

BC Dems

June 2022

# *Benton County Dems' World*



David Bernstein, Editor

## Hybrid General Meeting

### BC Dems General Meeting

Date & Time: June 27, 2022, 12:00 PM Central

Join us in person at...

#### Golden Corral

2605 W Pleasant Crossing Dr,  
Rogers, AR 72758

11:00 AM – 12:00 Social Time & Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 PM Meeting and Speaker presentation

Via Zoom...



Meeting ID: 875 3282 8495

Passcode: 285 057

[Join the Live Meeting Here](#)

# Our Speakers This Month

## AR State Senator Greg Leding



Senator Leding has made known his opposition to the state legislature's latest drive to increase Arkansas's restriction of abortion rights. In light of the pending US Supreme Court decision on the matter, we thought it important to hear from a member of our senate.

Sen. Leding's first senate term began in 2019. Before his election to the Senate, he served in the House of Representatives from 2011 through 2018. In the House, he was Minority Leader for six years.

Sen. Leding, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, works in graphic and web design. He is a native of Springdale.

He and his wife, Emily, have a daughter.

Sen. Leding has served as the Senate Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs vice-chair. He is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Joint Budget Committee,

the Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Systems, and the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

During the 2019 legislative session, Senator Leding co-sponsored legislation to raise teacher salaries, expand insurance coverage for mammograms and breast cancer diagnoses, promote cottage industries and raise the minimum legal age for getting married.

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## The President's Memo You Can't Have Your Own Facts

January 6, 2022, has joined the select group of national events known merely by their dates or name; "9/11" (September 11, 2001), "D-Day" (June 6, 1944), and "Juneteeth" (June 19, 1865). We seem to give only such names to events that have changed our world forever. And so, "January 6<sup>th</sup>" is now the name we have given to the attack and riots at the U.S. Capitol. Unfortunately, it is clear that the importance of that event does not evoke the same unifying feeling as the others. On the contrary, January 6<sup>th</sup> seems to have split the nation even more than it already was.

In 1944 and 2001, we came together as a nation against easily identifiable enemies who attacked our democracy and way of life. It only makes sense that we should be able to say the same



thing about January 6th. Of course, there were many moving parts on that day, but I find the words of Representative Bennie Thompson (D-Miss) to nicely boil down the entire mess to one clear statement.

“Any legal jargon you hear about seditious conspiracy, obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiracy to defraud the United States boils to this. January 6th was the culmination of an attempted coup, a brazen attempt, as one rioter put it shortly after January 6th, to overthrow the government. The violence was no accident. It represents seeing Trump’s last stand, most desperate chance to halt the transfer of power.” (Thompson, 2022)

That’s clear to me and maybe it is to you. But, I am sure we all know someone close to us that sees the entire thing in a completely different way. Contributing factors such as Fox News, extremist radio and internet sites that use the confusion to pad their pockets, and even state and national politicians who are hoping to ride the Trump wave to reelection.

It also seems clear that Trump will never see the inside of a prison. To put him there would elevate him to martyr status. And what government leader wants to set the precedent of throwing his defeated opponent in jail?

I have no magic solution to offer. What I have seen make a difference is talking one-on-one with someone who disagrees with your point of view. Hopefully, they are still rational and if so, you might have a shot at lowering the temperature of discourse. Just like religion, you are not likely to convert them but maybe the two of you can at least appreciate the other’s position. It’s my hope that we can “lower the temperature” so that we can try to return to a time when we could disagree on the issues and not fear a violent verbal or physical attack in return.

Stay well,  
David A. Bernstein

## References

Thompson, B. (2022, June 10). *Here's every word of the first Jan. 6 committee hearing on its investigation*. Retrieved from NPS: <https://www.npr.org/2022/06/10/1104156949/jan-6-committee-hearing-transcript>

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# 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.

# Minutes

## BENTON COUNTY DEMS May 23, 2022, General Meeting Golden Corral, Rogers, AR

President David Bernstein called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. There was 16 present. One more joined via Zoom.

Walter Hinojosa led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Anna Knecht introduced the first speaker for the day, Carol Vella, candidate for Justice of the Peace, District 8.

Vella began by giving an overview of justice of the peace duties, the main of which is overseeing and managing the county budget. She is currently in the diversity, equity, and inclusion department at Walmart. She is also a foster parent.

Vella said as a JP candidate, she is focusing on three main issues. The first is access to child care. She said an economy can't thrive if its workers don't have access to quality, affordable child care. Her second area of concern is transportation. Traffic, public transportation, and road repairs are all areas that need to be addressed. Thirdly, fiscal management of tax dollars should be a major focus of those on the quorum court. She questioned the need for a tax increase to go toward the expansion of the current county jail; she believes there are other options that should be considered to relieve jail overcrowding.

The second speaker was Sarah Luhtanen, candidate for JP, District 7. Luhtanen recently attended the Emerge Boot Camp which trains women who want to run for a political office. As a former educator, her focus is on children and youth. She especially wants to address the issue of affordable housing so kids can have a more stable environment. She is also focused on transportation, especially public transportation for all ages. She also questioned the proposed tax increase to fund jail expansion.

At the conclusion of the program, Knecht announced that State Senator Greg Leding is scheduled to speak next month, along with Stephanie Zamarron, candidate for JP, District 3.

After a short question/answer session with the candidates, President Bernstein opened the business meeting. The minutes of the April 25 meeting had been emailed to members. Mike Reese moved the minutes be approved as submitted. Joel Ewing seconded the motion, and it passed. The treasurer's report had also been emailed. Bill Beck moved the report be approved as written. Reese seconded the motion, and it carried.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Diana Kolman, Secretary

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# Treasurer's Summary

## May 2022

by Joel Ewing & Treasurer Committee

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$3,150.45</b>		
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>		<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>	
Dues	\$20.00		
Blue Bowls	\$23.00		
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$43.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$3,193.45</b>		

## 2022 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
President	David Bernstein
Vice President	Anna Knecht
Membership Chair	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary	Diane Kolman
Treasurer	<i>vacant</i>
Publicity Chair	Donna Patrick
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing
Immediate Past President	Julia K Bailey