

# Benton County Dems' World



David Bernstein, Editor

## Upcoming Events

In light of the current COVID-19 situation, we recommend you contact each organization prior to the meeting date to confirm it will take place as scheduled.

Mon., Aug 24  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Meeting

**Will Be Held Online**

## Virtual General Meetings Hosted on Zoom Until Further Notice.

Topic: BC Dems General Meeting

Time: Aug 24, 2020, 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: **If you are are a BC Dems member or on the BC Dems emailing list, the version of the August newsletter you received includes the actual Zoom Link and Meeting ID and Password information needed to join the August 24 meeting. Guests may RSVP to request the information needed to join the Zoom meeting by emailing bentoncountyardems@gmail.com with a Subject of "RSVP for Monday's meeting"**

## This Month's Speakers



### Betsy Harrell, Benton County Clerk

Ms. Harrell will share the latest information about absentee voting, how to request an absentee ballot, and answer your questions.

## Michael Bennett-Spears

is running for the State House of Representatives seat for District 87, because we need someone in the legislature who listens to and understands the stories of everyday Arkansans. Michael grew up in rural Northeastern Arkansas watching his parents work hard and struggle to make ends meet; a fair living wage is personal to him. Our community voted for wage increases, and we need a representative who will respect our vote.

Michael witnessed firsthand the struggle to access affordable healthcare: No Arkansan should have to experience this heartache because they can't afford insurance.

Michael attended a small, underfunded public school until he went to Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts: he wants to go to Little Rock to support our public schools and our teachers, so every student has the opportunities he did without leaving their home.

Michael has heard so many similar experiences from folks across the state. Arkansas is growing and we need a voice in Little Rock to fight for everyday Arkansans. Michael is ready to bring our stories to Little Rock and get to work.



## Jon Comstock

Jon Comstock is running for election to the Arkansas House of Representatives to represent District 96. He is on the ballot in the general election on November 3, 2020. The Democratic primary for this office on March 3, 2020 was canceled.

Comstock was an officeholder of the Arkansas 19th Judicial Circuit West Division 3. Comstock was a Division 2 judge on the Nineteenth Circuit Court West in Arkansas. He was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe in June 2011 and his term expired on December 31, 2012.

Before becoming a judge, Comstock was an attorney in private practice for nearly twenty years, then worked as in-house counsel for Wal-Mart for almost twenty years.

## Now Is The Time

We can no longer take for granted that folks will do the right thing. Let the hidden Democrats know they are not alone by putting up a yard sign.

These signs are 24" x 18", double-sided and are made to be outdoors, ready for your front lawn. They are just \$10 each. By buying one or more, you are helping our "Get Out The Vote" efforts; showing others that Democrats are here for each other; and helping raise a few dollars for your local BC Dems PAC.

There are just a few weeks left before the election. Please don't wait until it's too late

[Buy Now](#)

A blue yard sign with the text "BIDEN HARRIS 2020.11.3". The word "BIDEN" is in blue, "HARRIS" is in blue, and "2020.11.3" is in blue. The letter "E" in "BIDEN" is stylized with three horizontal red bars.

Paid for by the Democratic Parties of Benton and Washington Counties and BC Dems PAC

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## Get the latest information on COVID in Arkansas



[Arkansascovid.com](https://www.arkansascovid.com)

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## Do you know...

...of a member who is sick or in need of our assistance, please forward requests or information to our corresponding secretary at [dao.bcdems@gmail.com](mailto:dao.bcdems@gmail.com).

