

Benton County Dems' World

May, 2018 – Eunice Van Tuyl, Editor

MAY 21st MEETING

12:00: Speaker and Business
Lunch before, during or after
Golden Corral in Rogers
2605 W. Pleasant Grove Crossing



Celeste Williams is a nurse practitioner, mom, and foster parent who is a candidate for the State Legislature in District 95 that encompasses Pea Ridge, Little Flock, Avoca, the eastern part of Bella Vista, and tiny northern parts of Rogers and

Bentonville.

She holds a Master's Degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She became a nurse as an answer to a calling to reduce suffering through compassionate care and service to improve the lives of individuals in her community.

She is running for state office so that all Arkansans have economic and educational opportunities, access to healthcare, and an infrastructure that serves us all, moving people, products, water, and waste where it needs to go.



Christie Craig is running for the State Legislature in District 96 that covers Gateway, Garfield, Lost Bridge Village, Prairie Creek and the eastern parts of

Rogers, Lowell, and Springdale.

Surrounded by a large extended family, Christie grew up on a small farm just south of Ozark, Arkansas. She moved to Fayetteville in 1998 to attend the University of Arkansas. While there, she also worked for Walmart Stores, Inc., and eventually deferred her studies to continue her career. After earning several promotions, Christie spent

many years as a Store Manager, including grand opening the Neighborhood Market in east Springdale that services portions of District 96.

After 19 years with Walmart, Christie retired to return to the University of Arkansas and continue her education. She currently works with academic support as a Program Mentor and teaches Supplemental Instruction for Economics. Her anticipated graduation in May 2018 will confer Bachelor's degrees in Economics and Political Science.

Mon., May 14: 6:30 PM Guess Who? - B'ville	Democratic Party of Benton Co.
Tues., May 15 11:30 – 1:00 Western Sizzlin'	NWA Senior Democrats' Luncheon
Wed., May 16: 9:30 AM	BC Dems' Board Mtg.
Thur., May 17: 5:00 – 7:30 Ramo d'Olivo 217 Main, B'ville	Gayatri Agnew fundraiser
Sun., May 20: 2 – 4 PM 11698 May Ave., Rogers	Celeste Williams Meet-n-Greet
Sun., May 20: 3:00 Harry Sbanotto Park Tontitown	Kelly Scott Unger Comm. Conversation
Mon., May. 21 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral	BC Dems' Luncheon <u>Note change of date</u>
Tues., May 22	Primaries – Vote at any precinct in the county.
Thur., May 24 5:00 – 7:00 Brick City Brews, Rogers	Jene' Huffman-Gilreath Meet-n-Greet

President's Message

Richard A. Bland

At our April meeting, an interesting discussion developed during the question and answer session about the merits of crossing over and voting in the Republican primary. That same week, John Brummett wrote an editorial on the same topic. The relevance of this subject is shown in a recent Gallup poll that indicates that nationally only 26% identify as Republicans, 29% as Democrats, and 42% as Independents. Here in Arkansas, Republicans probably would poll higher and Independents lower.

Arkansas is one of several states with "open" primaries. A voter can choose which party's primary to participate in on the day of the election. The Arkansas voter registration form includes a space for party preference, but completing it is optional. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents are on equal footing and may choose freely between the ballots even if they selected a party preference when registering to vote. The only restriction is that the voter must stick with the party chosen throughout the primary cycle and cannot switch three weeks later if and when there is a run-off in one or more races. Non-partisan races, such as judicial posts and school board slots, are on both Republican and Democratic ballots.

How primaries are handled varies widely from state to state. The most open is the "non-partisan, top two" system used in four states. In that system, all primary candidates are voted on together, regardless of party affiliation, or lack thereof, and the top two candidates face off in the general election. The result might be two choices in the same party, one of each, or even two independents, or any combination of the three. Third parties could be, but seldom are, victors. The other end of the spectrum is the "closed" primary in which the voter must be registered as a member of the party at a specified time before the election in order to participate. This gives the parties more clout but shuts out independents. In between "open" and "closed" are "mixed" primaries. These are used in over a dozen states and have characteristics of both open and closed systems.

In open primary states, the party faithful are encouraged to participate in their own primaries rather than crossing over. In some states, including Arkansas, the party leaders can check to see which voters participated in their primaries. It is clear from the voting records that many Democratic voters in Benton County frequently cross over, especially in non-Presidential years.

There are pros and cons of choosing the primary of the opposition party. An important pro in a state where one party is strongly favored is having the opportunity to have a voice in a larger number of contests. Here in Benton County, there are no local Democratic contests, and just at a few at the state level. The Republicans, on the other hand, have primary contests for sheriff, surveyor, and three justice of the peace seats. Several Benton county seats in the state legislature are contested on the Republican side. Ditto on the statewide offices, for which even the governor is facing a challenger who shows considerable strength. Third district U. S. House member Womack also faces a primary challenger this cycle.

