

Benton County Dems' World



David Bernstein, Editor

Upcoming Events

Mon, March 25 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral Rogers	BC Dems Luncheon – (4th Monday)
Sat., April 10 1:00 to 3:00 Java Dudes in Bella Vista	Bella Vista Dems – (2nd Saturday)
Mon., April 8 6:30 PM Mimi's Cafe	Democratic Party of Benton Co – (2nd Monday).
Tues., April 16 1:30 PM Western Sizzlin'	NWA Senior Democrats' Luncheon – (3rd Tuesday)
Mon., April 22 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral Rogers	BC Dems' Luncheon

This Month's Speaker

Celeste Williams

Benton County Democratic Party Chair

Celeste Williams has over 24 years of experience as a nurse caring for the people in her community. Becoming a nurse and then a nurse practitioner was an answer to a calling to reduce suffering through compassionate care and service, to work to improve the lives of people.

Her formal education has been in nursing. She obtained an undergraduate degree at Southern Nazarene University and her Master's Degree at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Early in her career, she worked in the hospital setting in cardiac care, the emergency department, and the intensive care unit. For the past 9 years, she has worked as a family practice nurse practitioner in primary care.

She and her husband Kirk have lived in NW Arkansas for 16 years. They have two biological children, two adopted children, and one foster daughter.



Celeste sees people struggling to afford healthcare every day. Often people have to make the difficult decision to choose between paying for medical care, rent, or food, Celeste believes working Arkansans shouldn't have to struggle to meet their basic needs. This is why she ran for State Representative in 2018 and has now become chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Benton County. She hopes to build on the infrastructure built this past election cycle and offer better solutions for Arkansas families by getting Democrats elected.

The President's Memo



As I am writing this, it is Friday, March 8, **International Women's Day**. The first National Women's Day was held in 1909 – 110 years ago! When women in Russia gained suffrage in 1917, March 8th became a holiday and thereafter many communist countries celebrated it. The United Nations adopted it in 1975 and in 1994 Maxine Waters, along with 79 cosponsors, introduced a resolution in Congress to recognize the day officially. This was referred to committee and no vote on it has ever been held. Although not for us, for many around the world it is a national day off.

Articles in The Democrat Gazette's Business section this week speak to this issue.

The World Bank has reported that in the last decade six countries – **Belgium, Denmark, France, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Sweden - have passed laws to protect men and women equally**. Most of the countries of the world have also made some limited progress in that time but, conversely, the **US score has not improved**. It puts us behind 60 other countries and ties us with Kenya, Malawi, and the Bahamas.

The score is calculated in eight categories according to 35 indices that reflect life for women. They range from getting married and having children, to getting a job and being paid, to managing assets and starting a business. The U.S. earned a perfect score of 100 in five categories. It received a 75 in the pensions category since women do not earn credits for time spent in childcare. Our lowest score was in the "having children" category since we do not guarantee 14 weeks of paid maternity leave, established by the International Labor Organization, 100% of maternity-leave benefits, or paid paternal leave.

We earned a 75 for equal pay for equal work of equal value since women still only earn 82% of what men do. How do we make progress in this area? We need to accumulate data. And thus the second article that a federal judge this week ordered the Trump administration to reinstate a rule requiring companies with more than 100 workers to report salary data by race and gender.

With increased transparency on this issue will come, I believe, increased accountability and progress.



Mark Your Calendar

Benton County Dems Bean Dinner Friday, April 26

This year's featured speaker will be Clarke Tucker, IV. Mr. Tucker served in the 91st Arkansas General Assembly as State Representative from Little Rock, recently ran for Congress in the 2018 elections and is now a partner in the law firm of Poynter Tucker.

Clarke attended Harvard University and the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he graduated magna cum laude and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Arkansas Law Review. During law school, Mr. Tucker received many awards and honors - a trend which has continued into his years as a practicing attorney and as a legislator, including being recognized as an emerging business leader in the 2015 "40 under 40" list published by Arkansas Business.



Proceeds from the Bean Dinner fundraiser will be used to support area candidates in upcoming elections. The dinner will be held at Janie Darr Elementary, 6505 S. Mt. Hebron Rd., Rogers from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Sponsorship levels are listed below. If you would like to be a sponsor for the Bean Dinner, please respond to this **email or contact [Diana Kolman](#) (479-903-3532).**

Each sponsor will receive complimentary dinner tickets as indicated, as well as being listed in the dinner program.

- **Gold level - \$200.00 (5 tickets)**
- **Silver level - \$150.00 (4 tickets)**
- **Bronze level - \$100.00 (3 tickets)**
- **Friend level - \$50.00 (2 tickets)**

Arkansas Says No to the ERA

Also on International Women's Day the Arkansas State Agencies and **Governmental Affairs Committee defeated HJR 1002 which would have made Arkansas the 38th state to ratify** the 1972 federal **Equal Rights Amendment**. Dozens of disheartened men and women dressed in white who had gathered to celebrate nonetheless jumped to their feet to applaud Joyce Elliott who had championed the bill.

