



# Democratic Party of Garland County



Publisher: Helen Bumpas

Issue 23

December 2016

## Message from David Welch, Chair, DPGC

Catastrophe - an event causing great and often sudden damage or suffering. My dear Democratic friends we have suffered a catastrophe. We are shaken, shocked, confused and baffled by what has happened to the American people. Pardon me for a moment of light-hearted puzzlement – I had a thought – back a long, long time ago I was a Boy Scout. I pledged to be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. Now I don't know anything about Donald Trump's personal hygiene but on ever other characteristic Donald Trump couldn't even measure up to being a Boy Scout let alone President of the United States! And yet, he is. In one of his first comments after the election, he promised to bring us together, to unite us after the bitter election. Then, in virtually every action he has taken since then he has slapped our Democratic face with appointment after appointment that insults our Democratic values and attacks our institutions. Steve Bannon, publisher of a racist, sexist and white nationalist conservative website; Tom Price, appointed to Health and Human Services is among Congress's most severe critic of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and a “nightmare scenario for advocates of reproductive choice, and a dream for those with a nostalgia for the time before Roe v. Wade”; Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education, has never seen the inside of a public education classroom and is a fierce critic of public education and an advocate of private and religious schools with the real danger of siphoning off moneys from public education to support these private schools; Jeff Sessions, Attorney General, a person of such racist views that a Republican Senate refused to confirm him as a Federal Judge; Mike Flynn, National Security Advisor, was dismissed from his Pentagon post for his extremist views and is an anti-Islam bigot and insist that women who work for him wear high heels, dress in skirts and wear make-up!

Continued next column:

These are examples of President Trump's governing advisers. Now here is what we face in the coming four years. The White House, the Legislative Branch, and soon the Supreme Court will be led by the right wing, conservative Republican Party. The social and economic protections we have built for children, the aged, minorities, women will be dismantled – healthcare, social security, Medicare, education, labor unions – all of these are targets for this incoming governing reign. The ACA will be gutted, social security is threatened with privatization, Medicare is to become a voucher program rather than a single payer program, public education funded will be diverted and unions will be further disabled. This is the dream of this wing of the Republican Party. Dire predictions I know and not the uplifting pep talk which normally follows such election defeats. We all know that the when the time get tough, the tough get going. And, actually, it is time for a bit of that kind of talk. And as bit of a reminder that as dreadful as the national picture looks, our job here – in Garland County – our little section of the electoral picture – is to focus on the offices upon which we can have a direct effect. So here's what I'm going to do to deal with my disappointment, anger, and disillusionment. I'm going to focus on the City of Hot Springs, the Quorum Court, County Offices and the State Legislature. I propose that starting right now we focus on the 2018 election. We start right now with the goal that every Director position, every JP District, every County office, at minimum, have a Democratic candidate. Starting right now, we begin recruiting electable candidates for these offices and starting now we begin a training process for these candidates so that they will know how to run and how to win. And, starting right now we begin to build a “war chest” of financial support for these candidates for the 2018 election. And Starting right now we continue the coordination of the three Democratic organizations in Garland County to focus on the 2018 election. Right now!

Dave Welch  
Chair, DPGC



Please RSVP to 501-767-6997 or 903-293-5367

**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, and one at large member. That means that there is currently no one running for Secretary, Treasurer, or the other 5 at large positions.

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  
[608 W Grand Ave Hot Springs, Arkansas](http://608.W.Grand.Ave.HotSprings.Arkansas)  
(501) 624-0300

Chairman David Welch [jdwelch@msn.com](mailto:jdwelch@msn.com)  
Vice-Chair Hayden Shamel

[HaydenShamel@gmail.com](mailto:HaydenShamel@gmail.com)

Treasurer Mark Toth [mark\\_toth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark_toth@sbcglobal.net)  
Secretary Dorothy Clark [dmclark1620@gmail.com](mailto:dmclark1620@gmail.com)

Our website page:

<http://www.garlandcountymocrats.org/>

"Like" us on Facebook

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**No Meeting the Month of December**

Other meetings of interest:

December 1, 5:30pm to 7:30pm What's next in Garland Co at the Webb Center

December 3 10am to noon Concerned Citizens for Democracy at the Whittington Place with Kathy Webb State Representative.

December 13 End of Year Holiday Party (see invite)

December 25 Christmas Day

**Due to the Holidays the Headquarters may not be opened . Please call before dropping by.**

**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**

