

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

January 2006 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

Happy New Year! It's going to be a great year for Democrats. I hope you're ready for the challenges in 2006.

Reminder our PCOs need to attend the January 18th meeting at the Richland library in order to elect a new Treasurer. This is crucial to our organization. We truly thank Richard Wright for his service and wish him campaign success.

And speaking of PCOs, we've lost a few because of a change in residence, family obligations and over-committed schedules. PCOs are the heart of the local party. Only elected and appointed PCOs can vote in our bi-annual organization meeting and for by-laws. PCOs run caucuses in their precinct, identify Democratic voters in their neighborhood, and get voter information to them. PCOs actively participate in the local party and often are the ones who identify candidate possibilities for the Chair.

Additionally, this year, if the WA State Supreme Court upholds the Louisiana-style primary, the Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian parties will hold nominating conventions instead of a primary election. Only PCOs will be able to vote in the conventions. Each PCO's vote will be weighted according to the number of voters in the precinct. I must appoint these PCOs by January 31st. If you want to be a voice for your precinct, please come to the January 18th Central Committee meeting at the Richland library at 7:00 pm. There will be PCO training on February 4th in Yakima and February 11th in Spokane. This training will concentrate on the March 4th cau-

cuses, but will cover other ground as well. If you want to become more active and help to elect Democrats, go to our website for the list of empty precincts—or call me and I'll look up your precinct for you. This could be a crucial year for us. Be a part of the plan!

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

Upcoming Events

January BCDCC Meeting

The January BCDCC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th, at the Richland Public Library. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. We will be electing a new Treasurer, so PCOs, please attend!

Red Cross Blood Drive

I'm told that the number one reason people don't donate blood is because they've never been asked. I'm personally asking you to donate blood or volunteer to be an escort, or to serve juice. In order to be successful, we need a team of volunteers to help recruit donors and assist the day of the drive. Working on the team will be fun and rewarding. Please join our life saving team on Tuesday, January 24th for our Blood Drive to be held at the Red Cross Donor Center, 447 Wellsian Way in Richland from 3:00-7:00 pm.

I am asking for your support and participation in this drive. It's an opportunity for us to demonstrate a commitment to our community. It doesn't cost you anything, and it may save the life of someone you know and love.

Please say yes and call me at 627-2679 to schedule an appointment.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

2006 Candidates

We are actively seeking candidates for Benton County public office for 2006.

Do you know someone that would serve?

Are you someone who could serve?

We have more help to call on this year. Polls show that, nation-wide, vot-

ers are ready to back Democrats (55%) over Republicans (36%) with some folks in the undecided group.

If you've said, "I could do better" than those presently in office, or if you have good ideas to put before the voters, this could be your year.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

Women of Valor Awards

Join Senators Maria Cantwell and Hillary Rodham Clinton at noon on Friday, January 27th in Seattle at Qwest Field for the presentation of the 2005 Helen H. Jackson Women of Valor awards. General seating starts at \$150. Please visit www.bencodems.org for more info.

8th LD January Meeting

There is an 8th LD meeting scheduled for January 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Richland Public Library conference room.

Democracy for America

February's meeting will be held TUESDAY, January 31st at the Richland Library.

Tri-City Democrats

The February Tri-City Democrats meeting will be held Friday, February 3rd at the Richland Labor Temple. The potluck begins at 6:00 pm, the meeting at 7:00.

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. E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 585-4900.

Planned Parenthood

Do you know if there is anyone in your circle who may want to join us for Reproductive rights and social justice lobby day? It will be held on January 30th and I would like a few constituents to join us from the TC. We have a bus that can accommodate and people will be sharing hotel rooms. We will be leaving here on the 29th around 3:00 pm and coming back home on the 30th late at night.

If you know of anyone, please send my info their way. Especially, folks who may be moderate politically, school teachers, students, parents, and the like.

Adrienne Stuart
Public Policy Field Organizer

Planned Parenthood of Central WA
828 South First Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-529-4050 (Office)
509-301-7807 (Cell)

In Washington, publicly funded family planning clinics help women avoid 32,900 unintended pregnancies each year.

PCO Precinct Caucus Training

Attention all PCOs! The Washington State Democratic Central Committee will host two Precinct Caucus training sessions for PCOs next month. The first will be in Yakima on February 4th at the Yakima Carpenters Hall, 507 South 3rd Street from 11:00–4:00. The second session will be held in Spokane a week later on February 11th at the Spokane Carpenters Hall on 127 E. Augusta Ave., also from 11:00–4:00. The following information will be covered:

- How to put on the most effective precinct caucus for your area
- How to build your precinct team
- Info every PCO should know for Election 2006

Please RSVP with your name and con-

tact info to workshop@wademchairs.org, or call (509) 764–8578.

