

The Republican Club of Sun City NEWSLETTER

March 2010

Everett Schmidt, Editor

Sun City Texas

WATER MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR TO ADDRESS CLUB

David Walker, Supervisor of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) River Operations Center, will address the club during its dinner meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 18 in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City.

The management of a river during alternating periods of drought, flooding and normal flow is, in itself, a challenge. But the challenge is intensified by rapidly increasing population growth in the proximity of a river, such as the population growth in the Central Texas area.

Our speaker, having expertise in water management, will speak on that timely subject with particular reference to the Lower Colorado River/Highland Lakes area.

The Social Hour, Dinner and Program. The social hour will begin at 6:00 PM. The dinner will begin at 6:30 PM followed by the program. The dinner will be catered by **Cafe on the Green** which will serve chicken and beef fajitas served with options of grated cheese, sour cream, salsa and chopped onions, plus rice, beans and the usual condiments.

Cost. Cost is \$16 per person. Payment should be mailed to the club treasurer, Bernie Miller, at 265 Trail of the Flowers, Georgetown, TX 78633, or left in a special box located on his front porch by no later than Friday, March 12. For information about reservations, contact Bernie at 868-9125 or bimiller1@verizon.net

CLUB WILL NOT MEET IN APRIL

Because no satisfactory date was available in April for a club meeting in the ballroom, there will be no club meeting that month. The next club meeting, after the March meeting, is scheduled for Thursday, May 13. Details of that meeting will be provided in the May newsletter.

OTHER CLUB NEWS

Club membership chairman Brenda Leisey reports that 2010 club membership currently stands at 333.

Membership dues (\$10) are still payable. Names of individuals who have not renewed their 2009 memberships for the year 2010 by April 1 will have their names removed from the membership roster. Anyone needing verification that they have or have not paid 2010 membership dues is invited to contact the club treasurer, Bernie Miller (contact information shown above), about that matter.

THE COMING COUNTY AND STATE CONVENTIONS

The County Convention. The county convention will be held on Saturday, March 20, beginning at 9:00 AM, in the Taylor High School. Registration will be held from 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM. To be eligible to serve as a delegate or alternate, one must have voted as a Republican in the primary *and* must have been elected to one of those positions at the precinct convention.

The State Convention. The state convention is scheduled for June 11-12, 2010, at the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. Delegates and alternates to the state convention are chosen at the county convention.

HAL TALTON TO ADDRESS G. A. R. W.

Hal Talton, member of the State Republican Executive Committee representing Senate District 5, and long-time political activist, will address the G. A. R. W. during its luncheon meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 at the Berry Creek Country Club. His address will focus on the primary election results. A social hour will be held from 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM with the lunch and program beginning at 11:30 AM.

Cost is \$15 per person. Send checks made payable to GARW-PAC to Linda McDaniel, 4500 Williams Dr., Ste. 212-PMB 267, Georgetown, TX 78633. Make reservations by calling 869-5685. The deadline for payment or reservations is noon, March 5.

STUNNING SHIFT IN U. S. HOUSE REPRESENTATION PREDICTED

The U. S. Constitution provides that Representatives to the U. S. House shall be apportioned among the several states according to their populations, and that an enumeration of those populations shall be made every 10 years.

Although the current census has barely begun, census projections forecasting the changes in the number of Representatives various states will experience have already been made. These projections are that 32 states will show no change, 8 will show an increase, and 10 will show a decrease.

The following chart (from *Human Events*) reveals those states which will experience a GAIN or a LOSS in the number of representatives, referred to as the Congressional Delegation:

State/Current Congressional Delegation	Projected Seat GAIN	State/Current Congressional Delegation	Projected Seat LOSS
Texas – 32	+4	Ohio – 18	-2
Florida – 25	+1	New York – 29	-1
Georgia – 13	+1	Pennsylvania – 19	-1
Washington – 9	+1	Illinois – 19	-1
Arizona – 8	+1	Michigan – 15	-1
South Carolina – 6	+1	New Jersey – 13	-1
Nevada – 3	+1	Massachusetts – 10	-1
Utah – 3	+1	Minnesota – 8	-1
		Louisiana – 7	-1
		Iowa – 5	-1

PROTEST SIGNS PROVIDE TALKING POINTS

Although they are brief, the messages found on protest signs are remarkably profound and thus can provide a basis for discussion—i. e., “talking points”—when one attempts to discuss politics with friends and neighbors. Following is a sampling:

“I owe \$38,000” (carried by a two-year old)
“Abortion is not health care”
“Read the bill or get off the hill”

“If your not outraged, you're not paying taxes”
“You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich”
“You are not entitled to what I have earned”

UNIONS AND BARACK OBAMA

Foreword. During recent decades, there have been momentous changes in the labor movement in the nation, including the total number of its members, the ratio of private sector to public sector members, its mission, and its regard by the public in general.

