

Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 15

Issue 5 May 2016

Eunice Van Tuyl, President

Hal Spangenberg, Editor

BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS APRIL MEETING

May 23rd Lunch: 11:00 am Meeting: 12:00 noon
Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers
Our program this month will be:

Mauricio Herrera, an attorney and owner of the Legal Center in Lowell. His specialties include Immigration, Criminal, Family and Personal Injury law. A 2002 graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Law, he has lived in Rogers since 1996. He and his wife of 27 years, Virginia, have three children. Mauricio has been a member of the NWACC Board of Trustees since 2014. He enjoys reading and riding or walking the Razorback Greenway Trail.

Make your reservations by Friday, May 20th, to Rusty Masticola at: rusty1214@gmail.com
Or at 479 855 9588

President's Report

The second annual BFF – Bentonville Film Festival – has just wrapped up and what an edifying experience it has once again been. Instituted by Geena Davis and Bentonville's Trevor Drinkwater last year, it has a goal of promoting women and minorities in the various aspects of the film industry. One method of helping make this happen is that the top three voted films shown here are guaranteed promotion and distribution throughout the country, something unique among film festivals.



Geena Davis, Meg Ryan, Nina Vardalos and Kimberly Williams Paisley

Its main goal is to develop gender equity among movie roles. Geena had been telling writers, directors and producers for years (decades) that women were underrepresented in films. Their response was always, "Oh, we fixed that in the 60's and 70's," and they sincerely believed that they had.

It was not until she founded her institute and it was able to research and produce data proving that this had not been fixed, that eyes were opened. These filmmakers were actually astonished that this disparity still existed and at their own blindness to the fact.

Among many other things, the data showed that women had only half as many speaking parts as did males, half as many lines and that even background crowd scenes were predominately male. Two reasons for this were not only because these careers were made up nearly entirely of males, but also because all had grown up seeing this as normal and so were unaware of their biases. One way Geena has suggested to them of rectifying this is to insert into scripts the words, "half of whom are female," until it has become second nature for them.



Andrea Navedo, Kelly Najimy, Geena Davis, Nina Vardalos, and Constance Wu

When the data showed that children's programming was continuing to reinforce these inequalities of

numbers between the genders, how much each spoke and the stark differences between their depictions, making changes here seemed to be one of the most effective ways to remedy the problems. Through changes at this level, the next generation will not have internalized these unjust portrayals but will see equivalency as it is in real life

The institute and BFF also strongly believe that by including more women and minorities in the filmmaking industry, opening their stories and viewpoints to us, it will enrich the movie-going experience for all.

And do not all these goals align perfectly with what the Democratic Party espouses?

Eunice Van Tuyl , President

Minutes of: April 25, 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 visitors. Everyone joined in to say the pledge of allegiance.

Vice President Richard Bland introduced our guest speaker Ashley Pledger. Ms. Pledger is the faculty advisor for the Young Democrats at Heritage High School in Rogers. She talked about youth involvement in politics and how important it is. She also touched on the topic of Charter Schools in Arkansas and how they affect the public schools. Three of her students also spoke on how they enjoyed getting involved in the process of electing our President, the importance of early childhood education, equality and how they can protect our environment. Two students from Rogers High School discussed their club activities how they enjoyed being involved in the political process and discussing it with their family and friends. Everyone enjoyed listening to the young students and were renewed by their energy and enthusiasm. Many questions were asked and advice was given from both the senior democrats and the students on how they can best serve the Democratic Party.

Moving on to the business part of the meeting Eunice thanked the speakers and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting.

Thurman moved we accept the minutes, second by Rusty. Motion carried. A motion by Hal and second by Thurman was made to approve the treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Thurman reminded members he is selling car wash tickets for \$15.00 to raise money for the Democratic Party of Arkansas. He reported that the (BCDCC) Benton County Democratic Central Committee has been renamed to (DPBC) Democratic Party of Benton County. Campaign headquarters for this year will be located at Turtle Creek Plaza, 2301 Walnut Street in Rogers, AR. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up to work. Thurman will host a Garden Party and Open House for Grimsley Graham on Sunday, May 15 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Donations are encouraged and refreshments will be served along with a tour of his beautiful garden. Bill Beck gave a report on the movie "Captain Fantastic" as a fund raiser for late July. He will need 50 people or more to book the theatre.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Cauldwell, Secretary

Treasurer's Summary Report Apr-2016

Beginning Balance

Cash and Bank Accounts (Unless otherwise noted all funds are in the club's checking account)

