

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

February 2006 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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*State Committee*  
*Man* Dann Lewis 969-0277

## From the Chair

Congratulations to Mac Dillsi on being elected BCDCC's Treasurer. In his speech, Mac said that he has the time for the job, is good at math and has been looking for a way to become more involved.

Welcome to our newest PCOs. We hope you find that the job gives you much satisfaction. There will be caucus training at our February 15th Central Committee meeting, 7:00 pm in the Richland library. We plan to do more PCO training locally. We look forward to working with you. Special thanks go to Bob Bowersock, our Organization Chair, for working to identify Democrats to lead the caucuses in their precincts.

As a follow up to our first Red Cross Blood Drive, I'm happy to report that we donated 19 units of blood. We had more people volunteer to help with the donors than we had donors at one point! But I appreciate all those who took the time to come down and lend a hand. Frank and Donna Ling worked the entire 4 hours, Shirley Miller came in for an hour, as well as Bob & Phyllis Bowersock. Tim Bloomster and Darci Coffman staffed the intake desk while Bob Parazin, Caity Guyette, Jim Dillman, myself, and others donated blood. It was a worthy cause with some lively discussion during the afternoon.

Political issues loom. 2006 challenges us to re-elect Maria Cantwell and Andy Miller and to elect Richard Wright. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) has already sent a former aide, Elliott Bundy to help Republican candidate for Senate, former insurance CEO and lobbyist Mike

McGavick. Senator Stevens wants Maria Cantwell out of the way because she personally defeated his provision in the budget bill to allow oil drilling in ANWR. With Americans leaning toward electing Democrats in November, we have to make sure we send Maria back in order to take back the Senate.

Elections coming up this year in Benton County are: Assessor, Auditor, Commissioner Dist 2, Coroner, District Court Judges Positions 1, 2 & 3, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, 8th & 16th Legislative District Representatives. If you or someone you know wants to run, please have them call me. We'll be happy to give them support.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Introducing Mac Dillsi

Mac Dillsi is our new Benton County Democratic Treasurer. He's a retired electrical engineer so we know he can do the math! He has been working as part of the newsletter committee for the past year or more. He's always on time, easy to work with and reliable. We've enjoyed working with him every month.

I'm sure Mac will be every bit as reliable in his role as our Treasurer and will take the job seriously. We're lucky to find such a gem. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to him and welcome him to our Exec Board.

## BCDCC Secretary Election Notice

We're sorry to accept the resignation of Anne Kizerian from the BCDCC Secretary's position. She has done a wonderful job despite a heavy school load. We'll miss you, Anne, and hope you'll attend meetings as often as possible.

We'll hold the election for a new Secretary on February 15th at the Richland Public Library, corner of Swift and Northgate. The position of Secretary is open to all Democrats in Benton County. You can nominate yourself at the February meeting. PCOs are especially requested to attend this meeting to assure a quorum of members.

## Upcoming Events

### February BCDCC Meeting

Kristin Eby, Central Washington Director for Senator Maria Cantwell, will speak at our February 15th meeting in the Richland Public Library. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Kristin has asked for speaking time to catch us up on Senator Cantwell's policies and recent actions.

Also at our February meeting, we will have caucus role playing to familiarize new members with the process (it's easy) and to brush up long time members. This year we won't have presidential candidates so we can focus on the message of what it means to be a Democrat. We'll work on the issues we want as part of our platform. So many of you have told me that we should say this or that. I hope you'll go to your caucus and help lead the way.

### 4th CD Meeting

The 4th CD will be meeting on February 11, at 10:00 am in Ellensburg at the Ellensburg Inn, Fireside Room. Guest speaker will be Phil Talmadge.

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## Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. 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. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Edited submissions will be returned for review.

Please send submissions to Matt Kizerian at [editor@bencodems.org](mailto:editor@bencodems.org). E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 585-4900.

## Town Hall Meetings: Rep. Haler

State Representative Larry Haler brings his Olympia office to you on the third Saturday of every month the legislature is in session. He will explain what is happening in Olympia from his perspective and answer questions.

February's meetings will be held on Saturday, February 18th:

- 9:00–10:30 am, Prosser City Council Room
- 11:30–1:00 pm Kennewick City Hall
- 2:00–3:30 pm Richland City Council Chamber

## 8th LD Chair Nominations

As you may or may not be aware, Jerad Koepp stepped down as Chair of the 8th LD Democrats several months ago.

At the February 27th meeting we will be accepting nominations for a new chair. Our bylaws do not stipulate a gender balance on our executive board. If you have an interest in running please contact Vice-Chair Caity Guyette at 460-9229.

## Event Reports

### Tri-City Democrats

Members of the Tri-City Democrats met for their monthly, which was their "Annual", meeting at the Richland Labor Temple on Friday, January 6. On the agenda for the evening was reading of the Predictions for 2005, writing predictions for 2006 (which will be opened at the "Annual" meeting in January, 2007) and the election of officers for the coming year.