In the early 1980s, union representation was 20% of all workers; in 2009, that percentage had declined to 12.3%. The Bureau of Labor Statistics in late January reported that the number of American union members fell by 771,000 in 2009, down to 15.3 million. And for the first time, unionized government workers (7.9 million) outnumbered unionized workers in the private sector (7.4 million). Government workers now have 51.4% of union membership.

Following is a survey of the evolution of the labor movement in recent decades, including the Obama administration.

The Increased Percentage of Unionized Government Workers. The reasons for an increased percentage of unionized government workers *vis a vis* private sector workers are both economic and political. Following are some of the economic reasons:

- The average pay of federal workers is over \$71,000 (in Washington, D. C., it's \$94,047), whereas the average pay in the private sector is \$50,028. Annual raises are a matter of course, and government employees enjoy close to lifetime job security and benefits including retirement.
- Almost 40% of government employees belong to unions. The government has no competitors. And it doesn't go bankrupt. No matter how high unions raise costs, the government can always raise taxes to pay for them.
- As deregulation and free trade have made the economy more competitive, unionized companies haven't been able to keep up. Note the airlines, the steel industry, and General Motors. Unionized companies shed jobs whenever they face competition.

Political Reasons. Columnist Daniel Henninger reports on one of the more significant political developments affecting union membership in the government sector:

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy planted the seeds that grew the modern Democratic Party. That year, JFK signed executive order 10988 allowing the unionization of the federal work force. This changed everything in the American political system. Kennedy's order swung open the door for the inexorable rise of a unionized public work force in many states and cities.

This in turn led to the fantastic growth in membership of the public employee unions—The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the teachers' National Education Association.

...they entrenched a system of taking money from members' dues and spending it on political campaigns. *Over time, this transformed the Democratic Party into a public-sector dependency.*

Former California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, a well-known liberal voice, adds another dimension to the above analysis:

The deal used to be that civil servants were paid less than private sector workers in exchange for an understanding that they had job security for life. But we politicians—pushed by our friends in labor—gradually expanded pay and benefits...while keeping the job protections and layering on incredibly generous retirement packages...[A]t some point, someone is going to have to get honest about the fact.

A Different Mission. Not only has there been a shift in the ratio of public sector to private sector union members, there has also been a remarkable shift in the mission of unions. Columnist Phyllis Schlafly observes that, "Older Americans may fondly remember bygone days when some unions played a positive role in our free economy. In the 1950s, many unions expelled communist agitators. Today's unions, by contrast, promote big-government solutions to every problem."

Columnist Stephen Spruiell contends, "Unions may have existed to serve workers' interest at one time. These day, they exist to serve liberalism." In support of his claim, he notes that for three decades unions have

embraced left-wing positions on everything from affirmative action to gay marriage to the war in Iraq. In addition, Schlaffley reports that to defeat Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative to protect traditional marriage, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) spent \$500,000 and the California teachers union spent \$1,250,000. After voters approved the measure, over 50 unions signed a brief asking the courts to overturn the will of the people

Then there is the National Education Association, the nation's largest union, which, during each of its conventions, adopts resolutions supporting a number of left-wing causes completely removed from those of a professional education association, including such as issues as environment, national health care, statehood for the District of Columbia and global climate change—to name but a few.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Special mention should be made of the SEIU and its special relations with certain politicians through the years. Columnist Mark Mix reports that both former Governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois in 2005 and former Governor Gray Davis of California, when they were in office, repaid a tremendous political debt to the SEIU by reclassifying state-reimbursed, in-home health-care (and child care) contractors as *state employees*, thereby forcing them to pay union dues. (The SEIU represents a segment of nurses and other health care workers)

Then there is the special relationship Obama has with the president of SEIU, Andrew Stern, who appeared more frequently than any other guest to the White House. During the period January - July of 2009, he visited the White House 21 times—about 3 times per month. What is one to make of these visits?

Columnist James Sherk reports, “The labor movement has a huge financial stake in government-dominated health care. The experience of Canada, which has nationalized health care, is instructive. As a result of nationalization, 60% of Canadian health care workers and a stunning 80% of nurses belong to unions.

