



Democratic Party of Garland County



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Message from David Welch, Chair, DPGC

Hello Democrats!

We have a chance this year! You have heard me say this before. It looks pretty clear that Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic Nominee for the President of the United States and barring some dramatic reversal at the Republican National Convention, Donald Trump will be the Republican Nominee. Barring some catastrophic event it appears the White House is a real possibility for the Democrats this year. Here in Garland County, the national ticket for the first time in more than a decade can have a positive effect on local candidates. Add to this the energy the Bernie Sanders campaign brought to the primary and the prospect of new voters, we can make a real case that that energy can be carried into our local races.

Our June meeting, which highlighted our State Legislature Nominees Jerry Rephan (District 25) and Richard Bright (District 18), plus had Keynote speaker Representative Clarke Tucker (District 35). One point he made which struck home with me was that the action in American political life right now is at the State Legislative level. Gridlock, as we have seen once again in the inability of Congress to act on any gun legislation, is the rule at the national legislative level. Our DPGC meeting in June brought these state nominees together with Representative Tucker to not only address our membership but also provided a fundraising opportunity to support our nominees. It was an outstanding night and we raised over \$1000 for our nominees.

The future for DPGC is promising and optimistic. Our July meeting is planned to be a middle of the year celebration event – just to take some time to enjoy being a Democrat and send a cheer to our Delegates from Garland County to the Democratic National Convention – Jorge Garcia and Hayden Shamel who are committed to Hillary Clinton. Frank Klein, a member of the Hot Springs Bernie for President group will attend as a Bernie Sanders Delegate. Garland County was well represented at the State Convention.

Our August meeting will highlight our nominee for Circuit Clerk, Judy Ladd and our Justice of the Peace Nominees Thomas Anderson, Jimmie Harmon, Kenneth Johnson, Denise Marion, Ray Owen, and David Reagan. This will be a fundraising event for the nominees who are running in contested races. We know you want to support these nominees and our meetings hopefully make it easy to do.

Our September meeting will highlight our Senate Nominee Connor Eldridge. I have extended the invitation and while he has not confirmed officially, yet, I feel confident he will be here in September. We will use this event as an opportunity to support his campaign as well. As I said above, we have a real chance for this Senate seat!

I wanted to recognize the Bernie Sanders supporters who have joined us as new members this year. Their energy is an example of what we need in the coming weeks as the campaign now shifts into full gear. Our in the DPGC is to elect local candidates. Our June meeting and our planned meetings in August and September are good ways to build toward success in November!

Spotlight Candidate



DENISE MARION

I am running for reelection for Garland County District 3 Justice of the Peace. District 3 is a relatively small but densely populated district roughly between Oaklawn race track and Lake Hamilton and between Airport Road and West Mountain.* As Justice of the Peace I sit on the Quorum Court which is the legislative body of the county. I serve on the Public Health Welfare and Safety, Environmental Services/Public Works and Buildings, and Ordinance committees.

I moved to Hot Springs in 2003 from Oxford MS, with my husband Dan Marion, who has worked in the Ouachita Forest as a research hydrologist since 1990. I received the Master of Science from Oregon State University and have a 26-year university teaching career at Universities of Alaska, Iowa and Mississippi. I retired from National Park Community College in 2008, after which I started a small tutoring and retail business. I have always been an active volunteer in community organizations, formerly serving as Chair of the HSGC Beautification Commission and Co-manager of Spa city Co-op. I am currently active in REGARD, Literacy Council and Project Hope. I am an advocate of solar power and a hand drum hobbyist and instructor.

I want to provide fresh ideas and cooperative leadership on the Garland County Quorum Court. I believe that investment in healthy communities is the path to sustainable economic growth, and that we arrive at the best solutions when we are inclusive and cooperative.

JP District 3 is almost entirely within the city, and is among the most economically disadvantaged in the county. That is why, during my first term, I focused on learning about area agencies, businesses and non-profits that serve children and families. I have begun helping neighborhoods organize in my district so that they will be able to make their streets and sidewalks safer and more supportive of local businesses.

I will always represent the interests of District 3, but city or county, we are all in the same boat together. I believe solutions only improve by including all concerned, focusing on our mutual needs, and working in spirit of cooperation.

* You can find maps of your JP and City Director districts at cityhs.net

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.

