

# The Republican Club of Sun City NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Everett Schmidt, Editor

Sun City Texas

## REPRESENTATIVE FROM CITY UTILITY SYSTEM TO ADDRESS CLUB

Jim Briggs, Assistant City Manager for Utility Operations, City of Georgetown, will address the club during its dinner meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 9 in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City.

He will discuss how renewable energy can be blended into current resources, how natural gas, coal and nuclear will continue to play a major role in the city's development, the current state of water resources, and how wastewater treatment holds the key to successful urban growth. He will also discuss other related topics.

**The Social Hour, Dinner and Program.** The dinner will begin at 6:30 PM, and will be preceded by a social hour which begins at 6:00 PM.. The dinner will be catered by **Nemec Catering** which will serve brisket, sausage, potato salad, cole slaw, pinto 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, September 3.** 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.net](mailto:bimiller1@verizon.net)

## OCTOBER MEETING TO FEATURE FIVE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES Club Meeting to be Held at Berry Creek Country Club

During its dinner meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 21, five prominent Republican candidates for office—Steve Ogden, Charles Schwertner, Marsha Farney, Doug Arnold and Nancy Rister—will address the club.

They will state reasons why they should be elected to the respective offices they seek. In addition, in a less structured format, they will engage in a “free wheeling” discussion among themselves and members of the audience as to the role of the Republican Party in the future of the state and nation, and how voters can be persuaded to vote Republican in the election which, by then, will have already been underway a few days for early voting.

Because the ballroom at Sun City was not available for an October club meeting, the dinner meeting will be held at the Berry Creek Country Club.

Details will be provided in the October newsletter.

## OTHER CLUB NEWS

Club membership chairman Brenda Leisey reports that 2010 club membership now stands at 344.

In view of the complications regarding the location of the October meeting, club members will be interested in learning that club vice president Ed Konetchy reports that eight meetings—the usual number of meetings held per year—have been confirmed for the ballroom in 2011. Next year's schedule, however, calls for no meeting in May, but a meeting in June instead.

Because there had been complaints about the quality of meals at previous club meetings, a different caterer, Nemec Catering, has been engaged as caterer for future meetings.

Reportedly, the quality of food served by the new caterer is good; however, unlike the arrangement with previous caterers, the new arrangement calls for the club to supply table cloths and volunteers to place them on tables prior to meetings. After the meeting is concluded, club volunteers must clear the tables.

Consequently, club president Julian Bucher asks if there any club members who would volunteer to set up and clear the tables. If so, he asks if they would contact him at 863-7703 or [ljbucher@verizon.net](mailto:ljbucher@verizon.net)

## NEWS OF THE COUNTY PARTY

County Party Chairman Bill Fairbrother reports that the office hours at the county party headquarters at 716 S. Rock St. are: Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

He reports that volunteers are needed to help at both the county party headquarters and the state party headquarters in Austin. If interested in volunteering, send an e-mail to Bill at [info@williamsoncountygop.org](mailto:info@williamsoncountygop.org)

Bill also reports that Perry yard signs are now available at the party headquarters. This year, the Perry campaign is not providing signs for distribution, so a donation of \$3 per sign is requested to cover the cost.

## THE STATE BOARD AND THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

**Foreword.** The informed reader is aware that for the past year or so the State Board of Education has been at the center of intense controversy regarding course standards it has recently adopted for courses in U. S. History and American Government.

And why has the controversy been so intense? As this report may indicate, a strong case can be made that the controversy—when not based on misinformation—has been based on an on-going clash of worldviews, particularly with regard to the extent to which there should be adherence to the principles of the nation's founding as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. One side wants the principles to be faithfully observed; the other side is not so faithful to them, possibly even being oblivious or hostile to them.

In view of this clash, a major purpose of this report is to provide the reader with information to better enable him or her to judge whether the recently approved standards, a product of some of the more conservative board members, were needed to correct some of the liberal/leftist bias they perceived to be in the previously approved standards.

**An Overview of Objectives.** Former State Board chairman Don McLeroy, writing op-ed columns appearing in *USA Today* and *The New American Online*, contends there had been bias in previously adopted standards. Following are some excerpts from those columns:

The theme is freedom. These men [founders] understood America and the principles upon which she stood: self-evident truths; liberty, with its twin corollaries of limited government and individual responsibility; the embrace of Judeo-Christian values; and “a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.”

The Texas school board is currently adopting changes to the curriculum standards to ensure these principles are taught.

