

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

April 2006 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

I want to urge Democrats not to give up on electing our candidates to office. The country is starting to head in a new direction. Recent polls show Bush support at 34% and Cheney at 18%. It might take a little more time for a real turn-around, but Democrats are winning in early races to fill empty seats and there's a feeling that all the Republican lies, cruelty, and incompetence are aiding us. Hang in there. You can volunteer to help get the word out by joining up with other Democrats to walk precincts for candidates or issues.

We know Democrats have great values. They're the same values we held under Clinton/Gore when the country was in better shape. Families had more money (and jobs!), the country was paying off its debt, vets had better benefits, our action in Kosovo saved lives, gays' military contributions were acknowledged, more Americans had health-care... We all want that. We only need to work for it. Re-elect Maria Cantwell, elect Richard Wright, support Andy Miller.

It might not seem like a lot, but if we hold onto the seats we have in Congress and add to them, we can pressure the Republicans to listen to us and return America to peace and prosperity. I truly believe this. I believe that by adding my voice to yours and adding my strength to yours, we can work wonders. One person makes a difference. One vote counts when added to others. And it adds up to real change.

Last month's caucuses brought many issues to the attention of the par-

ticipants. We didn't have near the turnout of 2004, but those who came had a lot to say. From our meetings at 8 sites around the county, we elected 59 delegates and 3 alternates to the County Convention to add to the 67 "super delegate" PCOs. There were 2 hours of discussion that resulted in some great resolutions.

Based on those resolutions and notes generated in each precinct, Chuck LoPresti and the Platform committee will bring a recommended '06 Platform to the County Convention on April 8th. Those recommendations will be worked on and voted on by the delegates. In this way, we add our voices to Democrats across the state to direct our candidates and give them a framework within which to run.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

Benton County Convention

Our County Convention is Saturday, April 8th at the Red Lion Hanford House Motel, 802 George Wash. Way in Richland. Registration will begin at 8:00 am and the Convention will be called to order at 9:00 am. There will be platform discussion and debate and the election of delegates for the State Convention to be held in Yakima on June 2nd and 3rd.

Any Democrat can attend the County Convention, but only elected delegates and the PCO "super delegates" can vote. The registration fee is \$15.00 and includes lunch.

Also, any Benton County Democrat can still run as a delegate to the State Convention just by mailing a signed letter with your name, address, phone number and email address to: Convention Secretary, P.O. Box 636, Richland, WA 99352. State that you're a Democrat willing to serve as a delegate to the State Convention, if elected. The State registration fee is \$40.00 due on April 8th if you're elected. This fee isn't mandatory, but helps to pay the convention expenses.

Upcoming Events

April BCDCC Meeting

At the April BCDCC meeting on Wednesday, April 19th, we will have two speakers. Fred Staples will speak concerning his petition to move the Benton County Courthouse from Prosser to Kennewick. He'll speak at 7:10 pm for 15 minutes. Then, Cormac Thompson, from Prosser, will speak against the move. This is an excellent opportunity to become educated on the issue.

Richard Wright's Open House

Richard Wright's Campaign will hold an Open House on Thursday, April 13th, from 4:30-7:00 pm at his new campaign office in Kennewick on 2634 W. Bruneau Place (1 block east of the Country Gentleman). The office phone number is 735-2490 if you have any questions. Please join us at the Open House and share your concerns about the 4th Congressional District with Richard.

8th LD

Greetings to the 8th LD Democrats. I'm Kendall Miller and by some odd quirk of fate I am the new chairman of the 8th LD committee. With a bit of luck and

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Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. 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. 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. E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 585-4900.

8th LD—con't

(Continued from page 1)

your support I hope to build up an active and vibrant legislative district organization.

Now that the state organization has provided a cleaned-up-and-fresh-as-a-shiny-penny voter roll, I plan to start mining it for potential participants and even candidates. There will be more on that as I work out the details.

We will be having an 8th LD sub-caucus in conjunction with the County Convention. What this means is that those in the 8th LD with a desire to attend the State Convention will have an opportunity to be elected as a delegate.

Please be aware that all elected State Convention delegates will need to tender the \$40 state registration fee at the County Convention.

Please watch this space for announcements of upcoming meetings with topical speakers as well as other 8th LD activities.

Kendall Miller
8th LD Chairman

4th CD

The 4th CD will have their next Membership Meeting on May 13th in Ellensburg at the Ellensburg Inn, Fireside Room from 10 am–2 pm. Lunch will be at the Inn.

