

# Benton County Dem's World

Volume 16 Issue 5 May 2017 Richard Bland, President Hal Spangenberg, Editor

## Benton County Dem's May Meeting

Monday, May 22, Lunch 11:00 am Meeting 12:00 noon

Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers

Speaker: Rep Greg Leding, State House District 86, Fayetteville

Topic: This year's legislative session



Representative Greg Leding is a graduate of Springdale High School and has a Bachelors degree in marketing from the University of Arkansas. He works in graphic and web design.

He is serving his fourth term in the Arkansas House of Representatives, representing District 86, which includes a large part of Fayetteville in Washington County. He served as the Minority Leader during the 89th General Assembly.

NOTE: Please respect the speaker's time and do not interrupt the speech with questions or statements. There will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentation.

For reservations please contact Rusty Masticola 855-9588 or [rusty1214@gmail.com](mailto:rusty1214@gmail.com) or indicate "will attend" on meetup.com. Reservations are not required but appreciated by the Friday prior to the meeting

### President's Message May, 2017

I am saddened to report that George Naidl has resigned as BC Dems membership chair. He agreed to undertake the task three or four years ago, for TWO MONTHS. Not only has George served for a very long two months, he excelled in the job. His computer skills, coupled with his organizational skills, made him an ideal Membership Chair, keeping all of the rest of us up-to-date on who the members were, their payment status, and meeting attendance. On behalf of the BC Dems Board, I take this opportunity to express a heartfelt THANK YOU to George and to wish him well.

I am very happy to report that Diana Kolman has agreed to take on the duties of Membership Chair. Diana, who is a longtime member of BC Dems, retired from Rogers High School, where she

was a journalism teacher and faculty sponsor of the award-winning student newspaper and yearbook. A resident of Rogers, she has been an active volunteer in the community, working with First Methodist Church, Rogers Public Education Foundation, and other organizations. She brings important skills to the Membership post and we are confident that the duties are in very competent hands.

I am also happy to report that Congressman Womack will not go unchallenged again in upcoming election cycle. On Saturday, May 6, a small group gathered as Joshua Mahony taped an ad





## PROPOSED MAY 22 AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

### It is proposed

**To change the formal name of "Benton County Democrats" to "Benton County Dems" by changing the two references to that name in our By-Laws:**

**To amend the By-Laws of the Benton County Democrats to change ARTICLE I, Sec. 1 to read "The name of this organization shall be Benton County Dems, ...." and make the corresponding name change in the title of the By-Laws.**

At the May 22 meeting we will be voting whether to amend our By-Laws to change our formal name "Benton County Democrats" to be the same as our informal name "Benton County Dems".

It is proposed that the two places in the By-Laws where the name of the organization is given, the Title and Article I Section 1, be amended to change "Benton County Democrats" to Benton County Dems", so that Article 1, Section 1 will read "The name of this organization shall be Benton County Dems, ...".

This proposal was announced at the April 24 general meeting and was published in email, the Newsletter, and on the web site prior to April 24. **To vote, you must be an active member of the Benton County Democrats (dues for 2017 paid) prior to the vote.**

**Purpose:** To use a less formal sounding name as the official name of our organization and of our associated Arkansas PAC to reduce the possibility that someone new to Arkansas political Party naming conventions might incorrectly assume we are a formal part of the Democratic Party.

### Background:

Over the last year we have been gradually changing the way we refer to ourselves in social media to use the less formal names of "Benton County Dems" or even "BC Dems" and reserving use of our formal name "Benton County Democrats" for contexts involving official records. While we believe our current practice minimizes potential confusion, it does impose some additional burdens on the Board to use the name distinctions appropriately.

Approval of this amendment will allow the few remaining cases where "Benton County Democrats" is used to be phased out and replaced with "Benton County Dems". The Board recommends approval.

It has been a known issue to a number of the Board that new members and guests were at times confused by our name about our relationship to the Democratic Party. The December 2015 revised Rules of the Democratic Party of Arkansas (DPA) was what prompted the most recent review of our organization name, but the DPA Rules are not forcing this amendment. The internal Rules of the DPA do not directly apply to an independent organization like ours, but it does indicate the desire of the DPA to discourage the usage of "Democrats" by organizations not associated with the DPA in contexts that could cause confusion. We share common interests with the DPA, agree that greater clarity is a desirable goal, and have taken steps over the last year toward that goal. We have been in recent contact with officials of the DPA, and they agree that our current practices and usage of "Democrats" is not an issue with them. This change is being recommended by the Board because it is a reasonable extension and simplification of our current policy.