

Sun City Democrats

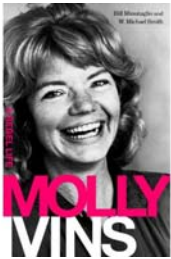
www.suncitydems.org

April 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 **Roe Mackey** at 864-7948.



Saturday, April 10, 2010

9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 Speaker

Place: Sun City Social Center **Ballroom**

NOTE: This meeting will be a week later than usual, due to the Easter holidays. Also, we will be meeting in the Ballroom, not the Atrium.

Program: **W. Michael Smith**

W. Michael Smith, along with co-author **Bill Minutaglio**, has recently published a new book **Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life**. Until her death in 2007, Molly Ivins aimed her witty arrows at George W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, and the circus of Southern - particularly Texan - politics. This biography is based on select personal papers and positive recollections, written by close admirers: **Minutaglio** is a Texas journalism professor, **Smith** was a long-time researcher for Ivins.

Conservative Agenda

- Rewrite Bible
- Rewrite Textbooks
- Rewrite Bill of Rights
- Rewrite Constitution

SUN CITY DEMOCRATS 2010 OFFICERS

President: **Roe Mackey** 864-7948

Vice-President: **Duane Florschuetz** 868-2621

Secretary: **Bonnie Boorman** 863-2387

Treasurer: **Margaret Donaldson** 818-1594

Past President: **Jodi Salyers** 864-2812

Communication: This position is vacant.
Website Editor: This position is vacant.
Newsletter Editor: This position is vacant.

Hospitality: **Fred Becker** 864-0704

Meeting Setup: This position is vacant.

Coffee: **George Wagner** 864-0641

Meeting Food: **Betty Bendewald**

IMPACT: **Don Lelong** 869-1714

Membership: This position is vacant.
Meeting Sign-In: This position is vacant.
New Homeowner Orientation: This position is vacant.
Database: **Frank Wentworth** 864-3385

Programs: **Craig Whitney** 869-2690

Special Events: This position is vacant.
Decorations: This position is vacant.



Primary Signs outside Sun City Village Center
(Photo by George Flynn)

Message from the President of the Sun City Democrats

~ Roe Mackey

First I want to thank all the officers, especially our past president **Jodi Salyers**, and all the committee chairs and members for the work they did in 2009. It is impossible to name everyone who helped last year and I do not want to leave anyone off – so thanks to all of you!!!!

Sun City Democrats' new year has started with a bang – Our first speaker was **Carmen Cortes-Harms** - the Director of Immigration Legal Services at Catholic Charities of Central Texas. She gave a very informative presentation on the current state of immigration in Texas and the United States. Also at this meeting three new officers were elected for a one year term. Vice-president **Duane Florschuetz**, Secretary **Bonnie Boorman** and President **Roe Mackey**, **Margaret Donaldson** will finish her last year of a two year term as treasurer. February's speaker was our candidate for Governor **Bill White**. We had standing room only crowd – we passed out 150 lawn signs – it was an exciting Saturday morning. In March our candidate for the State School Board District 10 was our speaker. **Judy Jennings** discussed the vital need to elect democrats to the State School Board. District 10 is a swing District. In the 2008 election President Obama had 48+% of the vote. So it is a district we can win. **We all need to give our full support to Dr. Judy Jennings and to Bill White, our future Governor.**

At the March meeting I gave a report on our budget for the year. First a few quick facts – in 2008 our club membership hit an all time high – over 270 members. In mid 2009 the board voted to reduce the club dues from \$20 to \$12 a person. The number of dues paying members dropped to 170 in 2009 as well and our budget for expenses in 2008 and 2009 was about \$5400 each year. As of January 1, 2010 the club has a fund balance in the bank of over \$4000. Looking at the above information it does not take a math expert to see that we cannot continue to spend \$5400 when our income is only \$2040 at 170 members.

When I presented the 2010 budget to the board I had to make major reductions in our expenses. The major items that were cut were: gifts to the Georgetown and Jarrell School Districts (in the past we gave about the same amount of money as the Republicans gave), reduce the amount to the Williamson County Democrats; eliminate most of

the funds for social activities and events. In addition all other expenses were reduced as much as possible. The final budget was – expenses \$2600 and revenue \$2040 from dues and \$600 was added from our fund balance. My hope is that we can increase our membership by 50 and thus will not have to take any money from our fund balance - except for special situations. Like many families we can live with the reduced budget. We cannot help other groups as we have, and all of our social events must be pay as you go. But there are many new opportunities for us to expand our club without spending more money.