The Tri-City Democrats will be lead by Norm Miller as President. Retiring after two years as president is Leona Hassing. Continuing is their present positions are Margaret Munro as the Benton County Vice Chair, George Fearing

as the Franklin County Vice Chair, Ann Parazin as secretary and Kae Hopkins as Treasurer.

We thank Roy and Norma DeHart for hosting the meeting.

Leona Hassing, Past President  
Tri-City Democrats

### State Central Committee Meeting

Seattle, January 27–28

This first State Central Committee Meeting of 2006, was changed from Ellensburg to South Seattle because of poor planning on the part of the State Party. But snow and avalanche did not prevent Bob Parazan, Dann Lewis, Sandy Gourley and I from attending. The business of the meeting was mainly the election of a new state chair following Chairperson Paul Berendt's resignation, the meeting of the various caucuses and the consideration of some 17 resolutions, which were voted on by the body. Sandy Gourley attended the resolutions committee session and has written a very comprehensive report on the action taken which will be in the next newsletter. Thank you so much Sandy.

I attended the Progressive Caucus Meeting where the main topic of discussion was how to mobilize the base by recruiting PCOs who can talk to the issues such as health care, the war, and the sustainability of the working class. Bob Bowersock, our County Organization Chairperson gave a well received outline on how he had just recruited 17 new PCOs in Benton County by a calling campaign to previous attendees at the 2004 Caucus.

The Central Committee meeting on Saturday was preceded by a fund raising luncheon at which 8th CD Candidate, Daracy Burner spoke, She is a real dynamo and makes one happy that our party has such powerful candidates. I

plan to send a contribution to her campaign.

The rules committee attempted to change the rules for the election of the State Committee by recommending that the first two ballots have all candidates listed unless there was a candidate with a majority vote on the first ballot. And then providing there was not a majority on the second ballot the low candidate be dropped and continue that procedure until one candidate had a majority. This resolution for change was defeated by the body. The announced rules from the charter and by-laws prevailed: *"If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be conducted. If a candidate is not elected on the second ballot, additional ballots shall be conducted until an officer is elected, but the candidate receiving the least number of votes on each preceding ballot shall be eliminated."* There were five candidates originally—Mark Hintz, Bill Harrington, Jean Brooks, Laura Ruderman and Dwight Pelz. Hintz and Harrington dropped. Dwight Pelz won on the second ballot. I voted for Laura Ruderman because I felt she was the candidate who could best represent and include the East side into the Party. I think we could have worked with all of the candidates and I thank them all for putting their names on the line.

It was a good meeting and I met and talked with a great many more democrats at this meeting because there was more time not taken up by meetings. Thank you for allowing me to represent you.

Phyllis Bowersock  
State Committeewoman, BCDCC

★★★



## Podcasts

Podcasts are recorded audio shows which can be downloaded from the internet. They are in the same vein as talk radio, and encompass a wide variety of themes; political topics are a popular subject. What sets podcasting apart from simply downloading an audio file is the ability to subscribe to a particular program, and have the podcast automatically updated when new shows are available. To do this, you use a free program like iTunes ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)), Juice ([www.ipodder.org](http://www.ipodder.org)), or Doppler ([www.dopplerradio.net](http://www.dopplerradio.net)). These programs allow you to add a podcast "feed" (i.e. show), as well as play the show once it is downloaded. Most podcasts are fairly large files (several megabytes), so this is best done using a broadband internet

connection (cable or DSL). There are several places to find podcasts. If you use iTunes software, you can access Apple's current catalog of political podcasts by clicking on the "Podcast Directory" link under the Podcast source. Other programs like Juice and Doppler require you to enter a URL (essentially a web address) so they can find and download the most current podcast. You can find these addresses on many sites, including [www.ipodder.org](http://www.ipodder.org) and [www.podcastbunker.com](http://www.podcastbunker.com). The addresses themselves are often described as RSS or XML feeds. Try those listed below to get started:

- 📻 Democracy Now: [www.democracynow.org/podcast.xml](http://www.democracynow.org/podcast.xml)
- 📻 Out of the Blue (WA State Dems): [www.wa-democrats.org/wp/?feed=rss2&category\\_name=podcasting](http://www.wa-democrats.org/wp/?feed=rss2&category_name=podcasting)

## State News

### Annual Crab Feed and PCO Training

This year's Washington State Democrats Annual Crab Feed will be held on Presidents' Day, February 20th, at St. Martin's College Pavilion, 5300 Pacific Ave SE, in Lacey. PCO Training will be held earlier in the day at the same location, from 10:00 am–5:00 pm. This is a great opportunity, as it includes a special appearance by DNC Chair Gov. Howard Dean, as well as communications training by Professor David Domke, and Voterfile Training. Cost is \$10 per person (this includes lunch).

The Crab Feed begins at 5:00 pm with special guests DNC Chairman Governor Howard Dean, Governor Christine Gregoire, Representatives Brian Baird, Adam Smith, Jay Inslee, and Jim McDermott, Senator Lisa Brown, Majority Leader Speaker Frank Chopp, WA State Auditor Brian Sonntag, and WA State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler. Individual Tickets are \$40 per person, \$10 for children 12 and under.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Shawna Ousse at 206–583–0664 or [shawna@wa-democrats.org](mailto:shawna@wa-democrats.org).

