

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



Feb. 2008

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

509-585-7682

Officers

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

From the Chair

We're now down to TWO CANDIDATES in the presidential race. And the Republicans are in about the same shape. I don't know how well that is going to be reflected in attendance at our upcoming caucuses. But I was encouraged a bit by an AP story a few days ago that said that February 5th CANNOT determine the final candidate delegate count with high probability. With so many super-delegates and affiliated delegates that don't necessarily reflect the caucus vote; that may be correct. Of course, I'd like to see it close all the way to the national convention on August 25th in Denver. Maybe going uncommitted would be the way to go. At one of our Caucus training session, I was reminded that one of our former state committeewomen Shirley Miller, went to the state convention 'uncommitted'. Maybe that's the role to play. Can you imagine, the Washington State delegation going to Denver 'uncommitted'. Now THAT would be exciting!

I was a bit surprised at how quickly the field of candidates shrunk. So much of these early primaries and caucuses drive the campaign costs to

the point that if you don't have a sizeable war chest or you're self-financing, you simply can't compete after doing poorly in the first few. So rather than running on values, policy positions, experience and/or national priorities it all too often comes down to \$\$\$.

A number of representatives from Benton County attended the State Party's Quarterly Meeting in Vancouver, WA this past weekend. The Central Committee re-elected three Democratic National Committee representatives and one NEW rep, Lona Wilbur from Skagit County out of a field of 6. Pat Notter of Chelan County, a current DNC representative who visited the Tri-Cities a number of times, chose not to run.

Also elected to the state Central Committee from the 4th Congressional District was Richard Brinkman from Chelan County and Leavenworth's City Administrator.

Newly Appointed PCOs

The following Democrats were appoint PCOs at our last Central Committee Meeting on January 16th.

Name	Precinct
Roger Briggs	W1-P665
Delia Gonzalez	230
John Coble	W3-P510
Colleen Clements	El Rancho
Charlie Bickenheuser	W3-P515
Ann Nash	300
Barbara Seiders	WR6
Lee Noga	Enterprise

Mike Reader	Yellowstone
Janie Romine	WR9
Bill Kimmerly	315
Phoebe Seiders (assistant PCO)	WR6

I'd like to thank our PCO leads and particularly Bob Bowersock for his help in developing these appointments.

February 9th Caucus Locations by Precincts

Please Sign-In BEFORE 1 pm

Carmichael Middle School, 620 Thayer, Richland

86, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 271, 275, 280, 281, 285, 286, 287, 290, 295, 315, 320, Canyon, Cone, Desert, El Rancho Reata.

Hanford High School, 450 Hanford St., Richland

105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185.

Kennewick High School, 500 S Dayton, Kennewick

Cascade, Ely, Farm, Finley, Hodges, Ivey, Jewel, Kennewick Valley, Mills, Oak, Randy, Union, Washington, W1-P600, W1-P601, W1-P605, W2-P560, W2-P565, W2-P570, W2-580, W2-585, W2-P590, W2-P595, W2-610, W2-P615, W2-P620, W2-625, W2-P635, W2-P636, W2-P637, W2-P638, W2-P640, W2-P641, W3-P500, W3-P505, W3-P510, W3-P515, W3-P520, W3-P525, W3-P530, W3-P535, W3-P540, W3-P545, W3-P550, W3-P551, W3-P555, W3-P556

Southridge High School, 3320 S. Union Loop, Kenn

300, 301, 305, 310, Badger, Carol, Expansion, Hawthorne, Patterson, Reese, Smith, Sunny, Umatilla, Vista, Yellowstone, W1-P645, W1-P646, W1-P650, W1-P651, W1-P655, W1-P656, W1-P660, W1-P661, W1-P665, W1-P667, W1-P668, W1-P670, W1-P675, W1-P680, W1-P685, W1-P690, W1-P691, W2-P630, W3-P575.

Islamic Cntr - Tri-Cities, Meeting Hall, 2900 Bombing Range Rd, West Richland

Cook, Clements, Dot, Enterprise, Griffin, Harrington, Kiona, Legion, Weidle, WR 1, WR 2,

WR 3, WR 4, WR 5, WR 6, WR 7, WR 8, WR 9, WR 10

Prosser Library, 902 7th St., Prosser

450, 455, 460, 465, 470, Benton East, Benton North, Benton South, Benton West, Buena Vista, Carley, Chandler, Columbia, Hills, Prosser North, Rattlesnake, River, Riverside, Roza, South, Trout, Walnut Grove, Wellington

Or go to <http://www.wa-democrats.org/caucusfinder>

or

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

'08 Party Platform/Resolutions

Our County Convention will be coming up on April 19th. It is traditional to finalize our Party Platform at the convention along with any Resolutions that we wish to draft and pass on to the State organization. We will need a Platform Subcommittee within the Organization Committee to prepare the drafts of these documents to present to the body on April 19th. We also need to draft and finalize the rules for the Convention.

