

Sun City Democrats

www.suncitydems.org

April 2011



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 or Communications Chair **Kay Walker** at 864-2874. Message from Roe on Page 4

Saturday, April 2, 2011

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

**Place: Cowan Creek Amenity Center,
Florence / Georgetown Rooms**



Speaker: Ken Martin

Founder, Editor, Publisher of *The Austin Bulldog*

Subject: Investigative Reporting: Focusing on Local Politicians

Ken's definition of *The Austin Bulldog*: "The Austin Bulldog is a nonprofit 501(3)(3) for publishing investigative journalism in the public interest. My primary focus is holding elected officials and governmental organizations accountable to the citizens they are supposed to serve. Our job is to do the difficult work of journalists, such as interviewing, analyzing, and adhering to professional standards."

In launching *The Austin Bulldog*, Ken returned to his roots in investigative reporting, covering both the public and private sectors. Ken was an investigative reporter for the *Austin Business Journal* 1989-1990 and served as editor 1990-1994, a period in which the newspaper won numerous awards for journalistic excellence. In 1995, he started the *In Fact* weekly newsletter covering Austin City Hall and local politics. In 1999, Ken began publishing the *In Fact* newsletter five days a week, making *In Fact Daily* Austin's first online newsletter.

SUN CITY DEMOCRATS 2011 OFFICERS

President: **Roe Mackey** 864-7948 Message on Page 4

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

Secretary: **Bonnie Boorman** 863-2387

Treasurer: **This position is vacant.**

Communication: **Kay Walker** 864-2874

Website Editor: **Jodi Salyers** 864-2812

Newsletter Editor: **Jodi Salyers** 864-2812

Issues Group: **Nita Hornbeck** 869-4825

Hospitality: **Pat Prudhom** 686-0506

Meeting Setup: **Fred Becker** 864-0704

Coffee: **George Wagner** 864-0641

IMPACT: **Dwaine Boydston** 240-5161

Membership: **Larry Hilliard** 591-7052

Database: **Frank Wentworth** 864-3385

Programs: **Billie Reaney** 869-2690

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

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



Free Texas Democrat Bumper Stickers!

If you live in Sun City or the City of Georgetown and would like a free "Texas Democrat" bumper sticker, please contact **Larry Hilliard** at LJ_Hilliard@juno.com





Sun City Democrats

Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats – and now DUES ARE DUE!

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.

Sun City Democrats' annual dues are \$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. A membership application should accompany your check; they are available online at www.suncitydems.org or click here:

[Sun City Democrats Membership Application](#)

Please SUPPORT the Sun City Democrats Political Action Committee ~ IMPACT:

Our PAC is known as IMPACT: Informed Members Political Action Committee of Texas. IMPACT is the only legal way that the Sun City Democrats may contribute to candidates. Send donations to IMPACT Treasurer, Dwaine Boydston, 722 Independence Creek Lane, Georgetown TX 78633. NOTE: This is a new address for IMPACT contributions.

Williamson County Democratic Party:

Precinct 381

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

Precinct 394

~Dwaine Boydston, Precinct Chair
431-4412 dwaine.boydstun@gmail.com

Precinct 396

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

Precinct 399

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



Has the GOP Become a Threat to America?

~ Eric L. Wattree

Citizens Against Reckless Middle-Class Abuse (CARMA), Posted on Veterans Today 03-15-2011

“Fascism: A radical, authoritarian nationalist political ideology. Fascists seek to organize a nation according to corporatist perspectives, values, and systems, including the political system and the economy.” - Wikipedia

The current leadership of the GOP is the most dangerous threat to America in the history of this country. Hyperbole? I wish it were. But the evidence clearly demonstrates that the GOP has mounted a concerted effort to circumvent the American people and install a modern-day feudalism that effectively abolishes the will of the people and their elected officials to allow our cities and states to be run by corporate-like CEOs – and there’s no telling where it will go from there.

In spite of the GOP claim that they believe in limited government, The Michigan Messenger has reported that newly elected Republican governor, Rick Snyder, is poised to sign an emergency management bill that will hand total control of local governments over to “emergency managers” appointed by the government.

“In a party line vote, and despite impassioned speeches of protest by the body’s Democratic minority, the Michigan Senate approved legislation that threatens to take over and even dissolve local governments that refuse to balance their budgets by breaking labor contracts.

“According to the law, which has already been approved in the House, the governor will be able to declare “financial emergency” in towns or school districts and appoint someone to fire local elected officials, break contracts, seize and sell assets, and eliminate services.”

According to the Messenger, in a last ditch effort to protect the rights of the citizens, Democrats tried to add an amendment that would require “Emergency Managers” to hold monthly public accountability meetings to inform the citizens of how they are governing, but the amendment was voted down by the Republican senate.

