Benton County Dems' World

Volume 16, Issue 11 November 2017 Richard Bland, President Hal Spangenberg, Editor
Benton County Dems September Meeting

Monday, November 27th, Lunch 11:00 am Meeting 12:00 noon Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers

Our speaker this month is Aaron Cash, an attorney with The Legal Center of NWA. He will be talking about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) law and the impact of recent changes. He will also be able to discuss other immigration issues.



Aaron attended the University of Arkansas School of Law where he graduated magna cum laude. During law school, he completed internships with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Arkansas as well as the LeFlore County, Oklahoma District Attorney's Office. He currently practices in the areas of criminal defense, personal injury, family law, and immigration. Outside of the office, he enjoys spending time with his family, exploring the trails and rivers of Arkansas, watching the Razorbacks, and driving his Trans Am. Bar/Court Admissions: Arkansas U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas Oklahoma U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma; Professional Associations: Arkansas Bar Association, Benton County Bar Association, Oklahoma Bar Association, W.B. Putman American Inn of Court; Community Involvement: Souls Harbor, Board Member

President's Message

There is a cliché that "it is darkest before dawn." Perhaps that applies to the current political situation. Many Americans have sunk towards despair since last November, when a small electoral college victory trumped (pun intentional) a popular vote defeat, and a totally unqualified and unsuited individual became president of the United States. The new administration turned out to be even worse than pessimists expected, with combining bad policy with utter incompetence.

A speck of light appeared in the end of the tunnel, perhaps a tiny veiled and flickering candle, at the very end of October when the Mueller investigation announced three indictments, two expected plus a surprising third one. Even many Republicans in Congress, including the Republican speaker, supported the special prosecutor's efforts. Perhaps this foreshadows a judicial solution to the crisis.

Checks and balances have worked to a great extent during these past troubling months. An independent special prosecutor has been appointed and allowed to do his work. The courts have blocked some of the president's most egregious orders, including both of his

immigration bans. The military brass did not enforce his policy against transgender military personnel, and a court has now given them support. The bureaucracy of nonpolitical professionals has continued to carry out their duties in a lawful and constitutional manner. Even the politically-appointed secretaries of state and defense seem to put national interests above the president's whims (and tweets).

Public opinion is also shifting. Trump's approval ratings have reached new lows in several polls, including Gallup and NBC. Looking below the surface, those who strongly support the president constitute less than twenty percent in some of the polls. Whites, including those with no college degrees, no longer support him as strongly as they once did.

Here in Benton County we must look to the positive developments and continue to work for change at the local, state, and national levels. All said and done, the point is not to bring down Trump but to better the country and to do that by electing progressive candidates. So far, we have an announced candidate for District 95 of the Arkansas legislature and a candidate the Third Arkansas District, U.S. House of Representatives. I hear from informed sources that a strong candidate will announce for District Three of the Arkansas Senate. It is reasonable to expect that others will emerge.

What can we do? Get out the check books or credit/debit cards. We can contribute to Josh's campaign at his website, https://joshuamahony.com.

For contributions to Celeste go to the Act Blue site,

https://secure.actblue.com/donate/celeste-williams-for-ar-district-95-1. There are also

candidates running statewide for secretary of state, Dr. Anthony Bland, whose website is anthonybland.com, and Susan Inman, whose site is http://susaninmanforarkansas.com. In addition to money, all of these candidates are seeking volunteers. Get informed, and be able to intelligently discuss these candidates with those who are persuadable.

Next year, 2018, will, in my opinion, be a pivotal year in American politics. If Trump and his alt-right base are able to consolidate their power, the country is headed for some dark days. We must assert saneness and responsibility on the local, state, and national levels.

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 reported that Art Hobson was unable to speak at our meeting today. He sent representatives Shelley Buonaiuto and Robert McAfee, members of Citizens Climate Lobby of The CCL is an International Arkansas. organization that is non-partisan and nonprofit. Their motto is "political will for a livable world". They talked about a carbon fee and dividend to citizens and encouraged everyone to become engaged in climate change. On Nov. 13 & 14 nine members from CCL of Arkansas will attend the annual Congressional Education Dav Washington, DC to talk with congressmen on climate change. For more information on this organization you may go to their website arkccl.org.

The minutes were approved with one correction for spelling and the treasurer's reports was also approved.

New officers will be voted on at the November meeting. President: Richard Bland, Vice President: Suzanne Miltich, Secretary: Diana Kolman, Treasurer: David Cauldwell. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Thurman Metcalf thanked everyone again for their participation at the Little Flock Picnic. He reported a profit of \$10,600. Car wash tickets are still available for purchase.