WA State Chair Candidate Forum

The WA State Democratic Hispanic Latino Caucus and the WA State Democratic 4th CD invite you to a Candidates' Forum on Saturday, January 14th at 10:00 am in Pasco at the Carpenters' Hall Local 1849, 2819 W. Sylvester. Gabriel Portugal, WSDHLC Chair, and Keith Gourley, WSD 4th CD Chair, will serve as moderators.

The current candidates for WA State Democratic Chair are:

Jean Brooks
Bill Harrington
Mark Hintz
Dwight Pelz
Laura Ruderman

Event Reports

Holiday Party

Many thanks to all who participated in and attended this year's Holiday Party. We met on Saturday, December 17th at the Clipper Ridge Club House. The meal was potluck, and there was plenty to go around. If you missed this year's event, make plans to attend next year!

Democracy for America

We had a very spirited January Meeting. Between the Holiday blahs and the Rose Bowl the turnout was small, but those that attended I believe enjoyed the evening. There was lots of discussion. After going through the agenda [see the January Agenda file on this web site] we jumped into the DFA Night School training module. It was an interactive video presentation, integrated with handouts and exercises.

The training module was entitled Developing an Action Message and in-

cluded a number of small exercises that really ended up in some spirited discussions regarding "campaign messaging", the Five 'C's of Messaging: Clear, Concise, Consistent, Convincing and Contrastive. We even did some role playing with the goal of "Staying on Message". Leona did very well in the exercise! We also developed a "message box" which forces you to think about your message, identify weaknesses and threats, etc. The last exercise we chose to make a homework assignment, at the suggestion of Kendall Miller. It is entitled "27-9-3", and is a messaging method that forces you to use clear and concise language. The title stands for 27 words, 9 seconds and 3 points. 27-9-3 are statements that work well for media quotes, press releases, phone scripts, ice-breakers, etc. It's similar to what's known as an "elevator speech". I've asked our participants to POST their 27-9-3 messages on our Blog and share them. SO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! Your comments will be most welcomed.

I thought the Night School went pretty well. It's not "heavy handed", and I hope we all came away a bit more political knowledge.

For February's meeting which incidentally will be held TUESDAY, January 31st at the Richland Library, we're going to continue with the Night School training and look closer at sponsoring a Candidate Recruitment Forum because we REALLY need Democrats here in Benton County in ALL walks of public service not only through elected Public Office!

Bob Parazin
DFA Tri-Cities Chair

P.S. When we were discussing themes, messages and slogans, Tim and Chris Mesford reminded us of the Kerry slogan that I thought was pretty good, "HOPE IS ON THE WAY". I guess it still is!!!



Web Resources

★ www.workingforchange.com Progressive site with articles, book reviews, and political cartoons, as well as suggested activism opportunities and tips.

★ The following sites have information about the current candidates for WA State Dem Chair (from M. Levenite) :

Jean Brooks: www.dailykos.com/story/2005/12/20/162538/40

Dwight Pelz: www.dwightpelz.com

Bill Harrington: washblog.typepad.com/main/2005/12/bill_harrington.html

Mark Hintz: washblog.typepad.com/main/tumor_mill

Laura Ruderman: www.lauraruderman.com



Book List

★ *State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration* by James Risen

★ *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan

★ *Dear Mr. President: Letters to the Oval Office from the Files of the National Archives* by Dwight Young

★ *American Vertigo: Traveling America in the Footsteps of Tocqueville* by Bernard-Henri Levy

★ *The Baptizing of America: The Religious Rights Plans for the Rest of Us* by James Rudin

State News

Letter from Paul Berendt

Dear Democratic Friends,
I am writing to inform you that I have decided to step down as Chairman of the Washington State Democratic Party effective the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Democratic State Committee on January 28, 2006. We will hold a special election at that time for the remainder of my term which will run until party-wide reorganization in January of 2007.

There are many important reasons why I have made the decision to step down at this time. I would like to share them with you.

I am currently the longest serving Democratic State Party Chairman in the United States. While having consistency and stability in our party has been a tremendous asset, I believe there comes a time when a change in the chairmanship is beneficial and that time has come. Change will be good for our party and good for me personally.

The challenges brought forth by the three ballot counts and five lawsuits in the Governor's election contest challenge were very intense and draining to me. Although Governor Gregoire's victory and the part I was able to play in her election will always be a highlight of my life, I believe it is best for me to have a change of pace at this time. I can honestly say that I have been able to get up and enthusiastically meet the challenges of the state party every day that I have served as your chair. But, I believe that a new perspective and some fresh energy will add to the momentum that I sense is building for the 2006 election cycle. The state party chairmanship is a tough job. You deserve a leader who is at the top of their game at all times.

