

# Benton County Dems' World



David Bernstein, Editor

## Upcoming Events

Thurs, Nov 21

7:00 PM

[Unitarian Universalist Church](#)

1400 West Walnut, Rogers

Climate Change Lobby

Mon., Nov 25

11:00 – 12:00 Lunch / Social Time

12:00 – 1:00 Meeting

[Golden Corral Rogers](#)

BC Dems Luncheon – (4th Monday)

Mon., Dec 9

6:00 PM

[Mimi's Cafe](#)

Democratic Party of Benton Co – (2nd Monday).

Tues., Dec 17

1:30 PM

[Western Sizzlin'](#)

NWA Senior Democrats' Luncheon – (3rd Tuesday)

Mon., Jan 27, 2020

11:00 – 12:00 Lunch / Social Time

12:00 – 1:00 Meeting

[Golden Corral Rogers](#)

BC Dems' Luncheon

## This Month's Speaker

### Kent Eikenberry

President/CEO Northwest Arkansas Food Bank

Kent Eikenberry has been the President / CEO of the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank since January 2016. Prior to joining the Food Bank, Eikenberry spent over 40 years in the Newspaper Advertising and Marketing field.

Eikenberry and his wife Diana live in Rogers, where both are active in community organizations and have served on multiple boards including being **Chairman of the Board of the Rogers Chamber of Commerce**. Eikenberry was on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank from 2008 through 2014.



The Eikenberrys have three sons and five grandchildren and are both graduates of Kansas State University. They have volunteered at the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry regularly for over 20 years.

NOTICE: Donations of canned foods will be collected during our November meeting. Cash donations will also be accepted in the form of checks made out to "NWA Food Bank"

# The President's Memo

## Democrats' Path to Victory



President Eunice Van Tuyl

Have you heard about *the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)*? It is a movement gaining popularity which would ensure that the candidate for President with the most votes would win the election.

Currently 48 of our states award all their electoral college votes to the person who received the most votes in their state. This can lead to a situation where a person wins the electoral college count even though he/she lost the popular vote.

The NPVIC is an agreement by a state that its electoral college votes would be awarded to the candidate who received the most votes nationwide, thereby assuring that person's win. (Think about how different our country would be if we had had a President Al Gore and a President Hillary Clinton.)

There would be no need to amend the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College. And, instead of campaigning in just a few swing states, candidates would be forced to campaign in **all** states so that **all** voters would have a say in choosing our president.

It has been agreed that the NPVIC would not take effect until states totaling 270 electoral votes (50%) have joined in. Currently 15 states and the District of Columbia have signed on, representing 196 electoral votes. Please urge our legislators to join in this effort to make our democracy more democratic.



AUDUBON ARKANSAS PRESENTS

# ARKANSAS ENERGY FUTURE FORUM

A PANEL DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE  
AND RENEWAL ENERGY

Thursday, November 21st, 6-7 p.m.  
Fayetteville Public Library

**For more info, contact Sam:**

**P: (860) 978-7086**

**E: [sam.prescott@audubon.org](mailto:sam.prescott@audubon.org)**

Admission is free and open to the public.

## Train to Become a Poll Worker



The political party composition of Benton County poll workers is significantly skewed with Democrats underrepresented. Please consider exercising your civic involvement by becoming a poll worker.

Follow the link below to apply and submit your application. Mandatory training is scheduled for early January so submit your application ASAP!

<https://bentoncountyar.gov/election-commission/wp-content/themes/bentoncounty/documents/sites/14/2019/02/Election-Commission-Job-Application.pdf>



## REGISTER TO VOTE

### When:

**Saturday, November 23, 2019**

**and**

**Saturday, November 30, 2019**

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

### Where:

Cash Village Shopping Center

400 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Rogers, Arkansas

**In front of Panadería and Tortillería La Popular**



## "I See Dead Voters"

Eight (8) states currently have more registered voters than voting-age residents. Another 30 states have individual counties with more voters on the books than voting-age residents.

This is not a case of fraudulent registrations. Instead, it's the result of state and local governments failing to "make sure that people who have died, moved, or are otherwise ineligible to vote aren't still on the rolls."

State and local governments are required by federal law to eliminate such problems by providing basic maintenance of their voter lists. However, the law is often ignored.

The scale of the challenge was highlighted by a 2012 Pew Research study showing that 24 million voter registrations are “no longer valid or are significantly inaccurate.” That study **found at least 1.8 million dead people were still registered to vote.** On top of that, **2.75 million were registered to vote in at least two states.**

The problem is found in all parts of the country, including “areas dominated by Republicans and Democrats.”

Source: [Ballotpedia, The Encyclopedia of American Politics](#)

# Climate Policy and Voters

## U.S. concern about climate change is rising, but mainly among Democrats

The share of Americans calling global climate change a major threat to the well-being of the United States has **grown from 40% in 2013 to 57% this year, Pew Research Center surveys have shown.** But the rise in concern has largely come from Democrats. Opinions among Republicans on this issue remain largely unchanged.

Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents overall, **84% say climate change is a major threat to the country’s well-being** as of July 2019, up from 58% in a March 2013 survey. Views among **Republicans and Republican leaners have stayed about the same (27% in 2019 vs. 22% in 2013).**

Climate change policy is among the issues taking center stage for Democrats seeking their party’s nomination. A 2018 survey by the Center found 82% of registered Democrats said the issue of the environment would be very important in their vote, up from 69% just two years earlier. The role of such issues in the general election remains unclear. The same 2018 survey found 38% of registered Republicans saying the environment would be very important to their vote, roughly the same share as a decade earlier.

