

The Republican Club of Sun City NEWSLETTER

January 2018

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(Website: rcsctx.com)

Sun City Texas

(Topics Below: GOP Primary Ballot, Sexual Assault, Selection of the House Speaker)

CANDIDATES' FORUM SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY MEETING

The first of two Candidates' Forums to be held in connection with the coming March 6 Republican Primary is scheduled for **Thursday, January 11 in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City**. Participants in that forum are as follows:

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3: Deanna Lewis and Evelyn McLean
County Treasurer: Lee Ann Seitsinger and Scott Hesselmeier
Judge, County Court at Law #1: Brandy Hallford and Warren Oliver Waterman

Moderators for this Forum and the February Forum (see below) will be Judge Stacey Matthews and Judge Betsy Lambeth.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING OF JANUARY 11

BEGINNING TIMES: Doors Open – 5:45 pm; Social Period – 6:00 pm; Dinner – 6:30 pm; Program – 7:00 pm
MENU: Beef medallions with brown mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, long cut green beans with silvered almonds, garden salad with option of grilled chicken & choice of three dressings, unsweet tea/water with sugar and sweet and low provided.

COST: Dinner fee is \$18 per person. Checks made out to "The Republican Club of Sun City" should be mailed to: **The Republican Club of Sun City, 1530 Sun City Blvd., Suite 120, Box 227, Georgetown, TX 78633**, or left in a special drop box located on the front porch of the home of club treasurer Gene Edwards at 202 Duck Creek Lane. For information, contact Gene at 520-990-1159 or genedwards@earthlink.net The deadline for payment or reservations is Friday, January 5, 2018.

Attendees are reminded of the request made by the Executive Committee that advanced payments for the dinner be submitted by the payment deadline so that the proper amount of food can be ordered, and that attendees who have made reservations in advance make payments *prior* to the meeting, when possible, so that a "bogging down" of the line at the ballroom entrance can be avoided.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! (Non-members may attend a maximum of two meetings per year – as attendees for the dinner or as observers for the program – without having to pay membership dues.)

SECOND CANDIDATES' FORUM SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY

A second Candidates' Forum held in connection with the March 6 Republican Primary election is scheduled for **Thursday, February 1 in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City**. Participants in that forum are as follows:

State Senator, Dist. 5: Charles Schwertner and Harold Ramm
County Judge: Bill Gravell and Frank Leffingwell

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2018 CONTINUES

As was previously announced, membership dues for 2018 are increased to \$20 per person effective the year 2018; however, the membership dues for that year will be \$15 provided they are paid before the end of the year 2017.

Both new and renewing members must submit a completed membership form. A membership form was attached to the November newsletter, and is also available at the club's website, rctx.com, and at club meetings.

Individuals who were club members in 2017 will have their names kept on the communications list (to receive newsletters and other communications) until February 28. If they have not renewed by that date, their names will be removed from that list. They can, of course, renew their memberships any time during 2018.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2018 ANNOUNCED

Following is the schedule of club dinner meetings scheduled for the year 2018. Because of difficulties in scheduling dinner meetings in the ballroom on a regular monthly basis, the schedule is somewhat unusual in two respects: (1) The May meeting had to be scheduled in early June, and (2) the October meeting is scheduled for the Cowan Creek Amenity Center on a Sunday. The club does not meet in December.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
January	11	Thursday	Ballroom	
February	1	Thursday	Ballroom	
March	8	Thursday	Ballroom	
April	19	Thursday	Ballroom	
June	7	Thursday	Ballroom	Takes place of May meeting
June	28	Thursday	Ballroom	
July	26	Thursday	Ballroom	
August	23	Thursday	Ballroom	
September	6	Thursday	Ballroom	
October	14	Sunday	Cowan Center	In Georgetown and Florence Rooms
November	29	Thursday	Ballroom	
December	– No meeting			

CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2018

In accordance with the nominations of the Nominating Committee, the club, during its November 16 meeting, elected the following slate of officers for the year 2018:

President – Cathy Cody	Secretary – Laura Krieger
Vice President (programs) – Susie Johnson	Publicity Manager – Anne Marshall
Vice President (membership) – Brian Olson	Hospitality Director – Pam Olson
Treasurer – Gene Edwards	

