

# REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BENTON COUNTY NEWSLETTER

A newsletter for Committee Members, Republican Elected Officials, Candidates and Friends

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*From the Committee Chair...*

## Legislative Forum

I would like to thank all of the legislators who attended last month's meeting to discuss their positions on bills that they supported or didn't. Though the time went by quickly, I think we all were given great insight into the workings in the General Assembly. I left our meeting knowing that Benton County is well represented in Little Rock. While we may not all agree with the decisions that were made on issues, we can be assured that our representatives voted with good conscience and with our best interests in mind. I encourage all of us to do our homework on issues and to never hesitate to pick up the phone and call our representatives and let our beliefs and concerns be known. Thanks to the following who participated in the panel: Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Senator Kim Hendren, District Reps Tim Summers, Donna Hutchison, Duncan Baird, Mary Lou Slinkard, Jonathan Barnett.

God bless all who serve this Great Nation and defend Her, despite the risks and dangers involved.

Mike Sevak

Chairman RPBC

"Public opinion: May it always perform one of its appropriate offices, by teaching the public functionaries of the State and of the Federal Government, that neither shall assume the exercise of powers entrusted by the Constitution to the other."

James K Polk



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## *Next Republican Party of Benton County Committee Meeting:*

Chairman's Cookout will be May 26th, 6:30p.m. at the Benton County Public Services Building on Highway 102 West. Our Guest Speaker will be Doyle Webb, our State Chairman. As usual, we are asking all those that come to the meeting to please bring 2 canned food items to the meeting. We will donate the food to the Samaritan Community Center this month.

## *Call to Order: Election for State Committeeman*

We will have a special election on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 **at the regular meeting of the County Committee** to fill the position of State Committeeman being vacated by Jonathan Barnett. **Jonathan, serving as State Representative, is a member of the State Committee.**

## *In the news... (reprinted from the American Spectator)*

Judging Obama's Court Nominees

By Quin Hillyer on 5.8.09 @ 6:08AM

President Barack Obama's call for Supreme Court justices who demonstrate the proper "empathy" isn't merely wrong; it's unlawful, indeed anarchic, and it utterly trashes the entire American tradition of equal procedural treatment under the law.

The proper conservative response to any nominee forwarded by Obama under such criteria is to demand, and force, extended and illuminating public debate in the Senate.

Each argument -- first, the anarchic quality of the criteria; and second, the tactical response to the nomination -- deserves separate and distinct elaboration.

To review, here is exactly what Obama said about how he will choose a nominee: "I will seek somebody with a sharp and independent mind, and a record of excellence and integrity," he said. "I will seek someone who understands that justice isn't about some abstract legal theory or footnote in a case book, it is also about how our laws affect the daily realities of people's lives, whether they can make a living, and care for their families, whether they feel safe in their homes, and welcome in their own nation. I view that quality of empathy, of understanding and identifying with peoples hopes and struggles as an essential ingredient for arriving at just decisions and outcomes."

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## *In the news... (continued)*

As many others have been arguing all week, that statement is wrongheaded on so many levels that one barely knows where to start in opposing it. At the most basic level, Obama misidentifies the role of the Supreme Court: As Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., once famously said, the court's job is not to "do justice," but to uphold the law. At the level of the high court, any member of the court who tries to mold decisions to best "affect the daily realities of people's lives" and of "identifying with people's hopes and struggles" is directly contravening his own oath of office to see that the Constitution and laws are faithfully executed.

Let's use Chief Justice John Roberts' now-famous analogy of a Justice's job to that of an umpire. Imagine the chaos that would ensue if an umpire decided that a last-place team playing a first-place team deserved a better "outcome" in order to make good on its "hopes and struggles," and so called "ball four" on what really was a strike on the outside corner in order to help the poor team walk in the winning run.

That umpire ought to be banned from the game for life. The same holds true for a Justice who decides that a rich man ought to pay a poor man for a problem the rich man didn't cause, merely because the Justice has "empathy" for the poor man. A few instances like that would quickly create a government not of laws but of men, one where nobody knows the rules but where everybody knows that the way to change the score is to play to the judge's own desires, biases and preferences.

Maybe the laws as written would favor the folks conservatives have empathy for, or maybe they would favor those whose pain Obama feels. It really shouldn't matter whose ox is gored: whomever is favored by the laws as written is who should win the case, all empathy notwithstanding. Otherwise, nobody can or will respect the law, because the law itself will have no force – and the "force of law" will mean, in the end, only whatever is favored by the judge to whom allegiance is owed by the deputy with the biggest gun.

Conservatives need to explain all this – and also explain (as I will in a later column) why it is particularly at the Supreme Court level that empathy is least appropriate and "abstract legal theory" absolutely and entirely appropriate. The American public need to understand it. And the only way to explain it in a way that can be understood is to take the time to debate it in a forum to which every American can be riveted.

