

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

Topic: BC Dems General Meeting

Date & Time: April 26, 2021, 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

[Register, Get Link, & Join Meeting](#)

by registering in advance you help us take attendance more easily and accurately.

## Our April Speaker



A local member of this wonderful group will share with us an update on their efforts in Washington and around the country.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

Our consistently respectful, nonpartisan approach to climate education is designed to create a broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations. By building upon shared values rather than partisan divides, and empowering our supporters to work in keeping with the concerns of their local communities, we work towards the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable climate change solutions.

In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](#) we train and support volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media, and their local community.

# The President's Memo

The Arkansas Republican-controlled state legislature this session is awash with extreme legislation that is dangerous to us all, especially vulnerable populations. Much of this passed legislation is in search of a problem (propelled by fears and ignorance over transgender youth) or is promoting the *Big Lie* of voter fraud (by restricting voting access). Yet this restrictive Republican zeal is not applied to preventing gun violence (bills are passing through the legislative chambers undermining gun safety efforts). Nor is it supporting real protections in the recently passed hate crimes bill.

Arkansas is leading the nation by passing such extreme and harmful legislation. Now is the time, more than ever, to get behind our efforts to support Democratic candidates at a local and state level. Your contribution to our [blue bowl fund](#) will make this support happen.

Becoming informed about Arkansas legislation and supporting upcoming Democratic candidates through your blue bowl donation are two very effective ways to stop the harm and fight for our democracy.

To learn more about what has been happening within the 2021 Arkansas legislative session, Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families issues a weekly report <https://www.aradvocates.org/category/be-an-advocate/>

Stay safe and well,

*Julia K. Bailey*

Julia K Bailey  
April 18, 2021

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# Mark Your Calendar!

The BC Dems will hold its general meeting at the **Golden Corral in Rogers on June 28, 2021.**

In coordination with the restaurant, we will be applying and observing all the COVID safety protocols.

To gauge interest and answer any questions, please email [bentoncountyardems@gmail.com](mailto:bentoncountyardems@gmail.com)



## Board News

### Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee is seeking expressions of interest in becoming a BC Dems Board member for 2022. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Chair. If interested, contact Walter Hinojosa [tuhats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tuhats@sbcglobal.net).

### Updated Mission Statement

"Benton County Dems is a registered Arkansas Political Action Committee (PAC). We share common goals with the Democratic Party of Benton County (DPBC) and support its efforts to turn the county blue by raising funds for Democratic candidates running in Benton County and highlighting current issues affecting political life within the region and nation. We do this by meeting regularly to raise funds, hosting a speaker series during our *lunch 'n learn* meetings, and occasionally holding special gatherings."

### A New Look for BC Dems

In case you didn't notice it, we have a new look for our BC Dems logo. It is at the top of the newsletter and you will begin seeing it in other places as well. Check out of Facebook page.

A big special thanks to Catherine Deeley for all her hard work and creativity to help create our new look.

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# Shirley Felton (1935 - 2021)



Long-time friend and supporter of the BC Dems and the Democratic Party, Shirley Felton, 85, of Bella Vista, died March 31, 2021. She was born in Canaan, Missouri, to Dewey and Minnie Decker.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Gene Felton; her two brothers, her five children, 10 step-children, 12 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Her presence will be missed but not forgotten by those who knew her.

## BLUE BOWLS



Go Ahead! Click or tap on the beautiful blue bowl image right here.

Stuff a few dollars into the virtual blue bowl. Believe it or not, your dollars are used during both **off-election and election years** to support Democratic candidates for office within Arkansas.

We only ask for a contribution of \$5 or more to offset those unavoidable transaction fees.

## April's Book Recommendation

**How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy, and the Continuing Fight for the Soul of America** [by Heather Cox Richardson](#)

**Named one of The Washington Post's 50 Notable Works of Nonfiction**

*While the North prevailed in the Civil War, ending slavery and giving the country a "new birth of freedom," Heather Cox Richardson argues in this provocative work that democracy's blood-soaked victory was ephemeral. The system that had sustained the defeated South moved westward and there established a foothold. It was a natural fit. Settlers from the East had for decades been pushing into the West, where the seizure of Mexican lands at the end of the Mexican-American War and treatment of Native Americans cemented racial hierarchies. The South and West equally depended on extractive industries-cotton in the former and mining, cattle, and oil in the latter-giving rise a new birth of white male oligarchy, despite the guarantees provided by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, and the economic opportunities afforded by expansion.*

*To reveal why this happened, How the South Won the Civil War traces the story of the American paradox, the competing claims of equality and subordination woven into the nation's fabric and identity. At the nation's founding, it was the Eastern "yeoman farmer" who galvanized and symbolized the American Revolution. After the Civil War, that mantle was assumed by the Western cowboy, singlehandedly defending his land against barbarians and savages as well as from a rapacious government. New states entered the Union in the late nineteenth century and western and southern leaders found yet more common ground. As resources and people streamed into the West during the New Deal and World War II, the region's influence grew. "Movement Conservatives," led by westerners Barry Goldwater, Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan, claimed to embody cowboy individualism and worked with Dixiecrats to embrace the ideology of the Confederacy.*

*Richardson's searing book seizes upon the soul of the country and its ongoing struggle to provide equal opportunity to all. Debunking the myth that the Civil War released the nation from the grip of oligarchy, expunging the sins of the Founding, it reveals how and why the Old South not only survived in the West but thrived.*

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**A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future,  
by David Attenborough**

*A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future is a 2020 book by documentarian David Attenborough and director-producer Jonnie Hughes. It follows Attenborough's career as a presenter and natural historian, along with the decline in wildlife and rising carbon emissions during the period.*

