

The Republican Club of Sun City NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Everett Schmidt, Editor
(Website: rcsctx.com)

Sun City Texas

(Topics below: Party Platform, The County Court System, A Coming Golden Age?, Black Protests)

SECOND CANDIDATES' FORUM SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1ST

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**. Moderators of that forum are Judge Stacey Matthews and Judge Betsy Lambeth. Participants in that forum are as follows:

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

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1

BEGINNING TIMES: Doors Open – 5:45 pm; Social Period – 6:00 pm; Dinner – 6:30 pm; Program – 7:00 pm
MENU: Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes w/cream gravy, glazed baby carrots, dinner rolls w/butter, garden salad w/choice of 2 dressings, optional grilled chicken salad, water & tea.
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, PMB 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 geneedwards@earthlink.net The deadline for payment or reservations is Friday, January 26, 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 "boggling 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.)

ATTORNEY FOR HIGH-PROFILE GOP ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO ADDRESS CLUB IN MARCH

Chris Grober, founder of The Grober Group law firm of Austin and Washington, D. C., and trusted legal advisor for several high-profile GOP organizations, such as the Republican National Committee and the Texas Republican Party, and for many high-profile individuals, including, among other notables, former President George W. Bush and former Governor Rick Perry, will address the club during its dinner meeting scheduled for **Thursday, March 8 in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City**.

Details of that meeting and the background of the speaker will be provided in the March newsletter.

OTHER CLUB NEWS

Brian Olson, VP for membership, reports that the number of members for the year 2018 currently stands at 280. Gene Edwards, treasurer, reports that the number of attendees at the January 11 dinner meeting was 175 plus an additional 15 individuals attending as observers.

Club members from 2017 are reminded that if they have not renewed their memberships by February 28, their names will be removed from the membership list and they will not receive newsletters and other club communications.

NEWS OF THE COUNTY PARTY

Reagan Dinner. The Reagan Dinner, the Williamson County's major fund raising event, is scheduled to take place on **Monday, February 5 in the Sheraton Georgetown ballroom, 1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown.**

Registration and silent auction begin at 5:00 pm; general reception begins at 6:00 pm; host reception for sponsors and banquet begins at 7:00 pm.

Table sponsorships are available at the \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500 levels. A limited number of individuals tickets are available for \$100 per person.

For information, visit <http://www.billfairbrother.com/2018ReaganDinnerSponsorshipLevels.pdf> for a description of the various table and ticket options.

Contact Dinner Chairman Jen Stratton at jen@strattonstrategies.com or 512-569-4702 for information or to reserve your table today!

County Party Headquarters Information. The headquarters of the Williamson County Republican Party is located at 716 Rock Street, Georgetown, TX 78626 (one block from the county court house). The telephone number there is 512-863-8481. The website is: WilliamsonCountyGOP.org

Current office hours – subject to change – are as follows:

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday: 10am – 4pm

Thursdays

1st, 3rd, & 5th: 10am – 4pm

2nd & 4th: 10am – 7pm

Fridays: 10am – 4pm

Contact or visit the headquarter to volunteer as a worker at the headquarters, the Reagan Dinner, the primary election and otherwise, to obtain a candidate yard sign or general information.

NEWS OF THE COMING PRECINCT, COUNTY AND STATE CONVENTIONS

The Precinct Convention. All precinct conventions of the county will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at the same location where balloting took place on Election Day. The sign-in period begins after the conclusion of voting. The meeting begins at 8:00 pm.

After the election of a permanent chairman – which could be the precinct chairman, but doesn't have to be – the convention proceeds to discharge its two main duties: (1) Elect delegates and alternates to the county convention, and (2) receive and vote on proposed resolutions (planks to the state party platform) to be submitted to the county convention for consideration. To be eligible to vote, one must have voted in the Republican primary.

Each precinct is entitled to send to the county convention one delegate for every certain number of votes cast during the most recent race for Governor. (Two years ago that figure was 25)

One does not have to attend the precinct convention to be a delegate to the county convention; however, to be eligible to be a delegate or alternate, one must have voted as a Republican in the primary and must have been elected at the precinct convention.

Participants in the precinct convention may submit resolutions for consideration by those in attendance. The use of a format in which the term “Whereas” is used is optional when submitting a resolution; the wording may simply be in the form of a statement as it may appear in the state party platform. A proposed resolution must be submitted in writing. It is debatable and amendable. Passed resolutions are submitted to a Resolutions Committee at the county convention for further consideration.

