

# Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 15

Issue 4 April 2016

Eunice Van Tuyl, President

Hal Spangenberg, Editor

## BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS APRIL MEETING

April 25th Lunch: 11:00 am Meeting: 12:00 noon

Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers

Our program this month will be:

**Ms. Ashley Pledger**, the faculty advisor for the Young Democrats club at Rogers Heritage High School where she is Library Media Specialist. Ashley is also currently president of the Educational Association of Rogers, which is affiliated with the Arkansas Education Association and the National Education Association. Her topic will be an overview of the Young Democrats at Heritage and their current activities. She will be assisted by some members of the Heritage Young Democrats group.

Make your reservations by Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, to Rusty Masticola at rusty1214@gmail.com

Or at 479 855 9588

### President's Letter

As the sideshow that is the Republican Presidential Candidate race continues to be the lead story in so much of the media, there is an Arkansas state issue of utmost importance that we should not overlook. The program that Governor Hutchinson has renamed Arkansas Works regards the health insurance that 267,000 plus of our fellow citizens living in poverty have received for the last two years. Yes, that's right, nearly one-quarter million people have been able to access health care through an insurance program provided by our state.

This week the state legislature passed an extension of this Medicaid expansion and the governor signed it. So far, so good, right? Unfortunately its funding expires on June 30. The special fiscal session for the coming year will take place on April 13 and one would assume that if the votes were there to pass this legislation, that those votes would also provide its funding for the coming year. But that is not so. It only took 50 percent plus one vote of each the House and Senate for passage of the bill, but it takes a 75 percent vote to fund it. Yes, for each no vote there must be **three** yes votes. That is a terrifically high bar and at this time there are not enough votes for its passage. The governor is relying on the votes of all the Democrats, who are doing the right thing for our people with no regard to politics, but does not have the support of enough of those in his own

party. In fact Cecile Bledsoe of Rogers is one of those who plans to vote against it.

We must contact those legislators who plan to vote no to tell them that this is unacceptable. We cannot eliminate coverage for all these people.

### Eunice Van Tuyl, President

#### March 2016 Treasurer's Report Summary

Beginning Balance \$2,389.55

Income:

Blue Bowls \$129.25

Membership Dues \$90.00

Total \$219.25

Expenses:

Office Supplies \$98.52

Campaign Contribution

(Graham ARH94) \$400.00

Total \$498.52

Ending Balance \$2,110.28

**Joel C. Ewing, Bentonville, AR**

[jcewing@acm.org](mailto:jcewing@acm.org)

Senior Democrats of N.W.A will be meeting on Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 **Western Sizzlin** Restaurant, 3492 W Sunset Ave, Springdale. Cost of Lunch is \$10.00. All Democrats are Welcome

## **Minutes of March 23, 2016 General Meeting Golden Corral Restaurant – Rogers, AR**

President Eunice Van Tuyl called the meeting to order at 12:00. She welcomed new attendees, guest speakers and several visitors. Thurman Metcalf led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Vice President Tony Potochnik and Treasurer Joel Ewing were our guest speakers. They each gave a review of the book American Ascendant, written by Stanley Greenberg a New York Times best-selling author. Recommended for political junkies the book explores the challenges for both parties and couldn't be timelier as we head into the presidential primary season. A lengthy discussion was held with several questions and comments.

Moving on to the business part of the meeting Eunice thanked Tony and Joel for their thorough review of the book and asked that the minutes be approved. A motion was made and second. Motion carried. The treasurers' report was also approved as read.

Eunice reported that the board recommended Richard Bland for the position of Vice President vacated by Tony Potochnik. No nominations were made from the members. Thurman Metcalf moved we accept Tony by acclamation, second, motion carried.

The guest speaker in April will be Ashley Pledger, Faculty Advisor for the Young Democrats at Heritage High School.

Velva Bell reported on the Arkansas Works/Private Option bill. A special session will be held on April 6. Everyone is encouraged to write a letter to their representatives stating their concerns for this bill.