Once the voter has selected a primary choice, he or she must decide on individual races. If the voter really favors the Democrat, but is voting in the Republican primary, should he or she vote for the worst candidate or the best? Theoretically, voting for the worst Republican might make a Democratic victory more likely, but in a deep red Arkansas it could just as easily result in the election of the least desirable Republican. Voting for the better candidate might help in getting a better, if not perfect, candidate elected. Most Democrats

would prefer Asa Hutchinson over Jan Morgan for governor and Robb Ryerse over Steve Womack for U. S. House of Representatives. And, of course, the Democratic voter can vote in the general election for his/her own party's candidate—or an Independent--against the Republican nominee the same voter favored in the primary.

**BENTON COUNTY DEMS
April 23, 2018 General Meeting
Golden Corral, Rogers, AR**

President Richard Bland, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. He began the meeting by welcoming new members and visitors.

Two local candidates, Jené Huffman-Gilreath and Rey Hernandez, introduced themselves. Huffman-Gilreath is running for District 94 representative, while Hernandez is running for County Assessor. Celeste Williams, candidate for District 95, arrived later and introduced herself.

Mary Ann Boyer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Suzanne Miltich introduced the program speaker, Judith Tavano, a generational anthropologist. Judith discussed the behavior of the generations in the work place. She compared and contrasted characteristics of traditionalists, boomers, generation-x members, millennials, and post-millennials.

The minutes and treasurer's reports for the March meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

•Democratic Party of Benton County: Thurman Metcalf reported for this group which will host its next regular meeting

May 14 at 6:30 at Guess Who? in Bentonville. On May 3, they are helping to host a fundraiser for area Democratic candidates at the Peel Mansion from 5:30 til 7:30.

•Nominating Committee: Richard announced that we will be seeking volunteers to serve on this committee. The nominating committee will report officer recommendations at the October meeting, and the proposed slate will be voted on in the November meeting.

•Corresponding Secretary: Jo Ann Skillet has agreed to fill this office when she is in town. All correspondence requests should be directed to her or to Richard when Jo Ann is out of the area.

•Voter Registration: Today is the last day to register to vote in the upcoming primary. However, Joel Ewing said those wanting to check their voter registration status and see a sample ballot can check the bcdems.org web site under "Election 2018" "Voting Information" for a link to the AR VoterView web site.

•Speakers for next month's meeting will be candidates Celeste Williams and Christie Craig. The May meeting will be moved to the 3rd Monday, May 21, due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Diana Kolman, Secretary

April Treasurer's Summary

Beginning Balance	\$11,114.98	<u>Expenses:</u> Bean Dinner	\$20.00
		Meeting Ads	\$10.00
<u>Income:</u> Dues	\$40.00	P.O. Box Rental	\$75.00
Blue Bowls	<u>\$76.00</u>	Misc. (Flowers)	<u>\$10.81</u>
Total	\$116.00	Total	\$110.81
		Ending Balance	\$11,120.17

David Cauldwell, Treasurer

Awesome Women's Accomplishments

National Women's History Museum

Historically, women were not allowed to leave home without the consent or presence of a male family member. Women were expected to stay home to cook, clean, and take care of the children. Despite this expectation, numerous adventurous women left home in search of adventure in the great outdoors. Many of these women are forgotten to history, but it is because of them that women today can go out and experience the world on their own. Here are just a few women who exceeded expectations and made a name for themselves by doing the extraordinary. (cont. from April)



In May 1955, at 67 years of age, Emma Gatewood left home to go for a “walk.” She left wearing Keds and carrying few supplies; without a tent, sleeping bag, or map. Five months later, despite her lack of supplies, she became the first female solo hiker to complete the Appalachian Trail. Nicknamed “Grandma Gatewood,” she hiked the trail again in 1960 and yet again in 1973 at the age of 85.

Gatewood endured much hardship in her life: a violently abusive husband, minimal education, and poverty. Despite all the odds against her, she completed what would previously have been considered impossible. Through her resilience, she inspired thousands more, young and old, that they too could do the impossible.



In June 2015, Cassie De Pecol left the United States on a mission to visit 196 countries by herself. During her travels, she spoke to thousands of people about the importance of women's achievements and responsible tourism. She planted trees along the way to offset her carbon footprint and collected water samples to test for micro plastics. De Pecol finished her journey in

February 2017.

She broke two records to become the fastest person and the fastest female to travel to every sovereign nation in the world. Her journey shows that much of the feat surrounding solo female travel is unfounded. Her expedition has inspired women of all ages to get out and see the world, with or without a travel partner.

All of the women mentioned in the article of the last two months pushed the boundaries of what was considered “acceptable behavior” for women at that time. Each of them proved that women are capable of life outside traditional housework. These women, and thousands of others not mentioned, paved the way for women today to get out and explore the world on their own. Forge your own path, pick up where they left off, and go explore!

2018 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Home #</u>
President	Richard Bland	rabland@cox.net	631-9818
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