Residents of Richland

I NEED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE !! During my campaign, I promised to meet with you on a regular basis to hear your opinions on issues that affect us as residents of Richland. That time has come. Our first meetings will be in April:

- Friday 7th, Richland Community Center, 4 pm
- Friday 14th, On the Green Clubhouse

(303 Gage Blvd), 2 pm

- Friday 21st, Shalom Church (505 McMurray), 7 pm

All topics are welcome. Lead-off discussions will include

- Uptown Development Plans
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Regional Aquatic Center

Sheila Sullivan
Richland City Councilwoman

Event Reports

Richard Wright Campaign Update

Richard was able to make several appearances during the campaign kick-off tour. He started the kick-off in Richland, then on to Yakima, Ellensburg, Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Moses Lake and Sunnyside. Richard spoke to 1,200 people in Olympia at the Democratic Crab Feed. He also spoke to the Kittitas Democratic Women's Club, Local 1229 Washington Federation of State Employees, and in Pasco at the Building Trades meeting. Richard had a very positive meeting with State Party Chairman Dwight Pelz; Washington Field Manager Michael King and Eastern Washington Field Manager Autumn Sample.

Upcoming events include:

- Benton County Democratic County Convention in the Red Lion Hanford House, 802 George Wa. Way, Richland, Saturday, April 8th, 9:30 am
- Pasco Senior Center, April 11th, 12:30 pm
- Othello Senior Center, April 12th, 5:00 pm
- Campaign Headquarters Open House, April 13th, 4:30–7:00 pm.

We have moved into our Campaign Office located at 2634 W. Bruneau Place in Kennewick (1 block east of the Country Gentleman) and can be reached at 735–2490.

If you would like to host an open house or coffee to show support and introduce Richard to your friends please contact Lisa at 735–2490.

BCDCC Platform—Preamble

We are proud of our Democratic Party, its heritage and accomplishments. No part of our heritage is cherished more than our belief in the rights and worth of each individual. This belief commits us to promote and safeguard a quality of life that recognizes and benefits human dignity and fosters opportunity to share for all. We must build upon traditional Democratic Party values such as health care for all, the preservation of middle-income jobs and wages, childcare, public transportation, public education, tax fairness, and the common good. We *will not* tolerate the undermining of our privacy and most basic civil liberties, the shrinking of our *wages and* pensions, skyrocketing drug prices, unabated pollution of our air and water, and corporate corruption. We must reaffirm that the Democratic Party should be the party of the common person and stand strongly for civil rights, decent and affordable housing, and a fiscally sound social security system. We cannot be timid in the direction our party takes; our position on these issues must be clear.

We believe in and will continue to work for truly representative government, responsive to all Americans rather than special interests. We advocate a government that is compassionate, progressive, responsible and fair. We must continue to promote liberty, justice, security, equality, and individual freedom for every citizen.

We must be dedicated to achieving peace, prosperity and a national outlook

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Web Resources

★ www.pbs.org/now Companion website of the PBS show of the same name. Contains extended interviews, podcasts, transcripts, polls and other information about recently broadcast stories.

★ www.workingforchange.com A comprehensive Web site made up of breaking news and resources for people with progressive values. Includes guest writers, political cartoons, and lots of links to other progressive sites.

★ www.booknotes.org C-SPAN site with many reviews of recently published books on politics and government.



Book List

★ *Truth and Duty: The Press, the President, and the Privilege of Power* by Mary Mapes

★ *Lawless World: America and the Making and Breaking of Global Rules from FDR's Atlantic Charter to George W.*

Bush's Illegal War by Philippe Sands

★ *American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century* by Kevin Phillips

★ *The Case for Goliath: How America Acts as the World's Government in the Twenty-First Century* by Michael Mandelbaum

State News

WA State County Conventions

On Saturday, April 8, 2006, Washington State Democrats will be conducting county conventions statewide, with the exception of King County which will be held on May 6.

To build on the success from the precinct caucuses held earlier this year, the county conventions will be held on a Saturday to encourage greater participation and turnout. The State Party has also created an online locator for participants to easily and quickly find out where their convention will be held. The website for the convention locator is: <http://www.wa-democrats.org/countyLD2.php>

This year's caucuses were held earlier to elect delegates to attend their county convention. Delegates will gather to debate and discuss their county platform and resolutions. Both resolutions that have been passed and the county's platform will then move on to be discussed and incorporated into the State Democratic platform are also a time for Democrats to draft and pass resolutions relating to political issues important to local Democratic groups.

"Across the state, voters are fed up with the Republicans in Washington DC and their culture of corruption and attacks on the middle class," said Dwight Pelz, Chair of the Washington State Democrats. "People know we can do better and they are looking for a better direction, one that will help Washington's hardworking families."

"After precinct caucuses, county conventions are the next important step for Democrats at the grassroots to affect the direction and goals of the Party," said Pelz. "This process helps form the foundation for local and active involvement among Democrats this year as we get into the 2006 campaign season."

Misty Shock

WA State Dems Outreach Manager

WSU Tri-Cities to Expand

Governor Gregoire on Wednesday, March 22, signed a measure to expand WSU Tri-Cities into a four-year institution (HB 2867).

