



# BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS' WORLD

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 2014 EILEEN REES, EDITOR



PROUD TO BE DEMOCRATS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year to all  
Benton County

**Democrats!** 2014 Elections will be a big year for Arkansas Democrats and Benton County Dems as well. This coming Saturday, January 18, there will be a special event to train willing members on effective campaign strategies. Sharon Carter has planned and coordinated this event, details are to be found in this newsletter.

January 20, 2014, is Martin Luther King Day. It is so important for us as Democrats to recognize the only Federal Holiday set aside to honor this slain civil rights leader. Even today, in our country, civil rights continue to be needed and have not been completely attained. Recent steps taken by several states restricting voting rights are considered to be challenges to established civil rights laws. My point is that we must be ever vigilant and active to keep protections to everyone's civil rights. What affects one person, affects us all!

Electing Democrats in Arkansas will help to improve the current atmosphere in our state, so I am encouraging all of our members to give a little more time to help us with this years campaign. If you donated time to our Obama Headquarters in 2012, perhaps you can

donate an hour more a week than you did then. If you don't have the time to help and wish to donate funds, please try to give more money! This will be such a crucial election, we need to protect our state and national government offices from such monied interests as the Koch brothers and other right wing ideologues. Not only are civil rights of all minorities threatened, but everyone's. As long as we work to gain equal rights for women, strive to protect women's reproductive rights, work to improve, protect, and expand voting rights, continue the struggle for civil rights, we can ensure the principal of equal treatment under the law is enjoyed by every citizen of our great nation .

Marge Boyer



OUR NEXT MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2014

SUSAN INMAN



DEMOCRATIC  
CANDIDATE FOR  
ARKANSAS SECRETARY  
OF STATE

Be sure to see Pg. 3 for more about our speaker & time, place, & reservations

BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
NOVEMBER 25, 2013

Meeting was called to order by President, Marge Boyer and began with Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President, Grimsely Graham, introduced the speaker, J. P. Peters who spoke about health care with an emphasis on health insurance and the Affordable Care Act.

Following the presentation, a business meeting was held during which Marge announced the decision of the Executive Committee to stay at the Golden Corral, except for special meetings, in order to keep costs low for the BCD's and its members. She introduced outgoing Board members and newly elected officers and committee chairs for 2014. Marge noted that a person for reservations is still needed. She then recognized today's guests and asked them to stand.

Marge announced that Leah Williams, a member of the Black Caucus, is running for the 93<sup>rd</sup> House District. Sharon Carter, Chair, Candidate & Elections Committee, Democratic County Committee, advised that a candidate for District 94 is also wanted. She announced that Vince Insalaco, Chair, Arkansas Democratic Party, wants to work with candidates in Northwest Arkansas and will be speaking early January at a meeting Sharon is planning in Benton County.

A fundraiser movie, Monuments Men, is scheduled for February 15 and will be shown at one of the Malco Theatres in Rogers. Tickets are \$13 with \$5.75 going to the BCD's.

David Ibarra spoke, saying that he is comfortable with the Benton County Democrats and, because of the travel needed to meet with Democratas Unidos in Fayetteville, wants to work with the BCD's.

Thurman Metcalf asked those present to sign a petition to place Brad Karren's name on the ballot for Circuit Judge, noting that with sufficient signatures he

will not have to pay the filing fee. Thurman announced the upcoming Soup Supper at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Rogers on January 11 with donations going to the church's snack pack program. He also announced that Boomerang Car Wash tickets are available for \$12 with \$6 of the cost going to the Democratic County Committee.

Joan Pehosh advised members of her campaign against Fox News being broadcast in public places and asked that members join her in asking business owners to change the station.

Sally Ann Borkowski, spoke as AARP representative, to inform members about 'Chained CPI.' She noted that Social Security has not added to the national deficit and advised members that the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Social Security is now based on the rate of inflation. She said a change is being proposed that would base increases on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). She noted that seniors needs are not based on the CPI, needs such as vision care and hearing aids, for example, and, therefore, increases in Social Security benefits would be less and would result in a loss of income for senior citizens. She asked members to speak to senators, representatives, and people they know regardless of party to inform them of this and how the proposed change would impact the citizens of Arkansas.

At the end of the meeting, an announcement was made that the Blue Bowl collection is \$158.11 for today's meeting. Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Miltich, Secretary



**MOVIE COMING IN FEBRUARY!**

The film, Monuments Men, will be our next fundraiser, scheduled for February 15 at one of the Malco Theaters in Rogers. Get your \$13 ticket at the next meeting; \$5.75 will go to BCDems.

Visit [www.monumentsmen.com](http://www.monumentsmen.com) for more information about this exciting movie directed by George Clooney!

## OUR JANUARY SPEAKER

**SUSAN INMAN** will be the speaker at our January 27th meeting, at 11 a.m. at the Golden Corral, 2605 Pleasant Crossing Drive in Rogers. Inman, currently Chair of the Pulaski Co. Election Committee, has more than 20 years experience in state & county government. In addition to her varied positions here, she was selected by the U.S. Dept. of State to monitor & observe over a dozen elections in Eastern Europe & Central Asia. Be sure that you don't miss this program by making your reservations promptly! Contact Karen Smenner at [mskas0119@gmail.com](mailto:mskas0119@gmail.com) or call her at 479-866-1522 by January 23rd.



## OUR 2014 BCD OFFICERS

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Next month we will publish contact info for all other Board members



### JOIN US THIS SATURDAY!

Benton County Democratic County Committee is hosting a special meeting with DPA Chairman, Vince Insalaco, as featured speaker. This is an opportunity for all Democrats in the NW Arkansas area to come together and get this election year off to a rousing start with Chairman Insalaco sharing his enthusiasm and extensive experience in helping Dems get elected. You do not want to miss this presentation! *Saturday, January 18, 2014 beginning at 1 p.m.* at the Cooperative Extension Office for Benton County, 1204 14<sup>th</sup> St, Bentonville. This is also Hwy 102 -- building is located just east of Sheriff's office and county jail. No reservations required. Light refreshments will be available. No admission charge, but donations of \$20.14 to be used for candidates will be encouraged!