### The Harri Hursti Hack, Excerpt

I was one of ten people present at the “hack” of the Leon County, Florida voting system, which took place on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 around 4:30 in the afternoon at the county elections warehouse. Leon County's voting system is the Diebold Accu-Vote OS 1.94w (optical scan).

The Leon County Supervisor of Elections, Ion Sancho, authorized a “test” of his Diebold voting system to see if election results could be altered using only a memory card. Harri Hursti, a computer programmer from Finland facilitated the test and it has come to be known as the “Harri Hursti Hack.” And there, on the central tabulator screen, appeared the altered results: Seven “Yes” votes and one “No” vote, with absolutely no evidence that anything had been altered. It was a powerful moment and, I will admit, it had the unexpected result for me personally of causing me to break down and cry. Why did I cry? It was the last thing I thought I

would do, but it happened for so many reasons. I cried because it was so clear that Diebold had been lying. I cried because there was proof, before my very eyes, that these machines were every bit as bad as we all had feared. I cried because we have been so unjustly attacked as “conspiracy theorists” and “technophobes” when Diebold knew full well that its voting system could alter election results. More than that, that Diebold planned to have a voting system that could alter results. And I cried because it suddenly hit me, like a Mack truck, that this was proof positive that our democracy is and has been, as we have all feared, truly at the mercy of unscrupulous vendors who are producing electronic voting machines that can change election results without detection.

*Susan Pynchon is a member of Florida Coalition for Fair Elections. See her full article can be at [www.votetrustusa.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=798&Itemid=51](http://www.votetrustusa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=798&Itemid=51)*

## Letters to the Editor

### Letter from Dwight Pelz

January 29, 2006

Dear Washington State Democrat,

I am writing to thank you for the tremendous honor of being chosen Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party. It was a hard fought campaign, but also one in which we had a constructive discussion on the future of our party.

Over the past six weeks I have had the opportunity to travel to over twenty communities, to meet personally with hundreds of Democrats, and to speak on

the phone many more party activists.

I heard stories of what divides us as Democrats, but learned far more about what unites us. We are all concerned about the future of our country—a country which appears to be turning its back on the middle class.

Democrats in Washington support health insurance for our families, pensions for those who were promised them, college loans for our children, and Social Security and Medicare for all retirees. We know that these investments are critical to 90% of the families in America—that to cut them is to cut our middle class. We know that America is wealthy enough to afford good roads, good bridges, and good schools. We challenge a war with no strategy and no end in sight.

We are committed to re-electing Sen. Maria Cantwell, and confident that our grass-roots troops will defeat their millions of dollars of advertising funded by out-of-state interests. We are determined to expand the Democratic majorities in the State House and Senate this year. We will challenge Bush cheerleaders McMorris, Hastings, and Reichert with excellent candidates and excellent campaigns.

Thank you again. I will be traveling the state deliberately and frequently in the months ahead, so that we can meet once more.

Dwight Pelz

Washington State Democratic Chair

*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)

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Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# February 2006

## Precinct Caucuses

### What is a "Precinct Caucus?"

In a Precinct Caucus, members of a Political Party that live in a geographic area, or "precinct," gather to discuss Party business. It is a sub-meeting of the larger County Party as a whole. In many areas of Washington State, it would be impractical to have all people in any one county, who consider themselves Democrats, meet together at the same time.

### When are our Precinct Caucuses in 2006, and what business do they do?

We will meet in all our individual precincts across the state on March 4th, 2006, at 2:00 pm. In each meeting, we will allocate and elect delegates and alternates to the County Conventions proportionate to that precinct's support for John Kerry and Christine Gregoire in 2004. These delegates and alternates will also serve as delegates and alternates to Legislative District Caucuses. Precinct committee officers (PCOs) serving prior to January 31, 2006, will be automatic

delegates to their County Convention and Legislative District Caucus in addition to the allocated delegates. In such cases, an additional alternate may be elected.

## Events

### February

- 3 Tri-City Democrats, Richland Labor Temple, 6:00 pm potluck, 7:00 pm meeting
- 7 February Exec Committee Meeting, Union St. Library Conf. Room, Kennewick, 7:00 pm
- 11 PCO Training, Spokane Carpenters Hall, 127 E. Augusta Ave, 11:00-4:00
- 11 4th CD Meeting, Ellensburg Inn, Ellensburg, 10:00 am
- 15 February BCDCC Meeting, Richland Public Library Conf. Room, 7:00 pm
- 20 Washington State Democrats Annual Crab Feed and Precinct Committee Officer Training, St. Martin's College Pavilion, 5300 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA

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26	27★	28				

- 24 Last day to submit material for the March newsletter
- 27 8th LD Meeting, Richland Public Library, Conference Room, 7:00 pm

### March

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



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