



AUSTIN REPUBLICAN WOMEN

March 2009

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March Meeting

Fred Burton of Stratfor will be our featured speaker!

Several ARW members and their husbands have heard Mr. Burton speak and know this is one you won't want to miss! Bring the men; they'll really enjoy it. Mr. Burton's book, which tells about his experiences as an on the ground agent in the Middle East, is fascinating as well. It will be available for signing. Deadline March 3rd. Please get your reservations in early.



March 5th from 11:30 am – 1:00pm at Westwood Country Club

Cost: \$20 payable at door (cash preferred)

RSVP: meetingRSVP@AustinRepublicanWomen.org or call Deborah Biley 569 - 6146

FRED BURTON Vice President, Counterterrorism and Corporate Security at Stratfor. Mr. Burton is one of the world's foremost authorities on security, terrorists and terrorist organizations. In his capacity as Vice President for Counterterrorism and Corporate Security, Mr. Burton oversees Stratfor's terrorism intelligence service and consults with clients on security-related issues affecting their organizations or personal safety. He leads a team of terrorism experts and a global network of human intelligence sources to analyze and forecast the most significant events and trends related to terrorism and counterterrorism.

Before joining Stratfor, Mr. Burton served as a special agent in counterterrorism for the U.S. Department of State, where he was involved in many high-profile operations including orchestrating the arrest of Ramzi Yousef, mastermind of the first World Trade Center bombing.

Mr. Burton is author of the best selling: GHOST: Confessions of a Counterterrorism Agent (Random House, 2008) - the story of his role in the fight against the burgeoning terrorist threat.

President's Letter

Now that this Stimulus package has passed with discretionary domestic spending increased by 81%, we must not just give up and follow along. As the saying goes, "Follow the Money"! Now we have to ask that our Republican leaders track the money and see how it is being used. The Democrats promised transparency...we'll see. We thank all of you who contacted many members of Congress both Republican and Democrat. Please be sure to thank our Republican Congressmen and our Senators for doing right and voting against this pork-laden bill. Keep your contact information handy.

I thought I would include some of the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln. It seems appropriate.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

- * You cannot help the poor, by destroying the rich.
- * You cannot strengthen the weak, by weakening the strong.
- * You cannot bring about prosperity, by discouraging thrift.
- * You cannot lift the wage earner up, by pulling the wage payer down.
- * You cannot further the brotherhood of man, by inciting class hatred.
- * You cannot build character and courage, by taking away men's initiative and independence.
- * You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

Membership

Austin Republican Women's membership chair would like to thank all our existing members who have renewed, as well as all of our new members. Our committee chairs welcome your help, too. Choose one of interest and contact that committee chair. Our goal this year is for each member to bring in a new member. If you have not done so already, please send in your renewal or membership today. Forms are available online at: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org.

Member Nametags

Last chance to order your own membership nametag in the 1st quarter! Sign up at the meeting or contact: Carol Cates. Our club order will be placed immediately after our club meeting in early March. You may sign up at our March meeting 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. In order to obtain your nametag, please have all payments/orders to Carol no later than Friday, March 6th.

ARW 2009 Directory

I am selling ads for the 2009 ARW Annual Directory. Various spaces and sizes of ads are available. A special is now going on for anyone who wants to show their support of ARW by listing their name in an ARW member ad. Cost is \$15 per name. The directory is a good way to reach the 200+ Republican women target market plus all the others that get a copy, and an ad is a great way to advertise your business or profession. Plus, the directory lasts for 1 year. The final deadline is March 10. Contact Carolyn Barkley 288-1188 carbar@austin.rr.com with questions.

Carolyn Barkley
PO Box 92169
Austin, TX 78709-2169
512-288-1188
512-410-2383 FAX
carbar@austin.rr.com

Looking for great Republican jewelry??

Look for great Republican and Patriotic jewelry, wine charms, lapel pins, ornaments, and more at the monthly ARW luncheons. While supporting ARW – you'll come away with a classic and unique piece. Great gift idea!!



Contact Denise Jenkins @ fundraising@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Caring For America – Packing Party Time

Our next Care Packing Party will be held on March 28 from 9:30am until we are finished at Liz Tait's house. The packages will go to Major Bennett again located on the border of Iraq. If you have any children that would like to send cards, please let me know and we will be happy to include them in our packages.

