

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BENTON COUNTY NEWSLETTER

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

February 2010

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From the Committee Chair...

Seizing the Moment

It seems as if the Republican Party will have a lot to gain this election year. In Arkansas we have seen many candidates decide to run in the race for U.S. Senate and others will turn their attention to the 3rd Congressional District race. Still others will decide to change their focus from seeking public office, instead dedicating themselves to support of other candidates. But the level of involvement, the level of energy, the sheer number of individuals with outstanding qualities who have even considered seeking office brings a level of hope and expectation to the Republican Party that we haven't seen in quite a while.

I believe that if ever the time was right for this party, then this is it. As our exceptionally large and experienced field of candidates begin to register, file and prepare their teams for the primary, you can see that this is the time for the conservative movement in our country, in spite of the very vocal minority who thinks differently.

There are so many examples of growth and activity within the conservative movement that cannot be dismissed. One example is the TEA Party movement. I believe the TEA Party was able to do what the Republican Party has failed to do in the last few elections - they became actively involved, attended meetings, researched and did their homework. While I do not believe the TEA Party participants were completely responsible for the blocked school millage increase in Fayetteville, they went out and educated the public on the mileage increase and what it would cost the average taxpayer. This type of success of motivating and activating people should be the model of our approach this election cycle.

People are currently starving to hear what their next U.S. Senator is going to do differently and how that difference is going to affect them and their future. We as a Party have the knowledge and wisdom to help others become involved in the political process. Some of us do great jobs recruiting new people to the Party, but there is more to be done than just encourage people to attend routine meetings. We need to inspire them to volunteer time and effort, to help run campaigns, and to help get the Republican Party platform out to the public in an empowering and motivational way.

This election cycle promises to be like no other in recent history. For something meaningful to come of it, we must ALL make a difference by action. By dedicating ourselves to the work at hand, we can not only win the many contested seats in Arkansas this November, we can be an inspiration for the rest of the nation. Although the work will be hard, our candidates will be relying on us both before and after the primary. Success is far from impossible. The only thing that could possibly stop us would be our own lack of motivation.

Please don't let that happen.

Mike Sevak

Chairman RPBC

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A POLITICIAN AND STATESMAN IS: A POLITICIAN THINKS OF THE NEXT ELECTION, AND A STATESMAN THINKS OF THE NEXT GENERATION. ~JAMES F. CLARKE

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Getting to know the Republican Hispanic Assembly, Part II

The mission of the RNHA is to build a membership organization to foster the principles of Republicanism in the Hispanic community; to provide Hispanic Americans with a forum to play an influential role in local, state, and national political activities; to increase the number of Hispanic Republican elected officials; and to create and maintain a network of Hispanic Republican leaders.

In the December newsletter I presented you with the objectives and beliefs of the RNHA and how important the Hispanic vote can be to the Republican Party. In this newsletter I want to conclude the discussion with John Eves, the Club President.

Question: How would you describe the NRHA?

Answer: I would describe the NRHA as an organization of Republicans that have a shared vision of a strong Republican coalition that not only represents, but that invites, involves and supports all conservative minded U.S. citizens regardless of race or ethnic origins.

Question: How much emphasis is there on reaching out to the immigrant population to help them become involved in civic matters, to teach them how to gain representation that will help their cause?

Answer: Our organization specifically focuses on increasing the level of Hispanic involvement in government, but in the end we want that involvement through one strong Republican Party. We are not an activist group focused specifically on Hispanic issues, but rather we are Republicans focused on increasing the level of Hispanic involvement in our Party. I had the opportunity to listen to Chairman Steele speak earlier this year. He spoke of coalition building rather than outreach. Since then, I have personally tried to not use the term 'outreach' or 'reaching out'. I express this in all my presentations. Changing how we think about our structure will help us build a stronger coalition. The immigrant population is not really the focal point of our efforts. We are more interested in the 16 million Hispanic citizens of voting age, citizens soon to be of voting age and candidates. Like other Republican affiliated groups, we do this through handouts, one on one conversations, meetings and booths at Hispanic events to name a few.

Question: Seems to me that the RHNA has everywhere to go, but the getting there is quite the snare... is it as difficult as it looks from the outside?

Answer: That is the challenge in starting any organization or business. You need to build a plan, get the right people in place and execute the plan. We are between step 2 and 3 right now. We established the AR chapter of the NRHA with Washington and Benton County members, received a charter from National, started the AR Executive Committee for the NRHA, attended a national convention, helped elect a new national Chairman, chartered our first county (Benton) and elected our first county committee. This is great progress for less than a year. Our focus now is on establishing a county committee in Washington County and then on to Pulaski County. During this time, we continue to travel and speak at many Republican events (meetings) in many parts of the state. You do not have to be Hispanic to join our group. There are three requirements to join. They are being a registered voter in the state of Arkansas, care for and support of the Republican Party or believe in conservative values and \$30 for a two year membership.

Our website: <http://arkansasrnha.com/>

Contact Information:

John Eves, Chairman,

chairman@arkansasrnha.co

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GOP Allied Club Notes...

