

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

April 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

Contacts

<i>Chair</i>	Mimi Latta	627-2679
<i>Vice Chair</i>	John Dillman	375-0322
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Kizerian	585-1122
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michele Levenite	375-0392
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Woman</i>	Hope Pollard	946-1494
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Man</i>	Floyd Hodges	582-6748

From the Chair

The Open House we planned as an educational event for delegates and alternates morphed into a candidates' event, but was terrific. (The turnout numbered 154 – not including the candidates.) We had a great time answering delegates questions, greeting familiar faces, and meeting new friends. Christine Gregoire had to leave earlier than planned, but gave a good speech, Phil Talmadge was eloquent, Craig Mason, Richard Wright and Sandy Matheson proved the depth of the Democratic field for the 4th Congressional District race against Doc Hastings, Jerad Koepf gave a good speech detailing his views concerning the 8th Legislative District and Andy Miller urged support for our candidates and the County Organization.

The Open House was a prelude to our County Convention that will be on Saturday, April 24th from 8:15 AM to 5:30 PM. All Democrats are welcome, but only seated delegates or alternates can vote. There will be a \$5.00 registration fee at the time you sign in to help cover the location costs. We will have breaks and a lunch hour, but plan to stay and work hard on the election of delegates, platform, and resolutions.

If you look on the back of the annual fundraising letter we sent out, you'll see a sheet to describing many of the activities we engage in. It should help you find events or activities that interest you. I hope you'll join us in one or more of these actions. We're happy to answer your questions or sign you up!

We need some help planning an en-

try for the Cinco de Mayo parade on May 1st. If you are artistic, a good planner or know how to make a couple of bucks look like a million, we sure can use your assistance. We also need a flatbed or other trailer so that those who can't walk can still participate. Call Mimi Latta with all offers!

I hope this is our best year ever with election results that prove that hard work pays off.

Mimi Latta

Upcoming Events

April BCDCC Meeting

Our April 21st Central Committee Meeting will be at Carmichael Middle School's cafeteria from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. There will be a Social Hour before the meeting beginning at 6:00 PM with light snacks and finger foods. Come early to socialize, get to know each other, and talk about issues!

Playground of Dreams

The effort to rebuild the Playground of Dreams offers a fantastic opportunity for Democrats to volunteer in the community. We'd like to see a good turnout from Democrats on April 23rd from 12:30 - 5:00 PM. Runners/admin and food service workers are still needed. If you plan to volunteer, or have questions, please call Mimi Latta at 627-2679.

County Convention Registration

Due to the anticipated record attendance at the County Convention, please note the following guidelines to ensure that registration goes smoothly.

Please bring your Certificate of Election, the blue or yellow piece of paper you received when elected a Delegate or Alternate at Caucus, to the convention. The certificate serves two functions during registration: it lists your

precinct, and it will facilitate quick verification of your Delegate or Alternate status. If you have misplaced your Certificate of Election, you can be issued a replacement at the door *only if your name appears on the list of Delegates and Alternates*. The original certificate, or a replacement issued at the door, is mandatory for participation.

The seats in the auditorium at Chief Joe's are hard. To ensure your comfort, bring a pillow! Please note that Trout precinct is in the 8th LD and Canyon precinct is in the 16th LD. If you have any questions about registration, you can contact the Credentials Chair, Michele Levenite, at 375-0392.

Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. Local news, event information, reference articles about issues of interest or on the 'Focus Issue' for each newsletter, book list suggestions, and letters to the editor are particularly encouraged. Personally written material should be kept to 125 words or less. Submissions of excessive length will be returned, and a shorter revision requested. Reference articles will be summarized, or edited to an appropriate length.

The submission deadline for letters and reference articles is the 3rd Sunday of each month. Calendar items and brief event information may be submitted up to the 4th Sunday.

Due to limited space, material received earliest will receive priority consideration. Reference articles without publication name, date, and author will not be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Edited submissions will be returned for review by the 3rd Wednesday.

Please send submissions to bencodemembers_newsletter@earthlink.net. E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call 509-585-4900.

Candidate Statements

All candidates running for the 4th Congressional District against Doc Hastings were invited to submit a statement for this issue.

Dear Friends,

I'm grateful for the democratic system that allows me to run for Congress. I'm bothered by the direction this country is presently headed. I have deep concerns about our approach to the Iraq War, ballooning budget deficits, the rising cost of health care, and the continued loss of jobs from this country.

I'm confident these problems can be solved. I studied Business and Physical Therapy in college and for the past 22 years I have watched a Physical Therapy company grow from one clinic in Moses Lake to ten clinics in Washington and Oregon.

