

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



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HOTLINE 585-7682

Officers

Chair	Bob Parazin	chair@bencodems.org 946 6363
Vice Chair	Regina Speer	vicechair@bencodems.org 946 5744
Treasurer	TBD	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

press, there are at least 24 vacancies countywide in non-partisan, non-compensated positions that are looking for citizens to serve their communities and governmental institutions. Whether it's hospital, fire, or irrigation districts, boards of equalization, adjustment or planning, or parks & rec and arts commissions, at all levels of government these positions frequently go unoccupied.

The individuals that make the time and take the time for such positions and find them worthwhile are typically those, who, because of their dedication to public service, succeed in the further pursuit of public, partisan office. It is a perfect opportunity for anyone to see if they have the skills, interest, patience or whatever requisite qualities are called for in serving the public.

From the Chair

Well, two out of three isn't bad. Both Kathy White of Kennewick and Sheila Sullivan of Richland comfortably won their respective races. And Jim Dukelow lost his race for the Richland School Board by only 2%! And let's not forget blogger Jim McCabe's respectable showing for being in the Richland City Council race for only a few days. We take our hats off to all of them and their supporters for saying YES to an opportunity for public service.

In this past election, 28 positions went unchallenged! From council members to school boards to commissioners there were 28 positions unopposed. Is it because incumbents are doing such a superb job? Or is it due to indifference or lower priorities of such endeavors in our busy lives. I wish I knew the answer to that, particularly when I see so many of the opposition party populating such seats.

If the party is to grow in Benton County, Democrats are going to have to embrace opportunities for public service wherever they may be found. As we go to

Since this is such a fertile area for the nurturing and development of candidates, in the future we would like to make available on a regular basis through our Newsletter, a listing with contact information of the open public service positions throughout the County. And we need your help in doing so. We need volunteers from our membership to oversee particular areas of interest such as hospital or fire districts, city governments, county government, school boards, various municipal commissions, etc. and report openings in these areas on a monthly basis. We will be able to increase the awareness of these opportunities to our Democratic supporters. And if you may have toyed with the idea of pursuing one of these positions in the past, NOW may just be YOUR opportunity! PLEASE help in developing this information. Contact the County Chair for more information.

Caucus Time Fast Approaching!

Mark Saturday February 9th on your calendar. That is the time when all Benton County Democrats will be flocking to their selected caucus sites to, among other things, cast their votes for their selected 08 Presidential

candidates. We're in the process of finalizing the sites and selecting where each Precinct will be meeting. We're looking for volunteers to help conduct the caucuses and are relying on both our elected and appointed PCOs to serve as chairs of their respective Precinct Caucus meetings. We'll be contacting each current and past PCO asking for both their participation and help in this important event. But please don't wait for a call. Contact the County Chair NOW!

Then following the February Caucuses by almost two months will be the 8th and 16th LC caucuses on April 5th. It is at these caucuses where we will select delegates to the State Convention.

We will then hold the County Convention on Saturday April 19th where we will finalize the County Party Platform and approve Resolutions earmarked for submittal for State Party action at the next State Central Committee meeting.

We'll have more information on these upcoming events, particularly Precinct Caucus locations in the January Newsletter, our website site, and the Tri-City Herald. Some of you may have noticed that website access has been a bit erratic. Rest assured that things have stabilized and we don't expect any further interruptions of service.

Democratic Presidential Primary Feb 19th?

Confused? Yes you WILL receive absentee ballots in the mail around Feb 1st. But it will be nothing more than a popularity vote. IT WILL NOT mean anything as far as the State Party's selection of delegates OR their choice for Democratic Presidential Candidate. Selecting delegates via the Caucus system rather than the Primary was made by majority vote of the State Party Central Committee. Our Party made that decision some months ago at a State Party Central Committee meeting in Bellingham. For your information, I believe our Benton County delegation was split on that vote.

So what should you do with the ballot? It is a good question. The votes will be tallied and reported by the Auditor. If you want your voting record in Benton County to be 'perfect' [it may mean something to

folks] then by all means fill it out and return it to the Auditor. And your 'record' will remain intact.