This leads to the second notion in this essay, the tactical and moral imperative of extended debate. There was a time when that's what a "filibuster" actually was – not a procedural maneuver to forever kill a bill or nomination, but a tool of the minority to ensure their voices are properly heard, with time enough to be persuasive, before a final vote.

To read this article in it's entirety, go to <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/05/08/judging-obamas-court-nominees>

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## *GOP Allied Club Notes...*

Bella Vista Republican Women (BVRW) - Meetings will slow down a bit for the summer... no meeting in May, possibly one in June... but be ready for a party in July in the evening at Riordan Hall.

Benton County Republican Women (BCRW) - General Meeting May 19th, 2009 at the Samaritan Community Center, 1211 Hudson Rd. in Rogers, AR. Guest Speaker: Representative Donna Hutchinson who will present a program about the recent legislative session, 12 p.m. Please come and be our Guest! All Republican Women are welcome. Email: [sjohn0327@gmail.com](mailto:sjohn0327@gmail.com). Schedule for June Guest Speaker: Joseph Woods, fmr RNC Delegate, July Guest Speaker: State Senator Cecile Bledsoe, August Program: Single Parent Scholarship Fund.

Republican Men of Benton County (RMBC) - Meetings are on the fourth Friday at Metfield Club, 1 Euston Rd. in Bella Vista, at 12 p.m. Contact: Sen. Kim Hendren, Club President, Ph. 479-790-5600, [kimhendren@cox.net](mailto:kimhendren@cox.net)

Republican Women of Bentonville (BVRW)- will have a representative from Crystal Bridges Museum speaking on Thursday, May 14th at the Bentonville library at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Sarah Davidson, Club President, [sj david@yahoo.com](mailto:sj david@yahoo.com) The concealed weapons class has been scheduled for Saturday, May 23. If interested, please contact Sarah Davidson. Schedule for June Guest Speaker: Kelly Craddock on Girl Gangs, July Guest Speaker: Judge David Bisbee, September Fashion Show.

Siloam Springs Republican Women(SSRW)- will have a Spring Fellowship for their May Meeting. This will be May 16th at noon in the home of J.D. and Carrie Chastain, 20122 S. Hwy. 59, Siloam Springs. Members and Associate members will be hosting this event and visitors are welcome. For more information call 479-524-3461 or 549-5394. June Guest Speaker: Daryl Pace on the new assisted living and nursing home in Siloam Springs. September Guest Speaker: Joyce Phillips, former Vice Chair for the National Federation of Republican Women.

### Save the Dates:

Republican Party of Arkansas (RPA) State Committee meeting Saturday, June 27th, 2009, Hot Springs, AR convention center, hotel rooms at Embassy Suites.

National Federation Republican Women (NFRW) Biennial Convention, Caribe Royale Hotel, Orlando, FL September 11 - 13, 2009.

Arkansas Federation Republican Women (AFRW) Board of Directors meeting, to be held at the RPA headquarters on Saturday, July 18th, 2009. Contact AFRW State President, Tricia Greene, for more info (501) 960-3801.

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## *Upcoming Events:*

**Polk County Lincoln Rally in the Park at Mena, AR** on May 16th.

The guest speaker is Deena Burnett Bailey of Little Rock. Mrs. Bailey is currently serving on the State Board of Election Commissioners. She is the widow of United Airlines Flight 93 hero Tom Burnett. She is a board member of the Twentieth Century Club, Coordinator of the Ministry of Mothers for the Little Rock Diocese, co-author of the book *Fighting Back: Living Life Beyond Ourselves*, board member for the organization Girl Ambition, and speaker for the Young America's Foundation. Contact Bernard Mize for more information on the event, phone (479) 394-1982. There will be a band and dinner at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20.

The Republican Party of Benton County is organizing a car-pool to travel down to Mena, to support this event. This is close enough for a group to go down to support Republicans and be back home before midnight. Please contact Mike Sevak at [chairman@bentoncountygop.org](mailto:chairman@bentoncountygop.org) for travel information and arrangements.

## *From the website developer:*

It is now possible to donate to the County Committee on a monthly basis. The donations page: <http://www.bentoncountygop.org/donations.php> now accepts \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00 and \$50.00 monthly donations. There is also an option to do a one-time donation. For those that get on a monthly donation and decide down the road to stop that monthly donation there is also an "unsubscribe" area on the page.

## *Submissions to the newsletter:*

Please submit articles, associated club news, meetings, fundraiser announcements, etc. by the 9th day of the month to Barbara Tillman, Secretary RPBC, [Secretary@bentoncountygop.org](mailto:Secretary@bentoncountygop.org).

## *Contact Information:*

Mike Sevak, Chairman, [chairman@bentoncountygop.org](mailto:chairman@bentoncountygop.org)

"The sin (of cynicism) is mortal, because it propagates a self-valorizing picture of reality. If men are told complacently enough that this is how things are, they will become accustomed to it and accept it. And in the end this is how things will be."

Alexander Mordecai Bickel

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