I am passionate in my belief that we are poised to win many great victories in 2006. Maria Cantwell will be strong heading into this election year. I am willing to wager today that our party will pick up many Congressional and state legislative seats in the mid-term election. I believe it is only fair to my successor to leave at a time when more victories are possible in the 2006 and 2008 election cycles.

Together we really have been able to

make a difference.

As we elect a new State Chair, please know my primary concern is that the members of the state committee have the ability to choose among good candidates. Given good choices, the party leaders of our state will make the right choice every time.

Over the next six weeks I intend to work to resolve whatever issues remain as a burden to the party. There remains a large legal debt from the successful Governor's election contest. Please know that I hope to see it reduced substantially by the time I depart in January. I will be available to work with the new chair for a smooth transition.

In closing, I would like to especially thank Karen Marchioro for her mentorship, love and all of her efforts on behalf of our party to make it a party focused on our grassroots and a fully inclusive party. I want to thank David McDonald for his friendship, extraordinary support, his brain power and his constant work as our reform minded legal strategist during the primary election reform battles and the Governor's election contest. Please know how incredibly grateful I am to you as a party leader and to all the party members in our state who have been such an important part of our work and victories in the State of Washington

Thank you for your good wishes and tremendous support. Together we have built what is perhaps the best state political party in the country. Please give the new chair the same support and good wishes you have given to me.

Sincerely,
Paul Berendt

Washington State Democratic Chair
(Edited for length; full text at www.wa-democrats.org)

State Chair Race

The WA State Democratic Central Committee will meet in Seattle on January 28th to elect a new State Chair. Paul Berendt announced he was stepping down at the beginning of December. The current candidates are Jean Brooks, Bill Harrington, Mark Hintz, Dwight Pelz, and Laura Ruderman, who will be speaking in Pasco on January 14th.

Letters to the Editor

Thank You, Dems

The family of 'Rags' Nowakowski would like to thank all the Democrats who sent us notes, attended the service and in any way helped us through the hard time.

God Bless.

Mary M. Nowakowski

Thank You Mimi Latta

Mimi Latta always takes care to thank people for their help. I would like to publicly thank Mimi for her numerous contributions. Many are detailed in the newsletter. But her efforts encompass anything and everything that needs to be done.

At the recent holiday party at Clipper Ridge, she was helping clean the place before the party started. And she was still washing dishes after nearly everyone had left. She is a real gem in our organization.

Thanks Mimi.

Frank Schmittroth

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 February 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)

monthly quarterly one time

Name: _____ Precinct (if known): _____

Address: _____

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Occupation: _____

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January 2006

Benton County Democrat of the Year

The Benton County Democrat of the Year is chosen by member nomination. This year the award was presented to Matt Kizerian at the Holiday Party for his contributions and volunteer work in many capacities. Matt became involved with the BCDCC after working with the local Dean for America group. He currently serves as the Editor of the newsletter, and as the Webmaster for www.bencodems.org. He was responsible for bringing BCDCC into the electronic age in these respects, and set up the Fund-raising Committee with PayPal to facilitate collection of donations. Matt worked at the organization's County Fair booth each day this last Fall, and participates in parades and other Democratic activities. We look forward to Matt's continued success in Democratic endeavors.

Events

January

- 10 January Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 14 WA Dems State Chair Candidate

- Forum, Carpenters' Hall Local 1849, 2819 W. Sylvester, Pasco, 10:00 am
- 18 January BCDCC Meeting, Richland Library, 7:00 pm
- 24 Blood Drive, Richland, 447 Wellsian Way Red Cross Donor Center, 3:00-7:00 pm
- 27 Last day to submit material for the January newsletter

February

- 3 Tri-City Democrats, Richland Labor Temple, 6:00 pm potluck, 7:00 pm meeting
- 4 PCO Training, Yakima Carpenters Hall, 507 South 3rd Street, 11:00-4:00
- 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, place TBD, 10:00 am
- 15 February BCDCC Meeting, Richland Public Library Conf. Room,

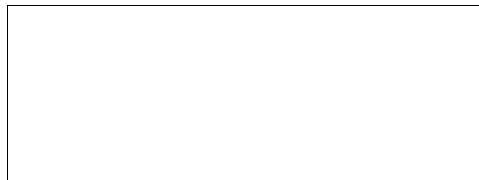
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- 7:00 pm
- 24 Last day to submit material for the February newsletter

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 March newsletter



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