Benton County Dems' World

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July 2017

Richard Bland, President

Hal Spangenberg, Editor

Benton County Dems July Meeting

Monday, July 24th, Lunch 11:00 am Meeting 12:00 noon Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers

Our speaker this month will be Amy Gillespie. Amy is a candidate for the Bentonville School District, Zone 2 which includes the East side of Bella Vista



Amy is well known as the administrator of the popular Facebook page, Bentonville Public Schools United, where she has been a trusted source for news on school board meetings since 2014. She is a small business owner with experience in secondary education, corporate compliance, and broadcasting. Amy is the mother of a rising 3rd grader and a kindergartner at Cooper Elementary. Since 2015 she has served as the secretary of Cooper PTO and currently volunteers on both the Cooper and Bentonville School District parental involvement committees.

There will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentation. For reservations please contact Rusty Mastricola 855-9588 or rusty1214@gmail.com or indicate "will attend" on meetup.com. Reservations are not required but appreciated by the Friday prior to the meeting

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President's Message

Standing in line at Walmart the other day, I had a brilliant idea! Frankly, the best idea anyone had, ever. A tremendous idea! I had been mulling over what to write in this space for July. I had been toying with the idea of comparing a quote from Jimmy Carter's so-called Malaise Speech with Trump's statement that he didn't want poor people making decisions about the economy. That would have been fleshed out with an unbiased comparison of the characters of the two presidents and their respective attitudes toward materialism. Another theme I was flirting with involved the way in which the Coast Guard gets so much less attention than the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. And I thought about writing something about the achievements of the Franklin Pierce Administration—the innovative use of camels by the Army Quartermaster Corps, for example—and the impact of these achievements on our lives today, 160 years later.

But all of these enticing prospects paled beside the amazing idea that I generated in the long Walmart wait, standing with seven other customers behind the man who insisted that the pomegranate he was buying was marked \$2.17, not the \$2.29 that the scanner indicated. His worn T-shirt urged the immediate impeachment of President Obama on the front and something about guns on the back. During the lengthy price-check, my mind was free to wander, and my eyes came to rest on the cover of the *National Enquirer*. The lead headline indicated that Trump would soon unveil a totally workable plan for world peace. I remembered earlier covers that promised to reveal evidence of terrible crimes

committed by every living member of the Clinton family, except maybe Roger. Other covers had promised to reveal the "Real Reason that (name a current topic)." Many extolled Trump's alleged successes as a statesman.

According to a recent news story involving Trump's twitter attack on Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, the *Enquirer* is something like the organ of the Trump Administration, that is, the tabloid is part of the administration like a lung or liver, or that its sounds are generated by the administration's working the keys, pedals, and stops. Scarborough claimed that the White House offered to stop a story critical of him and Miki if they would ease up on their criticism of Trump. A subsequent Trump tweet seemed to confirm that Trump had control over what the *Enquirer* published. A sizeable portion of the Republican electorate seems to consider the *Enquirer* a credible source of information.

My brilliant idea is for the Democrats to start another tabloid or buy one of the *Enquirer's* competitors, say the Globe or the Star, as an organ of the Democratic Party. I lean towards acquiring the Globe, because that was the name of the organ of the Democratic Party in the Jacksonian era when there were numerous ways to legally divert public funds to favored newspapers, and Presidents and other party leaders routinely wrote anonymous editorials. Jackson and Polk hand-picked the editors of their anointed newspapers and these men became printers to Congress and received contracts for advertising and printing from the executive departments. Reviving this concept would provide a more level journalistic playing field. Think of some of the possible headlines in the new tabloid: "Trump Drops Suit Against Maher: Proof That Donald's Father Was the Alleged Orangutan" or "Doctor Reveals That Trump Had Hand Augmentation Surgery."

Frankly, an idea this tremendous will not remain long in Benton County. Believe me. It will spread bigly across the whole United States. Bigly. When you get the call or find the flyer in your mailbox calling for the new *Globe*, give generously. It will be a winner,

it will have a huge circulation, and will have amazing stories. It will be terrific! We can make journalism great again.

