



AUSTIN REPUBLICAN WOMEN

April 2009

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I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them. -Thomas Jefferson



April Meeting

April Speaker is Michael Quinn Sullivan



**Meeting: April 2 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at Westwood Country Club
Cost: \$20 payable at door (cash preferred)**

If you don't get Michael Quinn Sullivan's newsletters, you will want to sign up. He is a Legislative & fiscal watchdog for Texas and extremely informative. He is both interesting and entertaining when he addresses groups. Please be sure to get your reservations in early.

Michael Quinn Sullivan is president and CEO of Empower Texans, and its premier project, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Sullivan has worked as a reporter for two daily Texas newspapers, and served as press secretary to a Member of Congress. He has worked in political campaigns and trained conservatives on effective communications strategies. Sullivan's commentaries have appeared in newspapers and magazines around the state and nation. He is a frequent guest on talk radio programs, and regularly called upon to address policy and political issues before groups across the country. Remember that one of our goals is to be active Citizen Lobbyists, and to do that we need to be informed in order to be influential.

Reservation deadline is March 31

meetingsvp@austinrepublicanwomen.org or call: Deborah Bily @569-6146

President's Letter

Austin Republican Women have been busy working on various issues at the Legislature. Thanks especially to all who attended the Senate hearing on the Voter ID bill and to those who made phone calls supporting the legislation. This fight is far from being over, and we need to continue to contact House members -- particularly those identified in the list you have received as being "on the fence." There are numerous other issues that need watching and follow up calls to Legislators. This is such an important year for us to be active since so much is happening in the Texas Legislature and the Congress in Washington. Bills are being introduced that have bad effects with very little information being given to the public. Please go to the sites mentioned in our Legislative section and choose an issue that excites your "passions" and follow through. We also need to thank those Legislators who vote for our beliefs: our State Senators regarding the Voter ID Bill and our US Senators and Congressmen. It must be so frustrating for our Republican Senators and Congressmen in Washington who, against overwhelming odds, vote to protect our beliefs of fiscal responsibility, personal freedoms and personal responsibility.

Membership

Thank you to all our members who have renewed and welcome to all our new members. A reminder to those who have not yet renewed ...please get your renewal in by April 6 so we can include you in the directory. We will have forms at the April 2nd luncheon or you can get one at: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org. on the membership link. Remember, this is a year for building membership and having our voices heard. There is strength in numbers.

"The main vice of capitalism is the uneven distribution of prosperity. The main vice of socialism is the even distribution of misery." -- former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Member Nametags – Pick up your Nametag and the Next Order

At our April luncheon, please come by the back table and pick up your new nametag. We will place our next order in the near future, so come by the table and sign up if you haven't already received your nametag. Or, you may send your check for \$5.50, made out to Austin Republican Women, to our club's Corresponding Sect., Carol Cates, at 11706 Running Fox Trail, Austin, TX 78759. We again would like to thank Carol Bernhard at ADCO Advertising, Inc. www.adcopromo.com for allowing us to order the nametags at cost.

Looking for great Republican jewelry??

Great Republican jewelry - wine charms, lapel pins, ornaments – available at the monthly ARW luncheons. Pay by cash or check. Checks payable to ARW.

Contact Denise Jenkins @ fundraising@austinrepublicanwomen.org



Volunteer Hours - 1st Quarter Due April 1st

Each quarter our club submits our volunteer hours to TFRW. Volunteer hours measure the influence of Republican Women in the election process and supporting Republican values before elected officials and legislation. This measure is demonstrated in the enormous number of hours our members volunteer to the process. Our club will be recognized for our 2008 volunteer hours by TFRW on Legislation Day, April 16, 2009.

If you are a precinct chair, your hours count. If you are a volunteer for a fundraiser, your hours count. If you have attended a TFRW training session or other political conference, your hours count. If you have supported the Travis County Republican Party by answering phones, helped with "get out the vote", or provided any services for them, your hours count. Any work for campaigns count. Your travel time counts as well. Don't underestimate the work you do for the Republican Party, your hours count!

