



August 2009

www.bencodems.org

HOTLINE 546-8115

2009/10 Officers

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our Central Committee Meeting on August 19th. We haven't been able to verify this, so please check the HOTLINE or the website Calendar for the location before you attend.

We tried our first Conference Call E-board meeting on July 8th. We have about half of our members on line and it seemed to work reasonably well. We're going to try it again this month on August 13th. E-Board members, stand by your phones!

Speaking of phones, after August, our old HOTLINE Number will no longer be available. Please use our NEW number, 546-8115. I used it while on vacation and it worked GREAT!

From the Chair

We're well into summer. The thermometer is soaring as expected. Vacations are being pursued and yet we move forward. The beginning of the month will start out with a bang. Our ALL DEMOCRATIC PICNIC will occur on Saturday August 1st. Even if you read this on August 1st in the morning, come join us at Chiawana Park starting at 1 pm for food, a visit from our state Party Chair Dwight Pelz and many of the Democratic candidates running in the upcoming Primary on August 17th. Please RSVP if possible, we don't want to run out of food.

We've again decided to invite those candidates running for non-partisan positions within our area irrespective of party affiliation. Since so many of these races include no Democratic candidates, being the responsible voters we are, we still encourage you to dutifully listen to ALL candidates whose victory your vote can influence. And use your Democratic VALUES "yardstick" to pick the candidate with which you're most comfortable.

With the Richland Library renovation completed, we're going to attempt to reserve the new meeting rooms for

Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo

We are again joining with Franklin County to sponsor a booth at the County Fair. We will be setting up the booth in Building 2 on Sunday, Aug 23rd starting at 9 am. The Booth will be open Tuesday thru Saturday, August 25th – Aug 29th from 10 am until 10 pm. And the booth will be dismantled on Sunday Aug 30th starting at 10 am. If you're interested in taking one of the 3 hr shifts behind the counter, please let us know by e-mail or call the HOTLINE with your name and phone #.

Plan on making it a day, listen to some fine entertainment and help your Party as well. For seniors and others that can't afford the admission but would like to help, please let us know: we have a limited number of passes. Seniors can get in at ½ price throughout the Fair and buses are available for free to our seniors as well.

Primary Ballots Out July 29th

You should be receiving your Primary Ballot about the

same time you receive this Newsletter. If you haven't received one by August 6th, PLEASE call Benton County Auditor at 509-786-5618 and verify your Registration information and request a Ballot. If you haven't registered yet and you want to vote in the Primary, you must register IN-PERSON no later than August 3rd. Please don't bother with on-line or mail-in registration at this point.

Yes we DO have Democrats in the Primary

Laura Grant is the only partisan candidate we have on a local ballot at this time and she's running to hold her 16th LD seat [19% of which is in Benton County]. But we have other candidates in non-partisan races that have contacted the Party asking for our support and they are:

Tom Moak, current Mayor of Kennewick and incumbent in Council Position 3,

Christopher Smart, challenger for Kennewick Council Position 7, and

Craig Slaughter, West Richland Council Position 1.

I know there are other Democrats running in non-partisan races, but they either haven't contacted the Party or to publicly remain moot on party affiliation which is certainly their choice in a non-partisan race.. So remember them in the Primary since they may very well deserve your support and vote.

Tri-City Democrats Ginny McIntyre, Chair

The Tri-City Democrats will not be having an August meeting as the various local Democratic groups are co-hosting the annual picnic on August 1 in Chiawana Park in Pasco. Instead, Regina Speer and Glynn Stevens are taking the lead on the picnic. Regina is coordinating the picnic efforts and Glynn is coordinating the food (shrimp boil with vegetables, including fresh market corn). Several Democrats are putting baskets together for bid -- including one basket full of bottles of wine. Proceeds will benefit the local Democratic groups (Benton County and Franklin County Central Committees and the Tri-City

Democrats).

We hope you are there to join us and have fun. Bring your appetite!

Also, the Tri-City Democrats need a volunteer to host the September meeting, on the 2nd Friday of the month, as usual. (I will be out of town for most of September.) If you are interested in finding a speaker and setting up the monthly potluck, please let me know and I will help you as much as I can before I leave!

Obama and Health Care John Latta, BCDCC State Committeeman 509-627-2679

The Benton County Democratic Central Committee's approved Platform (found at www.bencodems.org/docs/ApprovedBentonCountyPlatform2008.html) declares that "We support accessible, portable and affordable health care for ALL citizens regardless of age, employment status, or preexisting conditions consistent with the United State's status as a first world country." In addition, "We support a national healthcare program which has the maximum risk pool and which has maximum efficiency in administration. We do not support "cherry-picking" since medical health insurance is not the same as driver's insurance," and, "Physicians, not third-party payers, should determine the utilization of health care resources."

