

Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 14

Issue 8

August 2015

Pam Buncum, President

Hal Spangenberg, Editor

BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS AUGUST MEETING

August 24th

Lunch: 11:00 am

Meeting: 12:00 noon

Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers

Our speaker this month will be:

Christina Mullinex, Regional Organizer, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Little Rock.

Please make your reservations by Friday, August 21st to:

Connie Williamson 479-531-7985 or sisterperry@cox.net

NOTE: Please respect the speakers time, and do not interrupt her speech with questions or statements. There will be a question and answer period at the end of her presentation

Greetings BCDems,

Since 1978, the cost of:

College tuition has increased by 1,120%;

Medical care has increased by 601%;

Food has increased by 244%;

Shelter has gone up by 380%.

Meanwhile, the pay of:

Typical workers rose by just 10%;

Minimum-wage workers fell by 5.5%;

Average CEO's increased by 937%. (Sources: EPI, Bloomberg, Us Labor Department – Occupy Democrats)

These statistics are staggering and serve as constant reminders why the gap widens every year between the “haves” and the “have nots”. There is no doubt that Arkansas has been impacted greatly by such inequities. Sadly, many times our children are impacted the most. We were reminded of this a few weeks ago when the 2015 Kids Count Data Book released its recent numbers stating that over 200,000 children currently live in poverty here in the Natural State. This number has increased 4 percentage points since 2008. “If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in government to the utmost.” ~Aristotle

This is why we must remain diligent in our efforts to stay informed on national and local

issues that affect us in our everyday lives. We attempt to help in this effort by inviting key individuals to speak to our membership at every monthly meeting. With all of the recent discussion in the news around this topic, the timing couldn't be better for our next meeting, Monday, August 24th, when Christina Mullinax from Planned Parenthood, will be our scheduled speaker.

Hope to see you then,

Pam McCorkle Buncum, President

2016 comes early,

or so it seems, with all of the Republicans (now 17) vowing to be our next President. Remember the John Birch Society?? It caused President Eisenhower to make the following statement:

“Should any political party attempt to abolish Social Security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws, you would never hear of that party again in our political history. There is a splinter group that believes you can do these things. Their number is negligible and they are stupid

Source: Occupy Democrats

Today it is the Tea Party, but if the voters wake up, they will go the way of the John Birch Society.

Ed.

Hate is never a family value

July 27, 2015 General Meeting minutes

President Pam Buncum called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM by asking Bill Beck to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. She then reported on the Jefferson-Jackson dinner in Little Rock at which a crowd of approximately 2,500 appreciated the keynote speech given by Hillary Clinton. Her campaign will be largely working in “shoe-in” states but will also be working on voter registration in states like ours.

After visitors and those with July birthdays were recognized, members were encouraged to sign up to work our booth at the state fair.

Karen Smenner announced that our August speaker would be Christina Mellinex from Planned Parenthood and that the day's speaker, Stephanie Harris, would also lead a group at Mojito's in Fayetteville that evening. She then introduced Stephanie, who in 2013 created “Women Lead Arkansas.” Stephanie shared her personal history of taking feminism for granted during most of her life but, after hearing Geena Davis speak of women's present place in American life, decided that much still needed to be done. Her group is a non-partisan one that encourages women to become involved in politics and policy and is partnered with the Center for American Women in Politics out of Rutgers. allowing them to use the “Ready to Run” logo. Now is the time when we must be building a base of women in politics and they can start by serving on local boards, councils, or commissions either in appointed or elected positions. Stephanie reported that the average woman has to be asked seven times before actually getting involved, so we must continually encourage them to do so.

The minutes were approved as published and Gaye Bland reported assets of \$7,492.63 as of June 30, largely due to the huge success of our “Flea for All” fundraiser.

Eunice Van Tuyl explained that the vote to accept our new by-laws had been postponed for one month until the board approves several changes suggested by one of our members after their distribution last month. The Nominating Committee reported that they are still searching for a Treasurer for 2016.

