

Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 15 Issue 11 November 2016 Eunice Van Tuyl, President Hal Spangenberg, Editor

Our November speaker will be NWACC Professor Judy Tobler who will discuss “How Did We Vote: Election Statistics.”

Professor Tobler is one of the original faculty members at NWACC. She began teaching at NWACC in the fall semester of 1990, the first semester the college was open. Her bachelor's degree is from Michigan State University, and her master's degree is from the University of Arkansas.



Professor Tobler also has more than 50 additional graduate hours in history and political science above her master's degree. American National Government is her area of concentration with an emphasis on the courts and civil liberties. She has done research on landmark Supreme Court cases at the Library of Congress and attended oral arguments at the Supreme Court. Professor Tobler was given the honor of Faculty Emeritus in 2014 upon retirement from full-time teaching. She currently teaches online American National Government classes for the college. She has traveled extensively and has visited countries on six continents.

Don't forget to make your reservations by Friday, Nov.25 to Rusty Masticola, at: rusty1214@gmail.com or at 479 855 9588

President's letter

Since the election Tuesday, I have been at a loss as to what to write for this newsletter. I was disillusioned and did not know where we should go from here. Then on Friday, I received a letter that spoke eloquently about what our aim and direction as Democrats should be. I requested permission from its writer to share it with you:

Eunice.

Dear friends,

Many hearts are broken today. Not because of the loss of an election, but for the loss of hope that the darkness of fear and xenophobia – rampant and dangerous throughout many parts of the world – would not prevail in the United States. But it did.

Now, more than ever, we need each other. We

must tend to our wounded hearts.

But we must also focus, even more sharply than before, on our commitment to the deeply held principles and values that are now so relentlessly under siege—justice, equality, and human rights.

We continue to stand by these principles as we stand with those who are gripped with fear over what the election results could mean for them and their families. We must show them that they are not alone.

Today we have reached out to every one of our partners around the world who have been watching the election and now its result, with fear and frankly, as have many of us here, with bewilderment.

We are assuring them that we—and all of our members, friends, supporters, and allies—have never been more committed to them and to the values that are at the heart of everything that we do.

We also recognize that to have any chance of success we need everyone—*everyone*—on deck of

the ship of hope and action that while listing, is anything but defeated.

... while there may be suffering and even unfathomable setbacks along this path - hope and the thirst for justice have extraordinary power. With your support, we will continue to unleash this power in the fight for the rights, dignity, and quality of life of the most marginalized.

While our hearts are broken, we simply cannot allow our spirits to be.

We cannot afford to shrink or even pause from the task before us.

That task is now more difficult, but it could not be clearer.

With hope and in solidarity,

Hon. Tom Andrews, President and CEO

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Our democrat of the year



Grimsley Graham and President Eunice Van Tuyl

Benton County Democrats “DEMOCRAT OF THE YEAR”

Benton County Democrats are pleased to award “Democrat of the year” to Grimsley Graham. A retired High School teacher, and

Democratic Candidate for State House of Representatives, District 94.

A retired school teacher, a Marine Corps veteran, and a 40 year member of the Rogers community. He grew up in Little Rock and has been married to his wife Carol for 46 years. They raised two children and are proud grandparents.

Grimsley earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from the University of Arkansas in 1970. He then served three years in the United States Marine Corps as a Hawk Missile Battery Executive Officer. He retired as a First Lieutenant, and went back to the University of Arkansas for his Master’s Degree in Political Science.

Since retiring he has dedicated his free time to his community. He is a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels, and served as an Elder and Director of Education at the First Presbyterian Church of Rogers. He also leads a stream team for the Beaver Watershed Alliance

Grimsley is an active member of both the Arkansas Democratic Party of Benton County and Benton County Democrats. He is an advocate for improving our public education system, reforming our criminal justice system, treating our Veterans with respect, and defending our civil rights. _____

Minutes of October 24th meeting conducted at the Golden Corral, Rogers

President Eunice Van Tuyl called the meeting to order at 12:00. She welcomed new attendees, guests and visitors. Richard Bland led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Vice President Richard Bland introduced Lance Reed who introduced our guest speaker De’Andre Jones, leader of the Black Caucus of Northwest Arkansas. His discussion was about diversity and inclusions and making sure every voice is heard. A brief question and answer period followed.

The minutes and treasurer’s reports were approved unanimously.

