

BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS' WORLD

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 5 MAY 2014 EILEEN REES, EDITOR

PROUD TO BE DEMOCRATS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Here it is May and half of our BCDems year is nearly over! We have already accomplished so much in 2013 and 2014. We raised enough money to give each of our Benton County Democratic candidates the maximum allowed before the primary election on May 20th! Our Board is so proud of our members and all that you do to support candidates. We have always given money during election years across the state and the nation to candidates running on the Democratic ticket and that continues as well. This is evidenced by BCDems contributions as a club, to the Mike Ross campaign in October, the John Burkehalter campaign, Susan Inman campaign and, most recently, Nate Steel campaign. Many of you have given individually as well and we thank you. Collectively, we can do much!

Sometimes it seems like we take one step forward and two backwards, especially when the rulings of the Supreme Court are eroding many hard fought battles to gain the right to vote, justice in affirmative action, separation of church and state, etc. These are but a few of the reasons that we need to keep struggling to get Democrats elected to provide a voice for the oppressed and

those who are discriminated against. At times like this, I try to remember the words of Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr. regarding the struggle for justice! It is life long. Since I was a young woman, I have been a part of the struggle and I certainly don't intend to give up now. So, we carry on, always supporting the causes for Democratic liberty and justice for all. That's what our party is all about.

Here is a big reminder that the May luncheon is the third Monday, May 19th at the Golden Corral. Be sure to send your reservation and attend. Will Watson will be our speaker and politicians across the state may come for meet and greet opportunities. Marge Boyer



OUR NEXT MEETING

May 19, 2014

Golden Corral 11:00am - 1:00pm



WILL WATSON

on

**BEST PRACTICES FOR DEMOCRATS
IN BENTON CO.**

**Be sure to see Pg. 3 for more
about our speaker &
reservations!**

**Benton County Democrats
Membership Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Marge Boyer and Thurman Metcalf led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Marge announced that we have given the maximum allowable amounts to the three candidates currently running for State House seats. Therefore, she said the Blue Bowl money collected at the meeting today will go to the Campaign Contribution Fund. Marge also encouraged everyone to continue to donate their \$100 (couples) and \$50 (individuals) to add more to this fund because it is needed to assist the campaigns in the coming months. As an organization, we will be able to make more donations to candidates after the May primaries. Marge introduced Kimberly Weber, non-partisan candidate for Benton County Prosecutor and announced that she would be given a few minutes, after the guest speaker, to make a few brief remarks.

Grimsley Graham introduced our guest, Nate Steel, candidate for AR Attorney General. He talked about his proud upbringing in Nashville, Arkansas and being a 6th generation attorney to practice law. He is serving his 3rd term in the General Assembly. He assured the membership that Benton County is at the top of his list for campaigning and plans to spend a lot of time in this area of the state getting his message out. His platform will include refocusing on how cases are handled especially those involving mental health and drug issues. There was also an extensive Q&A period after his comments. He thanked BCDems for the opportunity to speak to our group and asked for our support and vote.

Kimberly Weber, candidate for Benton County Prosecutor, addressed the group by introducing herself and thanking everyone for allowing her to chat with us individually during lunch. She briefly told us about her experience and the reason why she believes she is the stronger candidate. Weber entertained questions afterwards and closed her remarks by thanking everyone and asking for our vote.

During the business meeting, Marge announced that 14 of the 35 BCDems members who have not renewed their membership will no longer receive the newsletter by mail. However, if they have email addresses, the newsletter will be sent to them that way. She encouraged everyone to be more diligent about sending in RSVP's to Karen Smenner for our monthly meetings. Marge said that the room was a little cramped due to the fact that 14 people additional people attended who did not send in RSVP's. Marge spoke with Candace Martin of DPA, and was

informed again that plans are to open a campaign office around June time frame in Benton County with a staff person. Applications are still being accepted for this position. Marge encouraged everyone to open the email newsletter for information on key area events, BCDems news and information, as well as contact information for all Benton County Democratic candidates.

