

Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 14 Issue 4 April 2015 Ken Swindle, President Hal Spangenberg, Editor

Our April luncheon/meeting will be Monday April 27th, (11:00 for lunch. Meeting begins at 12 Noon) Golden Corral, 2605 Pleasant Crossing Rogers Don't forget to make your reservations with Connie Williamson by Friday, 24th at (479)531-7985 Our speakers this month will be:



Art Hobson, Prof Emeritus' Physics, U OF A;
Topic: Science of Climate Change/
Global warming



Shelley Buonaiuto, Co-Director NWA Citizens
Climate Lobby: Topic "Fee and Dividend" proposal

Presidents Letter

The Benton County Democrats continue to work toward diversification. In that way, we were proud to have Janet Spencer, a local attorney, speak at our monthly meeting in March about the obstacles and perspective of Hispanics in Northwest Arkansas.

March continued to show the extremist agenda of our newly formed Republican Legislature. As I said last month, it would be impossible to detail all of the extreme agenda that the Republicans are pursuing. However, in a continuing effort to highlight both the differences between the two parties, and I believe, the differences between the Republican agenda and the values of the overwhelming majority Arkansans, I will highlight a few of the most extremist bills here. House Bill 1868 provides funding for contraception surgery for unmarried mothers eligible for Medicaid. Such a bill contradicts Republicans' own

positions on small government and contraception and shows the fundamental bias that Republicans have against the poor, with obvious racial overlays. Senator Bledsoe was one of the sponsors for Senate Bill 939, which would display the 10 Commandments at the Capitol Building because they are "an important component of the moral foundation of the laws and legal systems of the United States of America and the State of Arkansas." Such sentiment is not only ahistorical, but in direct violation of both our State and Federal Constitutions. Moreover, such a bill is in contradiction to previous concerns of Republicans about "sharia law".

In a double-shot at education in this State, Republicans introduced bills that would eliminate the requirement that the Commissioner of

Education to have a master's degree, have 10 years of experience teaching and to hold a teaching certificate (Senate Bill 681), and eliminate standardized testing for home-schooled children (Senate Bill 1381). Both of these bills are troubling for undermining public education and privatization of our schools.

One thing that 35 years of Trickle-down Economics has definitively proved is that eliminating taxes on the most wealthy is not sound macroeconomic policy. Yet, House Bill 1402 would give a free ride on all investment income over \$10 million. This welfare for the wealthy is estimated to cost our State \$11.8 million a year by 2017.

The House also approved bills that would reduce the time for unemployment benefits (House Bill 1489), allow concealed handguns in polling places (House Bill 1432), and allow school districts to sell advertising space on school buses (House Bill 1495). Surely Republicans have a very different vision for our State than most Arkansans share. Each of us must work every day to warn our friends and neighbors of this extremist agenda. The battle for 2016 begins now, and the issues for our communities are serious.

Ken Swindle, Pres. BCDC

_New Name??

Some have suggested that we may want to rename the newsletter from "Benton County Democrats' World" to something more Political, friendly, inclusive or what???

If you have any suggestions for a new name send it to Karen Smenner at MsKas0119@gmail.com

Meeting note:

If your schedule won't allow you to be present from 11 to 1 PM you may come to attend the meeting only, which starts at 12 noon, or you may remain after the meeting ends to eat your lunch. We just hope that you will be able to attend.

MARCH MEETING REVIEW

President Ken Swindle opened the March 23rd meeting of the Benton County Democrats at 12:00 with a cheer to fire up the members. After the Pledge, new members and visitors were recognized. Ken asked that those with March birthdays stand; among several who stood, along with Nancianna Mott announced that she would be 87 the following day.

Ken also reminded everyone to be generous in tipping our server since we are the party of, and support for, the working class.

Thurman Metcalf announced that he and 9 other BCDC members attended the DPA fund raiser in Little Rock where he and Suzanne Jessup were elected as two of the 8 state board members. The event raised \$50,000 for the state party.

The speaker, Janet Riefkohl-Spencer is an attorney practicing in both Arkansas and Puerto Rico. She spoke of her experiences as a Hispanic both in her work and her personal life as a mother of two.

She began by defining racism as a lack of acceptance of a group of people due to their difference from the majority.

Mrs. Riefkohl-Spencer related experiences in which others would not believe she is a citizen because she is from Puerto Rico and they would not recognize her birth certificate. Due to her accent, schools assumed that her children should be tested and placed in English as a second language *as a* second language classes even though they speak only English.

She suggested that we find ways to encourage Hispanics to register to vote when eligible, and to run for office.

