



UNITY & COMMUNITY

THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE

Serving our community for more than 20 years, fighting disinformation and voting restrictions!

January 2023



President's Report

From the pen of 'Nita Brown

Happy New Year Everyone!

I want to begin with gratitude from our board to you, our members. Heartfelt thanks to you for your membership, for your enthusiasm and support of our work in 2022, and for your financial support of our needs.

In 2022 our board members unified exceptionally well to do the work of our club – we had a good mix of veteran members who stayed on in 2022 and helped acclimate new board members

In 2023 we have some board changes, which will lead us to be successful in what we want to achieve.

Nancy Jag-Nathan accepted the role of board Marketing Chair. Her incredible experience is invaluable and she has developed a marketing plan that helped refine our mission statement and our goals for 2023. Nancy will also be interim Membership Chair until a permanent chair is found. As a result of her leadership, significant changes are taking place with our dues structure and these changes will streamline our membership process and help us improve efficiency. Thank you for your patience while this process is being put into place.

Becky Babineaux is our new Communications Chair. Becky has many years of experience as a journalist and a corporate communications writer/advisor. We welcome the skills that she will bring to all of our communications. Becky will

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Reception honors volunteers for loyalty, hard work in 2022

The Democratic Club of HSV board of directors honored volunteers in December with a reception at Trademark.

The Dem Club relies totally on volunteers - from quarterly meetings to campaign events and more.

For the first time, the board now has a Volunteer Coordinator - Susan Torpy agreed to accept the newly created board position.

One of her first projects was

to create a volunteer "talent bank." The database was created from a form distributed to volunteers asking them what activities interested them and where their talents could best be used.

If you did not receive a form and would like to be included in the talent bank, contact Susan at swtorpy1990@gmail.com.

(See more reception photos on page 5)

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to turning Arkansas blue

- Raising wages, closing the wealth gap, strengthening Social Security
- Lowering health care costs; ensuring all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care; stabilizing Medicare and Medicaid

www.hsvdemocrats.com

P.O. Box 8693, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71910

All Dem Club dues now renew every January

By now you have probably read the information about our dues structure for 2023. As we look for ways to be more efficient with our resources and to streamline processes, the board has approved two changes for 2023:

For the first time in more than 10 years, our annual dues are increasing by \$10 a year for individual and household memberships – individual memberships are \$30 and household memberships are now \$40 a year (an increase of about 83 cents a month). There is no change to Lifetime memberships.

In addition, our membership dues process will change to a calendar-year renewal – in other words, all membership contributions will be due in January instead of the month the member joined.

Switching to a January-December membership schedule is a big change, but it is also a huge help to the Club, as we will have the upfront capital we need at the beginning of the year to better plan and budget. This change also improves the membership administration processes and helps us with more accurate bookkeeping.

We know many of you have already paid for some portion of

2023 based on the month you joined. While we encourage everyone to pay the full membership amount due in Jan, we also understand we need to credited any months paid in 2022 that overlap into 2023.

Our club runs completely on donations and membership contributions, and we'd like to ask that everyone pay their membership dues by Jan. 31. Watch for an email that will inform you which month you joined/paid in 2022 and the prorated amount that's due for the individual or household membership you will owe to complete your 2023 membership.

Dues can be paid online at hsvdemocrats.com using credit cards, but at this time, our online payment feature will only accept a full year's dues, not the pro-rated dues. You may also pay in person at the Jan. 27 quarterly meeting, or by mail to: P.O. Box 8693, Hot Springs Village 71910. If you pay by mail, please include your address, email and telephone number, and if it is a household membership, all names included on the membership. Again, we can't say enough how grateful we are for our loyal members – without you there would be no Democratic Club of HSV.

If you need help figuring out your 2023 dues, we'll be available at the Jan. 27 Quarterly Meeting to assist, or you can email [Nancy Jag-Nathan](mailto:Nancy.Jag-Nathan@hsvdemocrats.com).

