

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

January 2005 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

## Contacts

<i>Chair</i>	Mimi Latta	627-2679
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Bob Parazin	946-6363
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Kizerian	585-1122
<i>Treasurer</i>	Richard Wright	735-0412
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Woman</i>	Phyllis Bowersock	943-4559
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Man</i>	Dann Lewis	969-0133

## From the Chair

I want to thank our members who worked hard on the gubernatorial recount and on the holiday party while I was away. Special thanks go to Bob & Phyllis Bowersock, Charlotte Lewis & Betty King who organized local Dems for these events. You're the Best!

We had a surprise speaker at our re-organization meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Current State Chair, Paul Berendt, talked about the governor's race and campaigned to be retained as State Chair. The meeting also delivered a new slate of officers for BCDCC after some close votes. Congratulations to the winners! (Winners posted on page 2). We'll be well represented in 2005 & 2006.

Committees were set up for Budget and Bylaws for our February meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Chair for the Bylaws Committee is Bob Bowersock, and members are: Leona Hassing, John Latta, Bob Parazin & Veda Guynes. Keith Gourley is Chair of the Budget Committee with members: Jim Dillman, Charlotte Lewis, Richard Wright, Anne Kizerian, Bob Bowersock & Bob Parazin. An Audit Committee for BCDCC books will be chaired by Charlotte Lewis with Sandy Gourley & John Latta as a members.

Committees were also set up to handle organizational functions. Chairs for these committees are (volunteering members noted): Candidate Search: Sheila Sullivan; Organization (PCO recruitment) Bob Bowersock; Finance: No Chair, Leona Hassing, member; Fair Booth: Bob Parazin, Chair, Ryan Block, member; Parades: Laurel Piippo & Jim Dillman, co-Chairs; Newsletter: Missy

Baker, Chair, Alisa Huckaby, member; Summer Picnic & Holiday Party: Sandy Gourley; Legislative Committee: Michael Smith & Michael Ragan.

My goal is to include as many voices as possible in planning strategy for BCDCC. Any Democrat can volunteer in organizational committees—or the Chair may call you for assistance. Call me at 627-2679 to volunteer or ask questions. We value input from every Democrat and hope you'll find something to interest you. Let's have a great 2005 and come out of it more prepared with better trained PCOs and candidates.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Upcoming Events

### February BCDCC Meeting

The February BCDCC Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, at the Kennewick First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall located at 241 W. Kennewick Ave.

### State Committee Meeting

The January State Committee Meeting will be held January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. The main order of business will be election of executive officers & Congressional District Executive Board members for 2005-2006. Other business to be considered will be the 2005 Recount in the Governors race & the old business of Primary Election Reform in the state of Washington. Candidates for State Chair are: Greg Rodriguez, Kat Overman, Bill Phillips, & Paul Berendt.

If you would like to attend, reservations can be made at the Red Lion, 2300 Evergreen Park Dr., 1-800-733-5466. You must identify that you are with the State Democrats to get a cheaper rate.

### State Crab Feed and PCO Training

Washington State Democrats Annual Crab Feed and PCO Training will be held on Presidents' Day—February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2005 at St. Martin's College, 5300 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA, 98503.

PCO Training (\$15 per person) will

begin at 10:00 am, and the Crab Feed (\$40 per person/\$10 children) will commence at 5:00 pm.

For more information, or to RSVP, please call Heather Woodruff at 206-583-0664 or e-mail to [heather@wa-democrats.org](mailto:heather@wa-democrats.org).

## Not One Damn Dime Day

Inauguration Day, Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 is "Not One Damn Dime Day" in America.

On "Not One Damn Dime Day" those who oppose what is happening in our name in Iraq can speak up with a 24-hour national boycott of all forms of consumer spending. The object is simple. Remind the people in power that the war in Iraq is immoral and illegal, that they are responsible for starting it, and that it is their responsibility to stop it.

"Not One Damn Dime Day" is about supporting the troops. There are no rallies to attend, no marching to do. On "Not One Damn Dime Day" you take action by *doing nothing*. You open your mouth by keeping your wallet closed to remind our religious leaders and our politicians of their moral responsibility to end the war in Iraq and give America back to the people.

