be published is a Woman's Bible, removing this passage.

Olson is a kind of a "Pharisee" himself. He points out a woman's sin, but omits the sin of King David and the other men that committed sins in the Bible – perhaps even Moses himself for commanding that women be stoned. To focus on the woman only re-emphasizes his own "spiritual pride" and that of the Baptist religion, in which sins are the fault of women.

~ Carol Stauber

Liberty Hill

Silence Republicans

Monday, December 14, 2009

Austin American-Statesman:

The GOP didn't just stand by while President George W. Bush and his corporate buddies plundered our country. They participated willingly: tax cuts for the rich, two unfunded wars, Wall Street gone wild and a huge surplus left to us by President Bill Clinton turned into a record deficit overnight.

None of that was a problem.

Now, with President Barack Obama about to complete his first year in office, Republicans are crying that he hasn't cleaned up their mess yet. There is a reason why Republicans are a tiny minority. They are not trying to help restore our country because it isn't in their political interest, and the public recognizes that.

So from now on, Republicans, when we want your opinion, we'll ask for it. Until then, shut up.

~ Randy Humphries

Round Rock

Climategate

Thursday, December 17, 2009

Austin American-Statesman:

Re: Dec. 11 article "E-mails embolden climate skeptics."

In light of the e-mails hacked from scientists regarding climate change, I am dismayed to see Sarah Palin and some members of the GOP seize this opportunity to advance their own political agenda.

I am a Republican, and the issue of global warming is not a party issue. The science is real, and the vast majority of scientists worldwide agree.

Even if Palin doesn't understand global warming, she should understand that by supporting the legislation to fight global warming she would be supporting a cleaner and more energy independent America.

I see no problem at all with an America full of windmills and solar panels and hundreds of billions of dollars staying in America instead of going to hostile oil-producing countries.

My hope is all politicians will do what is best for America and not their political contributors.

~ Ryan Smith

Austin

Insurance Simplified

Monday, December 21, 2009

Austin American-Statesman:

To keep costs down, industries and governmental agencies often rely on self-insurance plans under which risks are calculated and money is set aside to meet them.

The savings come in eliminating profits to insurance companies, which fund those companies' massive sales staffs and humongous advertising budgets, not to mention an army of lobbyists.

The public should understand that with any insurance plan, public or private, losses are averaged among those who are insured. Some pay and never get sick (Good for them!), but the luckless and afflicted will be cared for without fear of being saddled with bankrupting costs.

~ George Flynn

Georgetown

Gattis' Welfare

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

The Williamson County Sun:

In his first campaign, Dan Gattis promised he would privatize services and change the way welfare programs were administered in Texas. It's fitting that his announcement to leave office coincides with the federal government citing Texas as an example to other state welfare agencies as one they should not replicate. Gattis got his way and the promised \$650 million savings soon evaporated. Texas went from being a nationally recognized leader in effectively delivering food stamp services to dead last. Before the change, Texas' error rate was half the national average and 98% of benefits were delivered in a timely manner. The federal government was sending Texas tens of millions annually for the stellar performance. Today, one in eight cases has an error and more than 40% of benefits are late. Locally, Georgetown, with a population of more than 50,000, has been without a food stamp office for years. Hopefully the first thing a new representative will do is reopen an office to make services easily accessible to Georgetown residents.

~Jay Trainor

Georgetown