The Demands of the United Auto Workers (UAW). Author Meredith Jessup notes that even as the recent economic downturn threatened to bankrupt America's automobile companies, the UAW still made huge demands:

...the UAW still demanded laborers receive their seven weeks of paid vacation every year and maintain job banks to ensure workers were paid nearly full wages even when not working. In addition, UAW workers would continue to receive an average wage of \$74 per hour in combined salary and benefits, a significant figure compared to the \$42 per hour Japanese auto workers make and the \$26 per hour American private sector workers make in salary and benefits on average.

The average UAW worker brings home an astonishing \$130,000 per year in salary and benefits.

The Teachers Unions. There are two main unions: The National Education Association with 3.2 million members is the largest union in the nation, and the American Federation of Teachers with 1.4 million members. That's a lot of power. And flaunt that power they do, as evidenced by the following reports:

- At a recent NEA convention, the chief lawyer for that group stated the following: “It is not because of creative ideas; it is not because of the merit of our position; it is not because we care about children; it is not because we have a vision of a great public school for every child. NEA and its affiliates are effective advocates because *we have power...*”
- The New York City schools have what is called “The Rubber Room,” which is a “temporary reassignment center” where New York City teachers can while away the day doing nothing at full salary (sometimes more than \$100,000 a year), while their claims against dismissal are adjudicated.
- Detroit's urban public schools receive \$11,100 per student in government funding—a full \$1,500 per student more than the national average—yet the school district is on the verge of bankruptcy and Detroit's high school graduation rate is the lowest in the country—a miserable 25%. *In fact, students attending Detroit public schools have a better chance of serving time in prison than graduating from a public high school.* (NOTE: Detroit, once a thriving middle-class city of nearly 2 million, is now a poverty-stricken city of less than 900,000)

Public Approval of Unions. Columnist Megan Basham reports that big labor's efforts to revitalize private sector unionization appear to be alienating the public:

Gallup's most recent survey found that only 48% of Americans approve of unions, an all-time low that is

down from 59% a year ago. More alarming perhaps for labor leaders, the portion of the population saying that unions hurt the economy rather than help it has risen from about a third in 2006 to more than half today.

THE WISDOM AND HONESTY OF WALTER WILLIAMS

Black columnist Thomas Sowell contends that what is long overdue is some Republican re-thinking about the approach they have been using, with consistently disastrous results, for trying to get the black vote. “The teachers' unions are going to be against Republicans, whether Republicans hammer them or keep timidly quiet. Why not talk straight with black voters about the dire consequences of the public school monopoly that the teachers' unions and the Democrats protect at all costs...?”

Consistent with Sowell's thoughts about “talking straight” with black voters are the following excerpts from several op-ed columns written by conservative black columnist Walter Williams who speaks with unusual honesty and clarity:

- **On the Breakup of the Black Family.** Most of the major problems that many black people face are not amenable to political solutions and government anti-poverty programs. Let's look at some. In 1940, 86 percent of black children were born inside marriage, and the illegitimacy rate among blacks was about 15%. Today, only 35% of black children are born inside marriage, and the illegitimacy rate hovers around 70%.

Today's breakdown of the black family is unprecedented. It began in the 1960s with the War on Poverty and the harebrained ideas of the welfare state. In the mid-1960s, Daniel Moynihan sounded the alarm about the breakdown in the black family in his book, *The Negro Family: The Case for National Action*. At that time black illegitimacy was 26%. Moynihan said, “[A]t the heart of the deterioration of the Negro society is the deterioration of the Negro family.” He added, “The steady expansion of welfare programs can be taken as a measure of the steady disintegration of the Negro family structure over the past generation in the United States.”

