

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

April 2005 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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## From the Chair

**D**on't Forget! The WA State Democratic Central Committee meeting will be in Pasco on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. The meetings will be at the Red Lion and CBC. We hope to have the schedule posted on our website and we encourage all Democrats to attend some of the meetings to network and discuss issues. What issues?

ANWR, federal judges, the "nuclear option", Social Security, Republican propaganda news stories, Haliburton's price gouging, Iraq, U.S. debt & deficit spending, Wolfowitz in charge of the World Bank, our trade deficit, cuts in school lunch money to pay for agribusiness tax breaks...we have plenty to worry over, much to write our elected representatives about.

It's incredible to watch over 30 years of human rights gains vanish. We find ourselves living in a country that tortures prisoners, discriminates against citizens based on sexual preference, and whose administration brags about being the most powerful on earth while our dollar continues to slide against the Euro. Our country is sinking in the estimation of the world and sinking into debt that is being passed on to our children and grandchildren.

It seems most Americans don't want to hear the truth about these things. They don't know what it took to form the unions, don't know that unions built the middle class and they don't care. They'd rather believe that someone will maintain their rate of pay, negotiate to retain benefits and pensions, butt heads with management whose sole focus is the bottom line, and do it all for free.

But life is changing in America. More families are filing bankruptcy due to medical bills or loss of jobs (—and now bankruptcy laws have changed to bail out corporations, not financially strapped families). They don't have job security, increasingly don't have health care, aren't saving for retirement, have heavy credit card debt and don't feel safe from terrorism. Praying won't change any of this. Only a change of viewpoint and hard work will.

Not one of us at the county level is a political pro. We're all volunteers with experience of one kind or another that we can add to others' skills to help elect Democrats with an agenda that focuses on the little guy. We can use your help on everything from determining our message to running our website to folding our newsletter. If you have Democratic friends, we can use their help too.

We're gearing up to re-elect Maria Cantwell as well as support local Democrats. No Republican is going to carry our issues to Washington D.C. better than Maria. No Republican is going to block Bush's bad judges. Your voice will be welcome as we plan for 2006. If there's no Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) in your neighborhood, consider becoming one. We'll do more training this year so we can do more celebrating next year.

Mimi Latta, Chair

## Upcoming Events

### State Central Committee Meeting

The Washington State Central Committee meeting will be held April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, 2525 North 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. Call for room registration, 1-800-325-4000. Early registration begins at 2:00 pm on Friday. Later that evening at 7:00 pm, there will be a book study group to discuss George Lakoff's book, *Don't Think Like an Elephant*. There will also be a luncheon on Saturday starting at noon; Sandy Matheson will be the guest speaker. For more information, see our website at [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org).

## April BCDCC Meeting

The April BCDCC Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, at the Mid-Columbia Library on Union in Kennewick.

## [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org)

As of Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org) went on-line. Our new site includes calendar items, discussion forums, and electronic copies of the newsletter.

In that vein, if you would prefer to receive a monthly notification when the electronic edition is available, please register on the website. By doing this, you will receive access to the newsletter 2-3 days sooner than if you continue to receive it by mail. You will also save the organization postage and copying costs. We are currently mailing out over 950 copies of the newsletter *each month*. If you prefer to have your newsletter mailed via US Post, we are asking for a \$12 yearly donation to help cover costs. Checks can be made out to "BCDCC", with a note on the memo line telling us that you prefer a mailed copy of the newsletter. Please contact Mimi Latta at 627-2679 to arrange payment.

## Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. 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.

Please submit material for consideration by the date listed in the calendar for each month. 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.

Please send submissions to Matt Kizerian at [editor@bencodems.org](mailto:editor@bencodems.org). E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

## Upcoming Events—Con't

### Tri-Cities Democrats Meeting

Note: There will be no April meeting.  
The next meeting will be Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Leona Hassing, President,  
Tri-City Democrats

### Democracy For America Meeting

The April Meet-up will be held April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Richland Library at 7:00 pm. The agenda will center around Part II of our Social Security Support effort coordinated by the national DFA organization. We'll develop our local Action Plan to bring the media and elected officials our message and stories on how vital and important Social Security is to this local community.

Bob Parazin

### Town Hall Meeting in Seattle

United States Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator Blanche Lincoln, and Senator Barbara Mikulski will host a Social Security Town Hall Forum in Seattle on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 pm, at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 Eighth Avenue (at Seneca Street). Entrance is on Seneca Street. RSVP at 206-220-6400 or 206-553-5545



*This is no time for  
ease and comfort.  
It is the time to  
dare and endure.*

Winston Churchill

## Event Reports

### March Tri-Cities Democrats Mtg.

The Tri-City Democrats met Friday, March 4 at the Labor Hall in Richland. Adrienne Stuart, field rep from Walla Walla, spoke to us about Planned Parenthood. She shared statistics and told us of the present and future plans for the organization. The evening was hosted by Sharon and Ken Ferrigno. The group will not meet in April because the State Democrat Central Committee will be meeting at the Red Lion in Pasco, (April 1-2).

