

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*  
**THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER**



November 2009

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

**HOTLINE 546-8115**

**2009/10 Officers**

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### From the Chair

Last month's, October's issue, of the Democratic Reporter introduced a contest whereby the reader was to phone-in or e-mail the location of a SECRET PHRASE. We were a bit disappointed in the number of responses received via our HOTLINE 546 8115 and e-mail, since the prize is quite nice, a DINNER FOR TWO at the Mezzo Thai Tapas Resturant at Amon Park in Richland, 946-0042. I'd been pleased to award it NOW but unfortunately to those contestants that properly phoned in their information, I'm sorry to say those calls were LOST in the world of Kelly's Telecommunications. I found out the hard way that our messages if listened to, but not deleted, were retained for ONLY 48 hours. So unfortunately, all those spirited Democrats who dutifully called with their info were wiped from the system and unfortunately I didn't record their names at the time they were received.

So in the spirit of fairness, we're going to carry on the contest into the month of NOVEMBER. With a NEW 'Secret Phrase' Contest. So those of you that phone in your guesses last month

[incidentally ALL submitted were correct] may we ask you to enter again! And again PLEASE .. to ALL our READERS ... I urge you to PLEASE enter the "Secret Phrase' Contest.

The SECRET PHRASE for the month [to be found in this editon of the newsletter] is "their social" [ignor phrentheses and case]. Find it, and identify the page, column and row that it's it!. Then either E-Mail your guess to [chair@bencodems.org](mailto:chair@bencodems.org) or phone it in to our HOTLINE 546 8115 and this time we WILL record in callers on a DAILY BASIS.

Good Luck and PLEASE ...everyone .. take a chance .. it's a nice dinner!

### The Laura Grant Campaign Update

If you read this BEFORE November 3<sup>rd</sup> there's still time to help with the Grant campaign. They've opened their Pasco Headquarter's during September and have been calling from it since it's opened. If you'd like to help, PLEASE give Leona or Jan a call at 942 4111 or 545 1028 respectively.

### Murray Fund Raiser

If you want to get up close and personal with SenatorPatty Murray ... mark November 12th on the calendar. Her camapign is having a fundraiser, Thursday, November 12th. We just found out about it today, so if your interested ,, please check our Calendar at ..... [bencodems.org/calendar.shtml](http://bencodems.org/calendar.shtml) ... for more info as it becomes available on time and location!

## BCDCC PLEDGE DRIVE

The BCDCC is inaugurating a pledge drive for 2009-2010. The elections in 2010 are almost here and the BCDCC will need a steady revenue flow to aid candidates in Benton county. In the past the party has relied on contributions that arrive on an intermittent basis. Budgeting for office space, supplies, and campaign materials has been almost impossible. Fortunately, there have almost always been sufficient funds to pay the bills.

In the coming year, the BCDCC is encouraging Democrats in Benton county to pledge their financial support on regular basis. The local party asks that you sign up to contribute quarterly; November 2009, February 2010, May 2010, and August 2010.

Tell us how much you can comfortably contribute every three months on the pledge card and then write the check. Give us an e-mail or phone number and we'll remind you to send your next contribution.

**Contribute! Benton County Democrats need you.**

## HALLOWEEN PARTY

I hope I'll see you all at the Halloween party this Saturday at the Richland Community Center. We have to have some fun or else political work becomes too much. Dress up! Show up! Have fun!



Negotiations about the Judicial Review Board (JRB) are still going on. If you remember last month's article, we decided to replace the JRB with another board that's better able to handle problems as they arise. How this will be done will take some work on how best to help State Committee members when a

question or conflict comes up. I'll keep you posted as we go along.

The other situation lingering from the September meeting is the question of our 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District's representative to the State Executive Board (E Board). John Hunter was elected back in January, but hasn't sent out a report and attended only 1 E Board meeting out of 3. George Fearing is working on it. We hope this will be resolved by Mr. Hunter's attendance at the January meeting and subsequent reports about his involvement. I know all of us are keeping our eyes on the progress of the debate over health care insurance reform. Send a postcard or email to Senators Murray and Cantwell and drop Doc Hastings a line so he'll know how many of his constituents favor a public policy. You might tell him that you don't want insurance companies selling policies across state lines because then they can flout Washington State's consumer protection laws. Being able to cross state lines is how credit card companies are able to disregard WA's good usury laws. It sounds benign for consumers, but there's a problem lurking behind the façade.

