

Benton County Dems' World



David Bernstein, Editor

Upcoming Events

Mon., Jan 27

11:00 – 12:00 Lunch / Social Time

12:00 – 1:00 Meeting

[Golden Corral Rogers](#)

BC Dems Luncheon – (4th Monday)

Mon., Feb 10

6:00 PM

[Mimi's Cafe](#)

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

Tues., Feb 18

1:30 PM

[Western Sizzlin'](#)

NWA Senior Democrats' Luncheon – (3rd Tuesday)

Mon., Feb 24, 2020

11:00 – 12:00 Lunch / Social Time

12:00 – 1:00 Meeting

[Golden Corral Rogers](#)

BC Dems' Luncheon

This Month's Speaker

Mayra Esquivel

Arkansas Immigrant Defense Nonprofit Law Firm

Mayra Esquivel is a native of Mexico. She was brought to the USA at the age of 3 years old. She was raised in Fort Smith up until 2016 when she and her husband, Irvin, married. After that, Mayra moved to Northwest Arkansas to start their life together. She is 29 years old and is a Cum Laude Graduate from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. In 2017, Mayra was awarded the **Human Rights Award by Church Women United**. She works as a bilingual paralegal and advocate at the **Arkansas Immigrant Defense Nonprofit Law Firm** that defends the rights of immigrants through direct legal services, advocacy, and



community education. Mayra has spent the last 7 years advocating for immigrant rights, undocumented youth, and social justice. She has helped organize free workshops to help undocumented youth apply for work permits both in Fort Smith and Northwest AR. She has also lobbied to allow equal access to higher education for all and for immigrants to be treated with the human dignity we all deserve. Mayra strongly believes her own personal struggles have given her the strength to keep fighting for her community.

The President's Memo

Fasten your seatbelts!



I am honored to serve as president of BC Dems for 2020. It has been my pleasure to get to know many of you and I look forward to meeting more members this year as we come together as Democrats to support our candidates and causes.

As Democrats, we have a range of experiences and backgrounds which inform our values and platform. This diversity reflects the stars and stripes of our country's citizens and its Constitution. We must remember the incredible strength that resides in this diversity and our unity is instrumental in protecting the values and principles the Constitution enshrines. For it is an understatement to describe 2020 as a pivotal year politically and it's a sober undertaking to be busy Democrats at this time. Some of us have portended our nation's constitutional crisis for over a decade but nothing has shocked us more than the onslaught to our Constitution, our environment, and vulnerable populations within these past few years. Aghast at the corruption and cravenness of the current state of the Republican Party, we are grateful for the few GOP voices that have maintained their integrity and patriotism by standing up to their party's supplication and kowtowing to a self-serving, unstable, and compromised president. Yet these are just a handful of voices relegated to the political margins while Democrats have made strides upholding checks and balances through a Democratic-controlled House of Representatives (which also passed nearly 400 bills in 2019).

For all that we have done to send more Democrats to the legislature, we have so much more to do to protect and fortify our democracy. Its survival not only requires electing a Democrat as President but also electing Democratic senators and representatives at federal and state levels. We also need to build a bench of Democrats to serve at the county level as we work to make our region and nation more representative of our ideals and principles. And with over 33 people a day moving into our region, we have an opportunity to welcome new members into our fold as we work as patriots to promote our democratic values within Benton County.

To this end, our priorities this year are to support our candidates running at the local and state levels. We will do this by raising funds at our monthly meetings, our annual BC Dems Bean Dinner, movie club screenings

(thanks to Bill Beck) and by supporting the Democratic Party of Benton County in its own activities.

Raising funds provides resources for our candidates to reach out to their constituents and promote our Democratic principles. Yet BC Dems members can help our candidates and party in other ways. If we are going to make Benton County more politically representative of its growing population and respond to the constitutional crisis our nation faces, we need to protect and promote the democratic process that ensures a truly representative government. We will do this by supporting Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activities, including voter registration drives within areas of the county where the vote is suppressed. In her capacity as a League of Women Voters At Large member, BC Dems member Connie Hoffman is our point person to recruit volunteers to register voters and she will report to us regularly on the progress we are making to address voter suppression.

Fasten your seatbelts, it will be both a tough and invigorating year! Thankfully, we are on this journey together.

Gratefully yours,
Julia K. Bailey



Voter Registration Efforts

BC Dems member Connie Hoffman has made significant strides in registering voters and she will report to us regularly on the progress made to address voter suppression.

You can also check your voter registration status at www.vote.org.

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>

Save The Date - March 15

BC DEMS ANNUAL BEAN DINNER

Guest speakers:

Nicole Clowney
Arkansas State Representative



Joyce Elliott
Arkansas State Senator



**Candidate for U.S. House 2nd
Congressional seat (2020)**

Exact location and time to be announced soon!

Iowa Is No Longer First

The Iowa Caucus is considered the first state to vote for president. However, several other states actually begin early voting BEFORE February 3.

- Voters in Minnesota were able to mark their ballots in their state's primary this past Friday.
- Vermont voters can go to the polls starting January 18.