Leona Hassing, President,  
Tri-City Democrats

### By-Laws Committee

Adoption of the proposed Bylaws, 2005-06 (Revised 3-17-05) for the Benton County Democratic Central Committee will be on the agenda of the April 20<sup>th</sup> BCDCC meeting. A copy of the Bylaws may be obtained by contacting Bob Bowersock (e-mail pnbsock@aol.com) or by phone 943-4559.

Bob Bowersock, Bylaws Chair

### Sandy Matheson Appointment

Sandy Matheson, former congressional candidate, Kennewick businesswoman, and civic activist, was named by Governor Christine Gregoire to the head the state's Department of Retirement Systems. The agency is responsible for managing seven public employee retirement systems. Her new job will give her a seat on the state Investment Board, which is responsible for investing contributions public employees make toward their retirement. Washington's pension fund was rated as 23<sup>rd</sup> largest in the country last year by Pension and Investment maga-

zine. This move largely rules out any future run for public office. She ran an unsuccessful political campaign against U. S., Rep Doc Hasings, R-Pasco, last fall and initially had considered running again.

### Democracy for America Meeting

We had a fine March MeetUp...some regulars, some old faces and some new folks. The focus of our March MeetUp was on the fight to support Social Security. After our introductions and announcements of other Dem activities, we talked about DFA's two month strategy to work the issue from the 'grassroots' based on the REAL stories from local residents on how Social Security has helped them, then FRAME the issues in a positive way consistent with progressive Democratic values.

Prior to our SS discussion, and to kind of 'focus' on the issues, we showed a video entitled 'Social Insecurity' that was produced locally (in Seattle) by a progressive org that held a Social Security Forum that featured a number of named elected federal congressman as speakers. The video though short, was very well received. Also provided were handouts on DFA's SS plan and some details regarding Social Security prior to the discussion.

As we discussed Social Security a number of attendees related their OWN stories regarding the aid SS provided in their lives or someone close to them. It was a good interchange.

We also encouraged our attendees to sign a petition sponsored by the AFL-CIO for the preservation of Social Security under the banner "FIX IT don't RISK IT"; many signed it.

Next month PLEASE bring a friend!

Bob Parazin



### Web Resources

- ★ [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org) Yes, it *was* on the list a couple of months ago, but it is now on-line.
- ★ [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) The on-line presence of National Public Radio. This is one of the most balanced news sources available. Audio versions of most stories are available.
- ★ [www.ourfuture.org](http://www.ourfuture.org) America's Future insists that the question of falling wages and rising insecurity be placed at the center of our national debate. They challenge those who suggest that nothing can be done and expose the conservative agenda that has made things worse.



### Book List

- ★ *The Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis
- ★ *Washington's Crossing* by David Hackett Fischer
- ★ *His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis
- ★ *Standing Next to History: An Agent's Life inside the Secret Service* by Joseph Petro
- ★ *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America* by Stacy Schiff

## Brainstorming Session

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, members of the BCDCC met to brainstorm ideas on how to improve the local organization. All who attended expressed a feeling of urgency about getting our organization ready for the 2006 elections.

Attendees broke into 3 groups to discuss improvements in the organization. Each attendee was given three votes to register those actions that seemed most important to them. The list begins with those recommendations that received the most votes from attendees. The number of votes for each action is noted.

- (5 votes) Need for Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) support meetings with mentors and lateral support and communication between PCOs.
- (5 votes) Need for more events with speakers and press coverage.
- (5 votes) Identify PCOs/ Points of Contact (POCs) for each precinct. Make the PCOs a working task group. Use them to phone supporters to increase participation.
- (4 votes) Fill local political offices.
- (4 votes) Publish an organizational chart showing how the Democratic organizations relate and function.
- (3 votes) Build local organizations and recruit from our support base.
- (2 votes) Have more program meetings.
- (2 votes) Develop a phone tree and email tree.
- (2 votes) Have more Spanish language literature/handouts.
- (2 votes) Keep mailing lists and online voter file updated.
- (1 vote) Increase the number of PCOs working in their neighborhoods. (Similar to #3 above)
- (1 vote) Have constant participation in the political and legislative process.

Thanks to all who were involved in this process.

### From the Web

The Saudis are boycotting American goods.

We should return the favor. An interesting thought is to boycott their GAS.

Every time you fill up the car, you can avoid putting more money into the

coffers of Saudi Arabia. Just buy from gas companies that don't import their oil from the Saudis.