Now some good money news – **IMPACT**, our club's Political Action Committee, has almost reached its goal of raising \$10,000 to help Democrats win in the next election. This is great news and I want to thank Don Lelong, our **IMPACT** leader, for all his work.

We also started the 2010 club year without needed chairs of vital committees – Membership, Communications, Special Events/Social activities, Educational / Group activities. At the last meeting many members volunteered – but we still have needs. Please contact me if you are willing to help with any aspect of the club.

Finally we must always remember this quote - **Keep Our Eyes on the Prize** – the prize of course is to elect Democrats to local, state and national offices. This is a difficult time for all of us, but it is a time that we must work together to get that PRIZE.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting of the Sun City Democrats.



Teabagger Explanation for Extinction of Dinosaurs

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.

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: Sun City Democrats; 1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120; PMB #432; 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

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

Precinct 394

~**This position is vacant.**

Precinct 396

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

Precinct 399

~**Bill Blair**, Precinct Chair
868-9180 billblair3@verizon.net

Precinct 381 Newsletter ~ Kay Walker, Precinct Chair

The **March 2 Primary Election** went pretty much as expected. The voter turnout was 18% in Williamson County (although precinct 381 turned out 45%). Of this group of Williamson County registered voters, 83% voted Republican and 17% voted Democrat. This disparity is probably due to the Republican ballot containing a vastly more exciting race for Governor. Contested races on the Democrat ballot had the following results:

Governor: Bill White 90%, Farouk Shami 5%, Felix Alvarado 3% (other candidates less than 1%)

Lieutenant Governor: Ronnie Earle 57%, Linda Chavez-Thompson 31%, Marc Katz 12%

Commissioner of Land Office: Hector Uribe 52%, Bill Burton 48%

Commissioner of Agriculture: Hank Gilbert 59%, Kinky Friedman 41%

County Chairperson: Greg Windham 50.13%, Paul Stempko 49.87% (recount probable)

After the polls closed on March 2, Precinct Conventions were held to select delegates to the County Convention.

Since I was held up in election paperwork, **Keith King** graciously stepped in to run the Precinct 381 Convention. Incidentally, the **County Convention March 20 at Reunion Ranch** is open to the public, and also volunteer workers are needed (contact me); so come join us there. The following delegates were elected to represent you:

Bettie Bendewald, Betty Dougherty, Gene Ellis, Lynn Ellis, Duane Florschuetz, Keith King, Jim Mann, Lynn Mann, Rochelle Margolis, David Martin, Elliott Tucker, Kay Walker

John Young wrote a hopeful editorial in the Austin American Statesman recently. He ended with:

"Don't look now, but Democrats have fielded their most viable candidate for governor in a decade with former Houston Mayor Bill White. Don't look now, but the Legislature teeters in ways that could undo GOP hegemony. Don't look now, but for the next century, demography is increasingly not on the side of the majority party under today's Capitol dome.

Texas never stopped being the state of Johnson, Rayburn, Yarborough, Richards, Hobby, Bentsen, Gonzales, Cisneros, Jordan and Farenthold and, oh yes, Ratliff (a moderate Republican).

It just stopped imagining what sort of Texas that could be."





REPUBLICAN Political Dictionary

~ Steve Benen and Kos
www.dailykos.com

"The Best Graph. Ever."

~ Rachel Maddow



Star of The Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC

Steve Benen:

"Obstructionism," for example, only refers to Democratic minorities opposing Republican proposals.

"Tyranny" is found when an elected Democratic majority passes legislation that Republicans don't like.

"Reconciliation" describes a Senate process that Republicans are allowed to use to overcome Democratic "obstructionism."

"Terrorism" refers to acts of political violence committed by people who aren't white guys.

"Bipartisanship" is found when Democrats agree to pass Republican legislation.

"Big government" describes a dangerous phenomenon to be avoided, except in cases relating to reproductive rights or gays.

"Treason" refers to Democrats criticizing a Republican administration during a war.

"Patriotism" refers to Republicans criticizing a Democratic administration during a war.

"Fiscal responsibility" is a national priority related to keeping our deficit in check, which only applies when Republicans are in the minority.

"Parliamentarian" is a seemingly independent official on the Hill who Senate Republicans are allowed to fire when the GOP disapproves of his/her rulings.

