

The Republican Club of Sun City NEWSLETTER

November 2010

Everett Schmidt, Editor

Sun City Texas

STATE G. O. P. CHAIRMAN TO ADDRESS CLUB

Steve Munisteri, chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, will address the club during its dinner meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 11 in the ballroom of the Social Center at Sun City.

His address is expected to be a wide-ranging one, with emphasis on the role of the Republican Party of Texas in shaping the destiny of both the state and the nation. Coming shortly after the November 2 election and before the convening of the Texas Legislature for the year 2011, his comments should be especially timely. A brief sketch of his background and accomplishments as state party chairman is provided in a special report below.

The Social Hour, Dinner and Program. The dinner will begin at 6:30 PM, and will be preceded by a social hour which will begin at 6:00 PM. The dinner will be catered by **Cafe on the Green** which will serve roast pork loin, dressing, roast potatoes, green beans and condiments.

Cost. Cost is \$16 per person. Payment should be mailed to **The Republican Club of Sun City, Bernie Miller, Treasurer, 1530 Sun City Blvd., Suite 120, Box 227, Georgetown, TX 78633 by no later than Friday, November 5.** Bernie has also set up a special box on his front porch at 265 Trail of the Flowers for those club members wishing to hand deliver payments. For information about reservations, contact Bernie at 868-9125 or bimiller1@verizon

CLUB NEWS

Following an established practice, the club will not meet during the month of December. The club's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 6, 2011.

According to club bylaws, voting for next year's officers shall take place during the November meeting. In connection with that requirement, the Nominating Committee—consisting of Julian Bucher, Ed Konetchy and Everett Schmidt—nominates the following slate of officers for the year 2011: President – Julian Bucher; First Vice President – Ed Konetchy; Second Vice President – Brenda Leisey; Secretary – Barbara Wood; Treasurer – Bernie Miller. These individuals are officers for the year 2010, and have agreed to serve another term in the same capacity, if re-elected.

Bylaws permit nominations to be made from the floor, provided (1) the consent of the nominee has been obtained, and (2) written information about the nominee is provided to the club president *before* the meeting.

HIGHWAY SIGN SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT GOVERNMENT CONCERN

The following language appears on a highway sign posted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) along a 60-mile stretch of Interstate 8 some 80 miles from the border, and 30 miles from the fifth-largest city in the United States, Phoenix:

DANGER – PUBLIC WARNING TRAVEL NOT RECOMMENDED

- **Active Drug and Human Smuggling Area**
- **Visitors May Encounter Armed Criminals and Smuggling Vehicles Traveling at High Rates of Speed**
- **Stay Away From Trash, Clothing, Backpacks, and Abandoned Vehicles**
- **If You See Suspicious Activity, Do Not Confront! Move Away and Call 911**
- **BLM Encourages Visitors To Use Public Lands North of Interstate 8.**

The area where the sign is located is in Pinal County whose Sheriff, Paul Babeu, stated, "Mexican drug cartels literally have scouts on the high points in the mountains and in the hills and they literally control movement."

The need for the message the sign provides demonstrates the utter disdain the federal government has for the sovereignty of our states and the nation, and the protection of U. S. citizens. Says T. J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council: "The federal government's lack of will to secure our borders is painfully evident when signs are posted well north of the border warning citizens that armed and dangerous criminals are roaming through those areas *with impunity*." (emphasis added)

Michael Cutler, retired U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service senior criminal investigator, said it was "outrageous" for the Bureau of Land Management to direct travelers to dial 911 to report suspicious activities [as the signs indicate] since the calls do not go to the federal government but to the state and local police. He said the signs are telling Americans to call state and local law enforcement authorities to deal with border lawlessness while at the same time telling Arizona that only the federal government can write and enforce immigration laws.

CHAIRMAN MUNISTERI: DECISIVE, COMBATIVE, EFFECTIVE

Foreword. Steve Munisteri was elected chairman of the Republican Party of Texas on June 13, 2010 at the party's State Convention held in Dallas, defeating two opponents. One opponent was incumbent Cathie Adams who held the chairmanship position for 8 months, having been chosen to fill the unexpired term of Tina Benkiser who resigned to accept another position. Another opponent was Tom Melcher who is now treasurer of the party.

Inasmuch as Munisteri will have been in office only about 5 months by November and may not be well-known to many club members, this report provides information about his background, his demonstrated conservatism, the challenges he faced, and some indication of his leadership abilities.

Background. Born in 1958, Munisteri was reared in Houston where his father was an officer of Brown and Root, and his mother, at first a homemaker, later became an editor of professors' textbooks at Rice University.

