

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

April 2008

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

509-585-7682

Officers

Chair	Bob Parazin	chair@bencodems.org 946 6363
Vice Chair	Regina Speer	vicechair@bencodems.org 946 5744
Treasurer	Jamie Lennick	treasurer@bencodems.org
Secretary	Gloria Cummins	secretary@bencodems.org 430 8718
Editor	Steven Link	newsletter@bencodems.org 948-0054
SCW	Mimi Latta	scw@bencodems.org 627 2679
SCM	John Latta	scm@bencodems.org 627 2679

From the Chair

What an action-packed, busy month it will be. We begin with our Legislative District Caucuses on April 5th, continue with our Candidate Reception on April 8th featuring Christine Gregoire, Peter Goldmark, Jim McIntire, Bill Grant, George Fearing and others and then wrap up the month with our County Convention on April 26th. It is a full, full plate. And we WELCOME all of your support! There's STILL TIME to volunteer for helping with any and ALL of these events! If you're called by one of our many supporters, PLEASE consider lending a hand. We're always so pleased that when contacted, many, many of our members say YES to our request for assistance.

With the advent of our website, e-mails, HOTLINE, listed phones, etc., we try to make it as easy as possible to get in touch with us. So if you have the interest and the time to support party activities, NOW would be an excellent time to let us know. We've adjusted some meeting times and days to make our meetings a little easier. As you may have noticed some meetings now start as early as 6 pm and 6:30 and are completed

earlier. We have held meetings on Saturday morning and afternoons, and even Sunday afternoons. The last

six Caucus training sessions we've held have been on Saturdays. All of these changes are attempts to get more participation and work with volunteers' schedules.

8th & 16th Legislative District Caucuses Saturday – April 5th

For ALL those supporters who were elected at the Feb 9th Caucuses as Delegates or Alternates, our next round of Delegate/Alternate selection leading to the State and National Convention will occur on **Saturday April 5th at Kamiakin HS at 10 AM**. Delegates and alternates will likely be personally contacted BY PHONE from the campaigns and we've sent out reminder cards of the time/place of the event as well.

We completed TWO training sessions in March specifically for the LD Caucuses and we will post the draft **Agenda and Caucuses** on our website as well as any last minute instruction. If you have ANY questions related to the **April 5th Caucuses**, please contact us via the Website or HOTLINE. We want no one left out for lack of information.

'08 Candidate Reception Tuesday - April 8th Governor Gregoire Plus other State, Congressional & Local Candidates

YES! Governor Gregoire, Peter Goldmark candidate for State Land Commissioner and former candidate for the 5th CD, **Jim McIntire** candidate for

State Treasurer and current State House member representing the 46th LD, **George Fearing** our 4th CD Candidate opposing Doc Hastings, **Bill Grant** long time State House member representing the 16th LD, and **Carol Moser**, Democratic State House candidate running for the 8th LD Position 1 will be here. This is the slate of candidates that you'll be meeting on **Tuesday, April 8th** starting as **5:30 pm at the Clarion Ballroom in Richland, 1515 George Washington Way.**

Beverages, appetizers and finger food will be served. Chances for a variety of **Theme Baskets** will be sold [need not be present to win] including two baskets, one with **political memorabilia dating back to the '60s** and one chock full of **political books!** This is a fundraiser for the **Benton County Democrats**, an opportunity to meet Democratic candidates for the coming election and to meet your fellow Democrats in the area. **PLEASE mark it on your calendar NOW!**

Democrat Carol Moser Candidate for **Position 1 - 8th LD House Seat**

On **Wednesday, April 2nd**, it will be official: **Carol Moser**, long time former **Richland City Council Member** and current member of the **Washington State Transportation Commission** will launch her run for the State House. With her victory in November she will be the **first Democrat** to hold the 8th Legislative District House seat **since 1994!** It is time don't you think? A great candidate at the right time for the right position! We'll have more on her candidacy as the campaign develops.

'08 Benton County Democratic Convention

Another item for your calendar, on **Saturday, April 26th at 10 am at the Southridge HS Auditorium** we will be holding our **County Convention**. Since we have separated our LD Delegate selection from the Convention the principal business at the Convention will be the 1) Passage of Resolutions to be forwarded to the State Democratic Party and 2) the approval of our Party Platform also to be forwarded to the State

Party. We'll also have a training session on Convention participation on April 19th [see calendar].

We have been asked occasionally, "Why bother with the platform?" Candidates are not obligated to follow it, it doesn't change that much from year-to-year, and no body reads it. All are good questions and ones we hope to answer at our next **Central Committee Meeting on Wednesday April 16th**. Our **Resolutions and Platform Committee** is up and running and if you'd like to participate and have not signed up yet. Please contact us by phone, website or **HOTLINE**.

