

Upcoming Meetings

Mon., August 23
12:00 – 1:00 PM

Mon., September 27
12:00 – 1:00 PM

[Join The Meeting Here](#)

The President's Memo Big Decisions Coming

Dear Members,

RE: Important membership meeting

Please join us via Zoom at 12pm, August 23.

This meeting is an important one to attend! Our group needs to make some decisions around whether to meet as a group for the remainder of this year and ways to regroup in 2022.

As the Delta variant gains traction, it raises real and particular concerns for our region where vaccination rates remain the lowest in the country. It is disheartening and alarming to see that infection levels in Benton County, after a hopeful period of decline last spring, are now higher than they were at this time last year. Thus, we must again consider the safer way in which to gather (via Zoom) for this month and discuss a number of ways forward for our membership group.

The Benton County Dems Board and Nominating Committee hope to see you on August 23. Your thoughts and ideas are critical to our work in supporting Democratic candidates!

Stay safe and well,
Julia K. Bailey



Board News

Seeking a Treasurer

The Nominating Committee is seeking an individual interested and willing to accept the role of Treasurer for the coming year. If interested, contact Walter Hinojosa tuhats@sbcglobal.net.

Of the 50 states, only Mississippi, Wyoming, and Alabama have a lower percentage of the population fully vaccinated.

Arkansas has just now reached the level where 50% of the population has had at least one dose of vaccine.

Source: <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/covid-vaccine-tracker-states>

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 to support Democratic candidates for office within Arkansas.

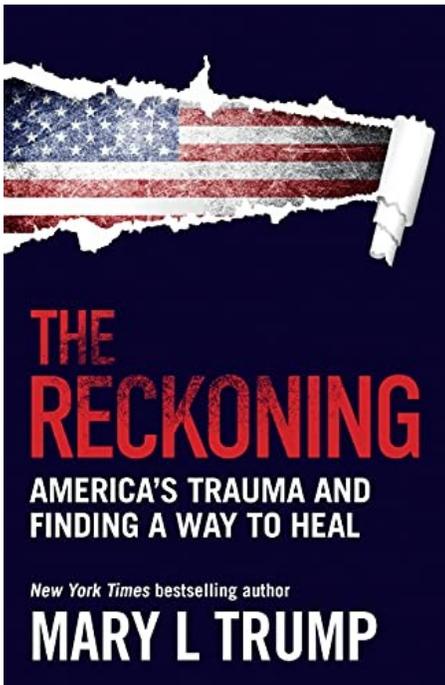
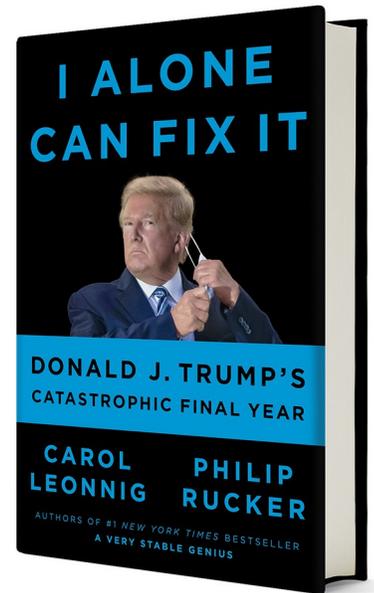
We only ask for a contribution of \$5 or more to offset those unavoidable transaction fees.

August Book Recommendations

I Alone Can Fix it: Donald J. Trump's Catastrophic Final Year

By Carol Leonnig and Philip Rucker

This book “pulls back the curtain on the handling of COVID-19, the re-election bid, and its chaotic and violent aftermath. The pair are Pulitzer winners for investigative reporting. Their book is essential reading. They have receipts, which they layout for all to see.” —*The Guardian*



The Reckoning: Our Nation's Trauma and Finding a Way to Heal

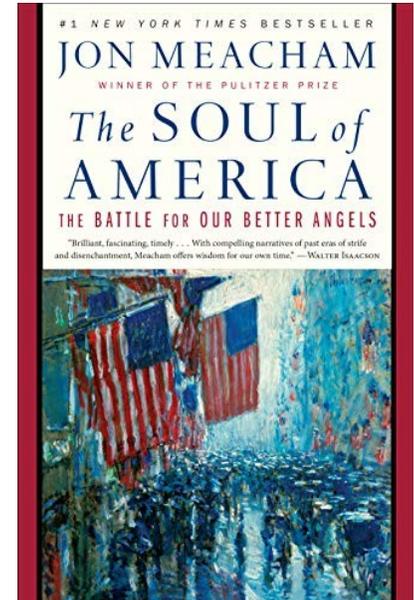
By Mary L. Trump, Ph.D.