President's Message

(continued from previous page)

continue to chair the Turn Arkansas Blue team. She took the communications role after Lisa Malmin decided to step down from the board. Lisa, whose creative talents and skills will be missed, will remain active in the Democratic Club of HSV

We have a new website! The new site uses much-improved software and back-end support and we know you'll find it easy to navigate. One of our main objectives is to make registering for events fail proof.

Budget for 2023

The Democratic Club of HSV has about 250 members, with an annual budget of about \$38,000. In my message this month, I want to make you aware of our 2023 finances.

A little about our finances – we're going to need your help to meet our budget goals for 2023.

Our essential funding priorities for 2023 are:

- A 2024 Campaign office – since 2023 is not an election year, we won't open an office, but we need to begin preparing for 2024's rent, utilities, and insurance, which we estimate at about \$11,000. Our 2023 budget includes \$5,500 to meet half of this 2024 expense. We were fortunate until 2022, not to have to pay rent for a campaign office. In 2022 when our board realized that we were going to have to pay rent for our campaign office, we took a leap of faith that you, our members, would ensure that we had the funds we needed and that faith was rewarded.

- We have budgeted \$5,000 for our candidate campaign fund for 2023. At the end of the year, these funds will be moved to our PAC. The profit from our Silent Auction goes to the campaign fund. Our goal is to have at least \$10,000 to donate to our Democratic candidates by the 2024 election. In the past, when we needed to fill our campaign fund, you gave us what we needed. 2024 is going to be a big election (Tom Cotton). With your help, we want to be as prepared as possible for this election.
- The annual cost for our billboard is \$3,600. Many of you have let us know how important you think the billboard is to getting our message out. Donations did not pay for our billboard in 2022. At the end of December, the donations were \$1,605, so we had a deficit of \$1,995.

If you'd like to support any of our funding priorities, you can make a one-time donation, or, if you find it easier, you may make monthly donations.

I'm very proud of what we accomplished together in 2022 – the election didn't get us the results we wanted, but we gave it a good try and did all we could do.

I'm excited about working with all of you in 2023 and I wish you joy and good health throughout the year!

'Nita

Tech Tips

New website set to launch by end of January

By Nancy Jag-Nathan

It feels as if 2022 flew by, but in honesty, it seems like everything is moving at monumental speed these days with changes in technology leading the pack.

New car dashboards look like a NASA console, refrigerators can be controlled with your phone, and those Dick Tracy futuristic watches we never believed would happen in our lifetime are real; they can even detect hard falls and call 911 automatically!

Not to be left behind, our HSV Democratic Club is also striding into 2023 with a new look and operating platform for our Website. Rapid changes in technology that allow for quicker performance, better graphical displays, more robust features and provide ease of maintenance mean our HSVDemocrats.com website will undergo changes to provide a better user experience.

Changes will include improvements to event reservations and payments, offer donation options including recurring donation features, ease of membership enrollment, streamlined integration, and quicker response times.

Our website name HSVDemocrats.com remains the same, however we will announce the launch of the new website via an e-blast. Our target date is the end of January 2023.



The Hot Springs NAACP to host 'Voices of Elaine'

The 1919 Arkansas Massacre and Its Ongoing Impact to educate Arkansans on the history of the Elaine massacre in 1919.

The symposium featuring the 2022 documentary film "We have just begun – The 1919 Elaine Massacre and Dispossession" is at 11 a.m. Feb. 4 at The Central Theatre, 1008 Central Ave. in Hot Springs.

The film explores a deadly chain of events that takes place when a group of black farmers organizes to obtain a fair price for their cotton crop to escape subsistence living.

Between Sept. 30-Oct. 2 1919, hundreds of African American men, women and children were massacred in and around Elaine in Phillips County, Ark. The bloody event in the Arkansas Delta has been one of the worst, little-known secrets in history.

After the film Arkansas Circuit Judge Wendell Griffen will be the keynote speaker.

Griffen is a competency and inclusion consultant, trial and appellate lawyer, trial and appellate judge, legal scholar, religious leader, social commentator and public speaker.

January Quarterly Meeting



Dr. Johnnie Roebuck helps us start the year right!

We're kicking off the new year with an exciting guest speaker for our Jan. 27 Quarterly Meeting - Dr. Johnnie Roebuck/DPA, National Committee Representative to the DNC, will talk about "What to Expect in 2023."