Republican Women of Bentonville (BVRW) - The next meeting will be Thursday, February 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Bentonville Public Library on South Main Street. Visit our website: <http://republicanwomenofbentonville.org/>

Benton County Republican Women (BCRW) - Meeting being held Tuesday, February 16th at 12 p.m. at Golden Corral Restaurant located at 2605 Pleasant Crossing, Exit 81, Hwy 540 Rogers, AR. Buffet lunch which includes drink and gratuity is \$8.99 or \$7.99 for Seniors, or by the pound for smaller portions. February's meeting will feature a County Judge Candidate Forum. Please bring your questions for the candidates! Please bring a guest. Visit our website: <http://www.bentoncountyrepublicanwomen.org/>

Bella Vista Republican Women (BVRW) - Meeting Monday, February 22nd at 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/>

Siloam Springs Republican Women (SSRW) - Our next meeting will be Monday, February 22nd, coffee at 6:30 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. at Signature Bank Community Room, 200 Progress Ave., Siloam Springs. Special guest is David Coon, Rotary Club Speech Winner who will give his speech on the Constitution. For information: Carrie Chastain, President, jdchastain@centurytel.net or call 479-524-3461.

Republican Men of Benton County (RMBC) - Meeting Friday, February 26th at Metfield Club, 1 Euston Rd. in Bella Vista, at 12 p.m. Contact: For more information call Van Stone, President, lvstone3@hotmail.com

Republican National Hispanic Assembly (RHNA) - State Committee meeting Saturday, March 13th. Please check the RPBC calendar for more information. Please come and bring a guest. Visit our website: <http://arkansasrnha.com/>

Save the Date:

Candidate filing period begins March 1st, 2010 at noon. The RPBC will be at the Benton County Court House from Noon to 4:30 p.m. on March 1st and again on the filing period closing day which is March 8th from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Note: Only one week filing period.

NFRW Spring Board Meeting: Thu Mar 11 – Sat Mar 13, 2010 at the Renaissance Convention Center Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK <http://www.nfrw.org/index.html>

Lincoln Day Dinner: April 16th at the Clarion Hotel and Conv. Center, 211 SE Walton Blvd, Bentonville, AR

The Lincoln Day Dinner is the primary celebration and fundraising event for the Benton County Republican Party. Ticket information will be available soon. This year's guest speaker is former U.S. Congressman and U.S. Attorney, Asa Hutchinson.

Last day to register to vote in the May 18th primary is April 18th!

AFRW 55th Anniversary on June 18th and State Committee Meeting on June 19th, 2010. <http://www.afrw.net/>

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Meetings / Further Information...

Next Republican Party of Benton County Meeting:

This meeting will be the Filing for the Committee, Committee Delegates, Public Office and County Convention Delegates. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2nd, an hour earlier than normal because of the time required for filings, at the Benton County Public Services Building on Hwy 102 West of Bentonville.

NOTE: There will be no meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd as this meeting on March 2nd will constitute our February meeting. We will meet again in March at the regular time of 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23rd.

Lincoln Day Dinner:

As most of you are wondering who will be our guest speaker for our event this year... We are very proud to announce the speaker for our 2010 LDD event, one of Arkansas's own: former U.S. Congressman and U.S. Attorney, Asa Hutchinson.

We will need some volunteers for the event if you would like to help please contact Mike @ 479-936-1524 or mikeandangelia@sbcglobal.net. The date will be April 16th at the Clarion Hotel and Conv. Center, 211 SE Walton Blvd, Bentonville, AR. Ticket information will be available soon.

Re: Newspaper Political Coverage... FYI

The way things are covered is a little different now with the merger of the newspapers. The best thing to do is to e-mail announcements about who will be speaking at your meetings to (bbowden@arkansasonline.com), Leana Walker (lwalker@nwaonline.com) and Mike Jones (mjones@nwaonline.com).

-Bill Bowden covers "regional politics" and the 3rd Congressional District (basically covers races that go beyond the boundaries of one county, so that includes the congressional race as well as races for state Senate and the state House. He also covers the races for district judge.)

-If it's the race for, say, mayor of Rogers, the Rogers Morning News would cover that. And the same goes for Bentonville races and the Benton County Daily record.

-Overall, it's best to cc all three of the reporters, they will figure it out on their end. It's uncertain if a reporter will cover every meeting you have. It kind of depends on what's going on and who's speaking.

From: Bill Bowden
Reporter
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
Springdale, AR
479-365-2966

Contact Information:

Mike Sevak, Chairman, chairman@bentoncountygop.org

Permanent Mailing Address:

**Republican Party of Benton County
Attn: County Committee
PO Box 1678,
Bentonville, AR 72712-1678**

www.bentoncountygop.org



Arkansas Welcomes Sarah Palin

Verizon Arena on the evening of Feb. 16!

General admission tickets are priced at \$35 and \$65 and can be purchased online through Ticketmaster. You may also purchase general admission tickets by visiting the Verizon Arena box office located on One Verizon Arena Way, North Little Rock, AR. 72114. Box office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dinner and reception tickets will be sold by the Republican Party of Arkansas. Dinner tickets are \$175 each and reception tickets are \$500 per person or per couple and include a photo with Gov. Palin. Reception tickets do not include dinner.

You may purchase dinner or reception tickets with a credit card or check by calling the Republican Party of Arkansas at 501-372-7301. Cash purchases must be made in person at the Republican Party of Arkansas Rockefeller Republican Center located on 1201 West Sixth, Little Rock, AR 72201. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

*\$500 Reception tickets sold out. A waiting list is available.