"This is about economic development right here in the Tri-Cities. It will

help to link college students and our scientific community to create a critical mass for jobs, cutting-edge research, and new commerce," said Governor Gregoire. "By adding new programs and admitting freshmen and sophomores, WSU Tri-Cities will develop into a thriving four-year institution."

Special Election

Benton County's Election Administrator, Susie Christopher, has notified us that the Auditor's office will be completing the following processes for the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, April 25th using the new tabulation system which consists of digital scan ballots:

- Signature checking on returned ballots, Monday, April 10th
 - Prepping ballots for scanning, Thursday, April 13th
 - Scanning ballots, Friday, April 13th
- The above processes will continue daily, with possible Saturdays, until complete.
- L & A Test, Thursday, April 20th at 9:00 am
 - Release of election results, Tuesday, April 25th at 8:00 am
 - Certification of election, Friday, May 5th at 9:00 am

All of these events will take place at the Benton County Auditor's Office in Prosser. If we can find Democrats to participate, we may have an observer

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Letters to the Editor

Displeased with Dems

Considering the stance Democrats have taken in the last week on border security—and then coming out today with their security plan for America—I am disheartened they are on a one way high-

way to defeat, and at a time when the GOP is handing them the election on a silver platter.

I'm disgusted with their pandering to illegal aliens for the Hispanic vote at the expense of the nation's future.

I am still pro Democratic ideas, but this immigration farce is not acceptable. Cantwell has done a good job protecting the Arctic, which has been my primary interest, but to tell the truth, when it comes to border security, the Arctic just doesn't seem that important. And the pathetic reforms they are supporting—adding a couple of thousand more border agents—will not help the situation at all.

Our elected officials have a responsibility to secure our borders. They have NO responsibility to those who are here illegally. A guest worker program will bring the guest's families for which we are still going to have to use local economic resources for their educational, medical, and assimilation needs. We can't take care of the whole world and the numbers of illegals are just going to go higher. It is nothing more than a government subsidy of corporations at the expense of the taxpayer. So what if produce prices go higher? It can't cost as much as we are paying now for all their service needs.

Please remove me from the newsletter mailing list.

Christine Hayes
West Richland

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. Submission information on the front page.



Benton County Democrats need your financial support. Donations fund the County Convention, and support local Democratic candidates, as well as our activities and events throughout the year.

Please make checks payable to BCDCC, and mail to: BCDCC, P.O. Box 636, Richland, WA 99352

\$200 \$100 \$50 \$35 \$ _____ (other)

monthly quarterly one time

Name: _____ Precinct (if known): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer's Address: _____

April 2006

Preamble—con't

(Continued from page 2)

of hope and opportunity. And we recognize with this outlook that young people are our future. We welcome young people to join our party and foster their growth within it. We ask that all Democrats rally behind our candidates.

The full Platform will be presented to the BCDCC on April 8th, for approval.

Special Election—Con't

(Continued from page 3)

present at any and all of these events.

This is how elections will go from now on in Benton County. So, while we used to have volunteers go to polling places for one day, albeit a long one, we now have to find volunteers who'll observe the process on a continuing basis for nearly a month. If we fail to observe, we neglect our oversight of the electoral process and leave it to the Republicans. We can't afford to do this.

I'm willing to drive up once a week to observe at the polls. I'm looking for reliable persons to donate a day, a week, or whatever you can do to ensure we

don't ever have another Florida-type result. It is possible to have mishaps with the digital scanners and it's up to us to notice those and report it. I think of these special elections as training for the all-important races in November.

If you can volunteer and you have the same concerns that I have about the process, please call me at 627-2679 or email me at BenCoDem@verizon.net to volunteer. Thomas Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

He knew that it would take real work to continue this experiment in Democracy. The Republicans seem not to lack volunteers. We need to develop our own core of election sentries.

Mimi Latta

Events

April

- 7 Tri-City Democrats, Richland Labor Hall, 6:00 social, 7:00 meeting
- 8 BCDCC County Convention, Red Lion Hanford House Motel, 802 George Wash. Way, Richland. Registration will begin at 8:00.
- 11 April Exec Board Mtg, Richland

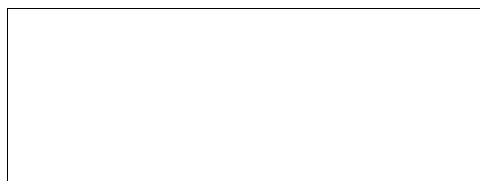
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- Library Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 13 Richard Wright Campaign Office Open House, 2634 W. Bruneau Place, Kennewick, 4:30-7:00 pm
- 19 April BCDCC Meeting, Kennewick, Dayton St. Library, 7:00 pm
- 28 Last day to submit material for the May newsletter

May

- 6 Cinco de Mayo Parade
- 9 May Exec Committee Meeting
- 13 4th CD Membership Meeting, Ellensburg, Ellensburg Inn, 10-2 pm
- 17 May BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 26 Last day to submit material for the June newsletter



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