**Arkansas
Not ratified**

Call Your State Representative
and Senator

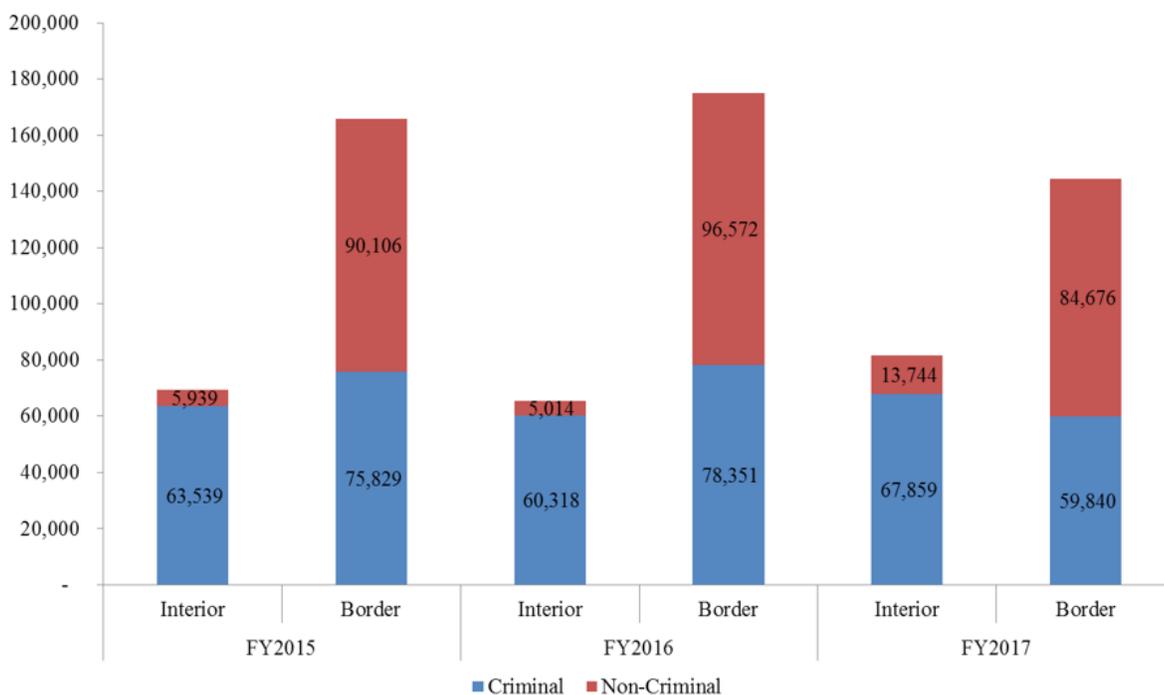
ger·ry·man·der

/'jerē, mandər/

Gerrymandering involves what's called the "cracking and packing" of voters by moving the boundaries of voting districts. Cracking spreads opposition voters thinly across many districts to dilute their power. Packing concentrates opposition voters in fewer districts to reduce the number of seats they can win.

Gerrymandering has become a much more effective tool in the last 20 years. With sophisticated computer programs and ever more detailed information on voters' location and preferences, politicians can now crack and pack with surgical precision.

Cracking Down On Immigrants?

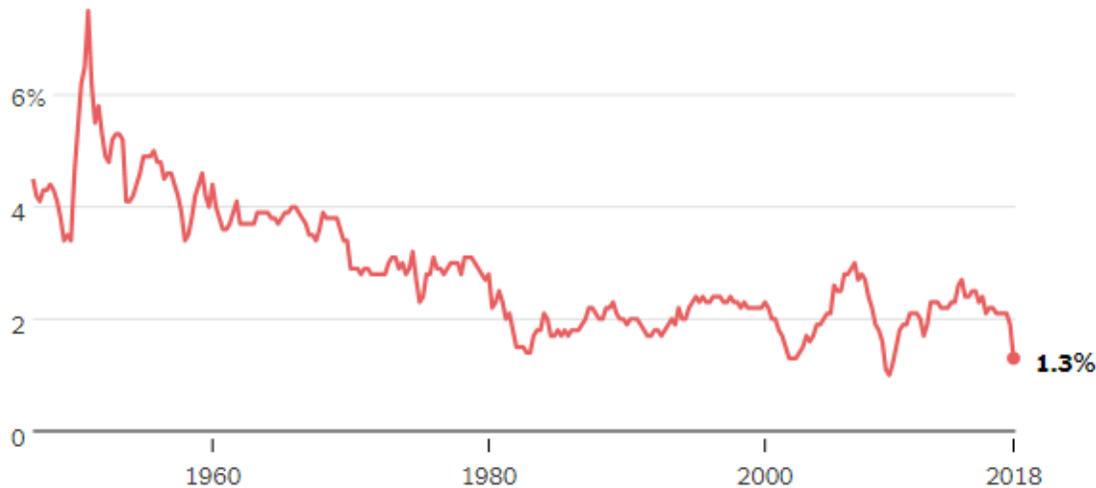


"The figure above shows a summary of ICE-ERO removals for the past three fiscal years, broken down by interior versus border arrests, as well as criminals versus non-criminals. The drop in border apprehensions offers important public safety benefits, as there was a 24 percent (18,511) decrease in criminal border removals from FY2016 to FY2017. At the same time, the renewed commitment to interior enforcement resulted in a 10 percent increase in ICE criminal removals from FY2016 to FY2017, with 53 percent of criminal removals resulting from ICE interior arrests."

