



Victory Gram



Meeting Monday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. @ San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, 1 Love Street

Republicans Keep Trying to Change History: By Floyd Crider & Mitch Krasney

Republicans keep trying to change history! They are relentlessly attacking the constitutionality of what has been one of their ideas for reforming the health-care system – the individual mandate requiring people to buy insurance or pay a penalty.

According to journalist Steve Benen, “the record here may be inconvenient for the right ... it’s also unambiguous: the mandate Republicans currently hate was their idea.”

As was explained on National Public Radio, that the mandate was the Right’s response to Democratic proposals to establish a single-payer system. Mark Pauly, a conservative economist widely credited with the idea, explained that, “a group of economists and market-oriented health policy people sat down and said, ‘Let’s see if we can come up with a health reform proposal that would preserve a role for markets but would also achieve universal coverage.’”

The resulting plan was championed by the Heritage Foundation. Richard Nixon embraced it in the 1970’s before he resigned from office. The first George Bush kept it going in the ‘80’s. Over the years, it’s been touted by the likes of John McCain, Mitt Romney, Chuck Grassley, Tommy Thompson, Lamar Alexander, and many other GOP leaders.

That was then, this is now. Since a Democratic president and Congress enacted the mandate, this conservative idea for creating a business-friendly model of universal health care has become “un-American” according to many of the same Republicans who championed it.

For example, when a federal judge ruled against the mandate last year (other courts ruled in favor, and the Supreme Court will eventually decide the question), Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, was quoted as stating, “Today is a great day for liberty. Congress must obey the Constitution rather than make it up as we go along.” Considering that Hatch himself had co-sponsored a health-care reform bill built around an individual mandate in the late 1990’s, one has to wonder what kind of liberty he was referring to. Clearly, he, like so many of his fellow Republicans, was taking liberty with the truth.

WTCD Regional Convention Update

The West Texas Coalition of Democrats held their yearly Regional Convention at the Texas Tech Club inside Jones AT&T Stadium on the campus of Texas Tech University on February 12, 2011. The convention kicked off with training sessions on grassroots organization, using VAN, Young Democrats, precinct chairs, and county chairs. In addition, a panel discussion outlined issues for our candidates to run on in 2012. That evening, over 70 people gathered to hear former Speaker of the Texas House Pete Laney and Rep. Pete Gallego (D-Alpine) thank our 2010 West Texas candidates. The night was capped off with San Angelo’s Dr. Casey Jones & Jerry Perry’s re-enactment of the 1788 Federalist-Anti-Federalist debate. The event raised over \$1000 for the coalition that can be used to help our West Texas candidates in 2012.

The Tom Green County Democratic Club was well represented with 9 attendees and 2 presenters. TGDCDC attendees include: President Floyd Crider, Vice President John Perry, Secretary Janna Simms, Treasurer Ivey Mossell, ASU Young Democrat’s President Heather Guthrie, JB Hall, Mohammed Bari, Gena Franks, & Mark Hughes. The training sessions for precinct chairs and on using VAN will soon be available here in Tom Green County. For more information contact John Perry at (325) 374-5077 or vp@tgcdc.org.

MARIE RUSSELL (1927-2011)

Our community lost one of its exemplary citizens with the recent death of Eva Marie Russell. A child of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, Marie arrived in San Angelo from the Amarillo area in 1936, completed her education, married and raised her family here. After her children reached adulthood, Marie embraced an active life of public service. For over twenty years she worked in the County Clerk’s office, culminating in her role as the County Clerk from 1983 to 1991.

Marie was an active and conscientious volunteer for several local charitable groups and was an excellent recruiter of other volunteers. Especially interested in our local history, Marie was active in the local Genealogical Society, Historical Commission, Historical Preservation League and with the Fairmount and Delta Cemeteries. She was kind, generous and always on the go. Her participation in community affairs included ongoing involvement with the local Democratic Party and the Tom Green County Democratic Club, to both of which she devoted time and effort and contributions year after year. Persuaded by her life experience that the Democrats generally did a better job at governing things, Marie proudly identified herself as a ‘Yellow Dog Democrat.’

- Tom Camfield

Announcements

The guest speakers at this month’s meeting are Marilyn Golightly from the Adult Literacy Council of the Concho Valley and Danica Guthrie & Beverly Cormier from Howard College.

We will be having a book drive, so bring any books you can and help support literacy and continuing education in the Concho Valley.

Callers Needed

We need some more callers. It only takes a few minutes each month and provides a valuable reminder for our members. Contact Joyce Hubbard, 947-5253 or hubbard07@verizon.net.

The Executive Committee (officers and board of directors members) meet for planning on the Monday following each general membership meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Time — 6 P.M.

Place — Galilee Community Development Corp. 1404 S. Oakes

LET’S PARTICIPATE

We would like to continue our participation in the Relay for Life. We need you to volunteer.

The event is scheduled for May 20, 7 P.M., to May 21, 7 A.M. We need walkers. Whether you are a fast walker or a slow walker, we need you. We also need 15 people to be on our “team.” One of our jobs is to raise \$100 for each of these team members which will be contributed to the American Cancer Society.

Please contact Janna Simms at 651-4091 or tcir@verizon.net. Or, be ready to sign up or contribute on March 7.

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