Our current Benton County Platform will be placed on our Website in the coming week for your review. Not surprisingly, many of the issues and positions we believed to be so important continue to merit attention. But that's for Platform committee and ultimately our supporters to decide from the floor of the convention. If you'd like to be part of this Committee and let your voice be heard in this important role, please call the Chair or Vice-Chair. And if you have any Resolutions you're working on, as I know some of your are, please don't forget to submit them at your Caucus Feb 9th.

Fearing Campaign Update – January

Mimi Latta

After exceeding our fundraising goals for 2007, we're jumping right into 2008.

The campaign has ordered bumper stickers and parade stickers - and window signs are being printed as I write. We want to be sure to be ready for the Precinct Caucuses on February 9th. We're going to send out some of those bumper stickers, signs, and labels to each caucus site along with a DVD of George thanking all caucus attendees for their time on behalf of our Democratic candidates.

Along with those items, we'll have a signup form for volunteers. You'll be able to choose how to help George win this race and replace the increasingly out of touch Representative Hastings. Please make this the year that you say "Yes" when we ask you to help win this race. If you wonder how we can beat an incumbent Republican in the 4th CD, the answer is that we'll do it with volunteers. We'll take groups and walk the swing precincts, we'll phone every identifiable Democrat to ask for their support and vote, we'll join with Labor to get the word out to their members, family, and friends. We'll win because you're with us. We'll win because even Republicans are tired of the corruption and incompetence. And our candidate, George Fearing, is working hard. He's in it to win, I'm in it to win and if you're in it to win, everything from President to Governor to Congressman is within our reach.

How can you help right now? You can host a house party. Just some coffee and cookies and 10 friends who want to ask some questions and might make a donation. You can invite George to be the speaker at the next meeting of any groups you belong to. You can address some fundraising letters. You can send a donation of \$100.00 to buy TV and radio ads, or send \$15.00 per month for the next nine months. You can buy a bumper sticker for \$5.00 and put it on your car. (The new bumper stickers are repositionable so they don't leave that sticky glue behind.)

There are big ways and little ways to help George Fearing win the 4th Congressional seat. If you can help big, please do so, but even if you can only help a little, every pair of hands makes the work lighter for everyone else. We're counting on you. You're part of our plan. Just think how you're going to feel in November when we pull off a surprise win. If you knew on the morning of November 5th that George beat Doc because of you, would that make a difference? Then would you say "Yes"?

Go to: www.georgefearing.com and under "Pages", click on "Contact the Campaign" to offer your assistance. Or call me at 627-2679.

When Democrats help Democrats, we win.

07 Holiday Party

We had a nice turnout to our Holiday Party on Saturday. Our presidential Straw Poll had Clinton and Obama neck and neck with Obama as the top choice for Vice President. We also named our Democrat of the Year. That honor was captured by our Vice-Chair Regina Speer who's been wearing multiple hats both as VC and Treasurer for most of the year. And recognition awards went to Glynn Stevens our 8th LD state committeeman and also the county Fundraising chair and the second award went to Ralph Crowl who did such a fine job in chairing our 'HomeStay '07' program in June and for the work he's currently doing as media advisor to the George Fearing Campaign.

Upcoming Event

Caucus Training - Saturday, Feb 2nd at 1 pm.
IBEW Labor Hall, 2626 W. Clearwater, Kennewick
(behind the Econo Lodge at 395 and Clearwater.

Precinct Caucuses - Saturday, Feb 9th, see elsewhere for Locations by Precinct No. Please sign-in BEFORE 1 pm.

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

(see Calendar for other Events and Meetings)



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		*Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm			1 Tri-City Democrats – Richland - RLT, 6 pm	2 Caucus Training, 1 pm IBEWK
3	4	5 *	6	7	8	9 Precinct Caucuses
10	11	12* Executive Board Mtg (check HOTLINE for time & place)	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 *	20 Central Committee Mtg 7 pm MCLU	21 Finance Comm Budget/Fundraising Mtg 6:30 RCC	22	23
24	25	26*	27	28 Organization Comm Mtg 6:30 RCC	29	

* **Drinking Liberally** - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available!

RPL --- Richland Public Library RCC -- Richland Community Center MCLU -Mid-Columbia Library 16th & Union
MCLD --Mid-Columbia Library 405 Dayton St, Kennewick in Keewaydin Park IBEWK IBEW Hall, 2626 W. Clearwater,
Kennewick (behind the EconoLodge at Clearwater & Hwy 395), RLT - Richland Labor Temple (hall) Corner of Knight St. &
Goethels (behind Albertsons)