The plan supported by President Barack Obama isn't all those things, and it's not the "single payer" system that many of us would prefer, but it is a bold and timely move in the right direction. The proposed plan will require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions and it will offer help for citizens who cannot afford their premiums. The President promises to reform the current health care system by expanding coverage, improving quality, lowering costs, honoring patient choice, and holding the insurance companies accountable. No one will be turned away because of a pre-existing condition or illness. The President also promotes smart use of preventive care to help reel in costs, and the plan will employ available technologies to reduce errors while ensuring continued privacy. Importantly, with the proposed "Public Option" National Health Insurance Exchange, Obama claims that everyone will have an opportunity to buy into a new health insurance plan that is similar to one that

every federal employee from a postal worker in Iowa to a congressman in Washington currently has for themselves.

Obama promises the health care plan he will sign into law won't impose a single new burden on small business. Instead, he expects it to give them tax credits that will cover up to 50 percent of the cost of insuring their employees, and small business owners will have the ability to purchase coverage from a new low-risk insurance pool.

If you would prefer this new health care system over the insurance companies' profit-run "system" we have now, then contact Doc Hastings, Patty Murray, and Maria Cantwell and urge them to support Obama's health care reform. They need to hear from us or they won't know what we want.

The resource for much of this was http://ohmygov.com/blogs/general_news/archive/2009/05/04/healthcare-under-obama-dispelling-myths-and-setting-precedents.aspx

Editor's Goodbye

Dr. Steven O. Link

I have enjoyed being the Editor for the Benton County Democratic Party. As a life-long Democrat I feel it has been my duty to help get our message out. This is a very small payback for the reason I am here and have attained some minor success as a scientist. I feel my being here is because of the Democrats and their strong political actions decades ago. My father was a strong Democrat and very active in Unions. He worked in the meat packing industry in South Saint Paul, Minnesota and the industry, of course, was opposed to meaningful compensation and working conditions. The results were sometimes violent strikes from the 1930's through the 1960's. The workers won and I was able to live in a reasonable manner and even go to the University of Minnesota. I did not have to borrow a dime to go to school. I also do not remember concerns about going bankrupt from medical costs in my family. I think times were a bit better for the masses some 40 years ago.

How things have changed. The Republican philosophy that government and taxation is naturally bad translates

into very little investment in society. We see the results now and it isn't pretty. I certainly hope the Democrats will be able to return the mindset in our country to one that willing to invest in our country's future. I will happily pay more taxes to make education affordable and make health care a minor issue. I do feel that we Democrats (the voting majority in our society) have regained our vision and are on the path to a healthier and wealthier society. Taxes have to go up. The wealthiest period in our country was 1971. This also was a time of high taxation and high societal investment. It is embarrassing to have a European scientist tell me that they feel they are visiting a third world country when they visit the WSU Pullman campus. My students are many tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

I am hopeful though. With a little more determination and the courage to fight for what we believe in and what is right, the future will be brighter.

My father fought for me.

Your new Editor is Dr. Ed Rykiel. He is my colleague and an excellent writer. He will serve you well.

Thank you.

Calendar

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

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HOTLINE 548-1885

Website www.bencodems.org

August Calendar

Sat Aug 1 1pm – 5pm Democratic Party Picnic - 2201 Road 96, Pasco, Wa

Mon Aug 3 Last Day for In-Person PRIMARY Registration

Tue Aug 4 7pm – 8:30pm Drinking Liberally ..Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland

Fri Aug 7-9 **DNC Western States Regional Meeting** - Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel

Tue Aug 11 7pm – 8:30pm Drinking Liberally ..Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland

Thu Aug 13 6:30pm – 8:30pm E Board Meeting – Teleconference

Fri Aug 14 6pm – 8pm **Tri-City Democrats Potluck & Program** – Note! NO AUGUST MEETING

Mon Aug 17 7 pm Mid-Columbia Community 4 Change - TBD Check web schedule at mcc4d.org.

Tue Aug 18 **PRIMARY ELECTION** - Last day to mail-in or drop-off Ballots

Tue Aug 18 7pm – 8:30pm Drinking Liberally ..Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland

Wed Aug 19 7pm – 9pm BCDCC Central Committee Meeting – CHECK HOTLINE

Sat Aug 22 8am – 9am Fair Parade - 6th Ave and S. Dayton, Kennewick, WA

Sun Aug 23 9am – Assemble Fair Booth ... Building 2 at Fair Grounds

Tue Aug 25-Sat 29 10am – 9:30pm Benton County Fair & Rodeo - Benton County Fair Grounds

Sun Aug 30 10am – Fair Booth disassembly – Building 2 at the Fair Grounds