

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

December 2005 Issue

www.bencodem.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

What a year. ☺
I'll begin with our first dinner dance in over 20 years and thank all those who worked on the Autumn Festival. Thank you, Dean Burrows, John Latta, Richard Wright, Veda Guynes, Leona Hassing—all our Finance Committee. Thank you to Dana Sprengel for lovely decorations and to the wonderful artists who donated their works. Thanks go to Benton County wineries for their cooperation and assistance. Thanks also to the bidders who supplied excitement at the auction—and congratulations to the winners. It was a terrific night and we hope to do even better next year.

Speaking of good times, you're all invited to attend our annual holiday party on December 17th, 1:00-6:00 pm at the Clipper Ridge clubhouse. The party is pot luck, BYOB and very informal. Bring your best 2005 story along with your favorite dish. If you aren't sure what to bring:

A-I Salads

J-Q Side Dish

R-Z Dessert

We'll announce our Benton County Democrat of the Year (there's still time to send me your recommendation), listen to holiday music and relax with friends.

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drawing on Tuesday, January 24th, from 3:00-7:00 pm at the Red Cross Donor Center in Richland, 447 Wellsian Way. We need donors and volunteers to greet donors and give them juice, etc. Sign up at the holiday party or through your union.

We need more PCOs for 2006! If

you want to get active to help improve the organization, help elect Richard Wright as 4th CD Representative and work to strengthen Democratic influence in Benton County, please step forward. We're arranging for PCO training on January 29th in Yakima 11:30-4:00 at the Carpenter's Hall, and on February 4th from 11:00-4:00 at the Hamilton Studios in Spokane. Both sessions will present the same information, so you only need to attend one of them. We have veteran PCOs who are happy to help you get started. We want a strong party to fight this corrupt administration. Mark your calendars.

Haven't had enough? Precinct caucuses are on March 4th, 2:00 pm. We're still reviewing locations and will get that out to you ASAP.

And how's that golf swing? We're planning a tournament for May 6th and we hope all our golfers join us to come out and play. Keep watching for more details in the newsletter and on our website www.bencodem.org as we get closer.

2006 will be exciting as we try to defeat Doc, re-elect Maria Cantwell, find candidates for county assessor, auditor, coroner, sheriff, and commissioner. If you or someone you know is looking for a way to serve the community, this could be it. In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season, rest up, and get ready!

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

Upcoming Events

December BCDCC Meeting

There will be no December BCDCC meeting. Our January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18th.

Tri-City Democrats

There will be no December meeting. Our next meeting will be January 6th, to be hosted by Roy and Norma DeHart. At that meeting we will read the predictions made a year ago and elect officers for the coming year.

Holiday Festival

Join us on Saturday, December 17th for our annual Holiday Party.

The party will be at the Clipper Ridge Club House in Richland (see the link on our website www.bencodem.org). We will be there from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. The food will be pot luck, and refreshment is BYOB.

We hope to see you there!

Democracy for America

There will be an activism training meeting on Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 pm in the Richland Public Library conference room. Also, our NEW web site DFA Link Tri-Cities is up and running. Please join us there. We are easing out of our Yahoo site, and MeetUp.com as well. Please go to dfalink.com and join us there (find us using ZIP code 99352)! It doesn't quite have all the features of Yahoo Groups but it's getting better.

Again our local group's name is Democracy for America Tri-Cities. Please make sure to join it when registering and of course, it's all free—and you don't need to join Yahoo, etc. or sign up for anything else.

Bob Parazin
DFA Chair

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@bencodem.org
E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

Event Reports

Tri-City Democrats

Members of the Tri-City Democrats met for their monthly meeting at the Richland Labor Temple on Friday, November 4th. After hearing reports from Franklin and Benton counties, Margaret Munro introduced Jim Stoffels, Co-founder and Chairman of World Citizens for Peace. Jim's topic, "World Citizens for Peace and the Bomb" was accompanied with a slide show. His presentation depicted the history of the efforts of his group to maintain an ongoing presence for peace. Since the time it was founded in 1983, the group has maintained a visibility in the public's eye. The group demonstrates on George Washington Way in protest of the number of American's who have lost their lives fighting in Iraq.

We thank Shirley and Norm Miller for hosting the meeting.

Leona Hassing,
President Tri-City Democrats

2005 Elections

Congratulations to Kendall Miller, John David, and Sheila Sullivan for running in the 2005 local elections. Sheila ran for Richland City Council Position 6, and is currently ahead 50.68% to 49.42%. Check out results at www.co.benton.wa.us/election.

