

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BENTON COUNTY NEWSLETTER
**A newsletter for Members, Republican Elected Officials,
Candidates and Friends**

September 2009

From the Committee Chair...

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Defining Conservative:

The Republican Party has been talking about Conservative values for decades but we have yet to define the word and what it means to us and the party.

If we were to conduct a survey, each of us would give a different definition of the word Conservative. We all agree that we pay too much in taxes and government is out of control and continues to grow. But what about the other issues that may fall in line with being conservative? (Webster's dictionary defines the word Conservative: (adjective) Disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc. or to restore traditional ones, and to limit change.) Existing conditions? Do we stay where we are without moving forward? To do so might imply that we are not interested in moving forward. Institutions? What do we need to focus on in this area? Some would say this is where we need a lot of focus. Traditional values? We all will agree that the traditional marriage is between a man and a woman and nothing can replace that tradition. But what other values do we agree are traditional? We all agree that the party needs to be redefining itself, but until we agree on what the goal is, that can't happen.

In the Sunday paper there were two articles about what the TEA party participants are doing and where they are heading. We need to be trying to achieve a similar result, getting our message into the media. We have the people to do this but it seems that no one wants to go out and work. If we are going to be the party of choice then we must start working now. We need to be going to civics classes at schools and colleges, and anywhere else that we can to speak about our party's platform. We need to recruit new members and find out what their interests are and encourage them to put their enthusiasm into our cause. We have an election coming up next year and the sooner we start getting the word out regarding our platform and principals, the sooner I think the public will see a difference in the party. I challenge each of us to ask ourselves what we can do to make a difference for the party. I am always open to new ideas and suggestions that will help us.

We need effort from everyone, not just a few among us. If you take on too much because you look around and see nobody else helping, and you burn out, you do nothing to help the party. Know your limits, understand what you can give, and give as much as you can to help make a difference. If we all put enthusiastic effort into this, and encourage each other to do the same, we can succeed.

Mike Sevak

RPBC Chairman

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September 2009 **“Taken by Surprise” – an interview with Representative Duncan Baird**
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It was a hot summer day in August '08 for painting the outside of our house and definitely too hot for any pregnant woman with any sense... of course I have none and the remodel to make room for the new addition to the family had only been started the month before... so I was painting when a young man approached with a definite purpose. He said he couldn't help but notice the Republican stickers on the backs of our vehicles... and jokingly I said that I couldn't help but notice he was wearing a suit coat in 100 degree weather! Nonetheless, he described to me his conservative platform to a T... there was nothing I could disagree with... I had doubt that someone so young could become a State Representative, so I had my reservations. Later on, I was really impressed with the mailings sent and the additional visit just before November. I remember thinking 'if this guy can put this much energy into his job, then he just might make a good Representative'.... and so he got my vote.

Since November, I have been able to make the acquaintance of Representative Baird at the regular Party meetings. So when I asked him if I could direct a few pertinent questions his way, he agreed and I was very thankful, mainly because I hope that this newsletter not only keeps people up on the current goings-on in our group but also helps people get to know the people who serve us.

Leigh asks: How did you get involved in politics?

Rep. Baird: I first became involved in politics as a college student. I had always had an interest in politics and the decisions that were being made on the local and national level, but I really didn't understand how to become personally involved until I went to college. As a college freshman I became a member of the College Republicans and a member of the Republican Party of Benton County. Through the CRs and the RPBC I was able to participate as a volunteer for several campaigns, including Fay Boozman's campaign for US Senate.

Leigh asks: What do you think of being a representative?

Rep. Baird: It has been a tremendous honor to be able to represent the people of eastern Benton County in the General Assembly. So, first, I want to thank the voters for allowing me the opportunity to serve. One of my favorite things about serving in the legislature is hearing from constituents, whether by phone, email, or being stopped in a store or restaurant. During the session it was exciting to see people from Benton County come to the Capitol to take a tour, sit in on a committee meeting, or offer an opinion about a bill.

In the Republican caucus we had 17 freshman members out of a total of 28. The greatest challenge for a freshman legislator is absorbing the large quantity of new information that we receive. For that reason Republican caucus members in the House were in constant communication monitoring the bills that were coming in and out of our committees. And every Monday morning we would have a Republican Caucus meeting during which we would discuss our agenda for the week. During the session I was a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, and I was an alternate on the Joint Budget Committee. There were a total of 2,408 bills filed during the 2009 session, and of those, 221 were assigned to Judiciary, the most of any House committee, and 166 went through State Agencies. The Joint Budget committee saw 993 appropriation bills from both the House and Senate.

Leigh asks: Can you tell me a little bit about the house bill you have going now regarding corporations?

Rep. Baird: During the session I filed a corporate governance bill, HB 2090, which would create a shareholder friendly corporation law for publicly traded companies. The bill would give shareholders greater rights than they currently have in corporate matters such as the election of directors and executive compensation. If enacted, the law would only effect publicly traded companies that are incorporated in Arkansas and choose to be governed by these provisions. Although I filed the bill during the session, I decided to hold it for study during the interim.