George Fearing Campaign

Mimi Latta

Early in March we hired Bill Montos to head up the George Fearing Campaign. Bill successfully managed the Simple Majority campaign to allow Washington voters to pass school levies with a majority rather than super majority of votes cast. He also won the "No on I-330" campaign that turned back the insurance companies' attempt to place a cap on settlements for malpractice. Please welcome Bill when you meet him - and say yes if he asks you to help us win this seat.

We also have another great volunteer, Graham Klym, who has much prior campaign experience. Graham is working to set up phone banks around the district to reach out to all the PCOs in the District. Graham's family lives in the Tri-Cities, and his brother, Peter, did some work for the campaign last year while attending college. We wish all our Democrats had families like this!

At the end of 2007 we had a goal to raise \$50,000 and we raised nearly \$60,000. We set a goal of raising another \$50,000 by the end of March and we have exceeded that goal as well. Reaching the \$100,000 goal was a major milestone. We sincerely thank all of those who contributed.

This is a great process and we're lucky to meet so many good people. We hope you'll join with us to make a change in November.

Be part of a movement. Elect George Fearing!

Death with Dignity Initiative

Laurel Piippo Pct 195 Committeewoman.

Have you been invited to sign a petition for **Initiative 1000: Death with Dignity**, which will give citizens the opportunity to vote on the proposed law in November? 220,000 signatures are needed.

This is a hot issue and you can hear arguments for and against the law and ask questions at a public forum **TUESDAY, APRIL 22** at 6:30 pm in the HUB at CBC. This is being sponsored and hosted by the Tri-City Democrats and the Associated Student Body of CBC.

Two speakers will present pros and cons and answer questions from the audience. In favor is Dr. Linda Olson of Tacoma, **Professor of Nursing** at Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington for 37 years. Opposed is Chris Carlson, a founding member of the **Coalition Against Assisted Suicide**. As a man afflicted with Parkinson's who was given 6 months to live in November of 2005, he has a personal interest in the issue at hand.

Dying is a non-partisan experience that eventually affects everyone. A frequent comment is, "My living will (trust, power of attorney, health directive, etc.) takes care of this." Or, "You can fill out the right paperwork."

Wrong: These documents are very important, but they give someone else the decision and the power to pull the plug if you are in a coma or mentally incompetent. The Death with Dignity law gives YOU and no one else but YOU the decision-making power if two physicians agree you probably have six months or less to live and are mentally competent. YOU must make the request three times for assistance in dying, which YOU can revoke at any time. *This is currently illegal in Washington State*, which is why changing the law is being considered.

This resolution will be proposed at the Democratic Party Convention April 26: "Be it resolved that the Benton County Democrats support Initiative 1000, the Washington Death with Dignity Act that will allow mentally competent terminally ill adults with less than six months to live the right to self-administer

life- ending medication." The proposal mirrors Oregon's successful law. It provides strict safeguards and limitations. Initiative 1000 is sponsored by our former Governor Booth Gardner.

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday Night Drink Liberally, **7 PM, at the Shilo... O'Callahan's**

8th & 16th [Benton Co. only] Legislative District Caucuses, Delegate/Alternate selection leading to the State and National Convention will occur on **Saturday April 5th at Kamiakin HS Auditorium at 10 AM.**

'08 Candidate Reception – April 8th With Governor Gregoire Plus other **State, Congressional and local Candidates** starting as 5:30 pm at the Clarion Ballroom in Richland, 1515 George Washington Way.

Benton County Democratic Central Committee Meeting on Wednesday April 16th at the IBEW Local 77 Labor Hall, 2626 W. Clearwater in Kennewick.

We'll also have a **Training Session on Convention Participation** on April 19th at the IBEW Local 77 Hall in Kennewick

Death with Dignity Public Forum TUESDAY, APRIL 22 at 6:30 pm in the HUB at CBC.

Saturday, April 26th at 10 am at the Southridge HS Auditorium we will be holding our **County Convention.**



April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1*Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahan's 7pm	2	3	4 Tri-City Democrats. Richland Labor Hall	5 LD Caucuses Kamiakin HS Auditorium at 10 AM
6	7	8 5:30 pm at the Clarion Ballroom in Richland, 1515 George Washington Way.	9	10 Executive Board Mtg, RCC Conf Rm 6:30	11	12
13	14	15* Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm	16 Central Comm. Mtg 7 pm IBEW 77 Hall	17	18	19 Covention Training, IBEW77, 1 pm
20	21	22 * APRIL 22 at 6:30 pm in the HUB at CBC.	23	24 Org. Comm. Mtg RCC Conf Rm 6:30	25	26 -C ounty Convention 10 am Southridge HS Auditorium
27	28	29*	30			

* **Drinking Liberally** - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are always available!
RCC -- Richland Community Center **MCLU** -Mid-Columbia Library 16th & Union, Kennewick
MCLD --Mid-Columbia Library 405 Dayton St, Kenn. in Keewaydin Park **IBEW77** - Local 77 Hall 2626 W. Clearwater, Kenn