Submitted by Eunice Van Tuyl

Dad, Don't sign that Bill

falter, Then he learned that his son had signed the petition against the bill..Smart man, he listened to his son and sent it back to the legislature for revisions to make it clear that Arkansans do not discriminate against anyone,, regardless of their sexual preferences

FLEA FOR ALL (Yard



Sale)

**May 1 & 2, (War Eagle weekend)
In front of old grocery at 13th & W
Walnut, Rogers**

**Donate your unwanted
"stuff"!**

**Clean it up, price it & bring it to
us**

April 30th 12:00 – 6:00

No "stuff"??

**Bake something for the Bake-Sale
BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS
SPRING FUND RAISER**

Please contact us if you would like
to volunteer or have table or canopy

Contact Info: Gaye Bland 479
631-9818 gkbland@cox.net

Karen Smenner 479 866-9906
ksmenner0119@gmail.com

Meet our board members:

Lauren Galle – E-mail

My father was an engineer and I grew up overseas, in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Later, we moved to southern Louisiana, my home state. I attended several different colleges, eventually

graduating with a degree in Microbiology. After college, I moved to Albuquerque, where I married my husband. There, I worked for the Dept. of Labor and the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program. I was actually working for them during 9-11. That revived my interest in the Middle East, so I decided to go back to school. We moved to Louisiana where I got a Master's in History.

We moved to NWA 10 years ago so I could work on a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern History at the King Fahd Center at UA. During my studies I became very ill for a few years and ended up leaving the program. We loved NWA, so we decided to settle down here permanently. I'm currently working as a TypeWell Transcriber at NWACC.

Lauren Galle - E-mail

Dedicated Democrats Fund

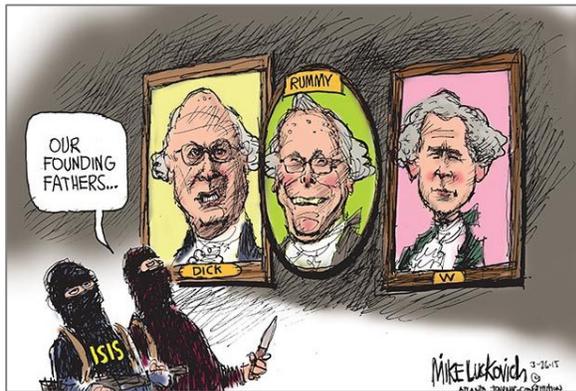
Is a fund that has been established so that members and friends may donate to a fund in memory of loved ones. If you are interested in donating to the fund contact Gaye Bland 479.631.9818

The following was copied from the Desert News, of the Coachella Valley, Ca

Last week DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [announced Leah Daughtry as CEO of Democratic National Convention.](#) "We are thrilled to have Leah Daughtry return to lead our convention team. She will bring so much expertise, and enthusiasm to this important event." You can see a copy of the full press release of the announcement by [clicking here.](#)

This past Monday the DNC [announced that it has expanded its communications team](#) with DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithe saying, "I am thrilled to announce these new

members of our communications team. With their wealth of communications experience, these new members will help us aggressively take the Democratic message to a wider audience as we work to help elect the 45th President of the United States and other Democrats all across the country in 2016." [Click here for the full announcement.](#)



Help Wanted:

There is an opening on the Board for Membership Chair. The duties of this person is to maintain the list of members; collect their dues as they pay; and deliver that money to the treasurer; Notify those who have a need to know the membership, with a copy of the list of members as it changes. The duties also include updating the brochure and membership forms annually; distribute new membership packets and provide back up for publicity chair for e-mail contacts.

If your membership is current and you are interested contact Ken Swindle (Pres) as he is responsible for submitting candidates names to the board for approval.

Ken can be reached at: 479.621.0120 or ken@swindlelawfirm.com

According to Wikipedia these are the top 6: Can we pick the next Democratic Presidential candidate?

Formally exploring a candidacy

- 1 [Martin O'Malley](#), [Governor of Maryland](#) 2007–2015; [Mayor of Baltimore](#) 1999–2007; formed a [political action committee \(PAC\)](#)
- 2 [Jim Webb](#), U.S. Senator from [Virginia](#) 2007–2013; [U.S. Secretary of the Navy](#) 1987–1988; formed an [exploratory committee](#)

Publically expressed interest

- 3 [Joe Biden](#), [Vice President of the United States](#) since 2009; [U.S.Senator](#) from [Delaware](#) 1973–2009; presidential candidate in [1988](#) and [2008](#)
- 4 [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#), [U.S. Secretary of State](#) 2009–2013; U.S. Senator from [New York](#) 2001–2009; presidential candidate in [2008](#)
- 5 [Bernie Sanders](#), [Independent](#) U.S. Senator from [Vermont](#) since 2007; Independent U.S. Representative from Vermont 1991–2007
- 6 [Paul Strauss](#), [Shadow Senator](#) from the [District of Columbia](#) since 1997

Send me your vote (by number) and I will post the results in the next newsletter Hspangenberg@msn.com