Autumn Festival

It truly was as "Evening of Elegance". The first Annual Autumn Festival, this year "An Evening of Elegance", started with a social hour where all participants could view local art & wine, make bids on silent auction items, and view items for the live auction. Roger Briggs acted as our MC and The Steve Haberman Quartet provided music for pre-dinner enjoyment. Dinner was served with com-

plimentary wine at each table. Midway through the dinner, the silent auction closed and the live auction started. Local artists and wineries were showcased in both the live and silent auctions. Professional Auctioneer DJ Rosa kept the bidding at a premium. After the live auction was over, dancing finalized the activities for the evening. It truly was an "Evening of Elegance". See you next year if you missed this one.

Many thanks to the Autumn Festival Committee: Chair Dean Burows, Co-Chair Veda Guynes, Committee Members Dana Sprengle, Bob Parazin, Leona Hassing, Richard Wright, Kendall Miller, John & Mimi Latta, and to the many willing volunteers that assisted.

Leona Hassing

★★★

Editor's Note: Ms. Natalie Butcher of Creative Studio in Richland has a very nice display of photographs and portraits of the event on www.collages.net. The User Name is "Autumn Festival" and the Password is "11067". You will be asked for an email address; please feel free to use "noreply@bencodem.org" to avoid advertisements in your inbox. Ms. Butcher is offering these photographs for sale—these would make a nice memento of the evening for those who attended.

★★★

Democracy for America

We had a small but very spirited meeting where we reviewed the activities/events of the past month including 1) October 16th Regional Party Conference in Moses Lake 2) the 4th CD meeting in Yakima and 3) the Autumn Festival "Evening of Elegance" party fundraiser.

We also discussed the results of the November election, including the initiatives, and of course the fate of our three

DFAers who took the initiative to run for public office. Our hats are off to them: Kendall Miller, John David, and Sheila Sullivan.

It demonstrates the kind of grass-roots commitment that'll be necessary if we're to rebuild our credibility as a party here in eastern Washington. And by the way, of the three that ran for office, all running against incumbents, we've got one winner...Sheila Sullivan beat incumbent, Jerry Greenfield.

And it seems like only yesterday that Sheila attended her FIRST DFA MeetUp in Richland—but it was December of '03. Of course, Kendall predates ALL of us as a DFAer going back to June of '03, and John David goes back to November of '03, I believe. We've all come a long way—and its great to be part of it.

The HIGHLIGHT of the meeting was the Howard Dean clip of his visit to the David Letterman show, and a 15-minute teaser of the Wal-Mart movie. Please don't forget we'll have our second showing of the movie on Sunday, December 4th at the Doris Roberts Gallery at the Richland Public Library. Doors open at 1:00 pm—come early!

Our next meeting will be December 7th at the Richland Public Library where we're going to do some REAL activist training...we're behind TWO lessons!

Bob Parazin, DFA Chair

★★★

“Wow! Brazil is big.”

George W. Bush, after being shown a map of Brazil by Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Brasilia, Brazil, Nov. 6, 2005



Web Resources

★ www.buyblue.org BuyBlue.org supports businesses that share our progressive values and ideals. We believe in a triple bottom line: people, planet and profit. BuyBlue.org uses our power as consumers to vote with our wallets, supporting businesses that abide by sustainability, workers' rights, environmental standards, and corporate transparency. At the same time, BuyBlue.org focuses sharply on businesses that violate the essential values of a sustainable, fair and profitable society through their policies and the politicians they support.



Book List

★ *Rove Exposed: How Bush's Brain Fooled America* by James Moore and Wayne Slater
★ *740 Park: The Story of the World's Richest Apartment Building* by Michael Gross
★ *Foiled Again: On the 2004 Election* by Mark Crispin Miller
★ *Mao: The Unknown Story* by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday
★ *Return to Wild America—A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul* by Scott Weidensaul
★ *The United States of Europe: The New Superpower and the End of American Supremacy* by T. R. Reid

State News

State Communications Director

After an extensive search, the Washington State Democrats have recently hired Viet Shelton as the State Party Communications Director. Viet was most recently Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' campaign manager. He served as a Communications specialist for the House Democratic Caucus during the 2005 session where he worked on the historic transportation package and clean-car legislation. Viet was also the Field Director for the Dave Ross Campaign in 2004 and served in Mayor Nickels' administration prior to that from 2002–2004. Viet has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and was raised in Auburn, WA.

State Party Chair Paul Berendt commented that "Viet's extensive and varied political experience makes him uniquely qualified to be the chief spokesperson for the State Party."

Viet will be joining the State Party full time on December 12, 2005.