Resolutions are considered as additions, deletions and/or modifications to the 2016 State Republican Party Platform. It is therefore important that individuals considering the submission of one or more resolutions at the precinct convention check in advance of the convention a copy of the State Platform to see if the subject of a proposed resolution has already been addressed – otherwise precious time can be wasted. A copy of the platform can be obtained from the state party website, TexasGOP.org

The County Convention. The county convention will be held on Saturday, March 24 at the Taylor Main Street Campus in Taylor, Texas

The main purposes of the county convention are (1) to select delegates and alternates to the State Convention, and (2) to adopt resolutions (party planks) to be recommended to the State Convention. Frequently, important announcements are made and important county party business is transacted at these conventions.

The State Convention. The state convention is scheduled to be held June 14, 15 and 16 in San Antonio. Details of that convention will be provided later.

PARTY PLATFORM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRASS ROOTS TO MOTIVATE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO “PUSH BACK” AGAINST LEFTISM

There is general acknowledgment that legislators at both the state and federal levels face considerable pressure from various sources to support leftist causes which run counter to the values of the nation's founders and conservative Republicans. The leftist organizations and individuals providing that pressure is stunning and seemingly endless in terms of numbers as illustrated by the following sampling: lobbyist, atheists, media, universities, teachers union, leftist courts, environmentalists, George Soros groups, LGBT lobby, feminists, Muslims, and on and on. While each of these organizations may have unique objectives, there is one common objective for all of them: The destruction of the nation as it was founded.

The challenge of safeguarding traditional American values is indeed formidable, but happily the party

platform process provides conservative Republicans opportunity to influence the thinking and the votes of their elected officials.

Thanks to party rules the opportunities for citizen involvement in that process is remarkable. It begins at the grass roots precinct level where changes to the platform are considered. It then goes to the county level and a Platform Committee where changes are once more considered, and then to the state convention for final adoption.

One party plank indicates that, "Party candidates should indicate their positions on platform planks before their acceptance;" however, that plank has not been uniformly enforced.

Nevertheless, because the platform represents party positions adopted by GOP citizens at the grassroots precinct level and up, candidates should feel an obligation to accept those positions, or have a burden of justifying any departure from them.

Republicans – especially those who wish to "push back" against the drift of the nation to the left and complete secularization – are urged to gain some familiarity with both the state and national platforms and then participate in the platform committee meetings held at both the precinct and county levels. The attention of the reader is especially called to the following sections of the Texas Platform:

- | | |
|---|---|
| #19 (p.5) Term Limits (support for) | #70 (p.10) House Speaker (GOP to have unified vote) |
| #28 (p.5) Census Count (US citizens only) | #84 (p.12) Homosexuality (contrary to Bible) |
| #29 (p.6) Form of Govt. (no socialism or Islam) | #105 (p.14) Welfare (reform it) |
| #54 (p.8) Remedies for Judiciary (restrain) | #147 (p.19) School Choice (provide school choice) |
| #62 (p.9) Voting Rights (revise method) | #256 (p.31) Border Wall (support for) |

State and National platforms are available from the following sources:

- *The Texas GOP Platform (32 pages) at TexasGOP.org
- *The National GOP Platform (54 pages) at GOP.com/Platform

THE COUNTY COURT SYSTEM OF TEXAS

Background. There is considerable variation in the court systems of the various states. One significant difference is that, while the people of Texas *directly* elect their judges, other states will have their judges *appointed* by the governor or a commission to the exclusion of the people. Such differences extend from the highest court levels down to the county court systems resulting in individuals from other states not understanding Texas' court system. That lack of understanding can even extend to native Texans. Consequently, the purpose of this report is to provide some understanding of the Texas county court system to all who wish to avail themselves of it. (JP courts are not discussed inasmuch as they were discussed during the previous meeting)

A brief bit of Texas history may be helpful. One website reports that, "Counties have been around since before Texas became a state, and even before it was a republic. Under Spanish rule, the land was divided into *municipios*. When the Republic of Texas formed in 1836, those *municipios* became the first 23 counties. By the time Texas joined the United States in 1845, the new state comprised 37 counties." The current office of County Judge was established in by the Texas Constitution in 1876.

In addition to those considerations, there were other unique considerations reported by Wikipedia: "In the 19th century, Texas had a reputation for arbitrary "frontier justice." and "The poor quality of Texas justice has been attributed to the state's shortage of proper law schools and law libraries, as well as the traditional preference of Texans for 'self help' justice . . ."