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# General Meeting Minutes

## Benton County Dems, Monday, March 22, 2021

- I. Attendee (11 attendees including 2 speakers)
- II. Call to order by Vice President David Bernstein at 12:04
- III. Welcome and Announcements
  - A. Please remember to renew your membership—Go to BC Dems Webpage and click on renew
  - B. Don't forget the Blue Bowl contributions can also be given through the BC Dems Webpage
  - C. Our Membership Chairperson has had to resign—We are in need a new Chairperson for that committee. Please contact Julia at [jkbbentoncounty@gmail.com](mailto:jkbbentoncounty@gmail.com)
  - D. The Nominating Committee has begun to search for 2022 Board Members. Anyone interesting or willing, please contact Walter Hinojosa at [tuhats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tuhats@sbcglobal.net) or text him at 512-940-2006
- IV. Speaker—Gracie Ziegler, Chairperson for Washington County Democratic Women spoke on Women in Democratic Politics Today
  - A. Biography
    1. Twenty years of experience in marketing and planning for food companies
    2. Focuses on Women's Rights Issues: Women's Rights are Human Rights
    3. Especially concerned about the restrictive legislation in Arkansas today
  - B. Washington County Democratic Women
    1. Helped to move them to digital platform

2. Part of the Arkansas Democratic Women which is a part of a 30-state caucus to the Democratic National Committee
  3. Participated in the Democratic Women's Gathering "Women in Blue," a pep rally style meeting to encourage building Democratic Party
- C. About the eight Democratic Caucuses in Arkansas
1. Democratic Women, Senate Democrats, Stonewall Democrats, Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus, Young Democrats, Hispanic Caucus, Faith Caucus, Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus
  2. Caucus role is to support the message from Democrats from a local perspective
    - a. Democratic Women Caucus is trying to reach more grass roots
    - b. Increase access to information pertaining to current legislation and balloting
      - i. Increase bandwidth access across the state
      - ii. Currently only 45% of Arkansas residents have access to broadband
    - c. Support movement by the Arkansas Democratic Party
      - i. Lower or no filing fees for Democratic Party candidates
      - ii. Encourage Democrats to run in the 2022 elections which has 1500 seats up for election including, Justice of the Peace, House Representatives and Senate Seats
      - iii. Actually invite Democrats to run for office
      - iv. Encourage grass roots supports with messaging, money, and daily conversation about the issues important to Democratic Party
- D. Response to question about low voter turnout in Arkansas
1. Working with Fight Forward Arkansas which focuses on voter registration
  2. Ideas for increasing voter registration
    - a. Realtors should give Voter Registration Cards to all home buyers
    - b. Develop and encourage online voter registration
  3. Strategies for building party
    - a. Consistency and repetition of discussing issues
    - b. Focus on two or three issues that apply by county
- E. Contact at [GracieZiegler@gmail.com](mailto:GracieZiegler@gmail.com)
- F. [demwomenwashcoar@gmail.com](mailto:demwomenwashcoar@gmail.com)
- V. Speaker—Anna Good, Chairperson for the Democratic Party of Benton County (DPBC)
- A. Biography
1. From Minnesota, and has lived in South Dakota, Chicago, and Northeast Ohio—variety of setting give her a unique perspective on needs of local Democratic organizations
  2. Teacher and gardener
- B. Ideas
1. Democratic Party ran more candidates in 2020 than any time before
  2. Thank you for your contributions to support Democratic Party candidates
  3. With organized push Arkansas Democrats can move Arkansas forward with more progressive ideas
  4. All work to building better future starts at the local level
- C. Goals of DPBC
1. Fundraising and party building
  2. Executive team has three priorities
    - a. Educate and engage
    - b. Unite and uplift
    - c. Recruit and retain
  3. Ideally Democratic Party candidate in every race in Arkansas
  4. Open and maintain Democratic Party of Benton County headquarters
  5. Train candidates
  6. Start Service Saturdays for DPBC
- D. Recent meeting topics
1. Sarah Moore, a co-founder of the Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition, on how to engage with legislators

2. Calls to Action
3. Partner with Renters United
4. University of Arkansas Young Democrats

E. Answers to questions

1. Cooperation and support from Democratic Party of Arkansas are increasing
  - a. Offering Voter Access Network training for local organizations
  - b. Training support of candidates
  - c. Reduced fees for candidates
2. Push-back against recent restrictive legislation
  - a. Restrictions are going to hurt business growth (Gracie Ziegler)
  - b. Arkansas is one of only three states with no Hate Crime Bill (Gracie Ziegler)
  - c. Collaboration among grass roots Democrats is essential to win races to slow the “Red Train” (Walter Hinojosa)

F. Contact [dpbcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:dpbcommunications@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 87, Rogers AR 72757-0087

VI. Business

A. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report

1. Report posted on Webpage and sent out in newsletter –
2. No questions
3. Stanley moved / Connie seconded / passed unanimously

B. Acceptance of January Minutes—

1. Minutes posted on Webpage and Newsletter
2. No questions
3. Joel moved / Stanley seconded / passed unanimously

VII. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m. Stanley moved / Joel seconded / passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ostas, Secretary

# Treasurer's Summary

## March 2021

by Timothy Boyer, Treasurer



<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,780.11</b>		
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>		<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>	
Dues	\$20.00	Zoom Account (meetings)	\$164.14
Blue Bowls	\$73.09	P.O. Box Rental (Misc.)	\$118.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$93.09</b>	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$282.14</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,591.06</b>		

## 2021 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

### **Position**

President

Vice President

Membership Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Social Media Chair

Publicity Chair

Communications Chair & Events Coordinator

### **Name**

Julia K Bailey

David Bernstein

Vacant

Deb Ostas

Tim Boyer

Joel Ewing

Catherine Deeley

Anna Knecht