Pat Henry

## Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. Personally written 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 second to last Sunday of the month. Due to limited space, material received earliest will receive priority consideration. Reference articles without publication name, date, and author will not be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Edited submissions will be returned for review by the 4th Wednesday.

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 509-585-4900.

## Upcoming Events—Con't

### Tri-Cities Democrats Meeting

The next Tri-Cities Democrats meeting will be held Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Labor Hall in Richland. Dues are \$5.00/year, payable at this meeting.

Leona Hassing, President

## Event Reports

### January Tri-Cities Democrats Mtg.

On a rather snowy Friday (January 7<sup>th</sup>) evening, the Tri-City Democrats held their first meeting of the year at the Labor Hall in Richland. This meeting, by tradition, was the election of officers, reading of the predictions written at the January 2004 meeting, and writing predictions for 2005. Newly elected officers were: President—Leona Hassing, Secretary—Ann Parazin, Treasurer—Kae Hopkins, Franklin County Rep.—George Fear- ing, and Benton County Rep.—Margaret Munro. Status reports were given from Benton and Franklin Counties. The Gregoire/Rossi Governor's race and other issues were discussed. The evening was hosted by Kae and Pete Hopkins.

Leona Hassing, President

### Holiday Party Report

Approximately 80 people attended the Holiday Party at the Clipper Ridge Club House on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Greg Rodriguez, Kat Overman, and Bill Phillips, three of the four candidates for State Chair of the State Democratic Committee, attended our meeting thanks to a letter sent by Mimi Latta inviting them to attend, and directions given by Betty King. Each candidate had an opportunity to speak. Jim Dillman served as Master of Ceremonies, and Russ Jasper set up the music and microphone for the speakers. Near the end of the evening, Charlotte Lewis announced that

Bob Parazin was chosen as the Democrat of the Year for his extensive volunteer efforts in many capacities. Phyllis Bowersock served at the registration table, and Leona Hassing handed candidate information. Bob Bowersock, Dan Lewis, Margaret Munro, Kathy Ely, Sandra Gourley, and Keith Gourley set-up and helped throughout the party. A special thanks to all who helped.

Betty King

## Local News

### Benton County Leadership Elected

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Benton County PCOs elected Mimi Latta as Chair, Bob Parazin as Vice Chair, Anne Kizerian as Secretary, Richard Wright as Treasurer, Phyllis Bowersock as State Committee Woman, and Dann Lewis as State Committee Man.

### Franklin County Leadership Elected

Gabriel Portugal was re-elected as Chair of Franklin County Central Committee with Shirley Morrow as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair and Gary Chaption as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Janice Schmidt as Treasurer, Charles Kilbury as State Committee Man and Carol Sue Perkins as State Committee Woman. Josefa Portugal was appointed secretary.

### Walla Walla County Leadership

Walla Walla County Central Committee elected Brian Dohe as Chair, Adrienne Stuart as Vice Chair, William McCaw as State Committee Man, Nina Roth as State Committee Woman, Bob Bikes as Treasurer, & Beth Call as Secretary.

### 8<sup>th</sup> LD Leadership Elected

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Eighth LD PCOs elected Jerad Koepp as the new Chair, Caity Guyette as Vice Chair, Leona Hassing as Secretary, Dennis Clayton as Treasurer,

Sandy Gourley as State Committee Woman, and Bob Parazin as State Committee Man.

### 16<sup>th</sup> LD Leadership Elected

The 16th LD elected Roy DeHart as Chair, Norma DeHart as vice chair, Shirley Morrow as Treasurer, Bill McCaw as Recording Secretary, Tom Schmearear as State Committee Man, & Janice Schmidt as State Committee Woman.

### Newly Appointed PCOs

The following members were appointed as Benton County PCOs in January: Sandy Gourley in Pct. 667, Frank Ling in Pct. 255, Fitzgerald Reyes in Pct. 455 and Charlotte Lewis in Pct. 115. Anyone wishing to be appointed to a precinct needs to attend the February 16<sup>th</sup> mtg.