Mark Gaffney, president of the Michigan state AFL-CIO is quoted as saying,

“It takes every decision in a city or school district and puts it in the hands of the manager, from when the streets get plowed to who plows them and how much they are paid. In schools, the manager would decide academics or if you have athletics. This is a takeover by the right wing and it’s an assault on democracy like I’ve never seen.”
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Thus, the GOP, this party of “limited government,” intends to completely take over the local governments under their jurisdiction, rescind the will of the voting public, and thumb their noses at any amendment that will require public accountability. And this power-grab is also taking place in other Republican-led states around the country.

This action and what’s going on in Wisconsin and other Republican-led states clearly demonstrates that the leaders of the modern GOP are without limits. To put it bluntly, these people are un-American. They are fundamentally opposed to our way of life, and greatly prefer a dictatorial form of government. George W. Bush let the cat out of the bag by admitting it when he said, “If this were a dictatorship, it’d be a heck of a lot easier...just as long as I’m the dictator.”

Americans need to wake up and connect the dots. The GOP now claims that they are so concerned about the deficit that they must suspend the United States Constitution, yet they weren’t concerned enough about it to suspend giving the top 2% of the population a tax cut that will add \$4 Trillion to the deficit over the next ten years. Neither were they concerned enough about the deficit to discontinue taxpayer subsidies to Exxon, one of the richest corporations in the world, nor prevent the political class in congress from giving themselves an extra \$93,000 in “petty cash.”

And while they claim to love our troops, they rushed them into battle in Iraq without the necessary gear to protect their lives, and they awarded **Dick Cheney’s** former corporation, **Halliburton (KBR)**, a no-bid contract to provide the troops with contaminated water and do such shoddy contracting work that at least 18 of our troops were electrocuted while in the shower. The Department of the Army classified their deaths as

“negligent homicide.” Then, if that weren’t enough, the GOP fought tooth and nail against giving the troops any additional benefits when they left the service – in spite of the fact that our troops in Iraq were forced into extended tours of duty and spend more tours of duty in a battle zone than any other troops in American history.

The GOP has demonstrated over the past forty years that they are conniving, lack limits, self-serving, and have little or no respect for the rule of law. **Richard Nixon** was forced to resign after being involved in the plot to burglarize the DNC in the Watergate Scandal, and there’s evidence that strongly suggests that **Ronald Reagan** was in collusion with the Iranians to hold American hostages until after he won the presidential election (The hostages were released immediately after he took the oath of office). Reagan also traded arms with his newfound friends during the Iran/Contra scandal. In addition, he flooded American inner cities with drugs to support his illegal war in Nicaragua, then suggested that inner city children “just say no.”

Republican **George W. Bush** then went on to lie us into the war with Iraq, costing more than a million lives, including the killing and maiming of thousands of Americans troops. His administration also spied on American citizens, **Cheney** committed treason by outing a CIA agent, they committed war crimes that included torturing prisoners, and they purposely ravaged the national treasury. Now they’re using the excuse of a depleted treasury to claim “a national emergency” in order to mount yet another assault on the Constitution. And in the meantime, Republicans in congress are demonizing an entire religion as “Islamofascists” to spread hatred and fear and to distract our attention from their horrific agenda.

Doesn’t that feel just the least bit like deja vu? If it doesn’t it’s probably because you’re a victim of the GOP assault on our educational system. They have a vested interest in keeping you uninformed, because they don’t want you to realize that while you may be on their side, they’re not on yours. They think of the American people as stupid, and they want to keep us that way.

“Religious bigotry: It's not that I hate everyone who doesn't look, think, and act like me - it's just that God does.”





President's Message

~ Roe Mackey

President, Sun City Democrats

Spring has arrived in Texas, the flowers are starting to bloom, and the trees are popping out. What a great time of the year. The Sun City Democrats have already had three good speakers this year. If you missed **Dr. Walt Herbert**, Professor of English Emeritus at Southwestern University., presentation in January discussing the cause of the financial meltdown – you missed a great one. Last month **Dr. James Rohack**, past president of the American Medical Association spoke to us regarding the new health care bill passed last year (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) and what it will mean to you. It was excellent. If you missed these presentations you missed a lot. Sadly we did not have a large turnout for this presentation. I do not believe we could have had two better speakers, and yet did not have a full house. Is the time wrong? Wrong day? Or are the topics not of interest to you? We need your opinions. Please contact me with any of your ideas.