Suzanne Jessup introduced Chet Jechura, Campaign Manager for Leah Williams who is the Democratic candidate for House District 93. She also announced a private fundraiser for Leah scheduled for Sunday, June 8th, 4pm – 7pm at Atty. Tom Morris's Bentonville residence. Tom McClure, candidate for House District 96, also made comments and updated the group on his campaign fundraiser hosted by the Boyer's. Tom asked for additional volunteers to host fundraisers, assist with phone-banking and registering voters. He said that his website will be up and running in a few days.

Grimsley Graham, candidate for House District 94, thanked everyone for their generous contributions and reiterated that he is the education candidate running to keep AR moving forward. Announcements followed: Sue O'Neal for a fundraiser benefitting AAUW scholarships; Thurman Metcalf for the Sunday, May 18th Garden Party Open House fundraiser 3pm – 6pm at his home for Grimsley Graham's campaign, signing the petition for raising the minimum raise, and Boomerang Car Wash passes; Linda Farrell for "Mental Health First Aid", a program on how to handle a mental health situation; Pamela Clarke will need someone to fill the Publicity Chair position since she will be moving early September.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela McCorkle Buncum, Secretary



AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Marge reminds us that:

"A contribution may be made to the BCDems as a political organization of \$50 per person or \$100 per couple that will come directly off their state income tax. If 50 of our members would do this, we would be able to give each of our 3 Democratic candidates in Benton County running for state representative seats the maximum of \$2000 each for the general election."

Please bear this in mind when planning your contributions!

 **OUR NEXT SPEAKER**



WILL WATSON, a political consultant who teaches political Science at the U. of AR, will address things we can do in Benton Co. to help our Democratic candidates get elected. We all realize that we need to get out & VOTE as well as support them financially. But here is a chance to learn other practical ways to contribute from someone with a deep knowledge of NWA politics. Do take advantage of this opportunity - See you on May 19th! Please contact Karen Smenner at mksas0119@gmail.com or 468-866-9906 to let her know you plan to attend if you have not yet made a reservation.



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CANDIDATES!!
ATTEND FUNDRAISERS
Grimsley Graham, 94th Dist.
P.O. Box 1923 Rogers AR 72757
Phone: 479-270-7084
*****May 18 - Garden Party at 4105 W Olive, Rogers - 3 to 6**
Tom McClure, 96th District
email: caddo716@hotmail.com
102 Ruth Lane Rogers AR 72756
Phone: 479-381-5273

Leah Williams, 93rd District
*****June 8 - at Tom Morris's**
Facebook Page: Vote Leah Williams
Campaign Website: voteleahwilliams.
3000 SW Woodruff, Bentonville 72712

Remember to FEED THE HUNGRY!

VOTE   **VOTE**
Get out & vote on Primary & Non-Partisan election day, May 20th. Or take advantage of early voting which has already begun, with 3 ballots available -- Democratic, Republican, & Non-Partisan.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Assets as of 4/1/2014

General Operating Fund	\$3,802.71
Dedicated Democrats Fund	\$ 361.00
Campaign Contributions Fund	\$ 362.27
Total Assets	\$ 4,525.98

General Income for April

Membership Dues	80.00
Total	80.00
Ded. Dems Fund Income	00.00
Campaign Contributions Fund Income , April	
Transfers from General	\$123.90
Donations	250.00
April Blue Bowls	175.75
Total	549.65

General Expenses

Transfers to Campaign Contributions Fund	123.90
PO Box Rental	56.00
Meeting Expense	17.50
Total	197.50
Ded.Dems. Fund Expense	00.00
Cam. Contrib. Fund Expense	00.00

Assets as of 5/1/2014

General Operating Fund	\$3,685.31
Dedicated Democrats Fund	\$ 361.00
Campaign Contributions Fund	\$ 911.92
Total Assets	\$4,958.23

Gaye Bland, Treasurer