Examines our national trauma that is exacerbated by the impact of the Trump administration's corrupt and immoral policies. The stress of living in a country we no longer recognize has affected all of us—by the author of *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man*.

The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels

By Jon Meacham

Chronicles the nation's struggles from revolutionary times to the current day and makes the argument that America has faced division before and not only survived it but thrived—by the Pulitzer-winning biographer and author of *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*.



Minutes

Benton County Dems

General Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting, Monday, July 26, 2021

- I. Call to order by Vice President David Bernstein at 12:00
- II. Welcome and announcements.
 - A. Because of the growing numbers of COVID cases in Benton County we have resumed Zoom format
 - B. President Julia Kilbourne Bailey sends regards; her job has her unavailable this week
 - C. Nominating Committee still needs volunteers for 2022 Treasurer. Contact Walter Hinojosa at tuhats@sbcglobal.net or text him at 512-940-2006 or contact Julia Kilbourne Bailey
 - D. Don't forget the Blue Bowl contributions which can be given through the BC Dems Webpage. <https://www.bcdems.org/blue-bowl-fund.html>
- III. Speaker—Jesse Gibson
 - A. Speaker—Jesse Gibson, Democratic candidate for Attorney General in 2022
 - B. Overview
 - C. Background
 1. Native of Arkansas (Lead Hill) and a Licensed Arkansas Attorney and Attorney for U.S. Federal Courts
 2. Parents were elementary teachers; married with two children

3. Went to University of Arkansas B.S. in Economics and J.D.
4. Twenty-two years' experience practicing law, represents people rather than corporations or insurance

D. Running for personal and societal reasons

1. In his law practice he has seen the “suffering” of many people
 - a. Believes our country has become a country that seems to lack empathy
 - b. Believes people need help and the first role is to listen and then to advocate for those who need help
 - c. Believes a proper application of law can make a profound difference to alleviate suffering
2. Last December when the current Attorney General supported the movement challenging free and fair elections, he was appalled
 - a. He was further moved by the January 6, 2021 Capitol Insurrection – compounded his concern
 - b. January 6, 2021 he decided to run for Attorney General and work to affect change from the current Arkansas politicians
3. What he plans
 - a. Protect Arkansans' right to vote
 - b. Insure continued access to Medicare and the expanding Affordable Care Act
 - i. Visits rural Arkansas regularly
 - ii. Understands that rural Arkansans depend on medical access through Medicare and the ACA
 - c. Fight against opioid addiction that affects all counties in Arkansas
 - i. Prosecute wrong-doers including the middle-men
 - ii. Make them responsible for their actions
4. Campaign kick-off is going well; campaign infrastructure is in place
5. More information or to contribute at <https://jessegibsonforarkansas.com>
6. Questions:
 - a. What about non-voters: He is comfortable with speaking to small town people about the need to vote & will work with get-out-the-vote organizations
 - b. Disinformation: Believes he needs to model honesty.
 - c. Redistricting: Big issue and thinks COVID might depend on how COVID continues to increase
 - d. Transgender medical issues: Believes these new laws will be struck down in the courts because these laws insert government between families and their physicians—Gender-affirming health care is essential
 - e. Encouraging Democrats to run: He has spoken to Chris Jones from Pine Bluff running for Governor; Natalie Jones; Josh Price; Lauren Mallett-Hayes—He believes Democrats can be proud of the diversity among young candidates
 - f. Work hard; Tell the truth; Encourage diverse ticket

IV. Business Meeting

A. Acceptance of June Treasurer's Report

1. Report posted on Webpage and in Newsletter –

2. No questions
3. Dianne moved / Joel seconded / accepted unanimously

B. Acceptance of June Minutes —

1. Minutes posted on Webpage and in Newsletter
2. No questions
3. Joel moved / Dianne seconded / accepted unanimously

C. Announcements

1. Walter updates general meeting about still needing a Treasurer for 2022
2. If no one steps up, the August Executive Board Meeting and the August General Meeting must add to its agenda a discussion of switching Benton County Dems from a Political Action Committee to another kind of political involvement group
 - a. Legally a PAC must have a treasurer
 - b. Raise need for Treasurer on all social media platforms AND include the possibility of needing to remove ourselves from the PAC list

V. Meeting adjourned 12:55 p.m. Deb moved / Bill seconded / passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Ostas

Treasurer's Summary July 2021

by Timothy Boyer, Treasurer



Beginning Balance:	\$2,878.00	
<u>INCOME:</u>		<u>EXPENSES:</u>
Dues	\$49.12	\$85.64
Blue Bowls	\$23.00	
Total Income:	\$72.12	Total Expenses: \$85.64
Ending Balance:	\$2,864.48	

2020 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 Ostay

Tim Boyer

Joel Ewing

Catherine Deeley

Anna Knecht