

WGG Meeting June 3, 2019

Women for Good Government held the June 2019 meeting at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin.

Our guest speaker was **Kim Olson, Col., USAF (Ret.)** – Candidate for US Congressional District 24

Kim served for 25 Years active duty in the USAF and retired as a Colonel. She was among the first generation of female military pilots. She commanded troops in combat zones including Iraq and volunteered 3 additional years after retirement in the Texas State Guard. After retiring from the Air Force, she continued serving her state and communities: Director of HR for Dallas ISD – Oversaw \$1 billion dollar budget and 22,000 employees; Weatherford ISD Trustee – Earned Texas Outstanding Board of the Year; CEO of Grace After Fire – Helped over 6,000 Veteran families and ensured equitable access to care. She was inducted into The Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 2014 for her public service to Texans. In 2018 she was the Democratic candidate for Texas Agriculture Commissioner visiting 244 counties in 2018 where she learned first-hand the needs of Texans and families. She plans to continue serving the people of Texas as the representative for Congressional District 24.

She's a rancher, a good steward of the land, beekeeper, Texas Master Gardener, and educator. The hallmarks of Kim Olson's leadership are mutual respect, inspiring others, and a steadfast commitment to service.

WEBSITE: <https://kimforcongress.org>

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/Kimfor Congress/>

Kim looked back on the last (2018) election and “where we are today”.

- From the last election she learned that we – rural and suburban - are more alike than different. She won 107 out of 190 “rural” counties
- She got vote because of collective efforts of women in Texas who said “not on my watch”
- Kim sees the 2020 election as the biggest in her life
- Nancy Pelosi said that Texas is no longer a fly over state. Democrats can win elections in Texas and people are paying attention
- In and around TX24 are 6 of the 9 seats we can turn in the Texas house. If Democrats flip seats and get the Texas house leading to fair voting districts – no one will ignore Texas.

She is running for Congress because

- she saw her son go off to war that she supported 20 years ago – she believes that great nations make peace, not endless wars.
- She believes that the House and Senate need more veterans and women.
- Women in leadership positions – there are enlightened men and they need our help!

- She's running for our daughters – when we take away women's control over their own bodies we take away their freedom

Q: Thoughts on citizen question on the census

A: If we keep the citizen question out we will get a more accurate census – how many people live where.

Q: Guns

A: Moms Demand Action – Kim supports and is supported by. She supports enacting and enforcing reasonable gun laws (including fingerprint lock, insurance, universal background checks). “Weapons of war belong in war.”

Q: Reaction to Mueller Report

A: What do you want your elected officials focusing on? Supports impeachment inquiry. Strategically Dems need to win the Senate and House especially if Trump is elected again.

Q: Mitch McConnell and his unfettered power

A: Elect Democrats to the Senate and get rid of him at least as Majority leader (Democrats to the House to keep Speaker)

Q: Water and Climate change

A: Just one example of what Kim would do – cover crops (rather than fallow ground) would hold temperature rise in check ... anything green produces oxygen

Q: Are we in danger that so much farm land is owned by China?

A: No, but in S.C. China owns 85% of pork production – we are all interconnected

Q: Any comment on “Thirst for Power: Energy, Water and Human Survival” by Michael Webber

A: We are all part of the food chain – water, air food - we have to work in bipartisan way

Q: How do we address increasing automation of jobs

A: Sometimes it is a matter of safety. Public education – vocations ed., technical edu., etc.. We need to educate people so when they get out of high school or college they can get a job. Civil service- not only military. Intern/mentorship programs. Get out of Debt.

Q: Guaranteed minimum wage (federal)?

A: Pay a livable wage.

Power of the Consumer – we can exert great power by how and what we consume (buy)

Q: What is the answer to unemployment in rural America?

A: Broadband internet **everywhere!** Examples of what it would provide: education access, business access, tele-medicine. Drones could provide broadband in rural areas.

Q: Health Care

A: Universal Health Care

Tip: In 2020 there will be no straight ballot vote so she suggests starting at the bottom of the ballot and working up.

Q: Immigration

A: We have a documentation problem not an immigration problem. We have contributed to problems in Central and South America. We need to speed up our immigration process. Detention Centers look exactly like prisons in Iraq.

Kim is running for the Soul of America.

Treasurer's Report (Lorraine): \$2001.98 in WGG bank account.

Announcements:

- Motion to approve reimbursement of WGG officers for out-of-pocket expenditures (e.g., supplies, copies, name tags, etc). No "No" votes were detected. Motion passed.
- WGG members should feel free to volunteer to work for Kim Olson's campaign. (Mary)
- The speaker for our July Meeting will be Nelson Linder, president of the NAACP of Austin.
- For those wanting to be deputized as Voluntary Deputy Registrars (VDRs), Mary will conduct a training class at 10:30, Saturday, June 15 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover Ave.
- If there is sufficient interest, Mary offered to conduct a short review at the end of a meeting between now and November to review the information of the Voter Registration Certificate.
- WGG member Kathi Thomas is running for Director – District 4 of the Pederales Electric Cooperative Board. She asked for the support of any WGG members eligible to participate in the PEC elections for both herself

and John A. Watson, who is seeking the Director – District 5 position on the Board.

- Additionally, given that voting a straight party ticket is no longer possible, Cherry recommended voting by mail in order to shorten the lines at the polls on early voting days and the General Election day. During the discussion, it also was suggested those going to the polls print out the ballots to take with them and begin at the bottom of the ballot and work their way back up to the top to ensure that the local candidates are not overlooked.