Richard announced that he has electronic copies of the "Benton County Guide to Elected Offices" for anyone interested in running for a political office.

Richard asked for volunteers to chair and organize the bean dinner fund raiser to be held in Feb. or March. If interested contact Richard Bland.

Suzanne Miltich announced that Pathways to Freedom is sponsoring an Angel Tree and would appreciate any donation either from the club or individuals.

Richard closed the meeting by reminding everyone to pay their membership dues.

After no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Treasurer's Summary October 2017

Beginning Balance \$4,688.05 Income

> Blue Bowls \$55.35 Dues \$240.00

Total \$295.35

Expenses

Total \$0.00 Ending Balance \$4,983.40

Submitted by Joel Ewing, Treasurer

Don't forget to come to the meeting and vote for the candidates who are:

Richard Bland......President

Suzanne Miltich.....Vice President

Diana Kolman......Secretary

David Cauldwell.....Treasurer

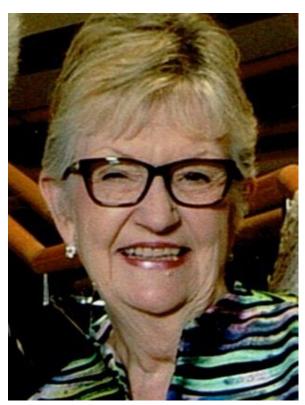
ANNUAL Dues are payable for the year 2018

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They are still the same, \$20 for an individual and \$30.00 for a couple.

If paying by check make it out to: "Benton County Dems", and if mailing, send it to:

Benton County Dems P.O. Box 2258, Bentonville, AR 72712



Diana Kolman Candidate for Secretary

Born and reared in Grand Prairie, Texas, Diana Kolman was brought "kicking and screaming" to Northwest Arkansas in 1972 when her husband Maurice was hired by Cooper Communities. However, 45 years later, she considers herself to be a true Arkansan and feels very fortunate to have lived so many years in the Rogers community where her two children grew up and still live and work.

In 1978, Kolman's husband became the Director of Transportation and Planning for the City of Rogers. He remained in that role until his death in 2003.

Kolman was a stay-at-home mom until 1976, when she began teaching at Jack and Jill Pre-School. In 1986, she began working as a secretary in the Gifted and Talented department of Rogers Public Schools. While in this position, her supervisor

encouraged her to return to college to get her teaching certificate. She followed this advice and earned her BSE in Education in 1989. The next fall, she began her teaching career at Rogers High School where she taught journalism and English for 21 years, advising the school newspaper and yearbook.

Kolman retired in 2011. After retirement, she began working as the Special Events Coordinator for the Rogers Public Education Foundation. She still serves on the RPEF board. She is also active in her church, First United Methodist, in downtown Rogers. Her two grandchildren, Delaney, 19, and Chance, 12, also get a lot of her attention.

>>>>>>> Excerpt from ADP Chair Gray's weekly newsletter:

Protecting Our First Responders

Arkansas Democrats are committed to making sure our state's workforce is provided with the care and benefits they need, especially Arkansas' first responders. The Little Rock Fire Department has identified cancer among firefighters as a growing epidemic. LRFD lost three team members to cancer in just the past four years, and statistically, firefighters are 14% more likely to have some form of cancer than the general public. We can't let this go unaddressed. It is long overdue for Arkansas to include cancer as a work-related disability for our firefighters and pass a presumptive cancer disability law. Arkansas Democrats will lead the fight to make this possible in the next General Assembly.



Suzanne Miltich, Candidate for Vice President

Suzanne has been active with the Democratic Party in Benton County for the past 10 years, serving on the County Committee for the Democratic Party and, for the past few years, on the DPA State Committee. She has been Treasurer of the Benton County Democratic Women and Secretary for the Benton County Democrats. Before retirement, Suzanne provided services in a variety of settings for children and adults with communication disorders and learning difficulties, as a therapist, in management, and as a business owner.

A teaching job at UofA brought her to NWA 25 years ago, and she and her husband, Tony, have lived on Beaver Lake for the past 20 years. Suzanne continues to learn about language and communication and, as Vice President & Program Chair, will work to provide members with skills and information on how to best communicate the Democratic message as we talk to others in our community during the 2018 election year and beyond.

Little Flock

Still searching for how long Benton County Democrats have been enjoying their Little Flock Picnic and ran across a video I made at the 1996 picnic. The sign on the podium stated that this was their 18th picnic. If so, the picnic was first initiated in 1978, thirty-nine years in the same location. If anyone has information contradicting that please forward it to me and I will correct the age.

Hal Spangenberg, editor

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