The Texas Constitution began to bring about needed change via the county court system. Article V, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution concerns the establishment of the "judicial power" of Texas and includes reference to County Court and Commissioners Courts as a part of judicial power. While Commissioner Courts are shown to have judicial responsibilities, in many counties those responsibilities have subsequently been assigned to other courts as permitted by the Constitution. Following is the language of the cited Article:

The judicial power of this State shall be vested in one Supreme Court, in one Court of Criminal Appeals, in Courts of Appeals, in District Courts, in County Courts, in Commissioners Courts, in Courts of Justices of the Peace, and in such other courts as may be provided by law. The Legislature may establish such other courts as it may deem necessary and prescribe the jurisdiction and organization thereof, and may conform the jurisdiction of the district and other inferior courts thereto

County Courts Authorized by the Constitution. The Texas Constitution provides for one county court in each of the 254 counties of the state; however, not all such courts carry out judicial functions which, when applicable, would include jurisdiction over "Class A" and "Class B" misdemeanors, appellate jurisdiction over the Justice of the Peace, and certain other matters.

Wikipedia describes the County Commissioners as follows when it has no judicial responsibilities:

Each Texas County is presided over by a Commissioners' Court of four County Commissioners and the County Judge, plus the County Clerk as a non-voting *ex officio* member. Despite the terms "court" and "Judge," the County Commissioners' Court has no judicial function, and although the County Judge presides over its meetings, the County Judge does not render judicial rulings. The Commissioners Court is just the title given in Texas to the county government, and County Judge the title given to the head of county government. The body is responsible for administration of the county, controlling the county tax rate, the budget for its responsible departments, and exercising oversight over subsidiary boards and commissions.

County Courts-at-Law. Given the predominately rural and undeveloped Texas in the mid-1800s, there may have emerged a clear need for some person, some group to be given jurisdiction to handle some of society's emerging problems of that day. Consequently, in 1876, the County Court was given jurisdiction over those matters previously cited, "Class A" and "Class B" misdemeanors and certain other matters.

But as the population of the state grew, there became a need to provide county courts with some relief in discharging their duties involving judicial matters. (Note that each county was authorized only one county court.) Consequently, county courts-at-law were established by statute. Williamson County has four such courts. According to Wikipedia,

The legal jurisdiction of the special county-level trial courts varies considerably and is established by the statute which creates the particular court. The jurisdiction of statutorily-created courts at law may be concurrent with the jurisdiction of the county and district courts in the county.

The civil jurisdiction of most county courts at law varies but is usually more than that of the justice of the peace courts and less than that of the district courts. County courts at law usually have appellate jurisdiction in cases appealed from justice of the peace and municipal courts.

District Courts Authorized by Statute. According to Wikipedia, in contrast with the limited jurisdiction of county courts-at-law, "Texas district courts are the trial courts of *general* jurisdiction. Williamson County currently has five district courts. Wikipedia describes their jurisdiction:

Each district court has exclusive jurisdiction on felony cases, cases involving title to land, and election contest cases. It shares jurisdiction with the county courts, and in some case justice of the peace courts, for civil (its lowest limit for hearing a case is a mere \$200 in controversy, while JP courts can hear cases up to \$10,000). Family law jurisdiction varies depending on the existence of a county court-at-law; in some counties, the district courts share jurisdiction over divorces, child custody and support matters, adoptions and child welfare cases with county courts at law. Also, probate jurisdiction varies depending on the existence of a statutory probate court in the county.

ARE AMERICA AND THE WORLD ON THE CUSP OF A GOLDEN AGE?

(Two writers present observations and predictions regarding developments already underway)

Foreword. The reader is aware that for millenniums, many (perhaps most) predictions which have been made by prognosticators – often with a great deal of conviction – did not materialize. For example, it can be said with some certainty that every generation for, for millenniums, has produced one or more prognosticators who have predicted that the Biblical "Armageddon" will take place soon, perhaps during each of their generations. History has, so far, proven them wrong. Predictions about the future of a nation's economy, even if based upon statistical evidence, often did not materialize. The same can be said about election results, climate change and a host of other matters.

It may be speculated that the predictions of the past proved unreliable largely because there was a lack of solid objective evidence or the evidence was based on pseudo science which resulted in an inability to connect a given prediction directly to a specific and existing event or development.