He graduated from Memorial High School in Houston, later receiving BBA and law degrees from the University of Texas.

After graduating from law school, he moved back to Houston to practice law with the law firm Funderburk and Funderburk. In 1982, he founded his own law firm, Law Office of Stephen P. Munisteri, which later evolved into the firm Munisteri, Sprott, Rigby, Newsom and Robbins.

In addition to establishing his own law firm, he has other business experience, having been a boxing promoter and owning Munisteri Sports and Entertainment, and having maintained business interests in a fly ash beneficiation technology startup.

Commitment to Conservatism. A statement found in his campaign literature used when he was a candidate for the state party chairmanship during the past Republican State Convention reveals that his commitment to the cause of conservatism has extended over a period of decades:

I am a lifelong conservative, have run a business, have worked in 50+ campaigns, have been a precinct chair, a member of SREC, founded Young Conservatives of Texas, have run 2 statewide conservative groups, and have a law degree and a BBA in Finance. Finally, I am retired and I can do this job full time.

I cut my political teeth in the 1976 and 1980 Reagan campaigns, serving as a Youth Staffer in 1976 and State Chair of Young Texans for Reagan in 1980. Then, like now, we faced failed liberalism and a bleak future. Ronald Reagan turned the country around by staying true to our conservative principles.

Reagan may be gone, but those principles he embodied live on in my heart and I pledge to follow his example in fighting to take back our country and defend its Constitution and freedoms.

Some Challenges. Upon his election as party chairman, Munisteri had to face at least two serious challenges: one was the unexpected news that the state party was in debt for a significant amount of money. The other challenge was a shortage of staff, fewer in number than those of the Democrat party.

Munisteri reports that the estimated debt in June of this year was \$680,835, but he also reports that,

thanks to some initiatives he started, the goal of paying off that debt by the end of the year will be reached.

Possibly because of the debt, the number of staff personnel was depleted, prompting him to make the following observation about past staffing: "I learned the party *used to have*" a full-time opposition research, voter registration, ballot security, fund raising and field offices staff. Fortunately, because of some initiatives he started, the staffing situation has been greatly improved.

Some Initiatives. Some of the initiatives taken by Munisteri and the State Republican Executive (SREC), which he leads, indicate a high level of decisiveness and aggressiveness on his part. Following is but a sampling of those initiatives:

- Munisteri reports he asked national RNC committee member Bill Crocker to head an informal committee to "look at Texas' options at becoming a bigger player in 2012 [a presidential election year], *including the feasibility and consequence of moving up the Texas primary and/or holding a straw poll.*" (Note that Texas is already a major player in national politics, and could become even more so if Texas gains the predicted 4 additional seats to the U. S. House).
- Establishing a "Voter Fraud Task Force" to "stop liberal mischief wherever we find it." (Note the special report on voter fraud in Houston found elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- Establishing a Campus Newspaper Launch to provide a *conservative* campus newspaper initially at UT, and later at other campuses to counter the left-wing bias which appears to be so rampant in academia.
- Establishing attack websites, including (1) one exposing the actions of former ACORN lobbyist and current Democrat candidate for Harris County's District 133, (2) one exposing the liberal voting record of Patrick Rose, (3) one exposing misrepresentations concerning residency by Democrat representative Jim Dunnan.
- Establishing an Outreach Director to make contacts with the minority community.
- Establishing the Trailblazer Program to provide block walkers from all over the state to highly contested areas

Aggressiveness. Capitalizing on his training as a lawyer and his experience in debating contests during his school days, Munisteri has demonstrated aggressiveness on behalf of the party. Some examples:

- He went into the backyard of Democrat Representative Jim Duncan, a candidate for re-election, and held a news conference attacking that Democrat for misrepresenting his residency status in connection with the upcoming election.
- He performed a similar feat by going into the backyard of Democrat Jim McReynolds, in Lufkin, and holding a press conference for local media to present evidence that that Democrat has residence *outside* the district he seeks to represent.
- The SREC, under his leadership, passed a resolution calling on Republican members of the House to select their speaker in Republican caucus and then carry that selection to the floor of the House and pass it there. This resolution came about in reaction to the selection process previously used which, reportedly, began with a cabal involving some liberal Republicans and certain Democrats who instigated the election of Joe Straus, the current Speaker.

CITIZEN WATCHDOG GROUP DISCOVERS VOTER FRAUD

It all began when Tea Party member Catherine Engelbrecht and some of her friends volunteered to work at some of Houston's polling places. But "what we saw shocked us," she said. "There was no one checking IDs, judges would vote for people that asked for help. It was fraud..."