The proposed changes have attracted national attention because they challenge the powerful ideology of the left and highlight the great political divide of our country. *The left's principles are diametrically opposed to our founding principles. The left believes in big, not limited, government; they empower the state, not the individual; they focus on differences, not unity.*

This divide was clearly exposed on March 23, 2010 as the left celebrated health reform [ObamaCare] that Vice President Biden said “charts a fundamentally different course for the country”—an unmistakable rejection of Jefferson's original course.

...we [on the State Board] have an obligation to Texas students to make sure they understand the original principles upon which America was founded.

The political fate of McLeroy illustrates the division within the state. On the one hand, because he was chairman of that Board and a spokesman for the revised and often controversial course standards, the Senate failed to confirm Gov. Perry's nomination of him as chairman, and he was later defeated as a member of the board by the district he represented. On the other hand, the Texas Eagle Forum, one of the state's most powerful conservative political organizations, gave him its prestigious “Patriot's Award” in recognition of his efforts.

**Have Founding Principles Been Passed On?** There is persuasive information—some of which is presented below—which reveals that not only have founding principles not been inculcated, there has been a deliberate effort to promote a counter-culture, i.e., socialism. Note some of the evidence:

- *Point of View* host Kirby Anderson reports that a few years ago a poll indicated that 2/3 of the population believed that Karl Marx' famous phrase, "From each according to his abilities; to each according to his needs," was in the Constitution.
- Columnist James Kilpatrick reported several years ago on a court case involving a textbook dispute in Alabama when expert witnesses had made a meticulous and undisputed analysis of history textbooks, and had found that "the history texts virtually ignored any mention of religion in American life." A university professor assisting in the analysis termed such omission "censorship."
- In an effort to draft *national* history standards for textbooks, a federal commission was formed for that purpose. Its final product was so "politically correct" and otherwise deficient, that the Senate, in an unusual display of unanimity, officially denounced the proposed standards by a vote of 99 to 1.
- A recent Rasmussen poll showed that a mere majority of Americans, 53 percent, say capitalism is better than socialism. Adults under the age of 30 are essentially evenly divided with more than a third, 37 percent, preferring capitalism, while another third, 33 percent, embrace socialism, and the rest, 30 percent, being undecided.

**Federal Courts and Founding Principles.** What can account for the appalling results reported above? There may be reasons other than problems with textbooks, some of which are rulings by federal courts.

The informed reader will no doubt have been appalled by rulings of various levels of federal courts with respect to such matters as religious liberties, marriage, and state's rights. These rulings reveal a court system often oblivious to founding principles, particularly as they are revealed in the Declaration and the Constitution. Following are some reasons for the "disconnect" between the federal courts and the founding principles.

Author Vaughn Shatzer reports that Christopher Langdell, who became Dean of the Harvard Law School in 1870, believed in Darwin's theory of evolution, and also believed that as man evolved, his laws must also evolve. Consequently, he established the case law study method—which meant that the study of Blackstone's *Commentaries* and the study of original documents would no longer be at the heart of the study of law. The result was a loss of a perspective of law consistent with a strict construction of the Constitution. What remained was a perspective consistent with the humanist worldview. Shatzer also reports that the introduction of the case law method caused such an uproar among other law professors that they all resigned—only to be replaced by faculty members supportive of the case law method. In any case, the case law method became established.

Author David Noebel summarized the change as follows: "The American Declaration of Independence and the U. S. Constitution were based on Christian law concepts, not Marxist or Humanist principles...The supreme irony is that most American law schools ignore Christian law concepts."

**The Educational Establishment and Founding Principles.** Author Matthew Spalding reports, "High schools largely ignore, minimize or disparage the story of America's founding in the classroom. Students can graduate from the top colleges and universities in America *without taking a single course in U. S. History.*"

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has a plausible explanation for this void:

The secular left has a problem. They dislike—and in many case—fear America's religious heritage. But how can they talk about America without talking about the role of faith in shaping our country? The answer is : they can't. So they simply ignore the topic of American History altogether.

If you don't want to teach about divine providence, you don't have to teach about those words in the Declaration of Independence that we are "endowed by [our] creator with certain unalienable rights.

Author and university professor Larry Schweikert reports that he finds all sorts of half-truths and lies in history textbooks. He illustrates one example of distortion by reporting that one textbook claimed, in error: "The founders envisioned a wall of separation between church and state, *keeping religious influence out of government.*" Numerous articles and various books have by now corrected that claim. (A more accurate assessment would be to say that *government is to stay out of religion.*)

Columnist Robert Koons points out that typically, at the university level, in the humanities departments, Democrats outnumber Republican by large majorities. He points out that at the University of Texas at Austin, for example, out of 50 registered voters, only one is a Republican. He further points out that, while dozens of these professors list their specialties to be favorites of the left—such as sexuality, ethnicity and anti-colonialism, not a single professor listed military history as a specialty. Many textbooks will be authored by these professors.

