

The Voice of Benton County Democrats
THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



February 2009

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

HOTLINE 585-7682

2009/10 Officers

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From the Chair

Our Reorganization Meeting was held on Saturday, January 10th. Our list of Benton County Democratic officers for 09/10 are listed above. Regarding the 8th LD Democratic Committee, their officers are as follows: Chair – Kendall Miller, Vice-Chair – Nancy Beitel, Secretary – Donna Ling, Treasurer - Zackary Hopko, State Committeeman – Glynn Stevens, State Committeewoman – Ann Eaton. I appreciated the unanimous vote to be re-elected Chair of the Benton County Democratic Party and I thank you for that.

Within this edition, you can read more detailed comments from some of our state committee people on how they plan to execute their office, their experience at the State Party Meeting in Olympia January 24th, and their meeting with the Governor.

We had a wonderful turnout for the meeting and I'd like to thank Ginny McIntyre, Mimi Latta, and all the others that helped make the lunch following the meeting so memorable. As you may not know, we originally intended to have a plain vanilla reorganization meeting at the Union Street Library in Kennewick. As we talked about it more in our Executive Board, Ginny felt it needed to be more than a straight reorganization meeting, she wanted something more

celebratory and conducive to interaction, thus the luncheon was borne. Ginny organized it; got volunteers for the food and decorations and those that attended know the success it was. Mimi suggested the meeting would be an excellent opportunity to bring our PCOs, particularly our newly elected PCOs up to speed, so we added a PCO Orientation to the program. We handed out more PCO handbooks and orientation materials at that one sitting than at any previous training. And it was a success as well.

But January didn't end there. We had the Inauguration to look forward to on January 20th. Thanks to Kendall Miller and the many volunteers that helped coordinate it including, Ginny McIntyre, Mimi Latta, Carol Moser, Sue Frost and Jim McCabe and all the many, many supporters that brought food and of course, themselves to make it such a success. We estimated more than 300 people. A terrific evening!

And the month still isn't over as I'm writing this. The 16th Legislative District Democratic Committee is holding a special caucus on Saturday, January 31st in Walla Walla, to elect THREE Democratic nominees, one of whom will be selected by the 12 [Republican] County Commissioners to complete the term of Rep. Bill Grant who suddenly passed away on January 4th. The counties involved are Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, & Columbia. 19% of Benton County is in the 16th and we hope to send 12 PCOs to the caucus on Saturday.

Of the ten candidates that have expressed interest, the Tri-Cities has FIVE in the running for the 3 nominations: George Fearing, Neva Corkrum, Dante Montoya, Rebecca Francik and Bill Gordon. Dante is the only candidate from Benton County. The remaining four are all from Franklin. If you would like more information on ALL candidates, please go to,

<http://www.franklincounty-dems.org/ld16/>

The Commissioners should make their selection sometime in February. The results of the Special Caucus should be available by the time you receive this newsletter.

Now that a new term is beginning we're looking to reactivate our vitally important Standing Committees. In the near future, on our website, please look for the purpose and descriptions of our Standing Committees, our current Bylaws and Standing Rules and of course, our Calendar as well. If you're interested in serving on a Committee, PLEASE contact us via e-mail, HOTLINE, etc.

And look for Meeting Agendas to be posted prior to a scheduled meeting on our website under Meeting Agendas. My goal is to have this feature available by March and possibly earlier.

I'm pleased that January activities went so well and I thank you all for your support ☺

PayPal Arriving Soon on our Website

I'm told it's almost a matter of days when you'll soon be able to contribute to your local Party via PayPal. It's something that Glynn Stevens, our Fundraising Chair wanted to try more than a year ago and it will be happening soon. Those of you that aren't familiar with PayPal and/or have no interest in Internet transactions, rest assured we will be more than happy to receive donations via the Post Office and the Donation Boxes we place at our various events. Our address remains BCDCC, PO Box 636, Richland, 99352. Checks are payable to BCDCC.

Democratically

John Latta, Benton County State Committeeman

Thank you Benton County Democratic PCOs for electing me to serve as your State Committeeman for another term. On January 24th at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia, Mimi and I represented Benton County, and Glynn Stevens and Ann Eaton represented the 8th LD as members of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (a.k.a. "The State Party Organization" or also a.k.a. WSDCC). This was its first meeting of newly elected and re-elected Committeepersons from Washington's Counties and Legislative Districts. The primary purpose of the meeting was to elect officers for this 2-year term, but some other items normally associated with the quarterly meetings happened too. In other words, it was interesting as expected.

Dwight Pelz was challenged this time by Mark Hintz of the Snohomish County Democrats. Mark campaigned claiming he would make the State Party more "accountable, transparent, and inclusive" and he used the phrase "Dynamic 88 Strategy" to describe how he wants to activate Democrats in each of the 39 counties and 49 legislative districts in the state. Though I voted for Mark, Dwight Pelz

won the election fairly and I plan to support him in his next two years as Chair.

Our new Vice-Chair is Sharon Smith of Spokane who, despite my vote, replaced Eileen Macoll. Sharon has an impressive history of activism recently including work as a full time volunteer for Don Barbieri's 2004 campaign for Congress in the 5th Congressional District. Sharon will well represent the needs of Eastern and Central Washington Democrats in the State Party Organization.

Officers re-elected to keep their positions were Luis Moscoso as Party Secretary, and Habib Habib as Treasurer. (After being Party Treasurer for four years, Habib was finally comfortable enough to tell us that his middle name is actually Hussein!)