That group then formed "True the Vote," a citizen-based grassroots organization that began collecting publicly available voting data, with the first task being to identify houses with more than six voters in them. Some of the more obvious of the ensuing discoveries of fraud included the following:

- Vacant lots had several voters registered on them
- An eight-bed halfway house had more than 40 voters registered at its address
- One woman registered six times in the same day
- Registration of non-citizens
- 1,597 registrations that named the same person multiple times, often with different signatures
- Most of the findings focused on a group called Houston Votes, a voter registration group headed by a member of the infamous Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Among the findings was one which revealed that only 1,793 out of 25,000 registrations the group submitted appeared valid.

These discoveries have been turned over to the district attorney, but complicating further investigation

and possible prosecutions was the fact that on August 27 the warehouse that held the county's election equipment mysteriously burned down, destroying 10,000 voting machines, and leaving local officials scrambling to set up new machines for the coming election. The estimated cost of the damage: 40 million dollars.

Engelbrecht reports that since her group released its findings, she has had calls from other similar groups in 40 states asking for training on how to do what her group has done. With the refusal of the Justice Department to prosecute the New Black Panther Party member who was obviously attempting to intimidate voters (remember the picture of him holding a billy club at a voting station), its refusal to enforce the requirement that the names of dead people be purged from voter rolls, and other such instances, there has been a mounting concern about that department's commitment to enforce the laws. Consequently, there has been an increased interest on the part of citizen groups to monitor voting.

NOTES ON THE PASSING SCENE (Some random observations on this crazy world in which we live)

Who Will Command the Army of Private Contractors in Iraq? According to *The New American*, the U. S. Army soldiers and Marines that are being sent home from Iraq are being replaced by a new U. S. "civilian" contract army. Even the liberal *New York Times*, with raised eyebrow, observed that "as the U. S. military prepares to leave Iraq by the end of 2011, the Obama administration is planning a remarkable civilian effort, buttressed by a small army of contractors, to fill this void."

This "civilian" contract army will have an impressive array of military hardware: 60 mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles; 1,320 armored cars, 3 airplanes, and 29 choppers.

It is estimated that this contract army would amount to more than 7,000 persons, and they would supplement the army of U. S. - financed mercenary contractors estimated to number about 10,000.

And who would command this formidable array of military might? The answer, according to *The New American*, is: Hillary Clinton, as Secretary of State.

Is the House of Representatives Too Small? A federal court in Mississippi recently rejected a claim by voters in five states that the current allotment of 435 representatives violates the Constitution's Article I requirement that Representatives "...shall be apportioned among the several States...according to their respective Numbers..." Plaintiffs were basing their claim largely on population disparities which occur between states having only one Representative. For example, Wyoming has a single district with a population of 495,304, while Montana's one district has a population of 905,316. And other disparities between the districts of different states were cited.

The court rejected the claim largely on grounds that the dispute should be resolved by Congress, not the courts. Nevertheless, the plaintiffs say they will appeal to the Supreme Court.

But an editorial appearing in the *Los Angeles Times* suggests that Congress, for non-legal reasons, should consider increasing the size of the House, not only to minimize disparities, but to take at least some account of the population explosion that has occurred since 1911 when Congress—which has the authority to determine the number of Representatives—first determined that the House shall have 435 seats.

The number 435 isn't written in stone, let alone in the Constitution. What are the arguments for increasing it – say to 650, the size of the British House of Commons?

The editorial supplies 3 answers: (1) a large House could make representatives more responsive because their constituencies would be smaller, (2) campaigns would be less costly, and (3) parties and points of view that are perennially locked out of office by the size of current districts would see their prospects improved.

Illegal Aliens Give Birth to 60K Babies Annually in Texas. According to Newsmax. Com:

At least 60,000 babies every year are added to the households of an estimated 1.5 million illegal immigrants in Texas alone, according to an article in *The Dallas Morning News*. Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas delivers more of those babies than any other hospital in the state. Last year in Parkland, 11,071 babies were born to women who were non-citizens, about 74% of total deliveries. Most of these women are believed to be in the country illegally.

State Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas), accused Republicans of using the births to generate an explosive election issue. But to Republicans, the emerging national debate is long overdue, considering that millions of immigrants have been living in this country for years. "They're violating our law, and we're giving their children the benefit of U. S. citizenship," said state Rep. Leo Berman (R-Tyler), whose 2009 bill in the Legislature would have challenged the birthright of immigrant children. That bill died in committee.