And there is more disturbing news about what is taking place on university campuses: professors are *actively* undermining the nation's founding. Author David Horowitz notes that the official catalog of the University of California – Santa Cruz contains the following course description: "The goal of this seminar is to learn how to

organize a *revolution*.” (emphasis added)

Horowitz claims he has identified 150 such courses at 12 institutions, and, through a process of extrapolation, estimates there are more than 10,000 such courses nation-wide.

**Book Publishers and Founding Principles.** The reader will likely be shocked by the following report of a disclaimer placed on copies of various founding documents sold by a publishing company:

Wilder Publications warns readers of its reprints of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, Common Sense, the Articles of Confederation, and the Federalist Papers, among others, that “This book is a product of its time and does not reflect the same values as it would if it were written today.”

The disclaimer goes on to tell parents that they “might wish to discuss with their children how views on race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and interpersonal relations have changed since this book was written before allowing them to read this classic work.”

**The Nation's Most Powerful Union, the NEA, and Founding Principles.** The National Education Association was the nation's number one big spender—56.3 million dollars—on federal and state political campaigns and ballot measures in the 2007-2008 election cycle. Its political contributions go 95 percent to Democrat candidates or to promote leftist causes. An understanding of the leftist causes it supports can be obtained by noting the following partial list of resolutions it passed during its 2010 convention held this summer in New Orleans:

Mandatory full-day kindergarten attendance for all children; Statehood for the District of Columbia; Federal programs to teach school children about different sexual orientations; Affirmative action to redress historical patterns of discrimination; Opposition to English as the official language; Opposition to voter ID cards for elections; Opposition to any constitutional amendment limiting taxes.

**Some Recently-Approved Course Standards.** Following are several selected History and Economics course requirements approved by the State Board. Words which are underscored are new; if not underscored, they are from previously adopted standard; bracketed words indicate words deleted from previously adopted standards. The added language suggests a void in previously-adopted standards.

- (B) Each school district shall require that, during Celebrate Freedom Week or other week of instruction...students in Grades 3-12 study and recite the following text: “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed.”
- (D) identify actions of government and the private sector such as the Great Society, affirmative action, and Title IX to [expand] create economic opportunities for citizens and analyze the unintended consequences of each.
- (B)describe how the American values identified by Alexis de Tocqueville are different and unique from those of other nations.
- (10) Students identify and discuss how the actions of U. S. citizens and the local, state, and federal governments have either met or failed to meet the ideals espoused in the founding documents.
- (G) examine the reasons the Founding Fathers protected religious freedom in America and guaranteed its free exercise by saying that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establish of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” and compare and contrast this to the phrase “separation of church and state.”
- (E)analyze the importance of various economic philosophers [such as] including Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, John Maynard Keynes, [Karl Marx] and Adam Smith and their impact on the U. S. free enterprise [capitalist, free market] system.

## SEPTEMBER 17: CONSTITUTION DAY

**Foreword.** The U. S. Constitution, having been signed by delegates to a Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, will become 223 years old this coming September 17. While it is a highly respected

document, its anniversary will, unfortunately, go virtually unnoticed, if past recent history is an indicator.

There is unfortunate symbolism in that non-recognition, that being said because the greatness of that document seems not to be sufficiently understood or appreciated by the general public, or explained in educational institutions. And members of Congress and members of the judicial branch, in a growing number of instances, seem to be making their oath of office pledging to defend the Constitution but a perfunctory, pointless ritual.

Yet today, when a great many citizens, out of fear for the future of the country, cry for help, almost inevitably they will say the solution for the nation's woes is to "FOLLOW THE CONSTITUTION." But before the Constitution can be followed, it must first be revered and be given some historical context. The purpose of this report, therefore, is to help fill that need.

In addition to a discussion of the Constitution, there is a discussion of the connection of the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution.