"Fiscal Year 2017 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report." ICE, www.ice.gov/removal-statistics/2017."

Trickle-Down Ain't Trickling

Corporate **tax receipts are near a 75-year low** as a share of the economy.



By The New York Times | Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

The amount of corporate taxes collected by the federal government has plunged to historically low levels in the first six months of the year, pushing up the federal budget deficit much faster than economists had predicted

The reason is President Trump's tax cuts. The law introduced a standard corporate rate of 21 percent, down from a high of 35 percent, and allowed companies to immediately deduct many new investments. As companies operate with lower taxes and a greater ability to reduce what they owe, the federal government is receiving far less than it would have before the overhaul.

Tankersley, Jim. "How the Trump Tax Cut Is Helping to Push the Federal Deficit to \$1 Trillion." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 25 July 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/07/25/business/trump-corporate-tax-cut-deficit.html.

General Meeting Minutes

BENTON COUNTY DEMS
Feb. 25, 2019 General Meeting
Golden Corral, Rogers, AR



President Eunice VanTuyl called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. She welcomed new attendees, visitors, and new members. Dr. Richard Bland led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Julia Bailey introduced the speaker, Diego Quiñones, the State Director of Latino/a Engagement for the Democratic Party of Arkansas. Diego gave a summary of demographic changes in Arkansas. He also spoke about his efforts to get out the Hispanic vote. He said he feels the key to success in this effort is to try to establish relationships with Hispanics as well as encouraging their involvement in political endeavors.

After the program, Eunice called the business meeting to order by asking for approval of the minutes of the Jan. 28, 2019, meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted. The treasurer's report was also approved as submitted.

Announcements:

- **Bean Supper:** This event is scheduled for Friday, April 26, from 6:30 – 8:30 at Janie Darr Elementary School in Rogers. This event is a fundraiser for Democratic candidates. Tickets will sell for \$15, and sponsorships will be solicited. The speaker will be Clarke Tucker who was recently a candidate against French Hill for the 2nd Arkansas Congressional District. Tucker is 38 years old and earned a law degree from Harvard University. At the dinner, there will also be an auction of a poster for the movie “The Firm” autographed by author John Grisham. Bill Beck donated the poster for auction.
- **Book Exchange:** Eunice reminded members about the monthly book exchange.
- **Democratic Group Cooperation:** Julia and Eunice met with Celeste Williams and Larry Concannon of the Democratic Party of Benton County to discuss better communication and work collaboration. The four groups involved (Benton County Dems, Democratic Party of Benton County, Senior Dems, and Bella Vista Dems) will attempt to keep each other informed of future plans. They will work together to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of women getting the vote.
- **Democratic Party of Benton County:** Larry Concannon invited Benton County Dems members to the monthly meetings of this group which meets on the second Monday of every month. The meeting location is now Mimi's Restaurant. There is a social time at 6:00, and the meetings begin at 6:30. The next meeting is on March 11.
- **Government Affairs Meeting:** Larry Concannon encouraged attendance at these meetings which are held every two weeks in Benton County. Information is posted on the Democratic Party of Benton County website.
- **Newsletter:** Mike Reese commended David Bernstein for his efforts on the club newsletter.

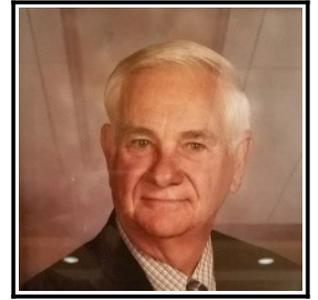
The next meeting will be March 25 at the Golden Corral. The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Diana Kolman, Secretary

Treasurer's Summary

February 2019

by David Cauldwell, Treasurer



Beginning Balance:		\$2,429.59		
Income:	Blue Bowls	\$89.00	Expenses:	
	Dues:	\$390.00	Facility rental-bean supper	\$390.00
	:		Internet fees	\$143.97
	Total:	\$479.00	Total Exp:	\$533.97
Ending Balance:		\$2,374.62		

2019 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

Position

President
 Vice-President
 Treasurer
 Recording Secretary
 Past President
 Membership Chair
 Social Media Chair
 Newsletter Chair
 Publicity Chair
 Corresponding Secretary
 Reservations Chair

Name

Eunice Van Tuyl
 Julia K. Bailey
 David Cauldwell
 Diana Kolman
 Richard Bland
 Gaye Bland
 Joel Ewing
 David Bernstein
 Jerri Cooper
 Linda Lavis
 Betty Cauldwell