CLUB PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS

Club President Cathy Cody makes the following appointment for the year 2018:

Webmaster – Bill Harron	Hospitality Assistant – Barbarann Mills
Chaplin – Judge Bill Gravell	Newsletter Editor – Everett Schmidt
Sergeant-at-Arms – Kevin Stoffle	Parliamentarian – Everett Schmidt
Wine Steward – Mike Stanhovich	

SOME IMPORTANT DATES REGARDING COMING PRIMARY ELECTION

Republican candidates filed for office from November 11, 2017 through December 11, 2017 for the March 6, 2018 Primary Election. Some coming important dates concerning that election follow:

Monday, January 1, 2018	First day to apply for a ballot to vote by mail
Monday, February 5, 2018	Last day to register to vote for March 6 primary election
Tuesday, February 20, 2018	First day of early voting
Friday, February 23, 2018	Last day to apply for ballot by mail
Friday, March 2, 2018	Last day of early voting
Tuesday, May 22, 2018	Primary runoff election

OTHER CLUB NEWS

Brian Olson, vice president for membership, reports that, as of this writing, the 2018 club membership stands at 231. Gene Edwards, treasurer, reports there were 162 at the November meeting, plus 8 observers.

VOTING PRECINCTS IN SUN CITY INCREASED FROM THREE TO FOUR

For several years, the number of voting precincts in Sun City was three – 381, 394 and 396 – but several months ago, the Commissioners Court, in reaction to the significant growth of the population of Sun City, divided precinct 381, and added a new precinct, 393, thereby bringing the total number of precincts in Sun City to four. Sun City residents can verify their assigned precincts from their current Voter Registration Certificates.

Following are the current precinct chairmen: 393 – Cathy Cody; 394 – Gene Edwards (pending); Terry Putnam – 396. The chairmanship of 381 is currently open.

THE 2018 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY BALLOTT

(For Residents of Sun City)

Following are the candidates whose names will appear on the March 6 Republican Primary ballot - along with the position they seek - which will be used by Republican residents of Sun City when they vote in that primary.

The "i" shown in parenthesis after a candidate's name indicates "incumbent." The names of the candidates are listed in the order they appeared on a report from the Texas Secretary of State, sos.state.tx.us, and do not reflect the ballot order which will be determined later by drawing.

FEDERAL OFFICES

U. S. SENATOR

Bruce Jacobson, Jr.
Geraldine Sam
Mary Miller
Stefano de Stefano
Ted Cruz (i)

U. S. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 31

John Carter (i)
Mike Sweeney

STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICES – NON-JUDICIAL

GOVERNOR

Barbara Krueger
Greg Abbott (i)
SECEDE Kilgore

LT. GOVERNOR

Dan Patrick (i)
Scott Milder

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ken Paxton (i)

COMPTROLLER

Glen Hegar (i)

LAND COMMISSIONER

Dave Edwards
George P Bush (i)
Jerry Paterson
Rick Range

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

Jim Hogan
Sid Miller (i)
Trey Blocker

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Christie Craddick (i)
Weston Martinez

STATE SENATOR, DIST. 5

Charles Schwertner (i)
Harold Ramm

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 20

Terry Wilson (i)

COUNTY & DISTRICT OFFICES – NON-JUDICIAL

COUNTY JUDGE

Bill Gravell
Frank Leffingwell

DISTRICT CLERK

Lisa David (i)

COUNTY CLERK

Nancy Rister (i)

COUNTY TREASURER

Lee Ann Seitsinger
Scott Hesselmeier (i)

JUDICIAL OFFICES – STATE LEVEL

TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PL. 2

Jimmie Blacklock

TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PL. 4

John Divine (i)

TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PL. 6

Jeff Brown (i)

COURT OF CRIM. APP., PL. 1

David Bridges

COURT OF CRIM. APP., PL. 7

Barbara Hervey (i)

COURT OF CRIM. APP., PL. 8

Dib Waldrip
Jay Brandon
Michelle Slaughter

3rd COURT OF APP., PL.2

Cynthia Olson Bourland (i)

3rd COURT OF APP., PL.3

Scott Field (i)

3rd COURT OF APP., PL. 5

David Puryear (i)