General Operating Fund \$2,110.28

Dedicated Democrats Fund \$0.00

Campaign Contributions Fund \$0.00

Total Assets \$2,110.28

Income

General Income \$115.00

Dedicated Democrats Fund Income \$0.00

Campaign Contributions Fund Income \$0.00

Expenses

General Expenses \$109.30

Dedicated Democrats Fund Expenses \$0.00

Campaign Contributions Fund Expenses \$0.00

Ending Balance

General Operating Fund \$2,115.98

Dedicated Democrats Fund \$0.00

Campaign Contributions Fund \$0.00

Total Assets \$2,115.98

Submitted by: **Joel Ewing, Treasurer**

Richard Bland, Vice President

I am one of those rare residents of Benton County who was born and grew up here. My ancestor who came here from Middle Tennessee in the 1850s carved his own tombstone from local rock. On its top, in the largest letters on the monument, he wrote "A DEMOCRAT." My childhood was spent on North Dixieland Road in what is now Little Flock. After graduating from Rogers High School and the University of Arkansas, I moved to New Mexico and taught high school. While I was there, I earned a masters' degree from New Mexico State University. One of the highlights of my New Mexico residency was spending two summers at Chaco Culture National Historical Park as a seasonal ranger. I had done similar work at Pea Ridge NMP previously.



The next stop was Lexington, Kentucky, where I earned my Ph.D. in History. There I met Gaye, another graduate student, and we were married in 1973. We have two daughters and two grandchildren. Gaye also earned a Ph.D. from Kentucky. Upon completing graduate school, we spent a year in Knoxville, at the University of Tennessee, where I was a Research Associate with the *Papers of Andrew Johnson*. Back in Lexington, I spent several years as Assistant Editor of *the Papers of Henry Clay*.

After a brief stint of self-employment, I worked a number of years as a retail manager for a regional clothing and footwear firm, based in Rogers. I kept my hand in history and education by teaching part time and continuing to do a little writing and research. In the early 90s, I joined the faculty of Rogers High School, from which I retired in 2010. Overlapping that period was time spent as a part time instructor at NWACC, often teaching Arkansas History.

My political involvement dates mostly from 2010, although earlier I attended some party functions. After retirement, I became active in BC Dems and served for a time as Publicity Chair. At about the same time, I joined the Central Committee and served as one of the county representatives to the state party as well as on several committees of the BCDCC (now called Democratic Party of Benton County). Serving as treasurer for Grimsley Graham's 2014 campaign for the legislature (see photo) proved to be a very interesting and mostly enjoyable experience.

My hobbies include traveling, gardening, and reading. I also enjoy spending time with our grandchildren. I serve on the Rogers Public Library Board of Trustees.

Thank you for asking me to serve as your Vice President.

Richard A. Bland

Democratic Party of Benton County

The Benton County Democratic Central Committee is now the Democratic Party of Benton Co. per new party rules. The party headquarters, located at 2301 W. Walnut Suite 5 will open in mid-May and volunteers are needed. The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 17 at 6:00 at the County Election Commission building on HwY102.

Everyone is invited to open house garden party fundraiser **for Grimsley Graham** at my home Sunday May 15 from 2 until 5. See the accompanying flyer.

Thurman Metcalf



with 6 divisions and 34 counties. In August 2014, he launched a new program called A-Chance aimed at helping children in violent and crime-ridden homes succeed in school and in life. The program began operating in 13 Arkansas public schools with Conner's pledge to continue promoting its benefit to every school in the state.

A duck and deer hunter and a serious, lifelong Razorback fan, Conner has lived throughout the state of Arkansas.

Born in Fayetteville, Conner spent his early childhood in Augusta until his family moved to Lonoke, where he worked on the family farm and graduated from high school. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Davidson College in North Carolina and a law degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where he was a member of the Arkansas Law Review. He married Mary Elizabeth Whipple 13 years ago, and the two are raising three young boys, Will, Henry and Tull in Fayetteville

Getting to know Conner Eldridge, Candidate for U.S. Senate:

After nearly five years as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas, Conner Eldridge announced as a candidate for the United States Senate on Sept. 9, 2015.

Conner said Arkansans are frustrated with a Washington that seems further and further removed from the real problems they face every day. He promised to work with whomever it takes, putting party labels aside, and working to bring or create new jobs in the state, improve education, strengthen the middle class, make our communities safer and protect the state's growing senior population.

Conner was an aggressive prosecutor of child abusers, drug traffickers and fraudsters. During his time as U.S. Attorney, he prosecuted over 100 child abusers and pornographers. He directed a staff of 20 Assistant U.S. Attorneys and about 25 support staff that serviced a region