Could Not Wait

Incumbent President Donald Trump filed for re-election on January 20, 2017, the day of his inauguration.

Remember When...

It was 64 years ago when the first televised presidential debate was held. It all began on May 21, 1956, when Democrats Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver squared off in a one hour debate on ABC News. Each candidate gave a three-minute opening statement, a five-minute closing statement, and had questions in between. The moderator was Quincy Howe.

Televised debates didn't become regular fixtures until the 1980s.



General Meeting Minutes

BENTON COUNTY DEMS

November 25, 2019

General Meeting

Golden Corral, Rogers, AR

President Eunice Van Tuyl called the meeting to order at 12:01. She welcomed new attendees, guests, and visitors.

Georgia Stein led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Vice President Julia Bailey introduced Kent Eikenberry, CEO of the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank. Kent began his presentation by citing statistics that show one in seven citizens in Northwest Arkansas are food insecure. They have to balance their food needs versus other immediate needs. He said the working poor are



not scammers; instead their need is legitimate.

Kent defined the Northwest Food Bank as not a food pantry; instead, it is a wholesale outlet servicing 160 partnering food pantries, most from local churches. The food bank also has 13 locations and one mobile pantry. They receive food from Tyson, Kraft, Hines, and General Foods. Monetary donations are welcomed. A list of partnering food pantries may be found at nwafoodbank.org.

Members today donated 42 pounds of food and \$435 to the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank.

After Kent's presentation, Eunice opened the business meeting. The minutes of the Oct. 28 general meeting were approved as submitted. The treasurer's report was also approved as submitted. It was noted that the showing of the "Harriet" movie netted \$880.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2020 Officers: The slate of 2020 officers was presented: Julia Bailey, president; Walter Hinojosa, vice president; Tim Boyer, treasurer; Deborah Ostas, secretary. A motion was made to accept the slate as presented. It was seconded and passed.
- Poll Workers: There is a continued need for poll workers and poll watchers. Connie Huffman and Maritza Munich are working to get out the vote. Last Saturday they staffed a voter registration table at 8th and Poplar in Rogers, and they will do so again this Saturday. Maritza talked about the disenfranchised, saying that she is focusing on the Hispanic community. She noted that the Rogers County Clerk's office has added a question in the margins of the voter registration form asking for the applicant's state of birth. When asked, workers in the office say this question is optional, although it doesn't say that on the form. This question is intimidating to citizens who may not have been born in the continental United States. Those with ideas for other registration locations should call Connie Huffman at 501-265-9687.

NEW BUSINESS:

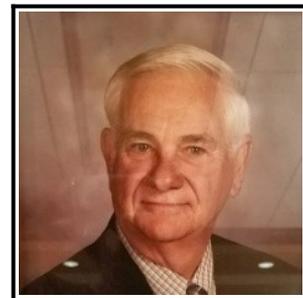
- Retiring officer gifts: Bill Beck presented thank you gifts to Eunice and Julia.
- Movie Fundraiser: The next movie fundraiser will be Jan. 4, 2020. The movie will be "Little Women," and it will be shown at one of the Malco theaters. When the location is confirmed, Bill will get the word out. Bill, Eunice, Thurman, and Richard Bland have tickets which will sell for \$15 each. Tickets are also available online at the BC Dems website, www.bcdems.org.
- Democratic Party of Benton County: Larry Concannon announced that this group has signed up to have a spot in the Christmas parades in Rogers, Bentonville, and Pea Ridge.
- Soup Supper Fundraiser: Thurman asked members to save the date of Saturday, Jan. 11, 4:00-7:00, when the annual soup supper fundraiser will be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Money raised at this event provides snack pack food for a local middle school for a year.
- Correspondence: Eunice welcomed back Dave Boyer and Al and Kathy Burmaster. Eunice is temporarily handling the duties of corresponding secretary, and she asked members to advise her if any members are ill or need help.
- Tax Credit: Richard Bland reminded members who itemize on state taxes that they can take a \$50 credit for PAC donations (\$100 if filing jointly)

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Diana Kolman & Deb Ostas,
Secretary

Treasurer's Summary

Nov/Dec 2019



by David Cauldwell, Treasurer

Beginning Balance: \$7,363.77

INCOME:

Movie Tickets	\$1,709.36
Dues	\$370.00
Donations	\$240.00
Blue Bowls	\$148.82

Total Income: \$2,468.18

Ending Balance: \$9,198.77

EXPENSES:

Meeting Expenses	\$29.84
Movie Expense	\$546.00
Internet Costs	\$45.84
Postage	\$3.85
Supplies	\$7.65

Total Expenses: \$633.18

2020 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

Position	Name
President	Julia K. Bailey
Vice-President	Walter Hinojosa
Treasurer	Tim Boyer
Recording Secretary	Deb Ostas
Past President	Eunice Van Tuyl
Membership Chair	David Bernstein
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing
Newsletter / Publicity Chair	David Bernstein
Corresponding Secretary	Deb Ostas
Reservations Chair	Betty Cauldwell