I have traveled extensively in the world. Much can be learned by studying how other countries have solved problems similar to the ones we now face. Since I am not accepting campaign donations, I will not cater to any special interest. My slogan is "AN EQUAL VOICE FOR ALL". I am asking for volunteers to help with a grassroots campaign. If you are interested in helping, please fill out a volunteer sheet.

Sincerely,
Richard Wright

Local Issues

New PCO

Congratulations to our newly appointed PCO Scott Jennings.

Nitrate and Perchlorate in Umatilla Groundwater

Excerpt from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality news release March 29, 2004. The perchlorate FAQ and more information can be found on <http://deq.state.or.us/wq/groundwa/LUBGWMgmt.Area.htm>.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. EPA released results of groundwater samples from the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) on March 29, 2004. The current sampling effort looked at water from 133 wells and compared the results to samples collected in 1992. The results indicate that there are continued elevated nitrate concentrations, and possibly even increased nitrate, in the area.

In addition, the sampling demonstrated the presence of perchlorate in 54% of the wells sampled. Perchlorate is considered to have adverse health effects, although no federal or Oregon state drinking water standards have been established. EPA Region 10 recommends that water containing more than 4 parts ppb perchlorate should not be used for drinking or cooking. Of the 54 domestic drinking water wells that were sampled, seven showed perchlorate levels higher than 4 ppb.

County Convention: A Process

The County Convention is the second tier in the three tier process for the selection of Washington State delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. At the first tier of the process, the precinct caucuses held Feb. 7th, a record attendance of 695 democrats, representing 137 of the 181 precincts in the Benton County, selected a total of 357 delegates and 148 alternates to the county convention. The state has allo-

cated Benton County a total of 34 delegate positions for the State Convention in Tacoma, June 5th. These positions will be divided to where 29 delegates will be filled at the 8th LD sub caucuses, and 5 delegates will be filled at the 16th LD sub caucuses. Of the 357 delegates, 314 are from the 8th LD and 43 are from the 16th LD.

The Washington State Delegate Selection Plan provides that a presidential preference candidate must reach a threshold of 15% of the delegates present to receive any state convention delegates. Potential breakdown:

8th LD: Clark 33, Dean 63, Edwards 27, Kerry 162, Kucinich 11, and uncommitted 18. In the 16th LD: Clark 6, Dean 4, Edwards 1, Kerry 30, Kucinich 2, and uncommitted 0.

Based on the presidential preference at tier one, only Kerry (52%) and Dean (20%) meet the 15% threshold in the 8th LD and only Kerry (70%) meets the threshold in the 16th LD. However, one can change his/her presidential preference prior to the final credential report.

The county convention will recess and allow the two LDs to caucus and divide up into sub caucuses for the actual delegate selection process. Only delegates who are a part of a viable sub caucus will be allowed to vote in the state convention delegate/alternate selection process.

Bob Bowersock

Letters to the Editor

In future editions, letters to the editor may be submitted concerning local, national, or international issues, or as a forum for commentary on the newsletter. Please keep letters to 125 words or less. See submission information on the front page.



Web Resources

★ The following government web sites make it easy to keep up on the progress of new bills: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. There is also up-to-the-minute information on the current legislative session with calendars and links to the text for each bill.

★ factcheck.org by the Annenberg Public Policy Center helps keep politicians honest by reporting the truth behind so many of the ads we are seeing today.



Book List

★ *Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror* by Richard A. Clarke

★ *Bushwacked* by Molley Ivins

★ *The Price of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House, and the Education of Paul O'Neill* by Ron Suskind

★ *Worse Than Watergate: The Secret Presidency of George W. Bush* by John W. Dean

Focus Issue: The Environment



Letter from the Editor

Recently, when I was visiting the House Committee on Resources' website, I noticed a headline that was very disturbing. An article posted there discusses a comment by Sen. John Kerry regarding oil consumption. Using inflammatory language, the article tries to discredit Kerry and make him look foolish. Additionally, the quote is not properly referenced and is used out of context.

The article associates this comment with Kerry's record on ANWR, quoting three individuals who obviously have a personal and political agenda against Kerry. Interestingly enough, apparently no attempt was made to seek clarification from Kerry, or his congressional or campaign staff. This is pure partisan politics and has no place on a government-sponsored, tax-payer funded web page.

At the Democratic Unity Dinner March 25, president Clinton said the following, "Look, if people think in this election, if they think about the choices that have been made and the vision John Kerry offers, we win. Therefore, they have to get people to stop thinking." We need to encourage people to think by letting our voice be heard on these issues. Write to your government leaders, TV stations, and newspapers. Make groups that misrepresent the facts and misuse tax payer money accountable.