WHERE: Coronado Center | **WHEN:** Friday, Jan. 27- 3 to 6 p.m.

COST: \$15 for members | \$20 for nonmembers

Cash raffle | Salad Extravaganza!

with plenty of desserts, wine, beer, soft drinks, tea

RSVP TODAY - Cut-off date is January 24

[**REGISTER NOW**](#)



Democratic Club Board of Directors 2023

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[Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village](#)

News from the Democratic Party of Arkansas

Parsons seeks second term as DPA vice-chair of counties

By BECKY BABINEAUX

Dustin Parsons, currently the Vice-Chair of Counties for the State Democratic Party of Arkansas, is looking to keep the job for another four years – and that’s good news for Democrats in Hot Springs Village and across the state.



Dustin, former chair of the Saline County Democrats, has been a good friend to the Democratic Club of HSV and is a fan of Hot Springs Village.

Here’s what he had to say about HSV Dems.

“The HSV Dems are an excellent example of how the grassroots process works,” Dustin said. “HSV Dems have been organizing for many years in their community to build a strong base of workers and a support system for both of the counties they are part of. They work tirelessly in each respective county to help support candidates and the democratic values we hold dear. HSV Dems don’t focus just on their HSV community borders; they are engaged across Arkansas in a way that encourages other groups to model after their own actions.”

That grassroots organization is the key to Democrats future in Arkansas, Dustin said. “Dems need to organize at all levels to ensure that we have built a strong grassroots campaign all across Arkansas.”

So what does a vice chair of counties do? Basically, this position

is the liaison for officers, the executive committee, the state committee, and counties throughout all of Arkansas to help grow every county party. The vice chair networks with county committees to gain insights and ideas for candidate recruitment, retention, fundraising, etc. that might help counties. He is the vital communication link between the state party and Arkansas’s counties.

Some of Dustin’s accomplishments during his last term include:

- developing an online county party resource guide, which is a living folder to help all counties.
- beginning the development of a streamlined process for submitting county reports electronically with an option to upload files.
- starting a newsletter that highlights county success and keeps everyone abreast of what is going on around the state.

And when it comes to Arkansas natives, Dustin has some impressive bona fides. He’s the son, grandson, and great-grandson of blue-collar workers His family homesteaded the family cattle farm, and seven generations have lived on that land, which Dustin now farms.

He represented the Second Congressional District as a delegate to the 2016 and 2020 National Democratic Conventions and at the 2016 National Democratic Convention, addressed the delegates on behalf of Secretary Hillary Clinton’s campaign.

Tennille has second thoughts on stepping down as DPA head

By BECKY BABINEAUX

Grant Tennille, who was instrumental in pulling the Democrat Party of Arkansas (DPA) out of the red in 2022, has reconsidered his earlier decision not to seek another term.

Grant began his tenure in October 2021 and it was to lead a state party with maxed out credit cards and a mortgaged headquarters. At the end of his term, the credit cards were paid off and the headquarters was owned free and clear.

When Grant announced his decision not to seek reelection, it was at the end of a hard-fought election season during which he worked tirelessly without pay for an election that didn’t turn out as we hoped. He was tired. Tired of complaints, tired of party committee members who don’t contribute to the party. Tired of an uphill battle.

With the help and concern from mentors Sen. Joyce Elliott and Sen. Keith Ingram, Grant was convinced to stay in the game.

“Joyce and Keith convinced me that many of my concerns are opportunities. They reminded me that I must develop strategies to take care of myself, mentally and physically, and that

this is the one responsibility that I can’t share with anyone else. They insisted that we have done the ugliest, hardest work, but that danger is still nipping at our heels. They asked me to think about how I would feel if everything we worked so hard to accomplish slipped away. In the end, they asked me to consider running for Chair again.”

Grant said yes.

Grant, a former reporter for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, served in the administrations of Governor Mike Beebe (as head of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission) and Republican Gov. Mike Huckabee, as a legislative lobbyist and speechwriter.