One other concern of mine is our membership. At the end of 2010 we had just over 200 members and as of March 10, we had about 150. Our goal is 300 members. The club needs at least 300 members to do all that needs to be done. Also we cannot fill all the positions on our Board. We need a social/events chair and now we need a treasurer. Please volunteer and contact me to volunteer and with any ideas to increase membership.



Over the last few weeks there have a number of rallies to support – Unions and teachers in Wisconsin (200 to 300 attended), to fully fund Texas schools (11000 attended) – and a number of other important issues and rallies. Many from the Sun City Democrats joined in

these rallies. BUT we need more. What would be the result if we had over 100,000 at the capitol to support our schools?

I want to thank all the Sun City Democrats for attending the rally to support Unions and teachers in Wisconsin, the rally to support full funding for Texas schools, the other rallies, going to informational meetings, writing letters to the newspapers, and to elected representatives. Thanks there is something special when we join together to support causes that are important to all of us. This is just a start of what the coming two years will be like. We must be willing to work and play together and always as **Dr Martin Luther King Jr.** Said, "keep your eyes on the prize".

Many have said this before and I am saying it again – the 2012 election might be the most important election ever, but at least the most important in, my opinion, in the last 80 years. Our country – our democracy – our way of life is at risk – our children's and grandchildren's future is at risk. It is up to all of us to become active – and to work to return America to a course of freedom, prosperity for all, and the freedom from fear. Fear of losing a job, a house, your medical insurance, your freedom. We must change to have a positive faith in the future – a faith in our nation and that our government will do the right thing. We must look positive to the future and at the same time take the best from the past, as **FDR** spoke some 75 years ago; "we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression -- everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way -- everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want -- which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants -- everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear -- which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor-- anywhere in the world".

Gratefully, Roe



Online Resources for Political Activism & Advocacy (in no particular order of importance or relevance)

www.workingforchange.com	(Political activism through electronic petitions)
www.wilcodemocrats.org	(Williamson County Democrats Official website)
www.other98.com	(Concerned citizens against Big \$ and corporate lobbyists to make democracy work for all)
www.txdemocrats.org	(Texas Democrats official website)
www.colorofchange.org	(ColorOfChange.org exists to strengthen Black America's political voice)
www.change.org	(Political activism through electronic petitions)
www.moveon.org	(Mobilizes people to fight battles in Congress and elect candidates who reflect our values)
www.actblue.com	(A political action committee supporting progressive candidates & movements)
www.nolabels.org	(Democrats, Republicans and Independents who care deeply about the future of the USA)
www.boldprogressives.org	(“Top progressive group in the country.” “Most valuable online activism of 2010”)
www.coffeepartyaustin.org	(Gives voice to Americans who want to see cooperation in government)
www.commondreams.org	(A national nonprofit, progressive, nonpartisan citizens' organization advocating change in America)
www.pfaw.org	(Dedicated to making the promise of America real for every American. The American Way)
www.bravenewfoundation.org	(Championing social justice issues, using electronic media to make a difference)
www.democracyforamerica.com	(Working to change our country and the Democratic Party from the bottom-up)
www.progressivesunited.org	(Standing up against the exploding corporate influence in Washington)
www.tfn.org	(Advances a mainstream agenda of religious freedom & individual liberties to counter the religious right)
www.presente.org	(Seeks to strengthen the political voice of Latino communities)
www.ucsusa.org	(The leading science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and a safer world)
www.avaaz.org	(A global web movement to bring people-powered politics to decision-making everywhere)
www.sojo.net	(Articulates the biblical call to social justice, inspiring hope & building a movement to transform the world)
www.bread.org	(A collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home & abroad)
www.afsc.org	(American Friends Service Committee - Quaker Values in Action)
www.tcadp.org	(Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)
www.ncadp.org	(National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)
www.amnesty.org	(Amnesty International)
www.texasmoratorium.org	(Texas Moratorium Network)
www.progressiveaustin.org	(Progressive and Activist Organizations in Austin, TX)
www.care2.com	(The largest online community of people passionate about making a difference)
www.thegoodhuman.com	(Encourages people to be better humans)

Online News and Information (in no particular order of importance or relevance)

www.truth-out.org	(“Fearless” independent news and opinion)
www.democracynow.org	(A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program)
www.thinkprogress.org	(A non-mainstream political blog dealing with current events)
www.alternet.org	(Inspires action/advocacy on environment, human rights & civil liberties, social justice, media, health care)
www.thedailybeast.com	(A fresh take on the news from around the world with sharp opinion)
www.huffingtonpost.com	(An American news website/blog featuring various news sources & columnists)
www.motherjones.com	(A nonprofit news organization that specializes in investigative, political, and social justice reporting)
www.crooksandliars.com	(A politically left blog focusing on political events and the news coverage of them)