Markos Moulitsas (Kos):

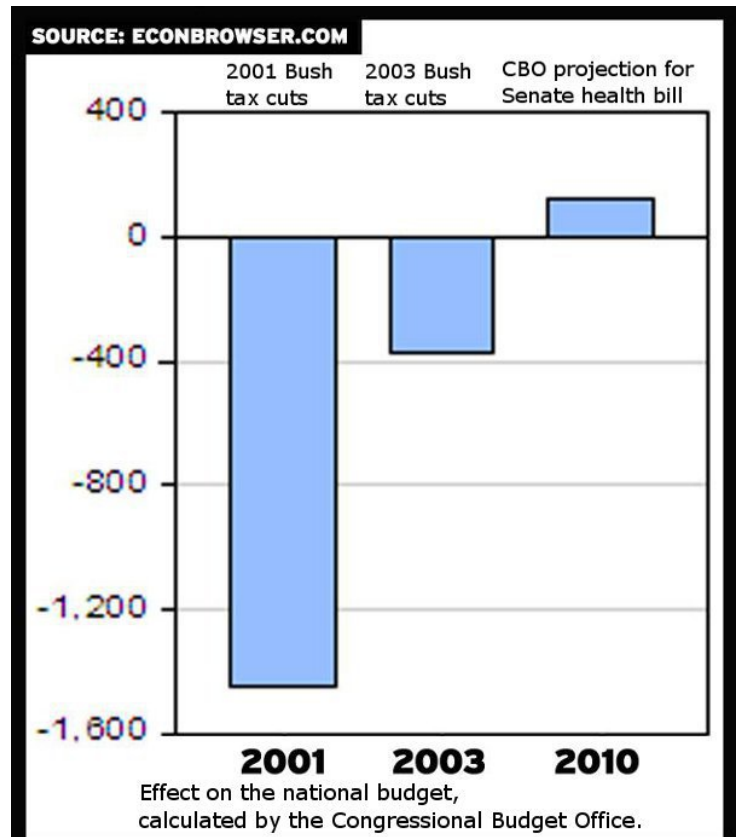
"Government-run health care" doesn't refer to popular government-run health care programs like Medicare.

"The heartland" is the most wonderful place in America, even if no conservative pundit would be caught dead living there.

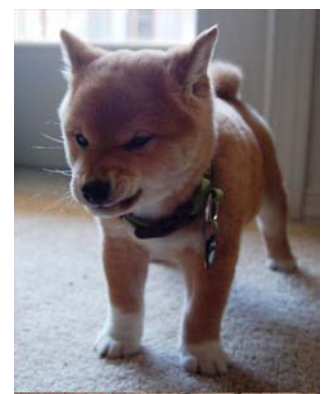
"Serving your country" is honorable if you're a Republican, but a subject of derision when Democrats do it.

Your turn:

Submit your ideas for the Republican Political Dictionary.



Notice the Resemblance?



Editor: Sincere apologies to the cute little puppy (a Shiba Inu) with the appropriately curled upper lip.



It is NOT the Best Health Care System in the World

~ Mario Piperni
www.mariopiperni.com

Mario Piperni is a transplanted Canadian who now lives in southern Florida. Artwork on this page is by Piperni as well.

Millionaire politicians like Joe "You Lie" Wilson either don't get it or don't want to get it. It is painfully obvious to anyone who cares to understand that there is a difference between "best health care in the world" and **access** to that health care. A health care system is much more than the quality of doctors, nurses, hospitals and medical equipment available. Just as important are the cost of health care and the number of people who have access to it.

If health care is bankrupting the nation, it is NOT the best health care system in the world.

If tens of millions do not have access to health care because they cannot afford proper insurance, then it CANNOT be the best health care system in the world.

If two thirds of all personal bankruptcies are directly attributed to health care costs, then it is NOT the best health care system in the world.

If health insurance minions determine what medical procedures are available to you, then it is NOT the best health care system in the world.

Not even close.

US Chamber of Commerce LIES About Health Care Reform

On March 9, 2010, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce published a blog post falsely claiming the Democratic plan for reforming health care would increase premiums, increase the deficit, and kill jobs. In reality, the plan would reduce the deficit, lower premiums, and create up to 4 million American jobs.

PolitiFact: "For Most People, Premiums Would Stay About The Same, Or Slightly Decrease."