Richard July 2017

Minutes of June 26, 2017 General Meeting

Golden Corral, Rogers, AR

President Richard Bland called the meeting to order at 12:00. He welcomed several new attendees, guests and visitors.

Rusty Mastricola led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Vice President David Cauldwell introduced our speaker Josh Mahony who has announced he will be a candidate in the Democratic primary for the Third Congressional District. Mahony spoke briefly about his concerns facing the people of this Congressional District and then listened to concerns from the audience.

The minutes and treasurer's reports were approved unanimously.

The nominating committee consisting of Gaye Bland, Dave Boyer and Harrell Simpson reported they are looking for nominees for the 2018 Treasurer and Secretary.

Bill Beck is still working on the date for the proposed movie - Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Sequel". Tickets will be \$15.00. Bill donated an autographed book by Al Franken "King of the Senate" for auction to our group. The high bid of \$100.00 received the book.

The (DPBC) Democratic Party of Benton County meets on the second Monday of each month. They have changed the location of their meeting to the meeting room at Guess Who Liquor Store in Bentonville, 214 SE Walton Blvd, at 6:30 p.m.

Thurman Metcalf reminded everyone he has car wash tickets for \$15.00 and that the DPBC is looking for volunteers to help with the Little Flock picnic to be held on September 16 (tentative). Also, the Clinton Dinner (formally the Jefferson/Jackson Dinner) will be held Saturday, July 22 in Little

Rock. You may purchase tickets from Thurman Metcalf.

Richard announced the Democratic Party of Benton County will hold a candidate recruitment seminar on Saturday, July 15 at the Northwest Arkansas Community College. Recruit and run 101 will provide lunch.

After no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:07.

Respectfully Submitted, Secretary Betty Cauldwell

Treasurer's Summary June 2017

Beginning Balance		\$4,086.98
Income		
Blue Bowls	\$121.52	
Donations	\$120.00	
Dues	\$240.00	
Total		\$481.52
Expenses		
Postage	\$6.37	
Memorial*	\$35.00	
Total		\$41.37
Ending Balance		\$4,527.13

Submitted by Joel Ewing, Treasurer

"As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron."

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H.L.Mencken

Is the latest crackdown on Drug offenders a means of helping the Private Prison industry?

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A few facts about private prisons

11 Times

Violent crimes are down overall, so how does the United States keep prisons stocked instead? Amplifying the war on drugs: there are now 11 times as many people in jail for drug convictions than there were in 1980, constituting 50% of the prison population. Longer mandatory minimum sentences also keeps the inmates in longer. Most people incarcerated for drug charges are non-violent, have no prior record, and are addicts rather than major drugtraffickers.

50%

Nearly half of all detained immigrants are held in privately owned facilities. The fact that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has stepped up its game to detain more undocumented immigrants — about 400,000 each year — has actually increased the need for private systems as most detainees will linger in the system waiting for court dates for months if not years.

Civil rights groups have deemed the quality of care provided in immigrant detention centers unacceptable, particularly because of the large numbers of preventable fatalities and sexual assaults.

\$45 million

The three largest for-profit prison corporations have spent more than \$45 million on campaign donations and lobbyists to keep politicians on the side of privatized incarceration. In light of all of their ethical violations, it's obvious that they have to offer some incentive for keeping their business legal.

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KEVIN MATHEWS

Kevin Mathews is a contributor to Care2.com.

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Private Prisons Spend Millions on Lobbying to Put More People in Jail

By Andrea Nill Sanchez, ThinkProgress | Report

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^{*}American Cancer Society, Audrey Spangenberg

Private Prison Charges Inmates \$5 a Minute for Phone Calls While They Work for \$1 a Day By Amanda Peterson Beadle, ThinkProgress | Report

Note of thanks

For the donation made to the American Cancer Society in the memory of my wife Audrey, who passed away on June 16th after a 5-year battle with cancer.

Hal Spangenberg, editor

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