Background. But today's information is different. Thanks largely to various technological developments, the evidence is often available, extant, observable and evolving before our eyes. This report presents observations and predictions based on that kind of evidence. First, to provide some background information are the observations of Peter Morici, an economist, university professor, and columnist who recently made certain pertinent observations in an op-ed piece appearing in the *Washington Times*, excerpts of which follow:

- In 2012, oil traded for \$112 a barrel – now it's in the \$50s. America is a major producer again, and abundant natural gas and breakthroughs [reported later] in wind and solar power promise to keep energy inexpensive.
- Capital to improve and start businesses is less expensive. Private sector requires fewer funds to create new products. Note that Google was started with only \$25 million and was worth \$23 billion five years later, while Henry Ford, to launch the Model T, needed far more money and time.
- The high cost of labor, which has been a major impediment to US-based production is about to become irrelevant as robotics and artificial intelligence automate so much of what we do.
- Neurotechnology now connects the human brain to mechanical devices for all kinds of benefits to mankind everywhere.

Some Predictions. A set of predictions based largely upon technological developments – particularly those related to the automobile industry – were offered by the Head of Daimler-Benz (Mercedes-Benz) and reported by entrepreneur Ken Vincent on his website. His predictions – some of which are already unfolding – not only affect the automobile industry, but potentially local, state and national government policies, plus the job market and economies of third world countries, and even the general condition of mankind. The reader may find his predictions fascinating and maybe even encouraging. Following is a sampling of the published predictions:

- The competitors of Mercedes-Benz are no longer other car companies, but Tesla and Google, Apple, Amazon and others.
- Uber is just a software tool, they don't own any cars, and are now the biggest taxi company in the world.
- Airbnb is now the biggest hotel in the world, although they don't own any properties.
- In the U. S., young lawyers already can't get jobs. Because of IBM Watson, you can get legal advice (so far more or less basic stuff) within seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans. So, if you study law, stop immediately. There will be 90% fewer lawyers in the future, only specialists will remain.
- In 2018 the first self-driving cars will appear for the public. Around 2020, the complete industry will start to be disrupted. You don't want to own a car anymore. You will call a car with your phone, it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination. You will not need to park it, you only pay for the driven distance and you can be productive while driving. Our kids will never get a driver's license and will never own a car. It will change the cities because we will need 90-95% fewer cars for that. We can transform parking spaces into parks.
- Most car companies will probably go bankrupt. Traditional car companies will try the traditional approach to build a better car, while tech companies (Tesla, Apple, Google) will take the revolutionary approach and build a computer on wheels.
- Auto insurance companies will have massive trouble because, without accidents, car insurance will become much cheaper. Their car insurance business model will slowly disappear.
- Real estate will change. Because if you can work while you commute, people will move further away to live in a more beautiful neighborhood.
- Electric cars will become mainstream about 2020. Cities will be less noisy because all new cars will run on electricity. Electricity will become incredibly cheap and clean: Solar production has been on an exponential curve for 30 years, and now you can see the burgeoning impact. Last year, more solar energy was installed worldwide than fossil. With cheap electricity comes cheap and abundant water
- Health innovations. The Tricorder X price will be announced this year. There are companies who will build a medical device (called the "Tricorder" from Star Trek) that works with your phone, which takes your retina scan, your blood sample, and you can breathe into it. It then analyses 54 biomarkers that will identify nearly any disease. It will be cheap, so in a few years, everyone on this planet will have access to world-class medical analysis, nearly for free. Goodbye, medical establishment.
- 3D printing – when a digital model is turned into a solid three-dimensional physical object by adding material layer by layer. The price of the cheapest 3D printer came down from \$18,000 to \$400 within 10 years. In the same time, it became 100 times faster. All major shoe companies have already started 3D printing shoes. Some common spare airplane parts are already 3D printed in remote airports. The space station now has a printer that eliminates the need for the large amount of spare parts they used in the past. At the end of this year, new smartphones will have 3D scanning possibilities. In China, they already 3D printed and built a complete 6-storey office building.
- Work: 70-80% of jobs will disappear in the next 20 years. There will be a lot of new jobs, but it is not clear if there will be enough new jobs in such a small time.
- Agriculture: There will be a \$100 agricultural robot in the future. Farmers in 3rd world countries can then become managers of their field instead of working all day in their fields.
- There are several startups who will bring insect protein to the market shortly. It contains more protein than meat.
- Education: The cheapest smartphones are already \$10 in Africa and Asia. By 2020, 70% of all humans will own a smartphone. That means, everyone has the same access to world-class education.