- **On Black Politicians.** Blacks hold high offices and dominate the political arena in Philadelphia, Detroit, Baltimore, Washington, D. C., New Orleans and other cities. Yet these are the very cities with the nation's most rotten schools, highest crime rates, high illegitimacy rates, weak family structure and other forms of social pathology. I am not saying that blacks having political power is the cause of these problems. What I am saying is that the solutions to most of the major problems that confront many black people won't be found in the political arena and by electing more blacks to high office. In fact, politicians tend to be hostile to some of the problems many blacks face such as school choice as a means to strengthen education.
- **On Failing Black Schools.** Detroit's (predominantly black) public schools are the worst in the nation—even worse than those in Washington, D. C. Some examples: only 3% of Detroit's fourth-graders scored “proficient” on a respected standardized test. That story was about the same for the city's eighth-graders of whom only 4% scored “proficient.” On that particular test, 77% scored “below basic,” meaning the students couldn't even show *partial* mastery of knowledge and skills appropriate for their grade level.
- **On Black Role Models.** What about role models? Standard psychobabble asserts a positive relationship between the race of teachers and administrators and student performance. That's nonsense. Black academic performance is the worst in the very cities where large percentages of teachers and administrators are black, and often the school superintendent is black, the mayor is black, most of the city council is black and very often the chief of police is black.
- **On the Moment of Truth.** *This destruction [of education] will continue until the day comes when black people are willing to turn their backs on liberals and the education establishment's agenda and confront issues that are both embarrassing and uncomfortable.*
- **On Tolerating Disruption in Schools.** Many black students are alien and hostile to the education process. They have parents with little interest in their education. These students not only sabotage the education process, but make schools unsafe as well. *These students should not be permitted to destroy the education chances of others. They should be removed or those students who want to learn should be provided with a mechanism to go to another school.*

Providing some amplification of Williams' points is Schlaffley's report on an article she saw in the

Washington Post about the teacher of an all-black class in a high school in Alexandria, Virginia, who expressed his frustration about how poorly some of the students were performing. The class included both native-born African-Americans and black kids who had emigrated from Africa.

The native-born students were not doing well, so in a moment of exasperation, the teacher blurted out this question to those students: "Why don't you guys study like the kids from Africa?"

One of them shot back the answer. The kid replied, "It's because they have fathers who kick their butts and make them study." Another student then called out, "Ask the class, just how many of us have fathers living with us." The teacher did ask the class, and not one hand went up.

And why didn't these kids have fathers in the home? For the majority of them, the reason is the liberal welfare system, which transformed the people who were given "free" money (called "welfare") into a society of single moms where fathers were made unnecessary—even an impediment to the flow of taxpayer handouts.

Unfortunately, there is a large segment of our society unwilling or unable to recognize the situation described above. Instead, that segment engages in various forms of demagoguery, including charges that America is a racist and oppressive society. Consequently, yet another decade may go by without any improvement.

NOTES ON THE PASSING SCENE

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

Tea Parties Announced. The dates of two tea parties have already been announced:

- Thursday, April 15, beginning at 6:00 PM on the east steps of the Williamson County Courthouse. For information contact Dave Schumacher at wilcoTparty@gmail.com
- Sunday, July 4. Details to be announced. For information, contact Darlene Plyter at reallyTeddie@suddenlink.net

Primary Runoff Election Dates. Following is information about dates for the primary runoff election: Election Day is Tuesday, April 13. First day of early voting is Monday, April 5. Last day of early voting is Friday, April 9.

DNA Can Be Falsified. In recent years, a popular understanding has arisen that DNA is an infallible form of evidence, whether one is speaking of a crime scene or a paternity test. "The genes don't lie."

But a fairly recent study has found that DNA can be as open to falsification as any other form of evidence. It's not that the genes have lied; it is that evidence can be manipulated. For example, the *New York Times* reported that "scientists fabricated blood and saliva samples containing DNA from a person *other than* the donor of the blood and saliva." And fabrication has been even more sophisticated: "[Scientists] also showed that if they had access to a DNA profile in a database, they could construct a sample of DNA to match that profile without obtaining any tissue from [a] person."

These and other reports of potential fabrication of evidence opens up the possibility that convictions that were obtained on the basis of genetic evidence will now be subject to reexamination on appeal.

(Source: The New American)

Federal Judge Hearing Proposition 8 Case Reported to be Gay. The *San Francisco Chronicle* called it the "biggest open secret" in the federal trial of Proposition 8, the ballot initiative banning same-sex marriage in California: Chief U. S. District Judge Vaughn Walker is gay. Proposition 8 supporters have long charged Walker with bias for his decision to televise the trial (a decision later overturned by the U. S. Supreme Court) and for making Proposition 8 leaders submit private correspondence as evidence.

(Source: World)

U. S Tax Court Continues Assault on Traditional Values. The U. S. Tax Court ruled that a Massachusetts woman should be allowed to deduct the costs of her sex-change operation. Rhiannon O'Donnabhain, who was born a man, sued the Internal Revenue Service after the agency rejected a \$5,000 deduction for approximately \$25,000 in medical expenses. The IRS had said the surgery was cosmetic and not medically necessary. In its decision, the tax court said the IRS position was "thoroughly rebutted by the medical evidence." *(Source: Austin American Statesman)*