DPA responds to new governor's inaugural address

LITTLE ROCK – The Democratic Party of Arkansas (DPA) released the following statement after Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders's inaugural address:

Congratulations to Sarah Huckabee Sanders on becoming the first female Governor in Arkansas history. No one can deny that electing the first woman to serve as Governor is a proud milestone.

This moment is bittersweet for many women as Governor Sanders's party denies women the opportunity to start a family how, when, and where they want. Too many in Arkansas are hurting and too many families are falling behind, and the vision announced by the Governor today will not make Arkansas better for these folks.

The message we heard from Governor Sanders (in her inauguration speech) was not one of unity or celebration, but rather dividing our state further. It is not "bigger," "bolder," or "better" to divert public tax dollars into private or religious schools

or to invest more in prisons than in our people.

We celebrate her call to raise teacher salaries and call on the legislature to send a clean teacher pay bill to the governor's desk without delay. We are also encouraged by her support of expanding pre-K and improving literacy scores, but know that stripping our schools of revenue through even more tax cuts for the very wealthy will imperil these essential initiatives.

The beginning of Governor Sanders's term will also be remembered for attacking Arkansas schools for "indoctrination," a charge she has repeatedly levied against Arkansas teachers. Arkansas Democrats stand with our teachers and know they are first and foremost much too busy grading papers, buying their own supplies, and making lesson plans to indoctrinate anyone.

Arkansas Democrats will continue working for a better Arkansas during the 94th General Assembly and call on all Arkansans to stay vigilant to state policy changes and be in constant contact with their legislators throughout this session.



Democrats Respond to Gov. Sanders' Inaugural Address & Urge Her to Raise Teacher Pay Without Delay

ARKANSAS DEMOCRATS

House and Senate also responded to Sanders' address - go [here](#) to read that response.

Sanders' executive orders and more 'good' news

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders got the ol' pen out as soon as the coronation was over and began signing executive orders.

Mostly, the executive orders are to protect Arkansans from scary things like saying "latinX" (a non-gender-revealing term) and replacing it with Hispanic, "Hispanics," "Latino," "Latinos," "Latina," or "Latinas."

She also made sure Arkansas students won't be subject to the dreaded Critical Race Theory and that no one will be forced to wear a mask ever or get a Covid vaccine or booster.

Read details about the governor's executive orders [here](#).

For more information about what else she's been up to, go [here](#).

Read what others think about Sanders' first executive orders:

CNN Opinion: What Sarah Huckabee Sanders gets wrong with her 'Latinx' ban

The St. Louis Post Dispatch: (on CRT) "Similar to her time as the White House spokesperson trying to make sense of Donald Trump's senseless behavior and words, Huckabee's order makes clear she doesn't have a clue what she's talking about."

Arkansas Times: Church and State mingle at inauguration prayer service

MSNBC: "Don't say LatinX - Sarah Huckabee Sanders and other Republicans hope this will score them some political points. But most Latinos will snicker at such stunts."

DPA State Committee to meet Jan. 28 for election

To complete the business from the DPA State Committee meeting on Saturday, Dec. 10 the committee agreed to continue the meeting on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m., at Shorter College, 604 N Locust St., North Little Rock. Registration will open at 1 p.m.

[REGISTER TO ATTEND HERE](#)

The meeting is open to the public but only members of the State Committee present in person will be recognized to speak, make motions, or vote. There will be no online voting for this meeting or election.



WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS





DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE
P.O. BOX 8693
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR 71910

Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ County _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____



Select your membership type:

- Individual Membership (yearly)..... \$ 30
- Household Membership (yearly)..... \$40
- Individual Century Club Membership (yearly) \$ 130
- Household Century Club Membership (yearly) \$ 140
- Lifetime Membership (one-time payment) \$ 250

Pay online with a credit card at www.hsvdemocrats.com/membership

Or mail a check to: **Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village**

P. O. Box 8693, Hot Springs Village, AR 71910

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE ON JANUARY OF EACH YEAR

**Lifetime and Century Club Memberships are listed in the quarterly Newsletter.*

** All memberships are for one year and have a recurring annual fees (*with the exception of a Lifetime Membership).*
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