### A Tribute to David E. Williams (1922—2004)

David E. Williams, a well-known attorney in the Tri-Cities, passed away during the holidays. Mediations, arbitrations and trial cases for many of the labor unions in the area brought him great stature among the local unions, as well as at the state level. He was a founding partner/consultant for Critchlow, Schuster and Williams law firm in Richland. Many of you will remember that we used that office for our Benton County Democratic Headquarters several years ago. Recently it was used in the evenings to assist with the Gregoire for Governor Campaign. He will be missed by many as a true advocate for the working man.

Leona Hassing

### Donation in Name of David Williams

George Wolcott contributed \$100 to the Benton County Democratic Central Committee for Attorney David Williams *in memoriam*.



### Web Resources

★ [www.bencodem.org](http://www.bencodem.org) We have reserved this domain name for our Benton County Democrats and a website allowing access the current and past editions of the newsletter, calendar events, and contact information and important links is coming soon.

★ [www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/election](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/election) Website gives more accurate depictions of the 'red state and blue state' presidential election proportions.

★ [www.4thcddemocrats.org/index.html](http://www.4thcddemocrats.org/index.html) Website gives local information and is sponsored by the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.



### Book List

★ *Critical Condition: How Health Care in America Became Big Business and Bad Medicine* by Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele

★ *Why the Electoral College is Bad for America* by

George Edwards III

★ *About Face: A History of America's Curious Relationship with China, from Nixon to Clinton* by James Mann

★ *The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions about the Bush Administration and 9/11* by David Ray Griffin

## State News

### Gubernatorial Election Results

Dear Democratic Friend:

You have no doubt seen the recent hysterical news releases from the Republican Party and its allies claiming that there are large discrepancies between the number of ballots counted in various counties during the 2004 election and the current preliminary summary reports of voters whose voting histories have been credited with voting in the election. It is deeply concerning to me that the Republicans are so irresponsibly flinging around misleading and irrelevant information. Here are some basic facts that I urge you to remember when you hear these Republican accusations:

1. The relevant question is whether ballots were issued to people entitled to receive them and were the ballots handed in by persons entitled to cast them. The reports the Republicans point to are after-the-fact secondary reports. That is, they are reviewing reports from voter registration data bases. The actual record of who was issued a ballot is contained in the poll books and absentee ballots issuance records.

2. The Legislature has enacted safeguards that ensure that ballots are only issued to those entitled to vote. These safeguards are in place on election day and prior to election day. All ballot issuance is done under public and bipartisan observation.

3. There is no indication that any ballots have been improperly introduced into the counts after election day. The total number of ballots counted state-wide in the initial count (2,883,499) is almost exactly the same as the total number of ballots counted in the manual recount (2,884,783). The difference (1284) is attributable to publicly reported adjustments.

4. The ballots have now been counted fully, by bipartisan auditors, canvassing boards, workers and volunteers, in compliance with the long-standing procedures and rules that the Legislature has set forth for determining who is the winner of a state-wide election. That winner is now known. Her name is Christine Gregoire.

5. In fact, the ballots have been

counted by the most accurate mechanism there is for counting large numbers of ballots: a manual recount that followed a machine recount. In such a count, every precinct is manually counted by teams who must cross-verify their counts. The result is compared to the results from the prior machine count and any difference between the two is investigated and resolved.

6. Despite repeated attempts by Republicans to claim that machine counts are the most accurate, the facts just don't support the claim. Machine counts are inherently inaccurate for at least two reasons. First, the hardware itself will misread ballots. Second, machines cannot fully determine voter intent. The inherent inaccuracy of machine counts is shown by the fact that over 4100 ballots that machines had failed to read were determined by canvassing boards around the state to be valid votes for one of the three candidates for governor.

This was a close race but it has a clear winner determined according to long-standing state law by bipartisan teams of election officials, workers and observers counting the ballots in accordance with state law. It is time to move on beyond this election and begin to address the problems and challenges facing our state.

Call your legislator with a simple message: Chris Gregoire won the election. Let her get on with addressing our state's needs.

