



Republican Party of Benton County Newsletter

October 2008

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

Chairman's Letter

As I sit here and watch the Vice Presidential debate, I will write my column for this month. Governor Palin seems to be doing well, and frankly, I consider myself to be a fairly unbiased observer despite my "position" with the party, Senator Biden, who I generally like, seems to be being himself—a little long winded and hard to follow—like he is speaking in the Senate—good for us.

Anyway, I want to talk about the "bailout." Jonathan Barnett at our most recent meeting suggested a poll on support for the plan (this was before the first vote rejecting the plan). We ended up split about equally between "for," "against," and "don't know," but were leaning one way or the other. That is understandable as it is difficult for us mortals to really understand what I can only refer to as "this mess."

I am against the bailout in principle and voted that way that night, though I am also for practical solutions, and though that we had little choice but to pass a bailout of some type. My principle of opposition was challenged somewhat at the meeting as a lady from Siloam Springs who I like and respect was voting "for" the bailout.

Here is the why as to my opposition. It seems to me that no proposal is being made to correct the conditions that got us to where we are now. Those in favor of the bailout, while recognizing the immediacy of the problem, have not made an outcry, on either side of the aisle, to change anything. To throw money at the immediate emergency without addressing the underlying problems at all is essentially to kick the can down the road, nothing more, and we will face these very problems again. I suppose part of the reason nothing is being done is because any necessary corrective measure would amount to a sacrifice, and any office holder knows that forty days before an election is no time to call for sacrifice. Governor Palin did hit this concept in the debate when she alluded to people needing to do what their parents told them—to not live beyond their means.

There are some fixes which are very complicated, like regulating the "credit default swaps" market. This probably would be done by requiring those offering this product, which is essentially insurance, to have assets sufficient to pay any risks they are covering. Without

such a requirement, as it is now, the market operates in large part on leverage, which is essentially in my view allowing very high stakes gambling with borrowed money.

But there is something smaller which I think should occur as well. Over time, I think a national usury rate of ten percent should be imposed with regard to unsecured consumer debt. I know this will offend those of you who believe strongly in a free market economy, but charging twenty percent and more interest to the unfortunate and uneducated is perhaps immoral. Whether immoral or not, there is no question that is promotes behavior we want to discourage. We want people to learn to live within their means, and to be required to strive harder if they want more. The current state of very free credit makes everything available now, without work. On my wall are Guandi's "7 sins." Number 1 is "Wealth without work." which describes this situation precisely. Restricting the interest rate will make those who extend credit examine more closely those seeking credit, and will limit the amount of credit given. This will force many to make a new choice—learn to do without and be happy, or work harder for the goals you want to achieve (and presumably value that goal more when achieved).

I think we need to lower the interest rate over time—perhaps by a point every year so as to not cause the economy (which overheats because of the amount of the credit available) to grind to a halt. We need to be thinking about the way we want the world to look in ten or twenty years and get there gradually. If we could all follow the lessons our parents taught us, extreme measures would not be necessary. But we as a group have proven we will usually choose immediate gratification if it is available, so we need to restrict ourselves in order to protect ourselves.

—George R. Spence

RPBC HEADQUARTERS NEWS

The RPBC Headquarters is located at 208 West Walnut, in downtown Rogers across the street from Arvest Bank. Phone # is 479-925-4143.

The 72-Hour Get Out the Vote phonebank is planned for Friday, October 31, from 6:00 pm—8:30 pm; Saturday, November 1, from 9:00 am—3:00 pm; and Monday, November 3, from 6:00 pm—8:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to make calls during this event.

If you can carve out a few hours from your busy schedule to help out, please give **Mike Sevak a call at 479-464-4287 or 479-936-1524 or email: mikeandangelia@sbcglobal.net.**

This is a very important service for the candidates and any help you can give will be most appreciated. Calling locations will be announced as we secure offices for this event.