The nominating committee consisting of **Gaye Bland, Suzanne Miltich and David Cauldwell** presented a slate of officers for 2017. Richard Bland was recommended for President, leaving the Vice President position open. Eunice asked if there were any nominations from the floor. George nominated David Cauldwell, second by Hal. All other positions will remain the same. The 2017 officers will be voted on at the next General meeting.

A get well card for David Pryor who is recovering from a stroke, was passed around to be signed and mailed.

The Board decided to bring back a previous tradition of electing a Democrat of the Year. This year's recipient was Grimsley Graham. He was recognized and presented with a certificate and a plaque to be given at a later date.

Thurman Metcalf announced that the Little Flock Picnic was a huge success and made around \$10,000.00. He thanked everyone who helped set up, brought baked goods, and helped with clean up. He also reminded everyone he still has car wash tickets available for \$15.00.

Glen Latham, an Independent running for Sheriff of Benton County spoke briefly on his campaign and took questions and comments from the members.

Marge Boyer presented President Eunice Van Tuyl with an autographed copy of a James Burkes book, for her dedicated work as President of the BC Dems and the Democratic party of Arkansas.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17.

Respectfully Submitted by **Betty Cauldwell**,
Secretary

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017 will be held at our Nov. meeting. The slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating committee, and from the floor:

President: Richard Bland;
Vice President: David Cauldwell;
Secretary: Betty Cauldwell and
Treasurer: Joel Ewing

Treasurer's Summary for October 2016

Beginning Balance	\$404.91
Income	
Blue Bowls	\$111.77
Donations	\$ 15.00
Dues	\$100.00
Other fundraisers	\$ 24.00
Total	\$250.77
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$655.68

Submitted by: Joel Ewing, Treasurer

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

Remembering that Hillary (at last count) has received nearly 1 million more votes than Mr. Trump.

The following is Condensed from an e-mail from "National Popular Vote

In [2012](#), Donald Trump said, "the Electoral College is a disaster for a democracy" and called it "a total sham and a travesty." In [2000](#), Hillary Clinton said, "We should ... move to the popular election of our president."

Please [tell your state legislators](#) to pass the National Popular Vote bill so that the President will be the candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

State winner-take-all laws are the reason why a candidate can win the Presidency without winning the national popular vote. Under these state laws, all of a state's electoral votes go to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each separate state. If these state laws are not changed, there will likely be more presidential elections in which the loser of the national popular vote wins the Electoral College. This is especially true because we are in an era of close presidential elections (the average margin in the national popular vote has been only 5% since 1988). Five out of our 45 Presidents came into office after losing the national popular vote.

In addition, winner-take-all laws create another serious problem in *every* election. The vast majority of voters get ignored because candidates only campaign in a handful of closely divided "battleground" states. Because of winner-take-all, candidates write off states where they are hopelessly behind. They take for granted states where they are

safely ahead. In the 2016 general-election campaign:

A national popular vote for President is an achievable political goal that can be in place in time for the 2020 election. The bill has already been enacted into law in 11 states possessing 165 electoral votes. It will take effect when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes -- that is, enough to elect a President (270 of 538). Thus, it will take effect when enacted by additional states having 105 electoral votes. The bill has previously passed one chamber in 12 states with 96 electoral votes. It was approved earlier this year by unanimous bipartisan committee votes in 2 states with an additional 26 electoral votes. A total of 2,794 state legislators have endorsed it.

Under the National Popular Vote bill, the winner will be the candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states (and DC). When the Electoral College meets in mid-December, the national popular vote winner will receive all of the electoral votes of the enacting states. The national popular vote winner will become President because the enacting states represent at least 270 electoral votes. The Electoral College will thus represent the will of the voters in all 50 states (and DC).

For additional information, see our book *Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote* (readable or downloadable for free at www.NationalPopularVote.com).

PETITION TO SIGN

There is a petition being circulated by Lady Gaga, urging electors of the Electoral College to vote for the winner of the popular vote, i.e. Hillary Clinton, rather than the way results of the Electoral College were allotted. Find more information at:

<https://www.change.org/p/u-s-senate-abolish-the-electoral-college>

Membership renewal

Now is the time to renew your dues for 2017. Anyone paying now is covered through December of next year. They are \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple.

Bring your check made out to Benton County Democrats to the November meeting. (Remember we have no December meeting.) You may also send it to P. O. Box 2258 , Bentonville AR, 72712.