3rd COURT OF APP., PL.6

Donna Davidson
Jennifer Freel
Kristofer Monson
Michael Toth

JUDICIAL OFFICES – DISTRICT, COUNTY & PRECINCT LEVELS

Judge, 277th Dist. Court

Stacey Matthews (i)

Judge, 368th Dist. Court

Rick Kennon (i)

County Ct. at Law #1

Brandy Hallford
Warren Oliver Waterman

County Ct. at Law #2

Laura Barker (i)

County Ct. at Law #3

Doug Arnold (i)

County Ct. at Law #4

John McMaster (i)

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3

Deanna Lewis
Evelyn McLean

THE GROWING SEXUAL ASSAULT PROBLEM IN TODAY'S AMERICA

(An Examination of the Problem Through the Experience of a Known News Anchor)

Foreword. While there may have been problems of sexual assault for many generations, it can hardly be denied that there is now, clearly, a growing problem in America in that regard. And America is having difficult dealing with that problem as indicated by the following poll published in the *Statesman*: “The poll shows that nearly 6 in 10 Americans think there is too little protection for the rights of people who have been victims of workplace sexual misconduct. By contrast, just 37 percent think there's too little protection for people accused of sexual misconduct, 35 percent there's the right amount and 26 percent think there's too much.”

The present report on sexual assault is based largely on a report by columnist Mark Alexander which appeared in the Patriot Post website, patriotpost.us, about the experience of Fox News Anchor Tucker Carlson (viewed M-F, 7-8 pm) who reports, with supporting evidence, that he was the victim of a fraudulent charge of sexual harassment prior to 2003 while with CNN.

There are several reasons for presenting a largely unedited report of Carlson's experience. One is that Carlson, as a Fox News Anchor, is a skilled reporter who has considerable viewer recognition among club members. Viewers of his program will have had opportunity to judge his honesty and sincerity as a result of the “thrust and parry” bouts with which both Carlson and his guests, often highly articulate leftists, engage, and thus expose their inner-most feelings.

Another reason is the Carlson reveals in a very personal way how those charges, which he contends were fraudulent, affected his personal and family life. The reader can gain an understanding of his plight not possible via the typical sanitized reporting of news on the networks.

The Culture of Yesteryear. Before reading Alexander's report, some historical information may provide some insights into not only the sexual assault issue, but also the changed relationships between men and women and the present level of “civility” in today's society.

The comments of Walter Williams, a veteran black columnist now at age 82, may be helpful when behavioral standards of yesteryear are compared with those of today. He especially notes the special culture which was inculcated in boys of an earlier era:

To create and maintain civil relationships between the sexes is to drum into boys, starting from very young ages, that they are not to use violence against a woman for any reason. Special respect is given women. Yesteryear even the lowest of lowdown men would not curse or use foul language to or in the presence of women. To see a man sitting on a crowded bus or trolley car while a woman is standing used to be unthinkable. It was deemed common decency for a man to give up his seat for a woman or elderly person.

Williams then points out that today young people use foul language in front of – and often to – adults and even teachers. But instead of an efficient and effective “whack” administered in the past by someone in authority, the modern response is “time out.”

Customs, Traditions, Morality *viz a viz* Law. The nation's traditional response in attacking a problem is simply this: Pass More Laws! But Williams strongly asserts that, instead, “Society's first line of defense is not law but customs, traditions and moral values.” He further contends:

The importance of customs, traditions and moral values as a means of regulating behavior is that people behave themselves even if nobody's watching. There are not enough cops. Laws can never replace these restraints on personal conduct in producing a civilized society . At best, the police and the criminal justice system are the last desperate lines of defense for a civilized society.

Has the Culture War Been Lost? Williams contends, “Unfortunately, customs, traditions and moral values have been discarded without an appreciation for the role they play in creating a civilized society, and now we're paying the price – and that includes the recent revelations regarding the treatment of women.”

Providing support for Williams' contention are the observations of commentator Mark Steyn who states: “The real battle for America is over culture.” Culture (including TV shows, pop songs, movies, liberal churches, universities, etc.) trumps politics!