According to PolitiFact.com: "The CBO reported that, for most people, premiums would stay about the same, or slightly decrease. This was especially true for people who get their insurance through work. (Health policy wonks call these the large group and small group markets.) People who have to go out and buy insurance on their own (the individual market) would see rates increase by 10 to 13 percent. But more than half of those people -- 57 percent, in fact -- would be eligible for subsidies to help them pay for the insurance. People who get subsidies would see their premiums drop by more than half, according to the CBO. So most people would see their premiums stay the same or potentially drop." [PolitiFact.com, [1/27/10](#), emphasis added]

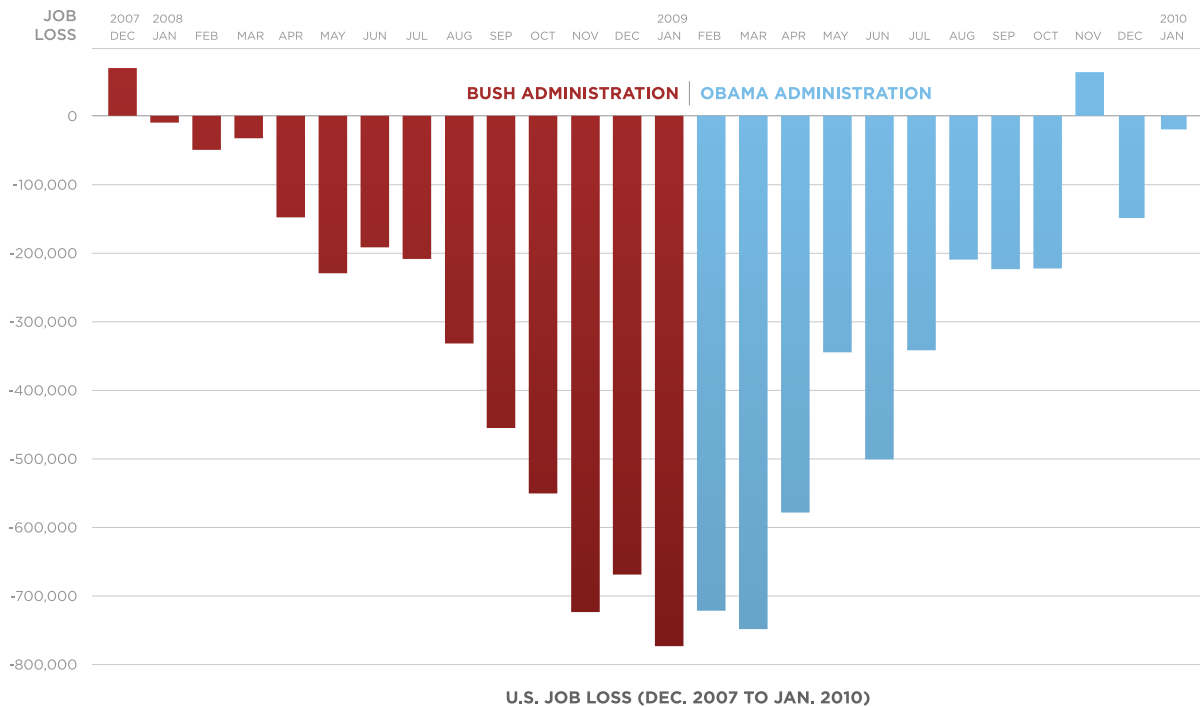
CBO: House Bill Will Result In Lower Costs For American Families.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that in 2016, premiums will be \$5,300 for an individual and \$15,000 for a family of four in the Exchange. Without reform, the average family premium is expected to grow to \$24,000. [CBO, [11/2/09](#); House Education and Labor Committee, [11/2/09](#)]





THE ROAD TO RECOVERY



SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, 02/12/2010

One year in, the evidence is clear – and growing by the day – that the Recovery Act is working to cushion the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression and lay a new foundation for economic growth.

- According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the Recovery Act is already responsible for as many as 2.4 million jobs through the end of 2009
- As a result, job losses are a fraction of what they were a year ago, before the Recovery Act began

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

- Cut taxes for 95 percent of working families through the Making Work Pay tax credit
- Cut taxes for small businesses
- Provided loans to over 42,000 small businesses
- Funded over 12,500 transportation construction projects nationwide, ranging from highway construction to airport improvement projects
- Made multi-billion dollar investments in innovation, science and technology that are laying the foundation for our 21st century economy
- Provided critical relief for state governments facing record budget shortfalls, including help to prevent cuts to Medicaid and creating or saving over 300,000 education jobs

Economists on the left and the right have stated that the Recovery Act has helped avert an even worse economic disaster.



ORGANIZING FOR AMERICA

MY.BARACKOBAMA.COM/RECOVERY

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