GOP Allied Clubs

BVRW

Brenda DeShields, President
479-531-9679
deshieldsbrenda@gmail.com

BCRW

Barbara Tillman, President
479-855-5781
batillman@harrismchaney.com

RMBC

Van Stone, President
479-855-1668
lvstone3@hotmail.com

RW of Bentonville

Sara Davidson, President
479-659-1965
sjdavid@yahoo.com

SSRW

Carrie Chastain, President
479-524-3461
jdchastain@centurytel.net

Important Dates

Oct 12, 2008

GOP Fall Rally 3-5:00 pm
Bentonville Hi School—So. Bldg.
Cafeteria

Oct 17-18, 2008

BCRW—Attic Treasures Fundraiser
Olde Tyme Tutors
Prairie Creek

Oct 20, 2008

Early Voting Begins

SSRW—6:30 pm social, 7:00 meeting
Senior Activity Center—Location Change
Siloam Springs

Oct 24, 2008

RMBC—noon
Metfield Country Club

Oct 27, 2008

BVRW—9:00 am coffee, 9:30 meeting
Concordia
Bella Vista

Oct 28, 2008

RPBC Committee Meeting—7:00 pm
Public Services Bldg.
Hwy 102 West, Bentonville

Oct 31, Nov 1 & Nov 3, 2008

72 Hr. Get out the Vote PhoneBank
Locations TBA

Nov. 4, 2008

General Election

Nov. 7, 2008

RPBC Newsletter submission deadline

Dec 12, 2008

Tusk Club Dinner
Holiday Inn Presidential
Little Rock

Dec 13, 2008

State Committee Meeting
Election of Officers
Holiday Inn Hotel
Little Rock 1-30

Contact Info:

George Spence, Chairman
479-273-2777
george.spence@sbcglobal.net

Henri Keith, Secretary
479-640-2390
mshenri@cox.net

G O P ALLIED CLUB NOTES

Bella Vista Republican Women

BVRW will meet October 27 at Concordia. Coffee at 9:00, meeting begins at 9:30. Program will be **Tommy Bailey from the BV POA along with representatives from the BV city government.** Check out the new BVRW website at: bvrepublicanwomen.org

Benton County Republican Women

Will hold a fundraiser, "Attic Treasures" Friday October 17 from 8:30 to 6:00 and Saturday October 18 from 8:30 to 3:30 pm (or when the bargain hunters have cleaned us out!) The sale will be at Olde Tyme Tutors, 14596 Hwy 12 East in the Prairie Creek area. Delicious pecans for the holidays will also be for sale at \$10 per package. Please come in and support this important (and fun) fundraising event! If you can volunteer, call **June Pelphrey at 479-636-1766**; to contribute and/or deliver sale items, contact **Alexis Sigurani at Olde Tyme Tutors 479-925-2600.** For more information, contact **Debra Hobbs at 479-636-3982.**

Republican Men of Benton County

Meet the 4th Friday of each month at Metfield at noon. Cost of lunch is \$12/members and \$13/non members. Yearly dues run from Jan. to Dec. each year and are \$15. Reservations call **Gene Luber 479-426-3607 or email whitebuffalo67@yahoo.com.**

Republican Women of Bentonville

For contact **Olga Berg at 479-273-3828 or Karen Wenzel at 479-876-2599.**

Siloam Springs Republican Women

The SSRW will meet October 20 at the Siloam Springs Senior Activity Center, 750 Heritage Court (corner of W. Tulsa and Heritage Court). Speaker for the program will be **Sen. Dave Bisbee, Candidate for Benton County Judge.** Membership information for 2009 will be available. Social hour will be at 6:30 and program at 7:00 pm. For further information call **Carrie at 479-524-3461.**

QUOTE...

He serves his party best who serves his country best.

Rutherford B. Hayes, 19th President of the United States

RPBC Fall Rally

The Fall Rally will be held Sunday, October 12, 2008, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Bentonville High School Cafeteria (south building). The featured speaker will be **Congressman John Boozman.** Tickets are \$20/person and are available at the RPBC headquarters or call **Sarah Davidson 479-659-1965.**

RPBC Committee Meeting

We will be back in Bentonville at the Public Services Building for our meeting on October 28. The meeting begins at 7:00 and there will be an informative program given on ballot issues for the General Election.

EMAILING RPBC NEWSLETTER

In order to save money and make the distribution process of the RPBC newsletter more efficient, the newsletter and minutes will be emailed to those who have an email address listed in our files. If you prefer **NOT** to receive your newsletter via email, please notify the secretary, Henri Keith, and a copy will be mailed to you. **Also, please remember to notify Henri if your email address changes.**

Of course, anyone who does not have email service will continue to receive the newsletter and minutes via US Postal service.