What do you think of the health care dilemma?

Rep. Baird: The first thing that comes to mind regarding the health care debate is not the details of the different health care proposals, but the actual debate itself. The level of engagement and involvement of average citizens has been pushed to a new level, as evidenced by the many health care town halls, phone and email campaigns, and public protests that have been occurring. I think debate and discussion are good for our country, and they are clearly having an impact on the President's health care proposal. Regarding health care itself, I think it's clear to everyone that we are faced with many health care challenges. To me, the question is how to make health care more accessible and affordable without jeopardizing quality, individual choice, or personalized care. We need solutions that offer people more freedom and flexibility in their health care choices, and not a government takeover that will result in waiting lists, rationed care, and reduced quality of care.

My overall impression after speaking with Representative Baird was that he seemed to have a true concern for *my* life... he remembered details from prior conversations of the small business I'm trying to start and even offered help if ever there would be cause for legislative involvement. Bearing that in mind, I don't know what more I could ask from my State Representative....

LeighNogy,

Assistant Secretary, RPBC

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GOP Allied Club Notes...

Bella Vista Republican Women (BVRW) - Guest speakers and possible candidates will be our speakers, Bernie Skoch for U.S. House of Representatives and Buddy Rogers for U.S. Senate. September 28th, Concordia Retirement Village, 1 Concordia Drive, Bella Vista, 9 a.m. Social, 9:30 a.m. business meeting. Visit our website: <http://www.bvrepublicanwomen.org/>

Benton County Republican Women (BCRW) - General Meeting, Tues. September 15th, 2009 at the new Non-Profit Business Development Center (the old St. Mary's Hospital) in Rogers, AR., 12 p.m. Guest Speakers: Betsy Reithmeyer from the center and State Representative Debbie Hobbs Please RSVP for this meeting with Susan Johnston, ASAP. Visit our website: <http://www.bentoncountyrepublicanwomen.org/>

Republican Men of Benton County (RMBC) - The next meeting will be Friday, September 25th 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

Republican Women of Bentonville (BVRW) - will meet September 10th at 6:30 at Bentonville Public Library. The September meeting will be to finalize the Fashion show for October. Ticket cost is \$20 per ticket, if interested please contact Sarah Davidson. Visit our website: <http://republicanwomenofbentonville.org/>

Siloam Springs Republican Women (SSRW) - will meet September 28th, coffee at 6:30 p.m. and Program is at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be Joyce Phillips, past president of the Arkansas Federation of Republican Women and former membership chair of the National Federation of Republican Women.

Save the Dates:

Benton County Fair Parade - September 19th, 10 a.m. All Republican elected officials are welcome to join us on the float.

Benton County Fair Booth - Please volunteer your time at the booth, September 15th - 19th. (Contact Mike Sevak for more information.)

Daisy Air Rifle Co. has donated an air rifle for a drawing. New visitors to the RPBC booth will be able to fill out a slip for a chance to win a tour of the Daisy Air Rifle plant and customize an air rifle to their specifications!

Please see the online calendar for more events!

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Meetings / Further Information...

Next Republican Party of Benton County Meeting:

will be September 22nd at the Benton County Public Services Building on Hwy 102 West of Bentonville. Duane Neal will be speaking about the 3rd District Rules for Elected District Committee Members and why these positions are vital to the Republican Party. **Call to Order:** We will be voting for another Elected Member position at this meeting. (see resignation letter at the bottom of this page)

Special thanks to the Siloam Springs Republican Women for hosting our August meeting. The turnout was terrific!

Upcoming Events:

A Fun Shoot...just in time for fall! Sponsored by the Benton County Republican Women on October 17th. Located at the Benton County Quail Barn, 5 miles west of Bentonville on Hwy 72. See event flyer for more details at online at http://www.bentoncountyrepublicanwomen.org/Fun_Shoot_Flyer.pdf or contact Susan Johnston. So hone those shooting skills and come join us or come out to learn how to shoot an air rifle!

From the website developer, Alex Martinez:

We are excited to announce that we can now be found at Facebook and Twitter. For those that are on Facebook and Twitter please begin to follow us today. You can find our links on our website: www.bentoncountygop.org under "Follow Us" or you can go directly to: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rogers-AR/Benton-County-Republican-Committee/82034112295> or <http://twitter.com/bcgop1>

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

Contact Information:

Mike Sevak, Chairman, chairman@bentoncountygop.org

Letter of Resignation

3rd District Member

August 20th 2009

I, Mike Sevak, submit my resignation as an elected member of the 3rd District Committee due to the fact that as the Chairman of the RPBC I am an automatic voting member. This will allow us to move forward and fill this vacancy with a new member.

M.W.Sevak

RPBC Chairman

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