



THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

JANUARY 2010

www.bencodems.org

HOTLINE 546-8115

2009/10 Officers

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From The Chair

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and found you flu free and ready for the new year. Our County has seemed to come through the economic difficulties reasonably well. Other than some belt tightening on the part of our local governments to compensate for shrinking revenues we've done alright. We've lost a number of loyal Democrats this past year and their participation and support will be missed. But we've also been introduced to a number of new faces as well. Please welcome our 'new faces'.

With elections coming up this year, you can expect an increase in the requests for support in the mail, broadcast media, phone calls and through the web. As a Party, the Benton County Democrats last year contributed to both Congressional and Legislative candidates, but by far the bulk of campaign donations come from individuals and other supportive organizations, PACs, etc. And perhaps that's the way it should be.

I view the local Party as a resource for supporters where both big "D" and little "d" Democratic candidates can seek out help and where supporters can lend their talents and financial support to candidates whose values they share.

I'm not sure what to expect this campaign season. As I said last month, we have FIVE Legislative seats open from the 8th & 16th LDs and no one as yet has declared their interest in filing as a Democrat. We have EIGHT open seats in County government only ONE of which is held by a Democrat and that's incumbent Prosecuting Attorney Andy Miller who will be running again. And to date, no one has expressed any interest in filing for any of these County open seats either. So of the 13 seats open this Fall only 1 is held by a Democrat.

I didn't mention Federal races here because of the fundamental differences in how their regional and state-wide campaigns are waged and supported over local races. But we DO have a declared candidate who is running against Doc Hastings in the 4th. They both are declared Democrats and worthy of your support and Jay Clough/Kennewick has an article in this issue of the *Reporter* regarding his recent participation in our State Party's Holiday event in Seattle.

I would encourage anyone or if you know of anyone who is seriously considering running in the future, perhaps this Fall, to PLEASE contact the Party. To this end and perhaps more likely for the longer term, I intend to put on an informal get-together to discuss what running for office as a Democrat in Benton County entails. It will be scheduled in late February or early March on a Saturday.

Please note that we'll be discussing the challenges Democrats face in Benton County in our upcoming Central Committee Meeting on January 20th. Please send your suggestions/comments for the agenda to chair@bencodems.org. See you there!

State Central Committee Meeting – In Seattle Jan 29th

From Walla Walla now to Seattle's Trade & Convention Center, the State Central Committee will be meeting with all the Committees, Caucuses, hospitality suites and the nomination of Congressional Candidates using a new process that was voted into law at the General Session last Sept in Walla Walla. I'm expecting our newly re-energized 4th CD Committee may present their nominee already selected to the General Assembly. This will be decided at the next 4th CD Committee meeting on Jan 23rd Ellensburg [discussed elsewhere in the *Reporter*].

Currently I know of two candidates that have expressed interest in challenging Hastings; Jay Clough/Kennewick and Thor Lundh/White Salmon. Though the filing date doesn't close until June 11th, those nominees selected on Jan 30th may be the likely candidates with State Party support at least through the Primaries. However, this new rule was hotly contested at the Sept meeting and their could be some backlash. It will be interesting to see how this plays out. Join your 8th, 16th LD and Benton County elected State Committee representatives if you're interested in such fireworks. Weather willing, I'm sure we'll be able to find you a ride if you're interested.

Malakay Betor - 2009 Democrat of the Year

If you attended our successful Holiday Party on December 6th or listened to our message on our Hotline around that time, this is "old news". But amid a fine Brunch, canned goods for the food bank and books for eager children, we announced the winner of our **Democrat of the Year** award. Among many, many nominated folks that provide that extra support to the Party, Malakay Betor our Treasurer and consistent event supporter through the year, took the top honor. Her efforts are most appreciated and recognized as they should be.

THANK YOU Malakay !

Sign-Up for continued mailing of our Newsletter

I wasn't able to include the return postcard in this issue of the *Democratic Reporter* to verify your continued interest in receiving a mailed copy. The postcard will be provided in a future issue.

Jay Clough Announces Candidacy

My name is Jay Clough, and I'm running for U.S. Congress in the 4th Congressional district of Washington State.

I was honored to be invited, by Dwight Pelz, State Party Chairman, to attend the annual Washington State Democratic holiday party held in Seattle earlier this month. Gov. Gregoire, new King County Executive Dow Constantine, Representative Jim McDermott, Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, many of our states elected officials, and many candidates for office, such as myself, were all in attendance.

The event was held on December 6th, at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle. I had a wonderful conversation with Leonard Smith, Director of Organizing and Strategic Campaigns, about the current state and future of, the labor movement in Washington State.

The event was a great success, and I hope that more from this side of the mountains are able to attend next year. Washingtonians, West-side and East-side, have a common bond, and a desire to see REAL change in our state.

We Democrats have been on the right side of history for at least the last 50 years. With hard work and determination, we can show Central Washington that we are the party that cares about their issues, and that we are the party that is helping to make their futures brighter. It won't be easy, but after meeting many of the people at the State Holiday party, I can tell you, that we, in Central Washington, are not alone. Democrats from across the state are rooting for us, and are ready to help.

I hope your holiday's were filled with joy, peace, and love, and that this next year brings both personal, and party successes beyond your wildest dreams.

Happy Holidays from my family to yours.