David T. McDonald  
Recount Director

Washington State Democratic Party

### Call Your Legislator

**Call your legislator with a simple message:**

**Chris Gregoire won the election**

Leave a message at this number: 1-800-562-0600 or send mail to your Representative at PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600, or Senators, PO Box 40482, Olympia, WA 98504-0482.

*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. See submission information on the front page.*

## Letters to the Editor

For the Central Committee:

The Central Committee needs to recognize that the Democrats are out of step with the general population. I do not want to wait four years for another failed election. I have seen this once great party buried in the sand because they refuse to change directions.

What has been the selling theme for the Republican Party since that "Great Draft Dodger" Ronald Reagan soundly beat the Democrats? Family and family values, anti-abortion, no stem cells, anti-gay unions and marriages, etc. I witnessed all the different churches, ministers, and priests going out in force to defeat the latest Democratic presidential candidate because of his pro-choice stand. Although he is a Catholic, he is pro-choice. The general population does not care about military service. What the people want to hear is, "who is wining the war?"

This past election was not about right or wrong. As always, it was about who has the most money and who tells the biggest lies. We all know about George Bush and his military record; about how he started the war for personal gain, and that of his friends. If the Democrats really care about the war and our youth dying there, they would force George Bush to start the draft. But Democrats, like Republicans, do not want their own kids there. Their attitude is, "let someone else die for me, I'll just take the credit for it by waving a flag and putting yellow ribbons on my vehicles." Yellow ribbons and flags do not stop bullets. Anybody can say, "I love my country," but who is willing to die for it? The reservists will be recycled again and again, until there are no more reservists, or until all refuse to go.

Over 700 reservists have failed to report. My family has served: Miguel Pineda, USMC-1958; my Son PFC Sergio Pineda, USMC, Camp Pendleton Combat Training; my Nephew, Juan Pineda Jr., US Navy, San Diego; my Nephew, Jacob Odom, US Army in Baghdad; my Brother-in-law Ted Troeme, US Army somewhere in Iraq; my Brother-in-law Bill Troemel, USMC retired. You are not representing anyone anymore, "get it"...

Miguel Pineda

# January 2005

## Honors & Accolades

### Democrat of the Year Chosen



The Benton County Democrat of the Year is chosen by member nomination. This year the award was presented to Bob Parazin at the Holiday Party for his invaluable contributions and volunteer work in many capacities. Bob became involved with BCDCC after organizing the local Dean for America Meet-Ups, and has since volunteered in BCDCC parades, as the BCDCC Fair Booth Committee Chair, and as the Manager of BCDCC Election Headquarters. Bob was recently elected as the Vice Chair for the BCDCC and as the State Committee Man for the 8th LD. Bob is again Chair for the Fair Booth Committee and serves on the Bylaws Committee as well. Bob also participates in Democracy for America, an offshoot of the Dean Campaign. We look forward to his continued successes in Democratic endeavors.

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## Events

### January

- 12 WA Gubernatorial Inauguration
- 17 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Bell Ringing, CBC, Noon.
- 20 109<sup>th</sup> Congress Begins Leg. Session
- 20 Not One Damn Dime Day
- 20 Washington Patriots Action Comm. 7:00 pm Richland Public Library
- 20 Presidential Inauguration
- 28,29 State Dem. Reorganization Mtg.

### February

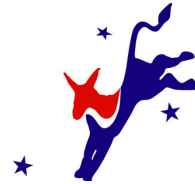
- 2 Democracy For America, 7:00 pm Kennewick, Union St. Library
- 4 Tri-Cities Democrats Meeting Labor Hall in Richland
- 5 Lessons Learned Seminar 'Activism' Sponsored by the 4<sup>th</sup> CD
- 9 Executive Board Meeting
- 16 BCDCC Meeting, First United Methodist Church, Kennewick, 7:00
- 21 State Crab Feed & PCO Training Lacey, WA

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### March

- 5 4<sup>th</sup> CD Membership Meeting 10:00 am, Carpenters Hall Local #770, 507 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Yakima
- 9 Executive Board Meeting
- 16 March BCDCC Meeting, Benton City Community Center, 802 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. (behind US Bank), 6:30 pm



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