In the meeting I voted for and we passed five resolutions that had met the 50-signature threshold to bypass review by the Resolutions Committee. The resolutions support the Worker's Privacy Act, the Employee Free Choice Act, Residents Rights, and there was one asking to keep open a Yakima Valley school for the mentally ill, and one against a bill in the State House restricting small operators' use of well water for livestock. All five resolutions passed should be available for public viewing soon by going to www.wa-democrats.org and clicking on the "About Us" tab.

There was also the business of electing a person from each of the nine Congressional Districts to represent the district in the State Party's Executive Board. Committee members from our 4th CD met, and I nominated Douglas County's own Kathy Humphrey for the position. (Kathy is a person many of you know most recently by her tireless work in George Fearing's campaign for Congress.) The winner, however, was the other nominee, ex-Chelan County Commissioner John Hunter. John's campaign promises included a pledge to improve communications between the Executive Board and other Committee members, and to do his best to genuinely represent the 4th CD to the board.

Being a member of the standing Technology Committee for the prior two years, I attended their open house in the morning before the main election meeting was held. The business of the Tech Committee is primarily administration and support for the "Votebuilder" database. This database program provided by DNC is used by Democratic organizations in just about every state in the country, but I learned this weekend that our state has TEN TIMES as many active Votebuilder user accounts as any other state! The Tech Committee does not plan to sit on its laurels though. We plan to use the next two years to improve how we train users and to make improvements in how the database program works and how it is administered. The competition doesn't have Votebuilder, but I'm told they do have something similar. We Democrats need to make the best of this important party building and campaigning tool!

Feel free to contact me (509-627-2679 or scm@bencodems.org) if you have any questions about Votebuilder, or anything!

Mimi Latta, Benton County SCW

On Friday, Glynn Stevens, John and I drove to Olympia for the State Democratic re-organization meeting. We dropped Glynn off at the Capitol and agreed to meet again in the rotunda for a reception hosted by Governor Gregoire to celebrate her re-election win.

Later, back at the Capitol along with 348 others, we climbed the awe-inspiring marble steps of the immense stairway leading up to the visitors' section of the legislature. The lighting is "turn of the century", there are vast swaths of ruby velvet drapes swagged with gold silk braid at each of the floor to ceiling windows and brocade and moiré upholstered chairs and couches. It's an environment meant to impress visitors with the solidity of the State of Washington.

We were photographed with the Governor then served Washington State cheeses, antipasto, and coffee. The Governor gave a rousing speech saying that it was good to have solidly won with no recounts and then described what it was like at President Obama's inauguration. She is genuinely happy to have a president she can work with. She assured us that even though the next few years will be very tough, no one will work harder to put Washington back on solid ground. She asked all of us to pledge to answer Barak Obama's call and become more active in our communities and help those who will be hardest hit by the economy.

It is an honor to represent all of you at quarterly caucus and committee meetings and I promise to make good reports about the business of the Washington State Democratic Party as information comes in. I'll let you know as soon as I decide which committee(s) to join.

Ann Eaton

As the new State Committeewoman of the 8th LD, I was awed by all the events of this past weekend, especially the Governor's Reception at the beautiful Capitol Building. Barack Obama's election as our new Democratic President has energized all of us, even in the face of the huge difficulties facing our country and our state. I know that many of us were inspired to come back home and start working in our communities for the "Change We Need."

I was also impressed by a lecture offered in the afternoon by the WS Federation of Democratic Women on how our state finally gave women the right to vote in 1910!

Next morning, I dropped in on the Progressive Caucus and then spent some time (with Mimi) at the Labor Caucus. We spent over an hour in the Eastern Washington Committee meeting where many of our fellow "Easterners" gave me new insights into the tasks ahead! And I managed to sit in on a lunchtime presentation by Rep. Williams on the BIAW and its role in our state politics. We all, including our legislators and our Party leaders, need to find ways to counter BIAW's agenda.

John has reported on the afternoon's proceedings. We need to hold our leaders responsible to implement our recommendations and to respond to the needs of Eastern Washington. Although I felt like the junior member of our team, they all, including George Fearing, supported and encouraged me warmly, as did my support staff (Chuck Eaton).

Thank you for electing me and please feel free to share your ideas and needs so that I can more effectively work for you.

Calendar

- Feb 3 Tuesday**
Drinking Liberally – O'Callahan's 7 PM
every Tuesday
- Feb 12 Thursday**
E-Board Meeting -- 6:30 PM IBEW77
- Feb 13 Friday**
Tri-City Dems. 6 pm potluck, 7 pm program,
Place TBD
- Feb 18 Wednesday, Benton County Central Committee**
Meeting 7 pm IBEW77



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Website www.bencodems.org

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3* Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahan's 7pm every Tuesday	4	5	6	7
8	9	10*	11	12. E Board Meeting, 6:30 IBEW77	13 Tri-City Dems. 6 pm potluck, 7 pm program, Place TBD	14
15	16	17*	18 Central Committee Mtg. 7 pm, IBEW77	19	20	21
22	23	24*	25	26	27	28

* **Drinking Liberally** - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are always available
**RCC -- Richland Community Center, IBEW77 -- 2626 W. Clearwater, Ken, RLT. Richland Labor Temple. Goethals and Knight St.
 behind Albertsons's**