

Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 14 Issue 5 May 2015 Ken Swindle, President Hal Spangenberg, Editor

BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS MAY MEETING

May 18th (please note change due to Memorial Day)

11:00 – Lunch/Social time 12:00 – Meeting

Golden Corral, 2605 W Pleasant Crossing, Rogers, AR

SPEAKER: James R. "Jim" Hall is a long-term employee at NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville, where he helped establish the College in 1989. Hall currently serves as Executive Director of Community and Government Relations.

He will be reviewing the impact on NWACC of President Obama's proposed Free Two Year Community College Plan.



Please make your reservations by Friday, May 15th by calling or emailing [Connie Williamson 479 531-7985, sisterperry@cox.net](mailto:ConnieWilliamson@cox.net)

Presidents Letter

This is an exciting time to be a Benton County Democrat. On April 12, Hillary Clinton announced her bid to become the Democratic Presidential nominee. Of course, due to Senator Clinton's ties to Arkansas, many in our group might have a natural affinity and excitement for her campaign. I look forward to a contest of ideas, and, although there are no other Democratic candidates who have announced a bid for the nomination, I hope that others run also, so that whoever is nominated, that person will be ready to take on the Republican nominee. The next president will likely have a big impact on the shaping of the United States Supreme Court for decades to come.

Of course, as Tip O'Neill is well-known for saying - all politics is local. And we definitely found that out with this past Session of our State Legislature. Without revisiting all the bills previously mentioned in this column, I think that it is sufficient

to say that the bills introduced by the Republicans this past session do not reflect the values of most Arkansans. I know that many people are already working hard to prepare for the next election with these bills in mind.

Finally, for those of you who could not make it, I want to tell you that we had a super-sonic presentation on global climate change at our meeting on April 27. Art Hobson, A physics professor from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, gave a succinct and powerful presentation of the overwhelming evidence of global climate change. His presentation showed us the dramatic and dire consequences that we are currently facing. Then, Shelley Buonaiuto, who is the Co-Director NWA Citizens, provided guidelines for actions that we can take to provide conservative market-based responses that everyone should be able to agree on as a response.

I was really excited to see that Ms. Buonaiuto provided opportunities for specific recommendations that we can make to our state legislators. Even though we have Republican legislators representing Benton County, the recommendations made by Ms. Buonaiuto should appeal to the conservative values of those legislators. I hope all of our members take the time to follow up on Ms. Buonaiuto's recommendations and write to their state representative or state senator.

And please remember - all politics is local. If you want to save our planet, start right here.

Ken Swindle, President

Benton County Democrats

FLEA FOR ALL

Sunshine, 15 tireless volunteers and lots of boxes of "stuff" is the perfect formula for a successful yard sale. Twenty-seven donors unloaded boxes of their unwanted items and clothing to be sold in the Benton County Democrats Flea For All. The event was held in the parking lot of the old Harp's grocery store at 13th & W. Walnut. Items of every description were displayed on the tables. Racks held an array of men's, women's, and children's clothing and accessories.

Customers arrived in a steady flow from 8:00am till 6:00pm both Friday and Saturday. All seemed very happy with the treasures they found in others unwanted "stuff".

The unsold items were given to the NWA Women's Shelter. The volunteers closed the event sunburned and tired but with smiles on their faces reflecting the results of the sales. We had projected \$1100 gross sales, but ended with \$1697.48 net sales.

Thank you to all volunteers and donors for your generous contributions.

Karen Smenner

Monthly Treasurers report

The BC Dems began the month with a total of \$4,969.06 in all accounts.

Income for April was:
\$110.00 from member dues
\$85.50 from the Blue Bowls

Expenses were:
\$56 for the P.O. box rent

We ended the month with a total of \$5,108.566 in all accounts.

The net profit from the May 1-2 Flea for All fundraiser was \$1,697.48.

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Submitted by: Gaye Bland

Bill Beck has arranged for our next fundraiser movie .

The film will be *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Based on the Thomas Hardy novel, the film tells the story of a headstrong Victorian beauty (Carey Mulligan) who has her choice of three different suitors: a sheep farmer (Matthias Schoenaerts), a dashing soldier (Tom Sturridge) and a prosperous, older bachelor (Michael Sheen).

You can learn more and see trailers at:

<http://www.foxsearchlight.com/farfromthemaddingcrowd/>.

The showing will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, at the Towne Cinema Malco in the Scottsdale Shopping Center on North 46th Street in Rogers.

Tickets are \$13 and will be available at the May BC Dems luncheon on May 18, from BC Dems Board Members, and at the door. .

April 27th meeting minutes

President Ken Swindle opened the April 27th meeting of the Benton County Democrats with a cheer to fire up the members. After the Pledge, he reminded us of the blue bowl donations and to be generous in tipping our server. New members and those with April birthdays were recognized and visitors welcomed. Ken announced that the organization is looking for a new title for our newsletter and all suggestions will be entertained.

Vice-President and Chair of the "Flea for All" fundraiser, Karen Smenner, reminded members that all donations would be appreciated and additional workers were still needed. She informed us that next month's speaker will be Jim Hall from NWACC who will discuss the implications of President Obama's proposal that college tuition be free.

Bill Beck announced that our next movie fundraiser, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, will be held at the Pinnacle Malco Theater and tickets are \$13.00.

Tony Potochnik then introduced Art Hobson, Professor Emeritus in Physics from the U of A who spoke about global climate change. He explained the causes and shared graphs showing temperature cycles for the last 400,000, 10,000 and 1,000 years all of which demonstrated a temperature spike since the mid-1800s when the Industrial Age began. He noted that 2014 was the hottest year since record

keeping began and that 2001 to 2010 was the hottest decade. There is, however, hope he stated and recommended the reading of This Changes Everything by Naomi Klein."

This led into the presentation by Shelley Buonaiuto, Co-Director of NWA Citizens Climate Lobby, of actions that need to be taken now to try to alleviate this problem. She explained how a Carbon Fee and Dividends would work and the advantages of using this method. The fee is collected at the point of extraction and 100% of it is returned equally to all households. Two-thirds of households would get back more than their costs. This was initiated very successfully in British Columbia in 2008, Sweden has been using this system since 1991, as are Mexico and Chile and 30 more countries are considering it.

Not only would it be beneficial for the environment but it is estimated that it would create two to three million new jobs and GDP would be increased by 70 to 90 million dollars. Even the oil industry is in favor of it and both conservatives and liberals support it because it is market based. Ms. Buonaiuto urged us to contact our legislators asking them to conduct an interim study on the Carbon Fee and Dividends' impact.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05.

Submitted by Eunice Van Tuyl

Found the following on Politico:

Bush Senior handed Clinton a \$269 Billion deficit.

Clinton handed Bush Jr. a \$127.3 Billion surplus

Bush Jr. handed Obama a 1.4 Trillion deficit

Obama had reduced Bush Jr's deficit to just \$492 Billion

But tell me again which is the party of fiscal responsibility