

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*  
**THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER**



**December 2009**

**WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG**

**HOTLINE 546-8115**

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**NOTE!** ..... that our **January Issue** will contain a pre-addressed return post card that will have to be filled out and returned to us if you want to continue receiving the Newsletter by MAIL.

**Democrat of the Year Nominations**

Every year at our Holiday Party we present the Democrat of the Year Award. Last year it was John Latta. This year we want YOU to be part of the nominating process **DIRECTLY. PLEASE** phone in to our **HOTLINE 546 8115** or e-mail your nomination to [chair@bencodems.org](mailto:chair@bencodems.org) **BEFORE 8 pm on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** . One person - one nomination please.

**From The Chair**

Another campaign season has passed. At the local level it wasn't a year for incumbants. Democrat Tom Moak, Mayor of Kennewick was unseated in a non-partisan race and Laura Grant didn't hang on to her seat in the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District that was held by her father for 22 years. People that were known Democrats in non-partisan races lost and it appeared that many candidates that were supported by known Democrats also lost. While candidates that were endorsed by Republicans seemed to win as well ie Bob Parks, Phil Lemley, etc.. And Benton County rejected Referendum 71. Now on the bright side ... as one Democrat tried to put it to me ..... Initiative Measure 1099 LOST in Benton County [by 1%!]

I don't see any changing trend here, unfortunately. So if we're to give thanks and look to the holidays and new year for hope, for new beginnings ... it just may be the season to be jolly.

George Fearing is making a serious effort to resurrect the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District's Democratic Committee. He's had three meetings over the past number of months and the last two were well attended by a variety of officers and supporters from throughout the District! Uniting the 4<sup>th</sup> CD is one of the important building blocks essential to electing a Democrat from the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. We intent to support George as much as possible.

The **WINNER** of our **SECRET CONTEST** in the November issue of the Democratic Report is **Larry Sehmel** of Richland. The prize, a Dinner for Two at the **Mezzo Thai Tapas Resturant** at Amon Park in Richland will be mailed to him. Look for another contest in the near future.

**2010 Partisan Openings in Benton County**

Here's the tentative list of openings that will be available in Benton County for this upcoming campaign season, Hastings seat, all SIX Legislative Seats in the 8<sup>th</sup> LD and 16<sup>th</sup> LD will be in play. In the County, Commissioner Benitz term is up and a number of other partisan positions within the County will be open as well.

As you know currently we have only ONE named Democrat in either the LDs or the County. Not what you'd call a positive track record to build on, but those are the cards we've been delt here in Benton County.

So far we have TWO prospective candidates for Hastings District seat, with one from Benton County, and so far NO ONE else has expressed an interest in ANY OTHER RACE or position. Friday, June 11 is the last day for candidate filing, **about 6 months away.**

I'd like to devote our upcoming Central Committee Meeting in January on this topic .... and it's a tough one. The **ONLY** reason there IS a Benton County Democratic Party is to elect Democrats in Benton County and related Lds and CD. Send me your thoughts and items for an agenda.

**4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Democratic Central Committee**

**Discussion Points from the 11/21 Ellensburg Mtg**

Uniting the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democrats with the

common purpose to elect the best Democrat possible to represent the 4<sup>th</sup> CD in Congress.

## Priorities of Purpose

1. Re-establish the 4th CD Central Committee with appropriate infrastructure in place, ie bylaws, officers, charter, bank account, FEC, website, phone nos, etc. etc.
2. Propose, refine and establish goals, priorities and strategies for the 4<sup>th</sup> CD DCC.
3. Develop a communications network among elected County and LD representatives throughout the 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. Establish liaisons [feet on the street] with each Party organization within the 4<sup>th</sup> CD.
5. Establish liaisons with constituency organizations [that share Democratic values] within the 4<sup>th</sup> CD ie: labor, education, rural, small business, legal, professional, charitable, ag, etc.
6. Develop the resources to facilitate candidates-- starting with declaration, through congressional primary campaigns.
7. Work with the post-primary congressional campaign to maximize the resources available through the 4<sup>th</sup> CD DCC
8. Work with State and Federal campaigns to maximize the resources available through the 4<sup>th</sup> CD DCC.

Others ...[as an open ended question]

## Favorable and Unfavorable Factors

Related to the Re-emergence of the 4<sup>th</sup> CD DCC

### Favorable

- a. Strengthens the District's visibility as a legitimate political entity
- b. Facilitate communication within the 4<sup>th</sup> CD
- c. Serve as a single resource, one-stop shopping for matters affecting the 4<sup>th</sup> CD as a whole ie. data, statistics, demographics, contacts, other resources TBD.

### Unfavorable

- a. Requires manpower from existing political organizations within the District
- b. Competes for donations/funding with existing political orgs within the District
- c. Competes with other resources to the potential detriment of LD, County and other partisan campaigns.

## Mid-Columbia Community for Change

As the year comes to a close, members of Mid-Columbia Community for Change (MCC4C) have met to revisit what the

group has done since our first meeting in March and to discuss what direction we will take in 2010.

The mission of MCC4C is to help build a stronger community through positive political action, community service, education and social interaction. The group has been busy since that first meeting just 8 months ago...

Community service activities included helping to restore Claybell Park as part of Earth Month, helping to build a Habitat for Humanity home to commemorate President Obama's first 100 days in office, and the clean-up and enhancement of Sacajewa Park to honor and promote our local state park.