At best, some may look at the results as a 'straw pole' or a February snapshot of the 'horse race' as far as Washington is concerned. But otherwise it will be meaningless.

I've heard rumors that some may use the opportunity to 'cross-vote' for a Republican candidate. Your party anonymity will be protected no matter how you vote, since we're a non-declaring state. I give no advice what so ever to this practice!

SO if you want your vote as a Democrat to COUNT, PLEASE TURN OUT for the February 9th CAUCUSES. That's the place for your VOICE to be heard!

From Kendall Miller 8th LD Chair

There is going to be something different this February for the precinct caucuses. So often our caucuses meet in the expected school and public library facilities. We happily announce a new venue that we hope signifies the energizing of a, heretofore untapped community of supporters.

The West Richland and Benton City precincts will have the pleasure of convening in the Tri-City Islamic Center on Bombing Range Road.

How often do people drive past the pleasant but unassuming building next to the soccer fields with its unusual crescent-topped spire and wonder just what sort of people meet there? It may surprise you to know that you already know many of them.

When Bob Parazin, Regina Speer, and yours truly met with the center's leadership last Sunday we were warmly greeted and welcomed. Since they were in the midst of their Sunday school there were children all about. We were able to take a look at the facility and discuss our needs. The facility is well appointed and has everything one could ask for in a caucus location: easy accommodation for up to 60 or 70 people, a modern kitchen, accessible restrooms, and an excellent PA system.

Despite the international origins of the adults they expressed a high level of interest in participating in their adopted country's political process. And they were happy to be able to make such an example of participation on behalf of their American-born children. Furthermore, some expressed a keen desire to assist in the ongoing campaigns. In the press of all that needs to be done by our candidates I sincerely hope each of them can find the time to spend with this unique community. I am sure all would benefit.

Thank you Kaleem, Yehia, "Mac", and others who so warmly welcomed us. And our best wishes to Mahmoud "Mac" Dillsi who will shortly leave to take the Haj.

My First Run for Office

Kathy White

It always feels good to be successful at something the first time you try it. It feels so-o-o good to win Position #3 on the Kennewick School Board. The real work will begin on December 12th when I officially take office. I have a short while to enjoy the afterglow.

The campaign cost less money than I thought and brought on more mental angst than I anticipated. Driving around Kennewick and seeing my yard signs somehow made me feel exposed. The interview with the editorial board was awful – felt like I was being grilled.

Three weekends of doorbelling was the best part of the campaign. People were uniformly welcoming – not one negative person. All were eager to learn about the upcoming election. This election was in an off year and there were no big media productions. Four years ago, the incumbents ran unopposed; school board elections have not been controversial. Now there are some issues in Kennewick and people were universal in approving my run for office and it showed in the results. I won the highest vote count of the three positions up for election. I think the personal touch was/is important.

Fundraising News

by Glynn Stevens

The Benton County Democratic Central Committee is exploring new opportunities to fundraise. We have outlined a three-campaign strategy to fundraise.

- 1) Recurring Gift Fundraising Campaign
- 2) Direct Marketing Fundraising Campaign
- 3) Special Events and Product Sales Fundraising Campaign

Recurring Gift Fundraising Campaign

We are researching opportunities to allow contributors to setup recurring donations directly to the Benton County Democrats. We hope to allow credit or debit card contributions for one time or recurring contributions. When we have the details ready for the recurring gift campaign, we will provide more information.

Direct Marketing Fundraising Campaign

Twice each year (Spring and Fall), we will ask for your pledge via direct mail.

Special Events and Product Sales Fundraising Campaign

We will continue to offer fundraising events (i.e. auction and dinner) and product sales throughout the year. Please volunteer to work on the fundraising committee. Contact Glynn Stevens (735-1659) or email: glynnstevens@verizon.net

Upcoming Events

December 11 (Tues.) E-Board Meeting, 6:30 Mid Columbia Library Union St.

December 15 (Sat.) The HOLIDAY party, 1 pm, Roy's Western Smorgy.

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





Please Join

Benton County Democrats

For a HOLIDAY Celebration Event!

Saturday, December 15th at 1 pm

Roy's Western Smorgy

2682 N. Columbia Center Blvd



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Benton County Democratic Party
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