NOTED BLACK AUTHOR WRITES: “BLACK PROTEST HAS LOST ITS POWER”

Foreword. Shelby Steele, noted black author and senior fellow at Stanford University's Honor Institute, was the author of a lengthy op-ed piece titled “Black Protest Has Lost Its Power” that appeared in the January 13-14 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*. In it he takes issue not only with the protests of NFL players which took place during football games, but also with today's protests about the status of blacks in general, claiming the need for protests has now passed, that there is no longer any justification for them, and that they are now counterproductive to the best interests of blacks.

Although his comments are in direct conflict with much of the narrative of the left as displayed by many Democrats, members of the media, professors and now the NFL protests, they are well-reasoned and contrast with the left's demagoguery. His views are worthy of consideration.

Also to be considered are the current tactics of the left which are to accuse President Trump (and others) of being a racist without providing a rationale or an understandable basis for that accusation. To support their charge, many of the accusers show themselves to be demagogues using the tactics of demagoguery described by Wikipedia as follows: “**The central feature of the practice of demagoguery is persuasion by means of passion, shutting down reasoned deliberation and consideration of alternatives. Demagogues “pander to passion, prejudice, bigotry and ignorance, rather than reason.”**”

Given the above description of demagoguery, an individual, when being unfairly charged as being a “racist,” instead of going on the defensive, can go on the offensive by charging the accuser as being a demagogue! Maybe the accuser will feel a need to show that he is not a demagogue.

EXCERPTS FROM SHELBY STEELE'S OP-ED PIECE

Re: Protest in General. *And protest has long been an ennobling tradition in black American life. From the Montgomery bus boycott to the march on Selma, from lunch-counter sit-ins and Freedom Rides to the 1963 March to Washington, only protest could open the way to freedom and the acknowledgment of full humanity. So it was a high calling in black life. It required great sacrifice and entailed great risk. Martin Luther King Jr., the archetypal black protester, made his sacrifices, ennobled all of America, and was then shot dead.*

For the NFL players there was no real sacrifice, no risk and no achievement

Re: The NFL Protest. *It was black protest that made freedom an absolute. The surprise was that it didn't work. They had misread the historic moment. They were not speaking truth to power. Rather, they were figures of pathos, mindlessly loyal to a black identity that had run its course.*

What they missed is a simple truth that is both obvious and unutterable: The oppression of black people is over with. This is politically incorrect news, but is true nonetheless. We blacks are, today, a free people. It is as if freedom sneaked up and caught us by surprise.

Of course this does not mean there is no racism left in American life. Racism is endemic to the human condition, just as stupidity is. We will always have to be on guard against it. But now it is recognized as a scourge, as the crowning immorality of our age and our history.

Re: The Demands of Freedom. *Protest always tries to make a point. But what happens when that point has been made, when, in this case, racism has become anathema and freedom has expanded?*

Freedom came to blacks with an overlay of cruelty because it meant we had to look at ourselves without the excuse oppression. To hear, for example, that more than 4,000 people were shot in Chicago in 2016 embarrasses us because this level of largely black-on-black crime cannot be blamed simply on white racism.

Re: White Racism. *We conjure elaborate narratives that give white racism new life in the present: “systemic” and “structural” racism, racist “microaggressions,” “white privilege,” and so on. All these narratives insist that blacks are still victims of racism.*

The NFL protests were not really about injustice. Instead such protests are usually genuflections to today's victim-focused black identity. Protest is the action arm of this identity. It is not seeking a new and better world; it merely wants documentation that the old racist world still exists. It wants an excuse.

Re: The NFL Protest – A Harbinger of Change? *But the NFL protests may be a harbinger of change. They elicited considerable resentment. What is remarkable about this response is that it may foretell a new fearlessness in white America – a new willingness in whites (and blacks outside the victim-focused identity) to say to blacks what they really think and feel, to judge blacks fairly by standards that are universal.*

We blacks have lived in a bubble since the 1960s because whites have been deferential for fear of being seen as racist., The NFL protests reveal the fundamental obsolescence – for both blacks and white – of a victim-focused approach to racial inequality. It causes whites to retreat into deference and blacks to become nothing more than victims. It makes engaging as human beings and as citizens impermissible, a betrayal of the sacred group identity. Black victimization is not much with us any more as a reality, but it remains all too powerful as a hegemony.