I feel the environment is one of the highest stake issues in the next presidential election. It is necessary that the next leader of our country realize the long-reaching effects of short-term energy policies. Sen. John Kerry has a strong record on the environment. Currently the League of Conservation Voters gives him a 96% lifetime rating on his voting record regarding environmental issues. Recently in a speech for the DNC Kerry said, "Above all, this country deserves leadership that faces the truth and tells the truth... We reject the false choice of our opponents between energy and the environment. Our values lead us to safeguard our air and our water. And our vision leads us to a bold new plan for energy independence. The answer to soar-

ing gas prices is not to drill in the Alaska Wilderness; it is to invest in the technologies of our future and create 500,000 new jobs in the process. And then future generations will never have to pay the price of war for Mideast oil."

Matt Kizerian

ANWR Production Uncertainties

Significant areas of uncertainty regarding the impact on U.S. oil production and imports of opening ANWR are:

1. *The size of the underlying resource base.* ...there little first-hand knowledge regarding the petroleum geology of this region. ...estimates are based on the geologic conditions...in neighboring State lands.

2. *The underlying field structure.* The size of reservoirs that are found in ANWR will determine the rate at which ANWR oil and gas resources are developed.

3. *The costs of developing oil resources in ANWR.* This analysis assumes that the costs of developing ANWR are not significantly different than developing the Prudhoe Bay field. Oil field development costs depend on... the field's reservoir characteristics, such as permeability, faulting, and water saturation.

4. *Timing of ANWR production.* This analysis assumes that production in the ANWR coastal plain will begin in 2013. The actual timing of ANWR production could vary significantly from the timing assumed in this study.

5. *Environmental considerations.* Environmental restrictions could affect access for exploration and development.

Excerpt from the March 2004 Analysis of Oil and Gas Production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Bush Administration Pushes for Less Chemical Testing

A report released by a House committee on Thursday describes how the Bush administration worked with the United States chemical industry to undermine a

European plan that would require all manufacturers to test industrial chemicals for their effect on public health before they were sold in Europe.

The administration had said publicly that the proposal last year would threaten the \$20 billion in chemicals that the United States exports to Europe each year because the cost of testing would be prohibitive....

Behind the scenes, the administration was working with the chemical industry to devise a plan to undermine the proposal, according to e-mail messages and documents released in the report.

NY Times, 4/2/04

Clean Air Act Hearings

Testimony from David Hawkins, director of the NRDC's Air and energy program during the Hearing on S. 485, "Clear Skies Act of 2003" April 8th, 2003.

Air pollution from power plants imposes a staggering toll of death, disease, and environmental contamination on the American people.

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions from power plants create dangerous concentrations of fine particles and ozone (soot and smog) in the air that 175 million people breathe. Soot and smog caused by power plant emissions is causing 30,000 premature deaths, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, and millions of days of illness and lost work each year.

Mercury emissions from power plants fall from the air and wash into lakes, rivers, and coastal waters, where they concentrate in fish. Mercury is a potent brain poison (neurotoxin) even in very small amounts. Forty-four states have issued warnings against eating local fish because of mercury contamination.

Power plant pollution is causing a major, ongoing public health crisis. The Bush administration's proposed air pollution plan fails to stem this crisis.

May's Focus Issue

The Focus Issue for May will be Healthcare.

April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 ★	14 ★	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 ★ BCDCC Mtg.	22	23 ★	24 ★
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Events

April

- 13 Christine Gregoire Steering Committee, Franklin PUD in Pasco, 6:00 pm
- 14 BCDCC Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Richland Library, Doris Robert's Gallery
- 21 BCDCC Meeting, Carmichael Middle School Cafeteria, 6:00 pm
- 23 Rebuild Playground of Dreams, 12:30 pm
- 24 BCDCC County Convention

8:30–5:00, St. Joseph's Elementary School

26th to August 13th

May

- 1 Cinco de Mayo Parade, Pasco
- 19 May meeting at the Doris Roberts Gallery in the Richland library from 6:00 - 8:45 PM.

July

- 4 4th of July Parade, Pasco
- 26 The filing period for PCOs is July

August

- 20 Annual Summer Picnic, 5:30 pm
- 21 Benton-Franklin County Fair Parade, Kennewick
- 22 Assemble County Fair Booth, 8:30 am
- 24–28 Staff Benton-Franklin County Fair Booth

Benton County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 636
Richland, WA 99352

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