

The Voice of Benton County Democrats
THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



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WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

HOTLINE 585-7682

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From the Chair

As you read this you probably have already heard that Bill Grant, our veteran Legislator from the 16th Legislative District passed away Sunday, January 5th due to pneumonia which came on quite quickly. He died in the presence of family, and we extend our condolences to his wife Nancy, their 4 children and 11 grandchildren and his close friends. Even though only 19% of our Precincts in Benton County are in the 16th LD, he participated in our July Picnic and our Candidate Reception in April and he always had a kind word for other Benton County Democratic candidates and offered encouragement and support in many ways.

Earlier in his career he achieved a fair measure of support here in the County. Even in this past election that unfortunately was tough for Democrats, he had the highest percent vote of

any national, state or local Democratic candidate in the County. And of course, he went on to win his seat for a 12th Term. He spoke on behalf of farmers, ranchers, educators, labor and small businesses and he will be missed. The 16th Legislative District Democratic Committee headed by Kathy Amarasinghe will be charged with naming three Democratic candidates from which an appointee will be selected to complete the vacant term until the next election.

December's Holiday Party

More than 70 people attended our Holiday Party on the 13th of December. It's the first time in my memory that it was held in a pizza establishment banquet room and it worked out quite well. If a few more folks would have shown up it may have been a bit too crowded but it seemed most everyone enjoyed themselves. Our volunteers outdid themselves with the decorations and particularly the variety of deserts; really a very nice spread. Our annual awards were given out as follows:

Democrat of the Year Award went to John Latta, a hard working Democrat who's held a variety of positions in the Party and is our past State Central Committeeman. He always pitches in and is eager to raise his hand. He takes his support seriously and you can count on him to deliver ..every time. And he accomplishes so much ... quietly and

considerately. In the world of volunteers ... he's a treasure to have just a phone call away.

Volunteer of the Year Award went to John Vann [the younger] who became a fixture this past year at all our Primaries and our Headquarters. He helped with database management, developed and maintained our phone system at Headquarters and was particularly helpful with the closing of our Headquarters. He served both the Party and the Fearing campaign and put in countless hours. So we're not surprised that he's now interested in helping develop professional software for political campaigns as a start to his career! Good luck ... John!

Young Democrat of the Year Award went to Fatema Karim .. who exemplified the kind of spirit, interest and commitment we only wish for in our younger Democrats. She worked principally with the Obama people and the Obama for Change campaign. But whether it was coordination, phone calling, organization or simply an extra pair of hands, she always seemed to be in the middle of it with a smile and a kind word. And no she wan't putting anyone 'on'; she's just a very positive, upbeat and committed person.... Haza ... Fatema!

BCDCC & 8th LD Reorganization Meeting With Complimentary Luncheon & PCO Orientation

This may sound like a lot and maybe it is. But we're hoping to squeeze it into three fast paced hours this coming Saturday, January 10th at 10 a.m. in the Richland Community Center's Main Hall. We were originally going to have

it at the Mid Columbia Library on Union but we found it inadequate for what was to be done.

The event has grown a bit from a simple 'reorganization' meeting as we've had in the past. It's due in no small part to the vision of our volunteers that wanted it to be something more, something to reflect the renewed energy we've seen in our Party. My thanks goes out Ginny McIntyre, Mimi Latta and Kendall Miller and many others who've sparked this event into something MORE than the mundane nominating, voting, clapping, etc.

If you're interested in Party involvement and have considered participating as an officer or committee chair, please consider it now and come to this event. The descriptions of the offices for both the County and the 8th Legislative District are on our website and we'll have copies available before the meeting. And of course, we'd be glad to answer any questions you may have by e-mail, phone, HOTLINE messages, etc ... any way you'd like. All our seats are open in both organizations for the County Party and the 8th LD For each a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeeman and Committeewoman ... a total of 8 vacancies to fill. Here's our preliminary time line for the event, subject to change

- 8:00 Set-up with volunteers
- 9:30 Sign-in of participants, preliminary Agenda and Rules distributed
- 10:00 Call to Order ... Introduction
- 10:05 Rules Committee presents report on seated PCOs
- 10:10 Agenda distributed/screened, discussed, approved.
- 10:15 Rules are distributed/screened, discussed and approved.

- 10:25 Nominations called for BenCo Chair, discussed, vote conducted/reported. New Chair takes over the meeting.
- 10:35 Other BCDCC nominations proceed in a similar manner.
- 10:50 Process repeated for 8th Legislative District
- 11:15 Brief Business Meeting
- 11:25 Business Meeting Concludes & For the Good of the Order ...
- 11:30 Complimentary Luncheon begins
- 12.15 PCO Orientation begins and may be staggered with Luncheon

Tuesday evening O’Callahan’s team, are inviting you to an Inauguration Celebration starting at 6 pm at the Shilo Inn* in Richland off of George Washington Way on Comstock. It’s not a sit down event nor a buffet, but there will be food and refreshments, but nothing to distract from the purpose of the celebration, except trips to the no-host bar if choose. Bring your family, bring your friends and most of all bring your enthusiasm ; it’s been a long time coming !!!

* check with our HOTLINE _ for any last minute changes

That’s this Saturday, January 10th ... 10 a.m. at the Richland Community Center’s Main Hall ... take Lee Blvd to the south end of Howard Amon Park where the Center’s located.



Inauguration Celebration January 20th

HOTLINE 585-7682

Yes ... come Tuesday, January 20th as a proud Democrat you won’t have to celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama in silence and the quiet of your home, if you don’t want to. Our 8th LD Chair, Kendall Miller and his team of loyal volunteers, some recruited from his

Website www.bencodem.org

January 2009 !

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year !	2 NO Tri-City Democrats Mtg.	3
4	5	6 * Drink Liberally Shilo/O’Callahans 7pm every Tuesday	7	8	9 Tri City Dems 6 pm Potluck, 7 pm Program at RLT	10 10 a.m. Reorganization Meeting, RCC Large Hall
11	12	13* Drinking Liberally	14	15	16	17
18	19	20* Inauguration Celbration !!! Shilo Inn Ball Room 6 pm	21 Central Committee Mtg. IBEW77	22	23	24
25	26	27* Drinking Liberally	28	29	30	31

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

Democratic Party Reorganization Meeting

Complimentary Luncheon & PCO Orientation

Saturday, January 10, 2008, 10 am – 1 pm

Richland Community Center Lee Blvd - Howard Amon Park

ALL ELECTED POSITIONS are OPEN with the both local party organizations; Benton County Democratic Committee and the 8th Legislative District Democratic Committee. All are welcome, but only **PCOs** [Precinct Committee Officers] **ELECTED** in the past Nov 4th election can vote. However **ANY** self-identified Democrat can be **nominated** and is welcomed to attend! You can find out more about the positions on our website www.bencodems.org.

A **complimentary luncheon** and **refreshments** will be provided after the business portion of the meeting. So come, meet the new leadership of your Party .. and lunch with us! For those of you that are newly elected PCOs, appointed PCOs, or simply interested in the position, we're conducting PCO Orientation (with handbooks provided) during the luncheon as well.

It's going to be a great and challenging year for Democrats !