Nothing is more frustrating than the feeling that every time I fill-up the tank, I am sending my money to people who are trying to kill me, my family, and my friends.

I thought it might be interesting for you to know which oil companies are the best to buy gas from and which major companies import Middle Eastern oil :

Shell .....	205,742,000 bbl
Chevron/Texaco.....	144,332,000 bbl
Exxon /Mobil .....	130,082,000 bbl
Marathon/Speedway.....	117,740,000 bbl
Amoco.....	62,231,000 bbl

If you do the math at \$30/barrel, these imports amount to over \$18 BILLION! Here are some large companies that do not import Middle Eastern oil:

Citgo .....	0 bbl
Sunoco.....	0 bbl
Conoco.....	0 bbl
Sinclair.....	0 bbl
BP/Phillips .....	0 bbl
Hess.....	0 bbl
ARCO.....	0 bbl

All of this information is available from the Department of Energy and each is required to state where they get their oil and how much they are importing.

### Resolution for Medical Isotopes

*Submitted to the BCDCC*

Whereas medical nuclear isotope production utilizes nuclear elements for peaceful and healing purposes and

Whereas the Benton County Democratic Central Committee has, in the past, supported the local production of medical nuclear isotope production and research into the usage of those isotopes with resolutions passed by the Central Committee's members and

Whereas Mirari Medical Group has formulated a business plan and secured private funding to build a TRIGA type reactor in Richland, Washington for the purpose of producing various medical nuclear isotopes for the treatment of disease and research into new medical uses and

Whereas Mirari Medical Group will be supervised by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and produce minimal nuclear wastes of the type consistent

with other medical facilities and will dispose of the wastes in commercial sites as required by the NRC and U.S. law and

Whereas Mirari Medical will produce high-tech, long term, well-paying jobs in the Tri-Cities and

Whereas Mirari Medical has already begun to establish relationships with Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL), Washington State University, PECOS, Kadlec Medical Center's Nuclear Medicine Program, the Tri-Cities Cancer Center, and other local and regional medical and research entities and

Whereas Mirari Medical has a long-term vision that encompasses a campus with a nuclear medical clinic of worldwide status

Therefore be it resolved that the Benton County Democratic Central Committee (BCDCC) endorses and supports the plan for building a reactor for the purpose of producing nuclear medical isotopes for research and the treatment of cancer and other diseases and we applaud Mirari Medical for their vision and perseverance in working to turn that plan into a reality.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Letters to the Editor

Suggestions for Improvement of the Party Locally

1. Declare ourselves proud to be Democrats
2. Have a year-round phone listed
3. Create a pamphlet, "Handbook for Volunteers"
4. Create a pamphlet for newcomers "How the Party Works"
5. Newsletter info submitted on time
6. Newsletter to arrive first week of month
7. Need to go on an offensive with positive positions
8. Get busy on Cantwell re-election
9. Send approval card to writers of progressive Letters to the Editor
10. Candidate fund raisers—leave some percentage to local party
11. Better computer organization of County voters

Submitted by Alma Cahn, John David, Norm Miller, Shirley Miller, Charlotte Lewis, Leona Hassing, Johanna White-man, and Shelia Sullivan

# April 2005



## Tribute to Vina Hudson (1913-2005)

Vina was a dedicated Democrat and never missed an election. She served as PCO (precinct committee officer) in her precinct, for many, many years, until moving to Seattle to be with her family. Born and raised in Kennewick, graduating from KHS, Class of 1931, Vina was a life long resident. Along with her commitments to several service organizations in the community, Vina was an avid gardener with a special interest in roses and the Columbia Basin native flowers. It was just a year ago that the Central Committee honored Vina on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. She will be missed by all.

Leona Hassing



## Events

### April

- 1, 2 State Committee Meeting  
Red Lion Hotel, Pasco
- 12 April Exec Committee Meeting,  
7:00 pm.
- 20 April BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm,  
Union Street Library, Kennewick
- 22 Last day to submit material for the  
May newsletter

### May

- 10 May Exec Committee Meeting,  
7:00 pm.
- 18 May BCDCC Meeting  
Richland Library Gallery 7:00 pm
- 27 Last day to submit material for the  
June newsletter

### June

- 14 June Exec Committee Meeting,  
7:00 pm
- 15 June BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 24 Last day to submit material for the  
July newsletter

## 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	22★	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### July

- 12 July Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00  
pm
- 20 July BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 29 Last day to submit material for the  
August newsletter

### August

- 13 Benton County Summer Picnic  
Keewaydin Park, Kennewick  
Noon to dusk
- 26 Last day to submit material for the  
September newsletter

Return Service Requested

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