

Benton County Dems' World

Volume 16, Issue 11 November 2017 Richard Bland, President Hal Spangenberg, Editor

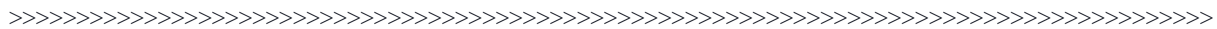
Benton County Dems September Meeting

**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 bad policy combining 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://joshuahony.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.

Richard A. Bland November, 2017
October, 24 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 Masticola 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 Arkansas. The CCL is an International organization that is non-partisan and non-profit. 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 Day in Washington, DC to talk with congressmen on climate change. For more information on this organization you may go to their website arkccl.org.