# General Meeting Minutes

## Benton County Dems General Meeting Minutes

### ZOOM Virtual Meeting, Monday, July 27, 2020

- I. Call to order by President Julia Kilbourne Bailey at 12:00.
- II. ZOOM Manners and Etiquette
  - A. Members, except for David Bernstein and Walter Hinojosa, will be muted (to avoid dogs' barking, side conversations, and other home noises interrupting the speaker)
  - B. Send questions via the chat icon.
- III. Business
  - A. Reminder to renew memberships
  - B. BC Dems are still supporting candidates so Blue Bowl Contributions are still important—donate online at the webpage or by mail
- IV. Speakers
  - A. Walter Hinojosa introduced Ronetta Francis, Democratic candidate running for Arkansas State Senate District 1
    1. History
      - a. Grew up in Birmingham, AL, post-Civil Rights Movement heroes as role model
      - b. She is picking up the baton handed to her via John Lewis
      - c. Attended the University of Alabama
      - d. Has 25 years-experience as an employment attorney and senior Ethics and Compliance executive. She is CEO of Francis Dynamics Consulting Group
    2. Personal beliefs
      - a. Giving back to the community
      - b. Young people need to see people who look like them as role models
      - c. Having a voice means having a choice
    3. Key issues
      - a. Inclusiveness and anti-discrimination
      - b. Politicians should execute the will of the people
      - c. Break the status quo in District 1 in Arkansas
      - d. Health care is a right not a privilege
      - e. Children have a right to equally rigorous and quality education
      - f. Workers are entitled to a “livable wage” and safe environment
    4. Contrast with opponent Republican views
      - a. Francis stands for sensible gun reform; Bart Hester advocated for a tax-free gun purchase weekend.
      - b. Francis stands for allowing people their democratic voice; Bart Hester advocates increasing rules for voter registration.
      - c. On Tom Cotton's comment “Slavery was a necessary evil,” Francis believes his “language minimizes and excuses how people were treated and how those effects are still present in capitalism today.”
    5. More information at [www.ronettafrancis.org](http://www.ronettafrancis.org)

B. Walter Hinojosa introduced Kelly Krout, Democratic candidate running for Arkansas House of Representatives District 90

1. History

- a. Foster mom and social worker

2. Personal beliefs

- a. Stepped up to run because she believes voters need options on the Arkansas ballot—Democrats need to be present on the ballot
- b. She is running against the man who beat the incumbent in the primary.
- c. Poverty is a root cause of children needing foster homes
- d. Value of the family

3. Key issues

- a. Politicians need to focus on helping the marginalized and vulnerable populations in their communities.
- b. More funding for teachers for supplies
- c. Education about reproduction
- d. Fee reductions for people returning from incarceration

4. More information at [www.kellyforarkansas.com](http://www.kellyforarkansas.com)

C. Emily Kearns, Political and Field Director for Arkansas Voters First, a nonpartisan campaign to make redistricting open transparent and fair by keeping power where it belongs—with the people

1. Key issue—stop gerrymandering

2. Several attempts from current government to stop this ballot initiative

- a. First Secretary of state said there was problem with gathering process
- b. Then issue with checking and clearing background check
- c. Court ruled the initiative could continue and counting signature had to continue
- d. Ballot title approval took longer than expected

3. Must keep informing the public about this anti-gerrymandering ballot initiative

4. Please continue contacting the Secretary of State to support this initiative

5. More information at [www.arkansasvotersfirst.org](http://www.arkansasvotersfirst.org)

V. Announcements –

A. Connie Hoffman –

- 1. The League of Women Voters will hold a drive through voter registration event August 21-22, 9:00-1:00 at the Hibachi Grill parking lot across from Hobby Lobby on Walnut in Rogers, Arkansas.
- 2. If you would like to help, please contact Connie at [hoffmenconnie@gmail.com](mailto:hoffmenconnie@gmail.com) – all volunteer activities through the League of Women Voters is non-partisan

B. Check your voting status and information at [www.voterview.org](http://www.voterview.org)

VI.Meeting adjourned 1:02. PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ostas

# Treasurer's Summary

## July 2020

by Timothy Boyer, Treasurer



**Beginning Balance:** \$5,215.04

**INCOME:**

Dues \$80.00

Blue Bowls \$98.54

**EXPENSES:**

Campaign Contributions \$4,840.00

Technology \$49.47

**Total Income:** \$178.54

**Total Expenses:** \$4,889.47

**Ending Balance:** \$504.11

## 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

Publicity Chair

Catherine Deeley