

Benton County Democrats' World

Volume 15

Issue 1 January 2016

Eunice Van Tuyl, President

Hal Spangenberg, Editor

BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS JANUARY MEETING

January 25 Lunch: 11:00 am Meeting: 12:00 noon

Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers

Our speaker this month will be:

'Ted Dick , the newly (2015) hired Executive Director of the Arkansas Democratic Party.

Ted has worked in politics for nearly two decades, winning majorities and helping to elect Democratic leaders throughout the country at the local, state and federal levels.

He has a track record of winning in difficult political environments.

His last position was Executive Director of the Montana Democratic Party.

Come with questions and advice. We definitely have a "difficult political environment" in Arkansas.'

Presidents Letter

Happy 2016. May it be a rewarding year for Democrats! The Presidential election year is finally here and we have our work cut out for us. Here is some information about what has happened in the last eight years and it is very sobering:

- In 2007, five of the six Arkansas' representatives to Congress were Democrats. Now they are all Republicans. Both houses of the U. S. Congress had Democratic majorities then and now the Republicans have taken control of both.
- In 2007, the Arkansas House and Senate also had Democratic majorities but now are controlled by Republicans.
- In 2007, the seven Arkansas State Constitutional Offices were held by Democrats but now none are.
- A Democrat has not been elected in Benton County during the last decade.

• Now for the GOOD news

- It just got much easier to vote in Benton County. Instead of being required to cast your ballot in your home precinct you will now be able to do so at any of 45 polling centers! Hopefully this will raise the turnout, which should benefit us.
- We have some strong Democratic candidates. Conner Eldridge is running for U. S. Senate, Grimsley Graham for Arkansas House District 94, Irvin Comacho for AR House District 89 and Ray Hernandez for Quorum Court. We have already made donations to each of their campaigns and will continue to support them. Our February newsletter will provide more information about their backgrounds and ideas.

As for the future of our organization, the changes that the state party made in December will not take effect until January of 2017 so we will

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Continue unchanged for the time being. Our speaker this month will tell us about those changes.

May we all be energized to work for or party and our candidates! We hope to see you at the January 25th meeting for good fellowship with like-minded friends.

Eunice Van Tuyl

Treasurers Report

In December the BCDems had no expenses. Our income was \$30 in member dues and \$70 in donations.

We began the month with a balance in all accounts of \$1,612.73 and ended the year with a balance in all accounts of \$1,712.73

Gaye Bland, Treasurer

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Be sure to register to vote by the February 1st deadline if you are new to Benton County or have moved.

(You can register at the Benton County Courthouse)

If you have moved your information must be updated before you can vote.

PLEASE: Add March 1st to your calendar as the date for the primary election

Blue Bowls

The blue bowls are placed on your table for you to contribute whatever you can to Benton County Democrats. These contributions are used for campaign contributions and education..

AND, while we are on the subject of contributions, don't forget to leave a generous tip for our waitresses. They serve us well. _____

Not a Member yet ? It is easy to become one. Just fill out this form and send your dues to the address below:

Benton County

Democrats

MEMBERSHIP FORM

name _____

street _____

city _____ state _____

zip _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Email _____

membership: _____ single (\$20)

_____ joint (\$30)

Newsletter mailed -----(\$10) optional

Make checks payable to:

Benton County Democrats

And mail to:

Benton County Democrats

P.O. Box 2258

Bentonville, AR, 72712-2258

Or bring to our next meeting