



# Republican Party of Benton County Newsletter

December 2008

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

## Chairman's Column

We kind of take the month off in December every year—there is the Christmas lunch, but that is pretty much it. It is a month for family, not politics, and as we style ourselves the “family values” party, turning our attention in that direction is appropriate. However, I think keeping communications at least loosely ongoing remains important, so in my two year term, we have put out a December newsletter to blow on the embers a little bit.

Pretty much everyone I have spoken with is very down about the state of things right now (meaning pretty much anything — politics, the economy, security, though everyone is happy the Hogs beat LSU). That is understandable, with the results of the national elections. This is no different from two years ago, after the midterm Congressional and Arkansas Constitutional offices elections. But we are in better shape locally. As I pointed out last month, we hold every office in the County. And our County Committee appears to have weathered the biennium well — we tried some new things and learned some new lessons (as well as re-learning some old ones). We seem to be in better financial shape than we were two years ago. Perhaps most importantly, I think we have had a number of motivated individuals agree to step into leadership positions.

In some ways, the Party is looking for its soul. By that, I do not mean “soul” in the sense of an unspecified internal sense of self or mission. I really mean “soul” in the sense of what excites us, what moves us. These two meanings sometimes move together, but not always. Some think **Sarah Palin** represents the “soul” of the Party, but I do not think she does, at least not yet. Her main message, even if it is not what was intended by her, is the social conservative message. This message speaks to a large and important segment of the Party, but not the whole. If it was the whole, **John McCain** never could have been our Presidential nominee.

**Reagan** was the “soul” of the Party, providing a skilled mix of social conservatism, anti-tax/smaller government conservatism, western conservatism (libertarianism), and national security conservatism. But of course **Reagan** is gone, and his heirs seem to have squandered in some cases, and given up in others, on so much of what he stood for. We await our next transformative leader to reestablish our “soul”.

People are fond of saying that we are to be about ideas and principles, not individual personalities. This concept is certainly what we desire—we have beliefs we feel should prevail no matter who is the mouthpiece for them, simply because they are, we feel, correct. However, it seems to be that in this age of communication, it is not merely about the ideas but how they are presented, and that means personalities.

So it seems to me, we wait for the next leader that comes along to inspire us. The current best bets are **Palin** and **Bobby Jindal**, though they are only the favorites. The real leader, the one we are looking for, the one that will open our soul, may need something to bring him or her to our attention and may not be on the radar yet.

In the meantime, we must all blow on the embers. We do this by supporting the party with our presence, our service, and when appropriate, our money. We do this by keeping ourselves informed so we can justify what we support and what we oppose, and so that we are prepared to meet the arguments of those who see things differently. As we move into 2009, take a moment to think what you can do to make the Party, as well as your community, state and nation better.

—George R. Spence

## Check out the New RPBC Website!

[bentoncountygop.org](http://bentoncountygop.org)

## Quote

*I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind it was a tall proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, wind-swept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace, a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity, and if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here. That's how I saw it and see it still.*

*Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears; to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty's lamp guiding your steps and opportunity's arm steadying your way.*

President Ronald Reagan,  
from his farewell address, January 11, 1989



## GOP Allied Clubs

### **BVRW**

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### **RMBC**

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## Important Dates

### 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 I-30

### Dec 16, 2008

BCRW—No December Meeting

### Dec 22, 2008

BVRW—No December Meeting

### Dec 23, 2008

RPBC—No December Meeting

### Dec 26, 2008

RMBC—No December Meeting

### Jan 7, 2009

RPBC Newsletter submission deadline

### Jan 27, 2009

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

## HEADQUARTERS THANK YOU!!

With the Holiday Season upon us I would like to take this time to say thank you to the many Committee Members and individuals that did an outstanding job this election year.

There were several members who I could rely upon when Volunteers were short-handed. There were those who would help with food or whatever we needed. I am also grateful to those who gave advice when I needed it and for the words of encouragement; even those who came in to pass the time and talk about the differences in the candidates. Our County HQ was a little eccentric with the plumbing and the flooring. We did a good job with the carpet and a little white wash on the walls. We had enough banners to line the street that were located to cover some of the odds and ends of things we did not want to see.

Our grand opening was successful. I wondered that day if the Fire Marshall were to drive by if we would get in trouble for the vast amount of people that turned out for the opening; "could we have gotten any more people in that building?" The following is a list of those that I would like to thank for their dedication and hard work this election year. Some of the names will be familiar and some you have never met, but they do deserve a great deal of thanks as well.

May this Holiday Season be filled with Blessings of Christ, family and friends. May you also take the time to stop and say thank you to our Savior and for the things that He has blessed you and your family with this year. We also need to ask for protection for our troops who do a fine job of keeping us a free people and a free country. And finally as we shop for those in our families, please stop and look at those that we see who are less fortunate than those in our families and if you have it to give, please do something out of kindness of your heart and give to them. Children should be smiling at Christmas!

### **Thank you to the following Businesses:**

**Gene Long for the use of Building, Tea Room at Vinson Square, Kopy King, Oftedahl's Photography, Dymark, Data Forms, Edible Arrangement's.**

### **Thank you to the following Individuals:**

**Sara Helton, Freda Goodman, Vicky Boozman, Kathy Boozman, Congressman John Boozman, Senator Dave Bisbee, Linda Bisbee, Holly Snoderly, Donna Hutchinson, Zoe Caywood, Angelia Sevak, George Spence, Jim & Cecile Bledsoe, Duane & Mary Neal, Debbie Miller, Cindy Fowler, Sue Scott, Dee Vanlaningham, Vanessa McBain, Gerald & Pat Holland, Van Stone, Russ Bonaker, Michelle Blaty, Dan Douglas, Barbara Tillman, Josh & Tammy Moystn, TARS, Duncan Baird, Debbie Hobbs, Michael & Michelle Lee, Shirley & Jack Sandlin, Bailey Grey, Brad Angell, Connie Wuhs, Olga Burg, Sarah Davidson, Terri Johnson, Jody McAnally, Dick & Karen Wenzel, Cindy Beam, Mary Montgomery, Cinnamon Miroballi, Cory, Prim, Bill Scale's, Mike Kamen-sky, Gayle Jones, Leigh Nogy, June Pelphrey, Marge Wolfe, Vicki Smith, Les Carnine, Mark Stewart, County Clerk's Office, Jim & Barb Zalenski, Ralph Patterson, Monty Ireland,**

These folks did an outstanding job at the HQ and the County Fair this year. There were many that volunteered and to you I say thanks for your dedication and hard work. May you have a Merry Christmas and may God's Blessings be with you and yours in the coming New Year.

**M.W. Sevak**

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## 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.