Please email your total volunteer hours from Jan. through March. They do not have to be broken down into specific jobs. If you're not sure what counts, I will be glad to help. Additional information on volunteer hour policy is in your ARW directory.

Sheila Glass

VP Campaign Activities

sheilag18@gmail.com

Important Dates to Remember

April 2nd – ARW Monthly Meeting

April 9th – Voter Registration Deadline for May election for Mayor

April 15th – Tea Party 11:30am at City Hall and 4:00pm at the Capital

April 16 – TFRW Legislative Day

April 27th – May 5th – Early Voting for Mayoral Race

May 9th – Joint General and Special Elections for Mayor



Excerpt from Congressman McCaul's Minute

Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) was pressured by the Obama administration to insert last-minute language into the stimulus bill that allowed the bailout money to be spent on bonuses. This is unacceptable, and exactly why I voted against the stimulus. It was distributed in the 11th hour with no time to read before the vote. Now we know why.

As a former federal prosecutor in the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice, I think members of Congress and the executive branch should be held to the highest standard. I call upon the Attorney General to investigate the interaction between Sen. Dodd and Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and their staffs, which resulted in AIG bonus protection language being inserted into the stimulus bill at the last minute, and the subsequent conflicting accounts from both offices. **It should be noted that Sen. Dodd was the #2 recipient of AIG's 2008 campaign donations, totaling \$103,900, second only to President Obama.**

Legislative Update

On both the national and state level, there is an ample supply of bills to watch!! To check on the active legislation in the U.S. House and Senate, go to www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislature & www.house.gov

This site allows one to observe where bills are currently sitting. For example, a bill of major consequence that is not in the news is **HB-157/SB-160** where the District of Columbia is to be “considered as a Congressional District for the purposes of representation in the House of Representatives and other purposes”. This would increase the number of seats in the US House by two. As of March 2, 2009, this bill has been returned to the House.

On the state level, one website of immense help is www.legis.state.tx.us.

This site allows one to:

- *Search for the status of bills*
- *Seek information on contacting your legislator*
- *Seek information on how a legislator voted*
- *Note schedules of hearings*

Additionally, this site can be personalized – go the bottom on the homepage, “My TLO”, and one can select any number of bills on which you will receive e-mails on their most current action. For example,

Voter Identification Bill, SB-362/HB-3556, has been passed in the Texas Senate and as of March 19, was sent back to the House...please continue to contact legislators.

SB/-1098/HB-109, Support Adoption Bill, allows for the “raising of funds for equipment in pregnancy resource centers and adoption centers” by allowing the state of Texas to sell 'Choose Life' license plates. This bill has been referred to the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee.

Two of many bills regarding immigration

· **HB 266** —Sponsor. BERMAN, LEO (R) - regulating the provision of benefits and services to, and verification of employment status of immigrants, and to enforcing laws relating to immigrants; providing civil and criminal penalties. Referred to State Affairs Committee.

· **HB 276** —Sponsor, ZERWAS, JOHN (R) - requiring that state agencies report the cost of services and benefits provided to unlawful immigrants. Referred to State Affairs.

HB 266 is more comprehensive than some of the others (like the one passed in Oklahoma) which has resulted in illegal aliens leaving that state. HB 276 is a must have because we really can't have an intelligent conversation about this subject until we know the real cost to Texas taxpayers.

Contact Burt Solomons Chair of the State Affairs Committee. burt.solomons@house.state.tx.us 463-0814 fax 463-6783 as well as your legislator.

NOTE – *Links to above-mentioned websites are not active from this newsletter, please 'cut and paste' these addresses onto your computer. For easier 'return visits', list these sites as “Favorites”.*

Websites

Check out our website for up to the date information: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org

Travis County Republican Party: www.Traviscountygop.org

Travis Republican Advisory Committee PAC: www.gopTRACPAC.org

Texas Federation of Republican Women: www.TFRW.org

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