

BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 11 NUMBER 6 JUNE 2014 EILEEN REES, EDITOR

PROUD TO BE DEMOCRATS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As she is still recuperating from knee replacement surgery, Marge offers the following article from THINKPROGRESS in lieu of her usual message.

America's Worst Voter ID Law

"Last April, Arkansas' Republican-controlled state legislature overrode Gov. Mike Beebe's (D) veto to enact a strict photo ID law for all voters. But while Arkansas is now one of several states which suppress voting by requiring valid photo identification to vote at the polls, a unique and poorly written provision in the bill caused hundreds of absentee voters to also have their votes rejected in last month's primary.

The Arkansas ID law requires that people who show up to vote in person early or on Election Day show "proof of identity" before casting their ballots. That proof must be a driver's license, a photo identification card, a concealed handgun carry license, a United States passport, an employee badge or identification document, a United States military identification document, a student identification card issued by an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the State of Arkansas, a public assistance identification card, or a state-issued voter identification photo ID card. Such laws have been shown to have both a discriminatory intent and effect — and to depress voter participation. Even one of the Arkansas law's strongest supporters, Republican gubernatorial nominee Asa Hutchinson, was initially turned away from voting in his own primary because he forgot his photo ID last month.

But Arkansas is one of a smaller number of states that also insists that absentee voters prove their identity. Its law requires that the absentee ballot be sent in with a photocopy of a valid photo identification or "a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter." The only exceptions to this rule are for active duty service members and their spouses and residents of long-term care or residential care facilities." (Continued on Pg. 3)



OUR NEXT MEETING

June 23, 2014

Golden Corral 11:00am - 1:00pm

NANCY KAHANAK

MENTAL ILLNESS & THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

With the recent spate of mass shootings there has been renewed interest in the role that mental problems may play in gun violence. With her extensive background in the area of mental health, our speaker is well suited to increase our understanding of this important topic. Don't miss this opportunity!

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

Benton County Democrats
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2014

the Fayetteville Farmers Market from now until October and will also alternate between the Bentonville and Rogers Farmers Markets.

Grimsley announced that the Nominating Committee for the 2015 BC Demo Board will be

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Grimsley Graham at 11:45 a.m. Thurman Metcalf thanked everyone for attending the fundraiser for Grimsley. Grimsley requested that we all keep Marge Boyer in our thoughts as she has knee surgery tomorrow. He reported that Blue Bowl contributions go to the Campaign Contribution Fund. Individual contributions of more than \$50 require the name of the contributor, for campaign fund reporting purposes. It was announced that no taping or recording of our meetings is permitted.

Our June speaker will be Nancy Kahanak, who will speak on Mental Illness and the Judicial System. She received a BA in psychology from the University of Wisconsin and an MS from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. After moving to Arkansas where she started work at WRMC Hospice, Area Agency on Aging, and Ozark Guidance. She retired from Ozark Guidance after serving as a Case Manager for adults with a mental illness, Research Assistant, Director of Springhouse, and part of the Assertive Community Treatment Team. Our July speaker will be Karen Garcia, Democratic candidate for Arkansas State Treasurer. Thurman Metcalf led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Grimsley introduced today's speaker, Will Watson, a political consultant and lecturer at the University of Arkansas. Will spoke about what we can do to maximize our efforts for our three local candidates. He provided valuable information regarding the three broad areas of any political campaign: field, finance and focus.

Grimsley reminded members that they may donate a \$50 per individual tax credit from their Arkansas state income taxes to the Benton County Democrats. Karen Garcia, the Democratic candidate for Arkansas State Treasurer introduced herself and spoke briefly about her qualifications for the position. She has a BA in Business Administration, an MBA, and has been a licensed CPA for over 30 years. She will be our featured speaker at the July luncheon meeting. Grimsley reported that Gov. Beebe will appear at a June 26 fundraiser to support our local candidates. Alfredo Gonzales from the Arkansas Democratic Coordinated Campaign introduced himself. While his main focus is getting Mike Ross and Mark Pryor elected, he will also assist our three local candidates. He requested all of our help with phone banking, canvassing, and voter registration efforts. Voter registration will be conducted every Saturday at

Grimsley announced that the Nominating Committee for the 2015 BC Dems Board will be Pam Buncum, Gaye Bland, Nancianna Nott, Thurman Metcalf and Shirley Felton.