Thurman reminded members he is selling car wash tickets for \$15.00 to raise money for the Democratic Party of Arkansas. He stated the DPA is in good financial shape but this is an election year and more money is needed to support the candidates.

Bobbi Cauldwell and Ezra Smith spoke in behalf of Grimsley Graham's campaign. Bobbie invited anyone who would like to volunteer to host a series of Community Chads for Grimsley either at their home or a public place to please contact her as soon as possible. Ezra reported that members of the

Grimsley campaign are starting a door to door registration drive in two weeks and also asked for volunteers.

Joel presented Ezra with a \$400.00 check from the BC Dems to help with Grimsley campaign.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**  
**Secretary Betty Cauldwell**

### **Meet our 2016 Officers Betty Cauldwell, Secretary**



I was born 25 miles east of Ft. Smith in a small town called Charleston, population approx. 3000. Charleston is also the hometown of former Governor and Senator Dale Bumpers, NFL Redskins kicker Steve Cox, PBR bull rider Denny Flynn and rodeo clown Cody Sosesbee. I was privileged to work for Charleston Public Schools as secretary to the principal for 28 years. During that time I was a member of the Homecoming Committee, started the first Dance team and coached the Cheerleaders for 21 years. I married David Cauldwell in 2011 and moved to Rogers. Together we have five children, four girls and one boy. We also have ten beautiful grandchildren. We love to travel, fish and of course participate in politics. I also enjoy crafting, oil painting, wood burning, sewing and gardening. I am very proud to be a member of the Benton County Democrats.

#### **Betty Cauldwell, Secretary**

**Know anyone who'd enjoy a card from our group as Congratulations, Get Well or Sympathy wishes?  
Call or e-mail President Eunice**

## Joel Ewing, Treasurer



Although I have now spent more than half my life in Arkansas -- nearly 33 years in Fort Smith before retiring as a mainframe Systems Programmer and Technical Support person from the Data-Tronics subdivision of Arkansas Best -- and spent the majority of my school years in Oklahoma, I still think of myself as a native of Missouri. Liz and I retired from Fort Smith to Bentonville in 2011 to be near our daughter and her family, and since then both our sons have also ended up in NW Arkansas. My main retirement hobbies center around church choir and maintaining our home computer systems and network for family record keeping, communication, and occasional experimentation.

Both my wife and I received undergraduate degrees from the University of Oklahoma at a time when the States still subsidized higher education enough that tuition costs were very modest compared to today. I received my MS in Computer Science and additional graduate study at Purdue University, which was partially funded by a NSF Graduate Fellowship and later by VA Education support, so I understand the impact of Federal education assistance.

I am repeatedly astonished and appalled by Republicans who have been helped in becoming successful by government assistance and supporting government programs, but who see no

inconsistency in wanting to deny that same chance for success to following generations.

I was fortunate to be attracted to a line of work that mostly insulated me from the wage stagnation suffered by many in the middle class over the last three decades. We were able to send our three children through college mostly on my salary and with very little debt, but this is an option that would be almost impossible for a family at or below the current median family income, and without a college degree or with massive student debt one's chances for financial success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be increasingly limited.

### Joel Ewing, Treasurer

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance

## **Benton County Democratic Central Committee news:**

The Benton County Democratic Convention elected Sharon Carter, Suzanne Jessup, Suzanne Miltich, Grimsley Graham and Thurman Metcalf to represent Benton Co. on Democratic Party of Arkansas. Representatives serve for 2 years beginning March 28th.

Benton Co. Central Committee elected Sharon Carter as Chair to replace Robyn Tumey, who resigned to take care of her sick mom.

Car wash fundraiser gift cards are available from Thurman at 636-0059 for 15\$, half of which goes to the Central Committee.

Submitted by Thurman Metcalf

### **Forgot to pay your dues??**

If you are not sure if you are up to date with your dues call George Naidl 359.3359

Your membership is critical in this election year, since much of our income is donated to candidates campaigns, and we need Democrats elected at all levels of Government.

And you can always give your time to support a Democratic candidate