---

source: Pew Research Center (Aug 28, 2019) <https://pewrsr.ch/2ZhXUD7>

# General Meeting Minutes

## BENTON COUNTY DEMS

**October 28, 2019 - General Meeting**

**Golden Corral, Rogers, AR**

The October 28, 2019 meeting was called to order by President Eunice Van Tuyl at 12:05 p.m. Richard Bland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Julia Bailey, V.P., introduced Jené Huffman-Gilreath, Democratic candidate for AR District 94 which encompasses most of Rogers and a small part of Bentonville.



Because of her many varied life experiences, including working on the "Hill" in D.C., being in banking for 10 years, and now for Rogers City Services, she outlined her vision for economic development, improving infrastructure in our area, and expanding educational opportunities for students and teachers in the public school system. She strongly supports accessible and adequate health care and helping people register to vote and to vote. She supports the E.R.A. and sees city government as an avenue to improve regional transit services, as well as improving quality of life for people in district 94 and the surrounding area through informed representation in Little Rock. She answered many questions articulately and showed a broad knowledge of every issue that was presented to her for comment.

After the speaker, Julia Bailey requested we bring non-perishable food or monetary donations for the Food Bank to the next meeting. Julia also reported on a Voter Registration Seminar last weekend and made a plea to our members to work at the polls to improve Democrat involvement and visibility during elections. We are sorely unrepresented.

Eunice requested the minutes of the last meeting be approved. There was a correction of a misspelled name and after correction noted, the motion was approved and carried. The treasurer's report was accepted and there was a second to that motion. Eunice reported that the donation memorial in Myra Moran's name of \$213 was given to the Rogers Library with the request that books by "progressive" authors be purchased in her name. She also announced that the BC Dems' booth at the Little Flock Picnic raised \$68. Items that did not sell there were on display for purchase. Suzanne Jessup verbalized bids for two shirts above the stated price and donated them back to the club.

Eunice reiterated the need for Democrats to work at the polls, as we are not visible and underrepresented. These positions and the training are paid when you work the polls. See Eunice or Julia if interested.

The **next meeting will be the regularly scheduled, 4th Monday: 11/25/19**, at the Golden Corral at 11 a.m. This is the Monday just prior to Thanksgiving. **The election of the officers for 2020 will be held at this meeting.** Eunice introduced the nominees: **Julia Kilbourne Bailey, President; Walter Hinojosa, Vice President; Deb Ostas, Secretary; and Tim Boyer, Treasurer.**

Larry Concannon asked all to join the Democratic Party of Benton County meeting on 11/11/19 at 6 pm at Mimi's Café. An election will be held to approve him as party chair, in Celeste Williams' place after her resignation to run for US Congress. A vice chair will also be elected. Voting by proxy is possible. Download the form from the DPBC website [democraticpartybentoncounty.org](http://democraticpartybentoncounty.org) or see Larry.

Larry informed us that the DPBC will march in Christmas parades in Rogers, Pea Ridge and Bentonville to represent Democrats. Information is also on the above website. Those interested in filing to run for state (May 2020) convention delegates and for national delegates, see Larry for more info. Upcoming deadlines are 11/4/19, noon to 11/12/19, noon at the Benton County Courthouse.

Micah Wallace, accompanied by two colleagues from the Young Democrats, made a presentation and appeal for funding support and investment from our club for their Fall Conference (YDARFALL) to be held in Fayetteville. The funds will help to pay for lodging and meals for 150 area high school students, Democratic leaders for tomorrow.

Gaye Bland reminded us to renew membership or join the club this month. October renewals are good until

the end of the 2020.

Bill Beck put in a plug for the upcoming movie fundraiser for the BC Dems: "**Harriett**," about Harrier Tubman, on Saturday, 11/2/19 at 10 am at Malco Pinnacle Hills Cinema. Tickets, \$15, can be purchased at the door or online on our website, [bcdems.org](http://bcdems.org). Bill is also looking at movies possibly for 12/22/19 or 1/4/20. TBA

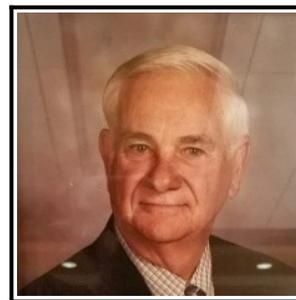
Jon Comstock announced he is running as a Democrat for the AR House District 96, vacated by incumbent Grant Hodges, R. He put in a bid to win the race, and win the ERA in 2020, since the right to vote was won for women 100 years ago, in 1920! Let's finish the job for women! He also supports non-partisan redistricting next year after the census.

After a robust, encouraging meeting, the motion to adjourn was seconded at 1:05 pm by Mary Ann Boyer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Acting Secretary, Marge Boyer

# Treasurer's Summary

## October 2019



by David Caldwell, Treasurer

**Beginning Balance:** \$7,207.24

**INCOME:**

Movie Tickets \$166.53

**EXPENSES:**

Meeting Expenses \$10.00

**Total Income:** \$166.53

**Total Expenses:** \$10.00

**Ending Balance:** \$7,363.77

## 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 Caldwell  
Diana Kolman  
Richard Bland  
Gaye Bland  
Joel Ewing  
David Bernstein  
Jerri Cooper  
Linda Lavis  
Betty Caldwell