

Sun City Democrats

www.suncitydems.org

October 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, please contact President **Roe Mackey** at 512-864-7948 or Communications Chair **Kay Walker** at 512-864-2874.

Saturday, October 1, 2011

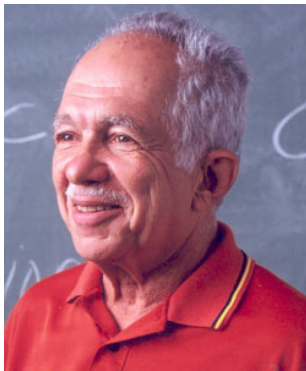
Time: 9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Meeting

Location: Cowan Creek, Florence/Georgetown Rms

Speaker: Julius Getman

Program: Restoring Power to the Union

Our October meeting focuses on that mainstay of Democratic politics, **Labor Unions**.



Julius Getman, our speaker, is a preeminent scholar in the field of labor law. He pioneered empirical studies in labor law and continues to do extensive field work on labor issues. He is a Professor at the University of Texas, where he holds the Earl. E. Sheffield Regents Chair. His new book, ***Restoring the Power of Unions: It Takes a Movement***, will be available for purchase at our meeting.

Republicans have launched an unmitigated attack on Unions since their ascendancy in the elections of 2010. Unions are critical to maintaining a middle class in America and fighting back has been fruitful for union workers. In Wisconsin, two Republican lawmakers lost their jobs through recall elections. Walker, Wisconsin's Governor, is next.

In Ohio, Governor Kasich is watching his bill to limit unions' ability to collectively bargain face repeal on November 8, 2011. Faced with overwhelming likelihood that his union busting bill will go down in the repeal, the Governor has been reduced to begging the union leaders to cancel the recall. He wants them to bargain and reach a compromise with him. Gee, that's just what his awful law forbids.

SUN CITY DEMOCRATS 2011 OFFICERS

President: **Roe Mackey** 864-7948

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

Secretary: **Bonnie Boorman** 863-2387

Treasurer: **Pat Hilliard** 591-7052

Communication: **Kay Walker** 864-2874

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

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

Issues Group: **Nita Hornbeck** 869-2268

Hospitality: **Pat Prudhom** 686-0506

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

Coffee: **George Wagner** 864-0641

IMPACT: **Dwaine Boydston** 431-4412

Membership: **Larry Hilliard** 591-7052

Database: **Frank Wentworth** 864-3385

Programs: **Billie Reaney** 868-0098

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

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

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Time: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Happy Hour

Location: El Patron Restaurant & Cantina

603 W University Ave, Georgetown



OctoberFest, Mexican-Style

Hospitality Chair **Pat Prudhom** has set up another fun place for us to meet and socialize.

As before at Hardtails, we will simply order from the menu as we wish and pay as we go. Please **RSVP** to: **Larry Hilliard** at larry.hilliard@gmail.com

Please wear your Sun City badges (or any other you may have); name tags will also be available. Let's get to know each other! No, there won't be a quiz.



Texas Democratic Women

~ Jane Yendell

Monthly meetings of the newly formed **Greater Georgetown Area Chapter of the Texas Democratic Women** will typically take place immediately after the Sun City Democrats' monthly general meetings. They will be held just down the corridor in the lobby seating area of the Cowan Creek Center in Sun City at 11:00 AM. The first meeting will be on **Saturday, October 1**. Participants in the TDW group from outside Sun City are being invited to come early and attend the Sun City Democrats' monthly meeting.

Upcoming General Meetings:

Program Chair **Billie Reaney** has the following speakers lined up for future meetings:

Saturday, November 5, 2011

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

Location: Cowan Creek, Florence/Georgetown Rms

Speaker: Ann Dunkelberg

Program: Medicare

Ann Dunkelberg, Associate Director of The Center for Public Policy Priorities, will speak on the subject of Medicare.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities is a "think tank" in Austin focusing on monitoring and lobbying the Texas Legislature. For more than twenty years, the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) has been a nonpartisan, nonprofit policy institute committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans. Ms. Dunkelberg's expertise is in policy and budget issues relating to health care access.



Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Time: Tentative 5:00 PM Start Time

Location: Sun City Social Center Ballroom

Speaker: James Kenneth Galbraith

James K. Galbraith, Texas' best known economist, writes frequently for mainstream publications and is a frequent expert guest on TV. He is currently a Professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and Chairman of the Department of Government, **University of Texas** at Austin, as well as the holder of other academic appointments.

More information will follow, but we knew you would want to get this on your calendars.

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 and those who pay dues each year.

DUES SPECIAL: If you pay your dues (currently \$12) before the end of this year, it will be good for the 2012 year as well. However, if you prefer to wait until after January 2012, dues will then be \$20 per person. Join now for a double bonus!

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; 1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120; PMB #475; Georgetown TX 78633**. Dwaine Boydston is our **IMPACT** Treasurer: treasurer.impact@gmail.com or 512-431-4412. **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

What Should You Grab If You Have to Evacuate?

~ Mary Ann Roser

Posted at www.statesman.com on Sept 6, 2011

Say a fire was heading to your house. Would you know what to grab besides your loved ones and your pets?

The **Department of State Health Services** and the **American Red Cross** have lists to help folks get prepared. They recommend that families have escape routes planned in advance, along with a meeting place for everyone to gather in times of emergency.

