



Democratic Party of Garland County



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Message from David Welch, Chair, DPGC

Thank you – the thought that comes most readily to mind is my appreciation to the Membership for permitting me to serve as the Chair of the Democratic party of Arkansas. It has been a privilege - a special right granted only to a particular person – a special right to represent you – the Democrats of Garland County. Part of that privilege has been serving with a special group of people – the Executive Committee – and together we have collectively worked to build and focus the Party of Garland County as is our charge. We began in January of 2016 with about 60 members and we now have over 90 thanks to our Membership Committee and Carol Klingbeil. We worked hard to make each DPGC meeting educational, meaningful and even entertaining with frequent visits by our Candidates including not only our local Candidates but Senatorial Candidate Conner Eldridge as well, guests such as Elmer Beard, Nancy Hendricks (Sen. Hattie Caraway) and even a short movie “Go Sebastian Go!” The Brown Bag Speakers Series was the most active it has been in years thanks to the efforts of Barbara Thexton. The Newsletter has been great this year – attractive and informative – thanks to Helen Bumpas. Headquarters functioned smoothly and efficiently with volunteers and a new appearance thanks to Gloria Dupree, Mark Toth and Dave Reagan. Elizabeth Alderman joined us about mid-year and has been a real addition to the Committee. For the first time in our history we included as ex officio members of the Executive Committee representatives of the Virginia Clinton Kelley Democratic Women's Club with President Sarah Kabealo and the Hot Springs Village Democratic Club with President Larry Chesser. When Mary Lowe had to move we elected Hayden Shamel as our new Vice Chair and she has been a wonderful addition. Finally, Dorothy Clark our Secretary and Mark Toth our treasurer are the oil that lubricate the gears of the Party – without them we would just grind to a halt. So thank you, Membership, for allowing me to serve and thank you Executive Committee for helping to make the year a productive and fulfilling one.

Dave Welch
Chair, DPGC

Continued Message from Dave:

We will elect new officers and a new Executive Committee in January. I have great hopes for the future – I know we took it on the chin (They whupped us but the ain't kilt us!) And, I also know that in our whupping and in the way in which that whupping finally took form, many people are stirred – initially out of shock and anger – growing into a conviction that the Democratic party has to be the firewall between our Democracy and a growing authoritarianism that threatens even the people who helped bring it about. I'm looking forward to a Democratic Party of Garland County that is energized and committed to reestablishing the Democratic Party as a force in Garland County and the State. I'm looking forward to working with you in the coming year to make that happen.



**WOMEN'S
MARCH
-FOR-
ARKANSAS
JANUARY 21, 2017**

On January 21, 2017 in Little Rock, Arkansas for the Women's March for Arkansas. We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families -- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

The march starts at 11:00 a.m. at the intersection of Pulaski and Capitol. There is a car pool for Garland County residents who are planning to attend. Please meet in the parking lot of Whittington Place around 9:45 that Saturday morning.

Attention!!!

Elections for leadership positions in the Democratic Party of Garland County are coming up on January 18th.

The available positions are: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, and 6 at large members. Currently, they have received nominees for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and 5 at large member. That means that there is currently no one running for Secretary and one at large position. Serving on the Executive Committee is a great way to make a difference in our community, and I strongly encourage you all to consider it! There are three requirements for eligibility:

- You must be a registered voter in Garland County
- You must be a paid member of DPGC in good standing
- You must have been a member for 30 days prior to the election (so payment must be received by December 19th)



Democratic Party of Garland County
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Secretary Dorothy Clark dmclark1620@gmail.com

Our website page:
<http://www.garlandcountymocrats.org/>
"Like" us on Facebook

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 10 GPGC Executive Board Meeting 5pm at the Democratic Headquarters
- January 14 Meeting of the Progressives at 10 am at The Whittington Place (Formally the Art Church)
- January 18 GPGC Meeting and Elections 5pm Social and 5:30pm meeting. ASMSA 200 Whittington
- January 21 Women's March in Little Rock. See info for car pooling if interested.
- January 24 VCK monthly meeting 5pm Social 5:30 pm meeting Hot Springs Henderson Education Building 201 Market St

**DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS
Democratic Party of Garland County**

Hours:
Monday – Open from 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
For Brown Bag Lunch and Discussion
Every other Monday. (Please call before arrival)
Tuesday – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday – 12:00 pm. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday - 10:00 am ---2:00pm
Friday – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please have patience with us – this office is staffed by volunteers and we're working on new scheduling!
Meanwhile, you may call 501/624-0300 and leave a message.
We'll return your call as soon as possible
We still need volunteers. Please call Gloria Dupree 501-624-1743

Finally, Democratic leaders around the country are calling for Sunday, January 15th, to be a nation-wide "Day of Action" to preempt Republican attempts to make cuts to programs that directly benefit the public, like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the ACA. For more information Refer to this article:
<http://www.politicususa.com/2016/12/28/democratic-leaders-call-leaders-call-day-action-save-healthcare-system.html>