Bill Beck announced that our up-coming movie fundraisers would be “Riki and the Flash, with Meryl Streep on August 22 and “Suffragette” in November. They will be held at the Pinnacle Malco at a price of \$13.

Suzette Jensen and Thurman Metcalf reported that the State Democratic Meeting will be held at the

Arends Center at 1 PM on August 26 and the Little Flock picnic will be on Saturday, September 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04.

Submitted by: Eunice Van Tuyl Recording Secretary

Treasurers report

BC Dems began the month with a total of \$7492.63 in all accounts

Income for July was:

\$81.54 from Blue bowls

Expenses were:

\$8.97 for speakers lunch

\$70.08 for sign holder

Our ending balance was \$7,45.12 in all accounts

Submitted by:

Gaye Bland, Treasurer

Meet our President

PAMELA McCORKLE Buncum

BIO

After working as an accountant and financial internal auditor for approximately 12 years, Pamela McCorkle Buncum has since switched her focus to community, civic, and political volunteer service. She has used her time and talents volunteering with various school councils, community and civic organizations in North Carolina, Maryland, Florida, Georgia and currently in Northwest Arkansas. These experiences uniquely prepared her for a 2008 campaign for DeKalb County School Board At-Large District 8. Even though this first attempt at public office ended in a run-off and not a win, she successfully broadened her network of county/state elected officials, business/faith-based community leaders and concerned parents



Pam McCorkle Buncum

In 2007, the Board Of Governors of the University of North Carolina System appointed Pam to serve on the Board of Trustees at her alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC. She completed a two-year term as Board Chair and was reappointed to the Board for a second 4-year term ending June 2015. When looking for candidates with an accounting background and community involvement, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners appointed her to the DeKalb County Housing Authority (HADC) Board of Commissioners in 2010. From 2007-2010, she served on the DeKalb County School System's Citizens Advisory Committee, with oversight responsibilities for the school district's \$466 M Capital Improvement Plan. During her eight years as a parent in the DeKalb County School district, Pam has served as Co-Presidents/Chairs of PTSA's, Councils, Dunwoody Chamblee Parents' Council; and Board of Directors of the Blue and Gold Foundation. . She currently is a member/volunteer of various Northwest Arkansas civic and political organizations including Benton County Democrats, NWA Democratic Black Caucus, NWA Emerging Leaders and Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

A native of Mt. Holly, NC, Pam is a 1981 graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a B.S. degree in Accounting. Her husband, Kelvin, is the Vice-President of Innovations and Global Business Process for Sam's Clubs.

Pam resides in Rogers, Arkansas with her husband Kelvin. They have two sons: Omari, a Morehouse College graduate, and his wife, Charity live in Michigan and Bakari, a student at The Art Institute of Atlanta, GA.

It's not too late to volunteer

Benton County Fair Starts Tuesday Aug – 11th through - Sun 16th. You have probably received information from Vivian Michaels (sophiemich31@gmail.com) – this is our first test run on Who Democrats are and what we've done for this country and its' working families. Please VOLUNTEER

Benton County Democrats

P.O. Box 2258

Bentonville, AR, 72712

August Movie

Riki and the Flash

Saturday August 22nd – Pinnacle Cinema – 10AM Attached is the trailer – as of this date over 1.5 million people have viewed this trailer – word on the street “a must see”. Please, support Bill Beck and his efforts to bring quality movies for our private viewing and for the benefit of our Democratic causes across NWA.

https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=TRAILER+RICKI+and+the+flash

Contact Bill Beck 855-1872 or Thurman Metcalf –876-2207 for your tickets -- \$13.00 –

Arkansas Democratic 3rd Quarter State Meeting at Arends Center – Bentonville – Aug 15th (Sat) 9:00a start – Executive Committee Only – the State Committee as a whole meeting time will be announced.. The BCDCC will be hosting a Hospitality Suite the evening prior to the State meeting (Aug 14th) at the La Quinta in Bentonville for folks coming in from across the state.