The Consequences of Some Emergent Ideologies. If Williams is correct in his assertions about customs, traditions and moral values having been discarded, it may be instructive to reflect on some of the philosophies and ideologies which contributed to a changed culture – so they can be combated. Following is but a sampling of some of those influences, most of which reveal a deeply divided citizenry:

- Feminism. The late Phyllis Schlafley in her book, *Who Killed the American Family?*, takes issue with the prevailing notion about equal rights when she contends, “The feminist goal is not a fair or equal treatment for women, but gender interchangeability . . .”
- Communism. Karl Marx urged the abolition of the family in his book, *Communist Manifesto*, in which he argues that social revolution would eliminate the need for private property, so marriage and family would

be no longer be needed.

- University Justice. Beginning in 2011, by order of President Obama's Education Department for Civil Rights, educational institutions, under Title IX, were forced to take an aggressive role in the investigation and punishment of alleged sex crimes on college campuses. Due process traditions were turned upside down. Author Stuart Taylor explains that the response of colleges and universities was almost exclusively to male students: "Under threat of losing federal funds, almost all schools have willingly complied with a procedural regime that effectively presumes the guilt of every accused student, 99% of whom are male. These procedures include a virtual ban on cross-examination of accusers . . . and a mandate that those found *innocent* be subject to *appeal by the accusers* . . . [President Trump, via Executive Order, brought these practices to an end.]
- Legislation Based on Morality. In the famous *Lawrence* sodomy case from Texas, the Supreme Court issued a holding which, as Justice Scalia explains, "prohibits states from passing laws dealing with moral issues." In that ruling, the Supreme Court reversed a previously held position which provided states, individually, the prerogative of legislating on moral issues so long as there was a "rational basis" for the legislation. This more recent ruling meant there were no longer in effect the fixed, unchanging standards of the Judeo-Christian ethic which had enabled Western Civilization and America to thrive. The change allowed all kinds of ideologies to emerge without check, thus the rise of the LGBT movement.

Irreconcilable Views. There are a number of conflicting, seemingly irreconcilable views among the nation's citizenry, such as the following two examples.

The National Education Association (NEA) Resolutions. Following are two excerpts from two resolutions passed in 2017 by the NEA, the nation's largest union comprised of 3 million mainly public school teachers who pass leftist resolutions on non-educational issues, and who can influence children via curriculum, classroom discussion and otherwise on leftist issues:

I-60. Equal Opportunity for Women. The Association supports an amendment to the U. S. Constitution (such as the Equal Rights Amendment). . . The Association believes that the Equal Employment Commission must have cease-and-desist authority to act in all cases of discrimination based on race, creed, color, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender.

C-15. Student Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The Association believes that therapies designed to alter a student's orientation or identity are harmful to the emotional development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students.

THE EXPERIENCE OF A FOX NEWS ANCHOR, TUCKER CARLSON, AS REPORTED IN PATRIOT POST

When Carlson was still hosting a show with CNN prior to 2003, he was accused of raping a woman in a restaurant in Louisville, Kentucky - an accusation that, had it become public, would have completely destroyed him personally and professionally, regardless of the facts.

According to Carlson, his accuser, Kimberly Carter, "was a certified public accountant in Indiana, upstanding member of her community, and also, apparently delusional. Her claims were grotesque, but they were highly specific. The assault she said took place in the back room of a restaurant in Louisville on a specific day at around 10:30 p. m. She included loads of graphic and horrifying detail. It was stomach-turning. And yet none of it - none of it - was true. I spent the next two months trying to stay out of jail."

"I couldn't tell my children," said Carlson, "because I knew they would be ashamed. I couldn't tell my employer because I knew I would be fired immediately. I spoke only to lawyers and I paid them a fortune. I took a polygraph exam from the former head polygrapher at the FBI. I never stopped worrying that the charges would become public and destroy my life."

As it turns out, Carlson had never been to the restaurant in question, or even Louisville, and was on the air the night of the alleged rape.

His accuser would later disclose that she "was delusional" and suffered from schizoaffective disorder and wrote him a letter of apology. But had the charges been made public, what page do you think the retraction of those charges would have appeared on afterward?

The fact is, some people do make false accusations for a wide variety of reasons. (See the high-profile MSM frenzied rape allegations against the Duke lacrosse team . . . There are also serious questions that should be raised concerning the credibility of allegations stemming from decades-old recollections or recovered memory cases. Of course, the price can be very high when even suggesting some allegations are not accurate.

