

Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 16 Issue 1 January 2017 Richard Bland, President Hal Spangenberg, Editor

Meeting location change for January only!

BC Dems January meeting will be held at Whole Hog Cafe, 1400 SE Walton Blvd, Bentonville, as Golden Corral informed us that our space there would not be available because the restaurant is being renovated. In February, we can return to our usual location. Here is the link to Whole Hog's website, where you will find a menu and directions to the cafe: <http://www.wholehogbentonville.com>. We will meet on the regular date, January 23, at the regular time, lunch starting at 11 and the meeting beginning at noon. We will order individually at the counter.

Our speaker will be Ashley Kelley Siwec, Communications Director at Rogers Public Schools

Since 2003, Ashley Kelley Siwec has served as the communications director for the Rogers School District overseeing the district's media relations, social media, web, and community outreach. Ashley previously worked as a reporter for the Morning News of Northwest Arkansas for three years covering the city beats for Rogers and Bentonville. Earlier in her career, she served as a legislative correspondent for U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers.

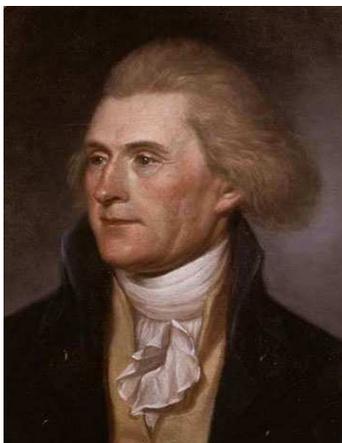
She has a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Arkansas, where she was editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, the *Arkansas Traveler*. Ashley's love for travel took her to Poland, where she taught English for three years.

Ashley started volunteering with the Junior League of Northwest Arkansas in 2002, eventually leading its marketing and communications, and then serving as the League president in 2010-11.

Married to Tomek Siwec, a financial advisor with Arvest Wealth Management, they have three beautiful children.

There will be a question and answer period after the speaker finishes her presentation. In consideration of others, please hold your questions until the end of her presentation

Don't forget to make your reservations by Friday, Jan 20 to Rusty Masticola, at: rusty1214@gmail.com or at 479 855 9588



President's Message

A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit,

and incurring the horrors of a war and long oppressions of

enormous public debt. . . . If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the *principles* we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake. Thomas Jefferson to John Taylor, June 4, 1798.

Thomas Jefferson, the man considered by most to be the first Democratic President, wrote this three years before he became president, at a time when the United States was engaged in a costly undeclared naval conflict with France and just weeks before the infamous Alien and Sedition Acts, which curtailed civil liberties and punished immigrants, became law.

Yet Jefferson was optimistic about the future of the Republic and the tendency of the people to do the right thing in the long run.

Fast forward 219 years to words of the most recent Democratic president. Barack Obama stated in his farewell address on January 10, 2017 that:

The work of democracy has always been hard, contentious and sometimes bloody. For every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back. But the long sweep of America has been defined by forward motion, a constant widening of our founding creed to embrace all, and not just some.

Like Jefferson, Obama expressed optimism and also challenged Americans to make the effort to achieve their desired ends.

It falls to each of us to be anxious, jealous guardians of our democracy. . . . [Our democracy] needs you. Not just when there's an election, not just when your own narrow interest is at stake, but over the full span of a lifetime. If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the Internet, try talking with one of them in real life. If something needs fixing, then lace up your shoes and do some organizing. If you're disappointed by your elected officials, grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself. Show up. Dive in. Stay at it.

Right now, many Democrats are finding little to be optimistic about on the political scene. But, by applying Obama's optimism and Jefferson's patience, we can find some bright spots. While neither candidate gained a majority of the popular vote, our candidate came closer with nearly three million votes (roughly equal to the entire population of the state of Arkansas) more than her major opponent. Younger voters provided Clinton with a decisive lead, a majority, in fact, among millennials, who will still be around to vote for six or seven decades. The better educated also favored Clinton. Fast-growing minority groups, such as Hispanics, preferred Clinton, as did African-Americans. Popular opinion on many social issues appears to be swinging in the Democratic and progressive direction.

Here in Benton County, as we enter 2017, we must regain some optimism and be patient. We must in this off-year prepare for the 2018 elections. We must find ways to raise money for candidates, we must increase the number of active Democrats, we must support non- and extra-partisan progressive causes, and we must encourage good people to run for office. As President Obama said on that Tuesday night earlier this month, we must "Show up. Dive in. Stay at it."

Richard Bland January, 2017

Treasurer's Summary for December 2016

Beginning Balance	\$1,173.87
Income:	
Dues	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 50.00
Expenses	
Fundraising costs	\$ 93.50
Dem of Year plaque	\$ 103.48
Total expenses	\$ 196.98
Ending Balance	\$1,026.89

Submitted by: Joel Ewing, Treasurer

Dear members,

In perusing newspapers for the years 2000 to 2010 while President last year, I came across many fascinating articles. I have culled a few that I would like to share with you over the coming months, hoping that you will find them as interesting as I have.

Democratic party symbols:

We all recognize the donkey as the emblem of our party, but did you know that before the donkey, the rooster served this purpose? A Google search revealed that it was first used in 1840 in Greenfield, Indiana and was later adopted by the state and national Democratic parties. Even today it still appears on the Indiana ballot!

The rooster has been a favorite symbol in many different cultures throughout the ages. It has variously been considered to represent luck, honesty, ambition, curiosity, confidence, good judgment, self-reliance, courage, warmth and life. Aren't these wonderful qualities to aspire to and don't they exemplify us Democrats and our party?!

The donkey first appeared when Andrew Jackson used it on his campaign posters. Then in 1870 Thomas Nast, a famous political cartoonist, used it in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly. By 1880 the donkey was well established as a mascot for the Democratic party.

Watch for more information about the donkey and its history in the next issue. Meanwhile, get your Democratic pins on display at our meeting on the 23rd. They are one of the fundraisers for our club..

Eunice Van Tuyl

A study by **Politico** found the following would result in the repeal of The Affordable Care Act:

Repeal results in a \$140 billion loss in federal funding for health care in 2019, leading to the loss of 2.6 million jobs (mostly in the private sector) that year across all states. A third of lost jobs are in health care, with the majority in other industries. If replacement policies are not in place, there will be a cumulative \$1.5 trillion loss in gross state products and a \$2.6 trillion reduction in business output from 2019 to 2023. States and health care providers will be particularly hard hit by the funding cuts. _____

2017 Officers and contact information

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Membership renewal

Now is the time to renew your dues for 2017. If you have not already done so. Dues are \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple.

Bring your check made out to Benton County Democrats to the January meeting. You may also send it to P. O. Box 2258 , Bentonville AR, 72712.