Jay Clough
Candidate for U.S. Congress (WA. 4th CD)

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Tri-City Democrats Meeting January 15

— Ginny McIntyre

The next TCD (**January 15** - yes, fifteenth) will not just be a potluck/meeting. Due to some schedule issues, I am asking people to consider attending this special event even though it will be on the **3rd Friday** rather than the 2nd Friday of January -- again **January 15th**. It will be followed by a **celebration**. We want to make it a **bash!** We will celebrate Margaret Munro, who has done so much for so long to further the liberal and democratic causes of this region. She will be moving to California to be with her children.

Because I would really like to maximize the attendance, I will ask the TCD members to break with tradition and have our business meeting at 6:00 at the Richland Labor Temple so that others not interested in the meeting can attend the celebration, to commence at **7:00 p.m.** (At this time the celebration location is TBD as the Labor Temple allows no libations.)

We want to celebrate near the Labor Temple so that people do not need to travel far. *If you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer your home*, please call me (628-2871) or Leona Hassing (492-4111). (We can provide carpools to the celebration.) You may also call me for details closer to the event.

In the usual tradition, we will elect new officers at the January meeting at the Labor Temple. I will *not* be running for the chair position again as I have some possible schedule conflicts that may hinder my ability to pledge to be available on every designated evening. If you are *at all* interested in being the chair for 2010, please call me (628-2871) or any of the other active officers (Ann Parazin or Kendall Miller) or Leona Hassing. We need you to join in and join us! Bring your friends and help us keep this a vital, active organization.

4th Congressional District Central Democratic Committee Meets January 23

The 4th Congressional District Democratic Committee will meet on Saturday, January 23, at 2 p.m., at Central Washington University, Student Union Building, Room 135, Ellensburg, Washington. The principal topic for discussion and action is whether the 4th Congressional District Democratic Committee should endorse a congressional candidate, and, if so, who should be endorsed?

Previously, the 4th Congressional District Democratic Committee met on November 21, in Ellensburg. Attendance was high.

The Committee discussed methods of party building throughout central Washington. Most of the committee's time

was spent listening to and asking questions of two Democratic candidates for Congress: Jay Clough, of Kennewick, and Thor Lundh, of White Salmon.

The 4th Congressional District Democratic Committee tentatively plans a McCormack - Inslee - Foley Banquet in March of 2010.

On Being a Democrat in Central Washington: An Essay Contest

All too often, the majority of voters in Central Washington cast their ballots for Republican candidates and causes. We Democrats must do a better job of communicating our message.

To help shine a brighter light on our party's principles and priorities, the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Committee is sponsoring an essay contest. Interested participants should answer this question: "What does it mean to be a Democrat in Central Washington?"

Qualifying essays must contain at least 300 words; there is otherwise no word limit, but clarity and brevity will be considered.

The three judges will be Norman Luther, of Skamania County; Elaine Smith, of Yakima County; and Barbara Newman, of Kittitas County.

Only those residing within the bountiful boundaries of Washington's unrepresented Fourth Congressional District may enter this contest. Officers of the Fourth Congressional District are disqualified from entering the contest.

All entries must be submitted by midnight, Tuesday, January 12, 2010. Entries should be submitted to:

George Fearing
Leavy, Schultz, Davis & Fearing, P.S.
2415 W. Falls Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336

or, e-mail to gfearing@tricitylaw.com

Most, if not all, essays will be posted on the 4th Congressional District Democratic Committee website.

First prize will receive \$100; second prize will receive \$75; and third prize will receive \$50.

Get your Democratic fingers punching the keyboard!!

Happy New Healthcare Year!

The good news is both houses of Congress have passed bills to give the country some much needed Health Insurance Reform.

The bad news is that neither of the bills promise to deliver exactly what you or I wanted. Is that really bad news? Nah. It's just bad news for the big business interests that have been paying Congress members' campaign coffers in hopes those Congress members would argue for leaving the insurance business to continue picking our pocketbooks instead of paying for actual health care.

When the two house's bills are finally reconciled, more of the money we pay in will go to helping people who actually need it instead of the usual denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions, or cancellation of coverage because a person gets sick. More coverage go to people who are now going without. That's good news!

Need more good news for 2010? Let's make some of our own by keeping on our Congress representatives and senators to make the reform what it should be.

Democratically Yours,
John Latta, Benton County State Committeeman

Editor's Note

1. Please don't add 2 spaces after periods – 1 space is enough for the computer.
2. The newsletter format is evolving as I figure out how to do it. Your comments about changes are more than welcome.

HOTLINE 546-8115

Web Site www.bencodems.org

January 2010 Calendar

Happy New Year ! ! !

Fri, Jan 1, 10	New Year's Day	
Tue, Jan 5, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Tue, Jan 12, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Fri, Jan 15, 10	6pm – 8pm	Tri-City Democrats Potluck & Program - 1305 Knight St., Richland, WA
Mon, Jan 18, 10	Martin Luther King, Jr's Day	
Tue, Jan 19, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Wed, Jan 20, 10	7pm – 9pm	BCDCC Central Committee Meeting - 2700 Duportail Richland, WA
Sat, Jan 23, 10	2pm – 5pm	4th CD Central Committee Meeting - Central Washington Student Union Building, Ellensburg,
Mon, Jan 25, 10	8pm – 9pm	Last Day for Newsletter Submissions
Tue, Jan 26, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Thu, Jan 28, 10	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly and mailing - Shilo Inn Board Room .. in Richland GW Way and Comstock
Fri, Jan 29, 10	2 pm – 8 pm	WA State Dem Central Committee Meering - Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle
Sat, Jan 30, 10	7:am – 4 pm	WA State Dem Central Committee Meering - Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle
Tue, Feb 2, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352