"I live in Bastrop County, and people did their normal thing on Sunday morning" before a huge fire broke out, said **Judy Henry**, an epidemiologist with the **Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department**. "By Sunday afternoon, 5,000 people were displaced. It really was a good reminder for me. You've got to have a plan."

Evacuation kits should be prepared **in advance** that contain the following:

- Water—one gallon per person, per day for three days
- A three-day supply of nonperishable food
- Flashlights
- Battery or hand-crank radio, with extra batteries
- First aid kit, including prescription medications
- Personal hygiene items, including hand sanitizer, soap, toilet paper, wipes, sunscreen and insect repellent
- Copies of personal documents (deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies) and a plastic pouch to keep them in
- Cell phones with chargers
- Names and phone numbers of emergency contacts
- Extra cash, checkbook and credit cards
- Eyeglasses, hearing aids
- Baby supplies, including diapers and formula
- Games and toys for kids
- Pet supplies, including leash, bowls, cat litter, cat box and pet food
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Manual can opener
- Whistle
- N95 or surgical masks
- Matches
- Rain gear
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Duct tape
- Blankets, sleeping bags and towels
- Wedding albums and other important photographs



Texas Voters Will Consider Ten Constitutional Changes in November

~ Beth Brown

In a little celebrated — in fact, hardly noticed — biennial Texas tradition, voters will decide the fate of 10 new proposed constitutional amendments in November.

The amendments are the newest in a long line of legislative proposals to update the state Constitution. Since the Constitution was ratified in 1876, Texas voters have considered 646 proposed amendments and approved 467, according to the [Legislative Reference Library](#). Texas is not alone in its prodigious accumulation of constitutional amendments, however. Alabama leads that contest. Its voters, [according to Texas Politics](#), have amended their constitution almost 800 times since its creation in 1901.



Today, **Secretary of State Hope Andrade** conducted a lottery that determined the position each of the 10 new proposals will get on the November ballot. Each of the proposed constitutional changes has already been approved by two-thirds of the House and Senate, but a majority of the voters must approve before the amendments can be implemented.

Here's a rundown of what you'll be deciding come November.

First on the ballot will be [SJR 14](#), by state Sen. [Leticia Van de Putte](#), which **aims to ease the financial burden on spouses of totally disabled veterans**. It would allow the Legislature to exempt the surviving spouses of 100-percent disabled veterans from property taxes on all or part of the market value of their home.





Memo to Governor Rick Perry: You probably shouldn't get photographed with your arm like this.

Second is [SJR 4](#), which would **allow the Texas Water Development Board to issue bonds for projects that will eventually become self-sustaining**. The board, which has a zero default rate, issues bonds for water infrastructure projects. The amendment would allow the board to issue a maximum of \$6 billion at any time.

[SJR 50](#) will appear third on the ballot and would **allow the state to issue general obligation bonds to finance student loans**.

[HJR 63](#), which will be fourth on the ballot, would **allow counties to issue bonds to finance the development of transportation reinvestment zones**. Such zones allow cities to use certain property tax revenues to build roads and other transportation projects in that area. Currently, cities are able to issue transportation reinvestment zone bonds, but it has been unclear whether counties have the authority to do so.

Next on the ballot will be [SJR 26](#), which would **make it easier and cheaper for cities or counties to enter into multi-year interlocal contracts — agreements between government agencies to share budgets**. Right now, if a city or county wants to partner with another on a project, it has to create a special tax and a special debt fund for that project. Julie Frank, committee director for the Texas Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, said the amendment would simply “clean up” the process.

After that on the ballot will be [HJR 109](#). It proposes **clarifying references to the Permanent School Fund, a pot of money generated from the sale of state property that goes to Texas public schools**. It would allow the General Land Office to distribute revenue from the fund, and it would increase the market value of the permanent school fund, allowing schools to get more money.

[SJR 28](#) will appear seventh and would **allow El Paso County to be included in the list of counties authorized to create conservation and reclamation districts**. With the amendment, El Paso County could use tax revenue to develop parks and recreational facilities.

Following that amendment will be [SJR 16](#), by state Sen. [Craig Estes](#), R-Wichita Falls. The amendment would **create an open-space tax exemption for water stewardship**. Open-space is land zoned for preservation of natural resources, and historically, open space in Texas has been used for farming or timber. The amendment would add water stewardship, or conservation, to the list, providing extra incentive for individuals to conserve the 90 percent of state water that flows through privately owned land.

[SJR 9](#), appearing ninth on the ballot and authored by state Sen. [Royce West](#), D-Dallas, deals with the **governor's authority to pardon individuals who receive deferred adjudication**. Individuals who are sentenced to deferred adjudication are given probation-like conditions, and if they complete the program successfully, a judge can dismiss the charges. Currently, the governor can only pardon convicted individuals, but the authority does not extend to those who have deferred adjudication. The governor would only be able to issue a pardon with the recommendation of the [Board of Pardons and Paroles](#) and in criminal cases excluding treason and impeachment.

Last to appear on the ballot will be [SJR 37](#), **aligning the resign-to-run laws with the new primary election filing date**. Now, elected officials can only keep their jobs if they file for candidacy with less than one year left in their current term. But during the legislative session, lawmakers moved the primary election filing deadline from Jan. 2 to mid-December to accommodate military and overseas voters. That would force some elected officials to resign from their current post to file for candidacy. The amendment would change the length of unexpired term from one year to one year and 30 days.



9/11 Memorial at Night