**The Importance of the Constitution.** Thomas Jefferson observed that "our peculiar security is in the possession of a *written* Constitution." What he was saying was that the U. S. Constitution did not arise out of age-old custom and legal usage or court decisions as was the case with the British Constitution which is basically a collection of assorted documents such as the Magna Carta, Petition of Rights, certain acts of Parliament, various customs, etc. The U. S. Constitution, in contrast, is not a common law instrument; hence, it is not legally subject to change by construction or change in custom. It can be changed only by formal amendment. What is the Constitution's primary feature? Author Clarence Carson says, "Perhaps...it is that it not only prescribes the form and operation of government, but it places substantive restrictions and limitations on the exercise of governmental power both by the United States and the states." (emphasis added)

**The Declaration-Constitution Relationship.** Former Attorney General Edwin Meese comments on the relationship between the Constitution and the Declaration: "Part of the reason for the Constitution's enduring strength is that it is the complement of the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration provided the philosophical basis for a government that exercises legitimate power by 'the consent of the governed,' and it defined the conditions of a free people, whose rights and liberty are derived from their Creator. The Constitution delineated the structure of government and the rules for its operation, consistent with the creed of human liberty proclaimed in the Declaration."

But not everyone—including recently-confirmed Justice Kagen—will agree with that assessment on grounds that the two documents are separate instruments. However, historian David Barton reports that the courts have ruled several times that the two documents cannot be separated.

Similarly, author Matthew Spalding notes the unusual method by which the Constitution is dated (2 dates are shown) in Article VII where signatures are shown: "the Seventeenth Day of September in the year or our Lord" 1787, "and the *Independence of the United States of American the Twelfth*." (emphasis added) He then goes on to explain: "The language here is neither insignificant nor unintentional: these dates serve to place the document in the context of the religious traditions of Western civilization and, at the same time, to link it to the regime principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution having been written in the twelfth year after July 1776."

It is absolutely essential to know that the Declaration indicates that certain of our rights come from a Creator (not politicians), and that there exist beyond the laws of man, a *natural* law, a pre-existing law. The following dialogue between Sen. Tom Coburn (R.-Oklahoma) and nominee Elena Kagan is informative:

**Coburn:** Do you believe it is a fundamental, pre-existing right to have an arm to defend yourself?

**Kagan:** Senator Coburn, I very much appreciate how deeply important the right to bear arms is to millions and millions of Americans. And I accept *Heller*, which made clear that the Second Amendment conferred that right upon individuals, and not simply collectively.

**Coburn:** I'm asking you, Elena Kagan, do you personally believe there is a fundamental right in this area? Do you agree with Blackstone [in] the natural right of resistance and self-preservation, the right of having and using arms for self-preservation and defense? He didn't say that was a constitutional right. He said that's a natural right. And what I'm asking you is, do you agree with that?

**Kagan:** Senator Coburn, to be honest with you, I don't have a view of what are natural rights, independent of the Constitution. And my job as a justice will be to enforce and defend the Constitution. and the laws of the United States.

**Coburn:** So you wouldn't embrace what the Declaration of Independence says, that we have certain

God-given, inalienable rights that aren't given in the Constitution that are our, ours alone, and that a government doesn't give those to us?

**Kagan:** Senator Coburn, I believe that the Constitution is an extraordinary document, and I'm not saying I do not believe that there are rights pre-existing the Constitution and the laws. But my job as a justice is to enforce the Constitution and the laws.

**Coburn:** Well, I understand that. I'm not talking about as a justice. I'm talking about Elena Kagan. What do you believe? Are there inalienable rights for us? Do you believe that?

**Kagan:** Senator Coburn, I think that the question of what I believe as to what people's rights are outside the Constitution and the laws, that you should not want me to act in any way on the basis of such a belief

**Coburn:** I would want you to always act on the basis of the belief of what our Declaration ...says.

**Kagan:** I think you should want me to act on the basis of law. And that is what I have upheld to do, if I'm fortunate enough to be confirmed, is to act on the basis of law, which is the Constitution and the statutes of the United States.

Kagan's refusal to acknowledge there exist certain God-given, inalienable rights as those mentioned in the Declaration—rights not man-given—bring to mind the following quote by Will Durant, author of the History of Western Civilization: “The great question of our time is not communism versus individualism, not even East versus West; it is whether man can live without God.”

## **NOTES ON THE PASSING SCENE**

**(Some random observations on this crazy world in which we live)**

**Cost of Government Day.** The Americans for Tax Reform Foundation has calculated that the day on which the average American has earned enough gross income to pay off his or her share of the spending and regulatory burdens imposed by government at the federal, state and local levels is, this year, August 19, the day known as Cost of Government Day.

Working people must toil 231 days to meet the cost of government. The Cost of Government Day this year is 8 days later than last year, and a full 32 days longer than in 2008.