



# Democratic Party of Garland County



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## Message from David Welch, Chair, DPGC

Hello Democrats!

The national conventions of our two major parties are over. We have seen a stark contrast between the GOP, which apparently stands for a Group of Pessimists, which painted a picture of America as a nation in decline, a failing economy, a weak national defense and terrorized by illegal immigrants. We are left somewhat stunned by this onslaught of ills and in something approaching wonder might ask who are these “nattering nabobs of negativism?” (I learned in the Republican Convention that it is okay to take someone else's words and make them your own! - but I suppose in this case I should tell you that I took these from a former Vice President of the United States Spiro Agnew, who served under Richard Nixon – and then, of course, served time (probation) and a fine after accusations of extortion, bribery and income-tax violations led to a plea bargain and his resignation as Vice President. It's hard to imagine that we have an immigration problem after the picture of America painted at the Republican Convention – who would want to come to such an awful country?

The Democratic Convention showed America as a country of people who face up to our challenges, do the work necessary to recover from hard times and view the future with hope. These competing images of America pose one decision point in the coming election. In fact, for me and perhaps for you as well, it is difficult to understand what our fellow citizens can see Donald Trump as President of the United States. This strange and potentially dangerous man seems in nearly every public encounter and comment to lack the basic values of courtesy, restraint and judgment that each of us as everyday citizens practice in our interactions with one another. We, of course, expect more of our leaders than we expect of ourselves and that is why those who support Donald Trump are such a mystery. They seem to accept from him that which they would not accept from any other person of their acquaintance. I watch and listen to those from the religious right, for example, as they do a moral dance around a thrice married, adulterous and profane public figure. The national convention had speeches from his children about what a good father he is – children from three different mothers. It seems as if all those years of holding themselves out as morally superior to Democrats who advocated for a more accepting and more tolerant social contract were nothing more than hypocritical political talking points and not at all the high-minded principles we were told.

And so, the conventions over, the election is upon us. As Democrats we have an obligation. First, we should not take this election lightly. For all his failings, it appears that Donald Trump is not a fool. He may be self-centered, self-aggrandizing, self-serving and wholly insensitive to the needs of those outside himself and yet he cast the magic charismatic dust of the demagogue over the real or imagined pains of millions of disaffected Americans. It falls to us to ceaselessly remind ourselves and those citizens willing to listen to the more powerful, more inclusive, more positive message of the Democratic Party. And, as I have so often said in the past, and as I will say now and as I will say in the coming future, this election is about the future. It is not only about the national ticket. It is equally and importantly at the state and local level. We need to give our energy to our national ticket. I know the pundits have written off Arkansas for the Democrats but I am not convinced. I know we have an uphill struggle in the Senate race, but I believe we can make the climb. I know that the Republicans are confident in the state legislative contests, but we strong candidates in Jerry Rephan and Richard Bright and we can mount a surprise. Our local races for Circuit Court Clerk and for Justice of the Peace are within our grasp. Fellow Democrats, We Have a Chance This Year!

Dave

## Spotlight Candidate



**Judy Ladd**  
Garland County Circuit Clerk

Resident of Hot Springs since 2002. Active member in the political processes of local, state and national government. Education background includes: University of Houston, TVI- Albuquerque New Mexico & NPCC. Volunteered at the Literacy Council, American Red Cross of Houston, Tx (where she was a team leader) & HS Documentary Film Festival. Hobbies include Diving and art.

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**

**Hendrix College Professor to Speak to Democrats**

**Dr. Jay Barth** will discuss "Election 2016: A New Normal?...focusing 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." This analysis will take place at the **Garland County Democratic Headquarters, 608 West Grand, Hot Springs, on Monday, August 8 at 12:00 noon sharp.**

He is M.E. and Ima Graves Peace Professor of Politics and Bill and Connie Odyssey Professor at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. Barth's academic work includes research on the politics of the South, state government and politics, political communication (particularly radio advertising), and the achievement gap in Arkansas. He is the co-author (with the late Diane D. Blair) of the second edition of *Arkansas Politics and Government: Do the People Rule?* (University of Nebraska Press, 2005).

**FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE JONES ROEBUCK  
On Monday, August 22 @ 12:00 noon (sharp!) at the Garland  
County Democratic Headquarters,** former State Representative Dr.

Johnnie Roebuck will share her insights and experiences at the 2016 Democratic Convention, where former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was elected to be the Democratic presidential nominee.

She taught in public education for 41 years including 18 years as a Dean and Professor at Henderson State University. She was elected to three terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives, serving Clark and Nevada Counties. During her time in the Legislature, she served as Vice-Chair of House Education Committee and Co-Chair of the Legislative Council Higher Education Committee. She sponsored many pieces of landmark legislation including statutes creating the Professional Licensure Standards Board for educators, the Health Facility Infection Control Act, the System of Education for the Department of Youth Services and the Teacher Excellence Support System.

Roebuck was elected House Majority Leader in 2011, serving as leader of the House Democratic Caucus. She is currently a Governor appointed member of the Southern Regional Education Board and Secretary of the Arkansas State Police Foundation Board. In 2012, she was named the Gressie Carnes Arkansas Democratic Woman of the Year and Texas Woman's University named her as the 2012 Distinguished Alumna. In 2014, Henderson State University established the Johnnie Roebuck Leadership Scholarship which honors Dr. Roebuck for her contributions to HSU and public education. The Clark County Democratic Central Committee named her the Bob Riley Democrat of the Year in 2014. She received the 2015 Democratic Party of Arkansas Jimmie Lou Fisher/Lottie Shackelford Woman of the Year award.

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

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- August 8 Brown Bag at noon at Headquarters
- August 17 DPGC monthly meeting at ASMSA 5pm  
social 5:30pm meeting 200 Whittington
- August 22 Brown Bag at noon at Headquarters
- August 23 VCK monthly meeting 5pm Social 5:30pm  
meeting at Old Landmark building 201  
Market St.
- August 27 State Convention & State Committee Meeting  
Shorter College N Little Rock
- September 16 Save the date !!!! Democratic Celebration  
Dinner at Hot Springs Country Club 6pm

**National Convention 2016**

**Hello Democrats!**

Karen, Jorge, and I have just returned from Philadelphia where it was our great honor to represent you as part of the Democratic National Convention. What an exciting and unforgettable week it was! We hope that you had the opportunity to watch as our Party made history by nominating the first female candidate for President of the United States. Now that we have celebrated that very special moment, it is time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work to ensure that we elect Democrats up and down the ballot this November!  
ours in unity because we are stronger together ---

Hayden C. Shamel