Bill Beck announced that the next movie fundraiser will be June 21 at 10 a.m. at the Towne Cinema in the Scottsdale Center in Rogers. The movie is "The Fault in Our Stars", starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort. Tickets are available from Thurman Metcalf and members of the Benton County Democratic Central Committee.

Bill Beck - auctioned off a signed copy of Elizabeth Warren's new book "A Fighting Chance", and donated the proceeds to the Campaign Contribution Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

Submitted by Pamela Clarke

 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Assets as of 5/1/2014

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

General Operating Income for May

Membership Dues	40.00
Donations	175.00
Total	215.00

Campaign Contributions Income May

Donations	50.00
Blue Bowls	96.40
Total	146.40

General Operating Expenses for May

Newsletter	83.66
Technology - website	88.00
Total	171.66

Campaign Contrib. Fund Expense

Donation to Nate Steele	300.00
Total	300.00

Assets as of 6/1/2014

General Operating Fund	\$3,728.65
Dedicated Democrats Fund	\$ 361.00
Campaign Contributions Fund	\$ 758.32
Total Assets	\$4,847.97

Gaye Bland, Treasurer

(Cont'd  from Pg.1)

"America's Worst Voter ID Law"

Although too lengthy to quote here, the article continues by exploring the implications & consequences, both intended & unintended, of this new law as it affects all voters, whether they vote by absentee ballot or in person. To read the entire article, use this link -

<http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2014/06/09/3445559/arkansas-voter-id-absentee/>

OUR NEXT SPEAKER

NANCY KAHANAK born in Chicago, grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GRIMSLEY GRAHAM needs campaign help! People to canvass on Saturdays & during the week both day & evening. Call Gaye Bland 479-631-9818 or Grimsley Graham 479-636-2179 to volunteer. You'll be glad you did!



CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS!

Governor Beebe has appointed Thurman Metcalf to the Criminal Detention Review Committee for Judicial District # 19! Congratulations, Thurman! Suzanne Jessup is finishing her third

NANCY KAHANAK born in Chicago, grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She received a BA in psychology from the University of Wisconsin and an MS from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. After living in Washington, D.C., and Michigan, she moved with her husband and son to Arkansas where she started work at Ozark Guidance, WRMC Hospice, and Area Agency on Aging. She retired from Ozark Guidance after serving as a Case Manager for adults with mental illness, & also as Research Assistant, Director of Springhouse, and part of the Assertive Community Treatment or ACT team, all at OGC.

Please contact Karen Smenner at mkskas0119@gmail.com or 468-866-9906 to let her know you plan to attend if you have not yet made a reservation. **CORRECTION!** You may have the wrong phone # - Please use the one listed above!



REMEMBER - FEED THE HUNGRY by bringing non-perishable food items for Samaritan House Food Bank to meetings!

Congratulations, Chairman:

Suzanne Jessup is finishing her third term (2008-2014) Abuse Rape, & Domestic Violence Commission (retiring). Thanks, Suzanne! She encourages all Dems to apply for a Board or Commission of interest: governor.arkansas.gov/office/Pages/boards_commissions.aspx



LOOKING AHEAD

6/16 - Benton Co. Dem. Central Comm. - 6:00 - Rogers Library

6/21 - Another great movie! THE FAULT IN OUR STARS - Malco Town Center, Rogers- 10:00AM- proceeds to benefit Benton Co. Campaign Headquarters.

6/22 - Garden Party Open House to benefit Susan Inman's campaign - The Gardens, 4105 W. Olive St., Rogers - 3-6

6/23 - BCDems General Meeting, 11-11- Golden Corral - Nancy Kahanak - Mental Illness & the Criminal Justice System

6/26 - An evening with Gov. Mike Beebe- fundraiser to benefit Benton Co. candidates- Avondale Chapel & Gardens, 2500 E. Central Ave. Bentonville- tickets \$50

6/28 - Dinner honoring Jimmie Lou Fisher-Lottie Shackelford, 2400 Cantrell Rd. Little Rock, Reception 5:15, Dinner 6:15