In the meantime, I have a couple of additional observations about the current politicization of sexual allegations - regarding both alleged victims and alleged perpetrators.

First, I believe that for every victim of sexual assault by a high-profile celebrity there are countless others who, for many reasons, will never come forward.

And second, dare I suggest that the Left's now-generational promotion of sexual promiscuity has destroyed many of our nation's social and cultural barriers against predation?

The rate of sexual assault is staggering. There are millions of Americans who, when young, were assaulted by heterosexual and homosexual predators,. Department of Justice statistics estimate that more than 20 million adult women have been raped in their lifetime. And the number of young women in their late teens and early 20s who have been assaulted by predatory males when their judgment was impaired by alcohol is epidemic.

If you find those numbers difficult to comprehend, there are now almost 750,000 registered sex offenders in the U. S. - and those are just the offenders who got caught. . .

GOP CAUCUS DETERMINES PROCEDURES TO SELECT SPEAKER

Before Texas House Speaker Straus disclosed that he wouldn't seek re-election in 2018, there was already considerable disapproval of Straus by many Republicans including by a majority of county GOP Executive Committee members throughout the state. Typically, the opposition to Straus was, as the Travis County Republican party stated, "non-support" of the party platform and a belief that he had "consistently denied the House the opportunity to act decisively upon conservative policies supported by Texas voters."

On Friday, December 1, the Texas House Republican Caucus unanimously adopted a bylaw change that will allow House Republicans to select an "endorsed" candidate for future legislative sessions. According to the *Statesman*, under the new rule, the Republican caucus will meet in December 2018 to vote, via secret ballot, on a speaker candidate to present to the entire House. There is no limit on how many Republicans can place their names into consideration.

The winner must have support of two-thirds of those voting, with the lowest vote-getter dropping out in subsequent balloting. Once down to two nominees, the winning threshold would drop to 60 percent if a victor does not emerge after a few rounds of voting.

The bylaw change has no enforcement mechanism for a member who does not vote in line with the caucus choice when the full house meets in January 2019 to officially select its Speaker. Reportedly, the party is asking candidates to sign a form pledging to support the caucus' nominee for speaker. The Texas GOP platform states, "We also call for the Republican members to vote as unified body for their selected speaker candidate when the legislature convenes in regular session."

Empower Texas, a conservative watchdog group has expressed concern that the two-thirds vote requirement – rather than a majority vote requirement – will "allow for potentially unlimited rounds of balloting . . . and allows the losing minority unlimited do-overs until they get their way."

NOTES ON THE PASSING SCENE

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

Unusual Aspects of Primary Election. One of the unusual aspects of the coming Primary Election involved U. S. Rep. Blake Farenthold of Corpus Christi representing Congressional District 27 who, after filing for re-election, found himself facing sexual harassment allegations. He then determined he should withdraw as a candidate, something the GOP also wanted him to do. But the problem was that he missed the Dec. 11 deadline to withdraw, and therefore could not withdraw himself.

But the Texas GOP sued the Secretary of State to keep name off the ballot. The matter then went to court after which, after considerable maneuvering, the GOP was successful in having his name removed from the ballot – after the deadline to withdraw.

Another somewhat unusual situation involves Jerry Patterson who was Land Commissioner from 2003 to 2015, giving up his job to unsuccessfully run for lieutenant governor. Now he is running again for his old job. Patterson has long been a critical of the current Land Commissioner, George P. Bush, the grandson of one former president and the nephew of another. Patterson is critical of Bush's handling of the "Reimagining of the Alamo" project and his failure to effectively help victims of Hurricane Harvey with housing issues.

Colin Kaepernick. According to columnist Larry Elder, it was Colin Kaepernick who started the practice of National Football League players showing disrespect for the flag and national anthem during pregame ceremonies. Kaepernick explained his disrespect with the following statement: "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color . . ."

But according to *Wikipedia*, he had considerable intermingling with at least one white family. Kaepernick was born in 1987 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Heidi Russo, a 19-year-old who was single at the time. His birth father, an African American man, left Russo before Colin was born. Russo placed Colin for adoption with Rick and Teresa Kaepernick, a white couple who had two children – son Kyle and daughter Devon – and were looking for a boy after losing two other sons to heart defects. Kaepernick became the youngest of their three children.