**Brown Bag Lunch Speakers @ Garland County
Democratic Headquarters**

Monday, July 11, @ 12:00 noon: "The Trump Phenomenon and the Fall Campaign" Dr. Harold "Hal" Bass, Professor of Political Science at Ouachita Baptist University, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas,. Bass focuses his research and teaching on the American Presidency, political parties, and Southern politics. He has authored articles for many professional journals. He is the author of *Historical Dictionary of U.S. Political Parties*. He also appears on Arkansas Week as a guest of Steve Barnes.

Monday, July 25 @ 12:00 noon: A brief respite from campaigning, a bit of mirth. Terry Diggs, Hot Springs attorney, turned entertainer, will share a lifelong study of the lore, music, and folksongs of the Ouachita Mountains. On hot summer nights, without television or air conditioning, his family would gather on the porch or in the front yard and the entertainment would begin. As Terry's uncle used to say, "Sometimes you have to change the truth up a little so you can remember it better". Exploding goats, dogs split in two, and scary "haint" stories are all part of the repertoire. Terry especially enjoys the humorous tales and songs of the area. His presentation will include not only folklore, but also some words about his family's and the area's unusual political history.

Monday, August 8, @ 12:00 noon : "Election 2016: A New Normal?" Dr. Jay Barth, M.E .and Ima Graves Peace Distinguished Professor of Politics. Dr. Barth will focus on whether this wacky election denotes what we're going to come to expect in national (and Arkansas) politics or whether this a truly exceptional case.

Questions? Call Barbara Thexton, 760-3837.

Letter to the Editor which was published on June 22nd.. Inspired by Bob Van Hook and Jerry Rephan

Dear Editor:
The horrific murder of 49 people in Orlando, Florida, has shaken our nation. The Democratic Party of Garland County expresses its sympathy for the victims and their families. We respect the 2nd Amendment and gun ownership and at the same time we encourage our elected officials to vote "Yes" on common sense gun safety legislation put forth in the Senate in order to help prevent these senseless deaths. We also encourage our local leaders to promote acceptance, understanding, and good will which will foster a positive atmosphere in Garland County so that we will never have to deal with such fear and pain in our community.

With sympathy and hope,

David Welch, Chair, DPGC
Hayden Shamel, Vice Chair, DPGC

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

IMPORTANT DATES

July 11 Brown Bag at noon at Headquarters
July 15 35th Annual JJ Dinner Verizon Arena
North Little Rock
July 16 VCK We Love Democrats BBQ and
Candidate Fair at Family Park noon to 3pm
Free to attend. BBQ \$10
July 19 Jerry Rephan Campaign Kick-off 5pm to
7pm Quapaw Community Center
July 20 DPGC monthly meeting at ASMSA 5pm
social 5:30pm meeting 200 Whittington
July 22 Hot Springs Village Democrats Meeting 3pm
Coronado Center Speaker: Conner Eldridge.
July 25 Brown Bag at noon at Headquarters
July 25-28 National Democratic Convention

Heroes of the Headquarters by Mark A. Toth

We continue to improve our Headquarters. We have been looking high and low for a serviceable four-drawer filing cabinet. Fortunately, our very own DPGC chair, Dave Welch, came to the rescue. Dave had a filing cabinet stored in the corner of his garage. However, there was a problem: Dave could not find the key to unlock the cabinet. Longtime DPGC member Elmer Beard (having a distinguished career in public education where lost filing cabinet keys is apparently endemic) knew that most commercial filing cabinets use the same key Duplicate keys were cut and the locked cabinet was quickly rendered accessible (hurray!). So, now we have a new-to-us locking filing cabinet (with keys). So a very special thanks to Dave Welch, this month's "Hero of the Headquarters" (with an added thank you to Elmer Beard for his invaluable assistance).

We also want to give a special thanks to our landlord, the Community Service Office. Over the past year things had been getting pretty dark inside the headquarter. At our request, our landlord hired a contractor who made electrical repairs and installed thirty (yes, thirty!) new light bulbs. The result: to bastardize the lyrics from a catchy Timbuk 3 song, "The future [inside the headquarters] is so bright, I gotta wear shades." So "thank you" to the CSO!

We continue to work to enhance the Headquarters. So drop by and see the changes--and play with working lights if that's your thing! With your continued support, there are more improvements yet to come.