MCC4C has sponsored activities to help educate the public and promote enlightened discussion on important topics of our time. This summer the group sponsored an Energy Forum and participated in the National Health Care Day of Service. MCC4C continued to draw citizens into the health care reform conversation by holding a health care reform vigil and cosponsoring, with Shalom United Church of Christ, a visit by the Mad as Hell Doctors and a screening of the documentary "Sick Around the World". This was followed by a public screening of another important program, "Money Driven Medicine".

Most recently MCC4C partnered with the local peace group, World Citizens for Peace, to present the new documentary "Rethink Afghanistan" not once, but twice, due to popular demand!

MCC4C will continue to look for ways to impact our community (locally, regionally, nationally and globally) and welcome others to join us. Until our website gets updated the best way to learn about our activities is to send your contact information to [info@mcc4c.org](mailto:info@mcc4c.org). You will then receive email announcements of our meetings and activities. There will be no meeting in December but MCC4C hopes to participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service in January – let us know if you are interested, have ideas or otherwise want to be involved!

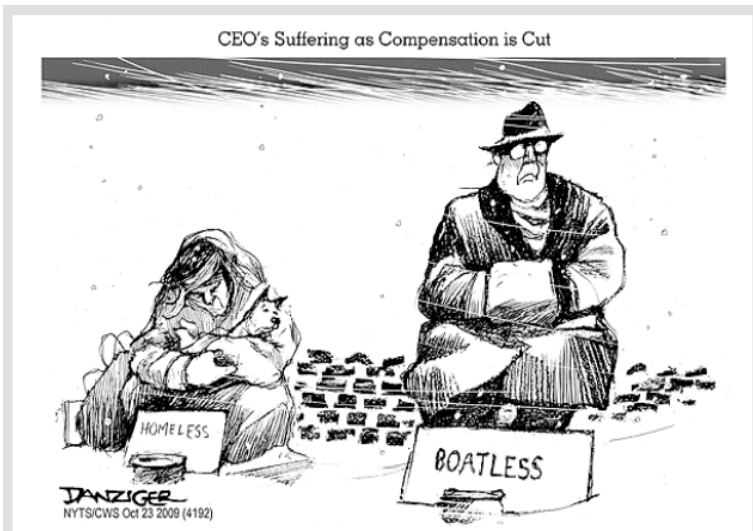
Submitted by Gail Blegen-Frost

## The Doc Hastings Challenge

These are some of the “facts” that make Hastings a formidable yet defeatable opponent here in Eastern Washington. Add your own to the list.

- Served in the State House for **4** terms in the late 80s representing the 16 LD.
- Defeated in 92 in Congressional race against Jay Inslee by 1%.
- Won in 94 in race against Jay Inslee by 1%.
- Won the next **8** races by an average of 60% , 53% against Rick Locke in 96 & 50.8% against Inslee in 94.
- No one that ran against him held previous elected office either at the local, county, state or Federal level except Inslee.
- No one that ever ran against him and lost, ever ran for another local, county, state or Federal elected office again except Inslee.

- Hastings has and can outspend his opponents, \$600K in last race but could easily triple that or beyond, if deemed necessary.
- Hastings is a loyal, back-bench Republican with one of the highest Party-line voting records.
- He's been demonized by a variety of independent and progressive organizations, yet his base remains constant.
- Hastings has one of the lowest records for initiating legislation.
- Though loyal to the Party, he has not held leadership positions on House Committees most pertinent to his constituencies, ie. Energy, Ag, etc.



## Oregon Farm Worker Ministry

A letter was received by the Party as a result of the financial support The Benton County Democrats provided to the workers fired from the Rudy Ridge Dairy. Their firing was due to their attempt to pursue better working conditions by organizing a union. Their struggle continues. View a copy by clicking [here](#).

**HOTLINE 546-8115**

**Web Site .... [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org)**

## DECEMBER 2009

Tue, Dec 1, 09	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly and mailing - Shilo Inn Board Room .. iGW Way & Comstock
	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Sun, Dec 6, 09	1pm – 3pm	<b>RSVP ! Democratic Holiday Party</b> - Red Lion Hanford House, Richland, WA
Tue, Dec 8, 09	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Fri, Dec 11, 09	6pm – 8pm	<b>Tri-City Democrats</b> Potluck & Program – Richland Labor Temple
Tue, Dec 15, 09	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Wed, Dec 16, 09	7pm – 9pm	BCDCC Central Committee Meeting <b>CANCELLED!</b>
Tue, Dec 22, 09	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Thu, Dec 24, 09	Christmas Eve	<b>Enjoy the holidays</b>
Fri, Dec 25, 09	Christmas	<b>Enjoy the holidays</b>
Mon, Dec 28, 09	8pm – 9pm	Last Day for Newsletter Submissions
Tue, Dec 29, 09	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Thu, Dec 31, 09	New Year's Eve	
	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly and mailing - Shilo Inn Board Room .. iGW Way & Comstock
Fri, Jan 1, 10	New Year's Day	<b>Welcome the NEW YEAR!</b>
Tue, Jan 5, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Fri, Jan 8, 10	6pm – 8pm	Tri-City Democrats Potluck & Program - TBD
Tue, Jan 12, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Mon, Jan 18, 10	Martin Luther King	
Tue, Jan 19, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Wed, Jan 20, 10	7pm – 9pm	BCDCC Central Committee Meeting – RICHLAND LIBRARY ?? CHECK HOTLINE