--- Mimi Latta

## DEAR DEMOCRATS

Halloween isn't just for scary Republicans. Come see us this Saturday (Halloween) at the Richland Community Center. We'll be there waiting for you from noon to 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It's an opportunity to have some food and fun with local Democrats, and it's also a chance to try out your new ghoulish suit before the big evening.

Speaking of a big evening, we no longer meet with friends and neighbors at the local fire house or school house on election day, but we still have an election day and it's coming up soon.

There are two very important statewide issues on the ballot: Referendum 71 to affirm near-equal rights for qualifying unmarried partners (including same-sex couples), and Initiative 1033 which intends to cut state general fund resources needed to support education; social, health and environmental services; and general government activities.

If you haven't yet voted I recommend a hearty Yea on R-71 and a big fat NO for Tim Eyeman's bone-chilling I-1033.

--- John Latta, Benton County State Committeeman

## TEA PARTY THOUGHTS

The tea party express arrives in the Tri-Cities on Halloween. While they have had their rallies before, this is the first appearance of one of their official buses. A few thoughts come to mind.

First - How appropriate that they will meet on Halloween. The dirty tricks and lies that have emanated from their leaders - Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity, and Dick Armey are almost laughable, but these people are serious. From death panels, to overspending complaints, to they are taking away our rights, delusions exude from these ill-educated zealots. Unfortunately, a few hundred Tri-Citians believe in these shamans.

Second - Has anyone told them that the Tri-Cities area has been built by the largesse of the Federal government? Three sleepy farm communities were transformed by the Hanford atomic project. Almost 70 years later, the cleanup of that project, funded by the Federal government, fuels the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy of the area.

Third - Why are so many retirees at their events? Are they not receiving Social Security and Medicare benefits, those publicly funded programs? And if these people don't know it, their patron saint, Ronald Reagan, increased the taxation of their Social Security benefits.

Here are just a few thoughts for local Democrats. It is too easy to be complacent in the face of stridency. It is too easy to shrink from the demagoguery. It is too easy to stay silent. It was not easy, but it must be remembered that a rag-tag bunch of settlers threw a real tea party in Boston over 200 years ago and ousted a reigning power. If local Democrats want to oust these Republicans, then they cannot take it easy. --

**Regina Speer**



## Our Calendar on the Web

<http://www.bencodems.org/calendar.shtml>



**HOTLINE 546-8115**

**Website [www.BenCoDems.org](http://www.BenCoDems.org)**

## Continued Mailings of the Newsletter

To those of you that expressed an interest in continuing the newsletter mail... thank you. In the January edition of the Democratic Reporter we will be asking you to let us know either by e-mail OR an enclosed post card that you want the Democratic Reporter to continue to be mailed to your home.

We were going to send the post cards out with the November Newsletter but decided to mail it with the first 2010 issue instead, so please look for it. If we don't hear from you, you will no longer get the mailed newsletter. That said, please note that you'll always be able sign up for an announcement of the latest issue of the newsletter to read/download the Democratic Reporter from our website at

----- [www.BenCoDems.org](http://www.BenCoDems.org) -----

## NOVEMBER 2009

Sat, Oct 31, 09	12 pm – 2pm	Halloween Fun Raiser - 500 Amon Park Drive, Richland, WA 99352, Richland Community Center
Sun, Nov 1, 09		Daylight Saving Time Ends
Mon, Nov 2, 09		Get Absentee Ballot for Nov 3 election - Any Benton County Auditor's Office BEFORE 5 PM!
Tue, Nov 3, 09	Election Day	Mail or use drop boxes by 5 pm or take to Pasco Post Office my mid-night
	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Wed, Nov 11, 09	Veteran's Day	
Thu, Nov 12, 09	6pm – 9pm	Senator Murray Get Together ... - TBD check our HOTLINE 546-8115 for final times and location
Fri, Nov 13, 09	6pm – 8pm	Tri-City Democrats Potluck & Program - 1305 Knight St., Richland, WA
Tue, Nov 17, 09	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Wed, Nov 18, 09	7pm – 9pm	BCDCC Central Committee Meeting – Richland Shops, Duportail and Queensgate
Mon, Nov 23, 09	8pm – 9pm	Last Day for Newsletter Submissions
Tue, Nov 24, 09	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Thu, Nov 26, 09	Thanksgiving	Enjoy and be thankful ....
Mon, Nov 30, 09	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly and mailing - Shilo Inn Board Room .. in Richland GW Way and Comstock
Tue, Dec 1, 09	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352