Below is a list of items that the troops have requested. Please note that no chocolate is included on the list because it is starting to get hot in Iraq and it will melt on the trip over.

- ✓ Cold Drink Singles such as Kool-Aid or Lemonade
- ✓ Lysol Spray
- ✓ Cup-O-Soup and other boiling water type items
- ✓ Hygiene Items
- ✓ Jerky
- ✓ Toys for kids they meet in schools, on patrols, and in clinics
- ✓ Individually Wrapped Hard Candies

Liz Tait
5302 South Scout Island Circle
Austin, TX

Remember when you see a soldier to say "THANK YOU!"

Obama's Rhetoric Is the Real 'Catastrophe' – Bad History and Bad Economics

By **BRADLEY R. SCHILLER**

President Barack Obama has turned fear mongering into an art form. He has repeatedly raised the specter of another Great Depression. First, he did so to win votes in the November election. He has done so again recently to sway congressional votes for his stimulus package.

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In his remarks, every gloomy statistic on the economy becomes a harbinger of doom. As he tells it, today's economy is the worst since the Great Depression. Without his Recovery and Reinvestment Act, he says, the economy will fall back into that abyss and may never recover.

This fear mongering may be good politics, but it is bad history and bad economics. It is bad history because our current economic woes don't come close to those of the 1930s. At worst, a comparison to the 1981-82 recession might be appropriate. Consider the job losses that Mr. Obama always cites. In the last year, the U.S. economy shed 3.4 million jobs. That's a grim statistic for sure, but represents just 2.2% of the labor force. From November 1981 to October 1982, 2.4 million jobs were lost -- fewer in number than today, but the labor force was smaller. So 1981-82 job losses totaled 2.2% of the labor force, the same as now.

Job losses in the Great Depression were of an entirely different magnitude. In 1930, the economy shed 4.8% of the labor force, in 1931, 6.5%, and then in 1932 another 7.1%. Jobs were being lost at double or triple the rate of 2008-09 or 1981-82.

This was reflected in unemployment rates. The latest survey pegs U.S. unemployment at 7.6%. That's more than three percentage points below the 1982 peak (10.8%) and not even a third of the peak in 1932 (25.2%). You simply can't equate 7.6% unemployment with the Great Depression.

Other economic statistics also dispel any analogy between today's economic woes and the Great Depression. Real gross domestic product (GDP) rose in 2008, despite a bad fourth quarter. The Congressional Budget Office projects a GDP decline of 2% in 2009. That's comparable to 1982, when GDP contracted by 1.9%. It is nothing like 1930, when GDP fell by 9%, or 1931, when GDP contracted by another 8%, or 1932, when it fell yet another 13%.

Auto production last year declined by roughly 25%. That looks good compared to 1932, when production shriveled by 90%. The failure of a couple of dozen banks in 2008 just doesn't compare to over 10,000 bank failures in 1933, or even the 3,000-plus bank (Savings & Loan) failures in 1987-88. Stockholders can take some solace from the fact that the recent stock market debacle doesn't come close to the 90% devaluation of the early 1930s.

Mr. Obama's analogies to the Great Depression are not only historically inaccurate; they're also dangerous. Repeated warnings from the White House about a coming economic apocalypse aren't likely to raise consumer and investor expectations for the future. In fact, they have contributed to the continuing decline in consumer confidence that is restraining a spending pickup. Beyond that, fear mongering can trigger a political stampede to embrace a "recovery" package that delivers a lot less than it promises. A more cool-headed assessment of the economy's woes might produce better policies.

Mr. Schiller, an economics professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, is the author of "The Economy Today" (McGraw-Hill, 2007).

Important Dates to Remember

February 28th TFRW Leadership Conference in Boerne

March 2nd Texas Independence Day

March 5th – Monthly Meeting with Fred Burton

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

April 16th TFRW Legislative Day

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

May 9th – Joint General and Special Elections for Mayor



Websites

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

Travis County Republican Party: www.Traviscountygop.org

Texas Federation of Republican Women: www.TFRW.org

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