Jaxon Ravens
Executive Director, WA State Dems

Plan B

A recent report released by the independent Government Accountability Office (GAO), confirmed something we already suspected: Senior Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials rejected the application to sell Plan B [over the counter] BEFORE the scientific review was completed. [Plan B is an emergency contraceptive.]

The GAO report revealed that the FDA, despite having found Plan B safe enough to sell without a prescription, did not follow the normal scientific assessment procedures in evaluating Plan B—going so far as to have a top official sign off on the final decision after lower ranking scientists refused. And now the FDA claims they cannot produce vital records from the former FDA Director Mark McClellan documenting the circumstances surrounding the Plan B decision. Senator Patty Murray will hold the Bush Administration accountable. It is unacceptable for the FDA to override concerns about public health in favor of politics.

People for Patty Murray

March Caucuses

March 4, 2006 is the Democratic Party's statewide precinct caucus date for 2006, which will begin at 2:00 pm.

June 3rd will be the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) 2006 State Convention, which will be held in Yakima.

Every two years caucuses are held to elect delegates to the State Democratic Convention. All persons considering themselves to be Democrats are urged to attend their precinct caucus to participate in the discussions of the issues of the day.

At least 10 days prior to March 4th, local news media will be alerted to the specific locations of the precinct caucuses in the area. The WSDCC adopted the caucus and convention dates and the delegate selection plan at the latest quarterly meeting, held November 11–12th in Ocean Shores, WA.

State Democratic Party Chair Paul Berendt is looking especially forward to the coming caucuses, given that Washington State was recognized as the nationwide runner-up for hosting the most DNC organizing parties this past week. "Democrats in Washington State are seriously committed to coming together to move our nation forward. America can do better. Our Party welcomes all our Democratic voters to join their neighbors on March 4th to make America a better place for all Washington families."

At this time the State Democratic Party has no plans to use the caucus and convention cycle as its nominating process. With the Montana system in place this would not be necessary. If the state were to win its appeal regarding the pri-

mary process then the parties would choose their nominees through the caucus and convention cycle.

Pursuant to section VIII.E.(5) of the 2006 Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan regarding the State Convention to be held on June 2–3, 2006 in Yakima, WA

Each legislative district organization shall elect one member of each of the three committees (Rules, Credentials and Platform) no later than January 31, 2006.

Legislative District organizations should plan for this and send the names to Jaxon Ravens at the State Party as soon as possible. Please send the names to him at jaxon@wa-democrats.org. Please include the individual's committee assignment, name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Chair's Note: Although it's not the county's job to choose nominees, we may have to due to the lack of an 8th LD Chair. We'll choose delegates at the January meeting if no one steps forward before then.

Letters to the Editor

Autumn Festival

I just wanted to write and say thank you for the lovely "Evening of Elegance" put on by the Tri-City Democrats. There was good food, good wine, and great company, not to mention amazing art work for bid. I hope you make this an ongoing event to promote the causes supported by the Democrats.

Adrienne Stuart

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 March caucuses, 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: _____

December 2005

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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	31

Benton County Democrat of the Year

Don't forget to submit your recommendation for Benton County Democrat of the Year. A pat on the back is a good thing after a long year of hard work. You can email Mimi Latta at: chair@bencodems.org to submit your nominee or call 627-2679 OR 585-7682 before December 10th with your pick.

Election for Treasurer in January

We will elect a new Treasurer during our January 18th BCDCC meeting. Our current Treasurer, Richard Wright, is stepping down so that he can run his 2006 campaign. Mac Dillsi has volunteered to run, and the election is open to all Democrats. Come to the January meeting if you wish to throw your hat into the ring.

Events

December

- 4 State Central Committee Annual Holiday Party, Seattle, Rainier Club
- 4 2nd screening of *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices*, Richland Public Library Gallery, 1:00 pm

- 7 Democracy for America, Activism Training, Richland Public Library, Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 13 December Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 17 BCDCC Annual Holiday Party, Clipper Ridge Clubhouse, 1:00-6:00 pm
- 23 Last day to submit material for the January newsletter

January

- 10 January Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 18 January BCDCC Meeting, Richland Library, 7:00 pm
- 24 Blood Draw, Richland, 447 Wellsian Way Red Cross Donor Center, 3:00-7:00 pm
- 27 Last day to submit material for the January newsletter
- 29 PCO Training, Carpenter's Hall, Yakima, 11:30-4:30

February

- 11 4th CD Meeting, place TBD, 10:00 am
- 4 PCO Training, Hamilton Studios in Spokane, 11:00-4:00

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

March

- 4 Precinct Caucuses
- 7 March Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 15 March BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 24 Last day to submit material for the March newsletter



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