



# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*



January 2011

[www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org)

**HOTLINE 987-5829**

## 2009/10 Officers

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Bob Parazin</b>	<a href="mailto:chair@bencodems.org">chair@bencodems.org</a> 946 6363
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Regina Speer</b>	<a href="mailto:vicechair@bencodems.org">vicechair@bencodems.org</a> 946 5744
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<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ann Parazin</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@bencodems.org">secretary@bencodems.org</a> 946 6363
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Ed Rykiel</b>	<a href="mailto:newsletter@bencodems.org">newsletter@bencodems.org</a> 627-1113
<b>SCW</b>	<b>Mimi Latta</b>	<a href="mailto:scw@bencodems.org">scw@bencodems.org</a> 627 2679
<b>SCM</b>	<b>John Latta</b>	<a href="mailto:scm@bencodems.org">scm@bencodems.org</a> 627 2679

## FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year! This will be my last "From the Chair" article from the vaunted position as Benton County Democratic Chair. It's been both a challenging and a richly satisfying experience to say the least. I've made many friends and probably alienated others and learned a lot in the process. Much of it I've chalked up to life's experiences that's so necessary to round out one's perspective on life. I've enjoyed the stay and I sincerely thank those of you that have helped me to keep the spirit of the local Democratic Party alive in meeting the challenges we've faced together.

But I don't have to tell you that the challenges still remain for our Party, our candidates to-be, and the fostering of values that the Party has held for working Americans and those that struggle to make ends meet, to get educated, to become productive citizens, and realize the promise of liberty and freedom that's offered to **ALL** that are part of this great nation. The Party shall live on!

A number of our current office holders and others have already expressed an interest in running for Party offices on January 15th. It is by no means a complete list since many are

still in the process of deciding [hope, hope]. Here's a listing of those that have already declared their interest and the positions they may seek ... Malakay Betor - County Treasurer, Kendall Miller Chair, Brad Taylor - County State Committeeman, Regina Speer - none specified, Nancy Beitel - none specified, Jay Clough - State Committeeman, Doug Hageman - none specified, Steven Lee - none specified and George Fearing - State Committeeman [yes, he's returned to Benton County].

As you can see there are many positions open. If you're so inclined or perhaps just casually interested in running please give me a call to find out more about the opportunities. For more information on the positions, look on page 4 of our Bylaws for more details at [bencodems.org/docs/CurrentBylaws.pdf](http://bencodems.org/docs/CurrentBylaws.pdf).

In fairness to our 25 elected PCOs who will be the only voters in this election, if you're thinking of becoming a candidate please let me know at least a week in advance of the election so we can give you the opportunity to contact the PCOs directly about your candidacy. Simply showing up on Jan 15th to declare, deprives our PCOs of the foreknowledge of your background, political interests, skills, etc. and will make their job most difficult. So if you're a relative newcomer to local party activities and are not particularly known among our voting PCOs, its important that you let us know of your interest ASAP.

## BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS SURVEY

We'll be e-mailing a survey to our supporters over the next few days. Please fill it out. It's less than **30 Questions** and affords ample opportunities to share your thoughts and comments with us on the organization and how we conduct business. The survey results will be assembled and given to our new leadership following January 15th. Your responses will be anonymous unless you purposely identify yourself. It

may be the first of its kind the local Party has ever done.

**ATTN: If you don't receive e-mail from us, PLEASE call and we'll gladly send you a printed copy to fill out and return.** The survey must be completed by January 15th.

## **NEW HOTLINE NUMBER AFTER JANUARY 1ST**

Our new number will be **987-5829**. The messages will be briefer but clearer and of course, you can ALWAYS leave a message.

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## **REORGANIZATION MEETING JANUARY 15**

As you may know, every two years State Law requires that each recognized political party in Washington State be reorganized, electing 6 party members to both WA State and State Democratic Party recognized positions. Those positions are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeeman and State Committeewoman. Benton County contains two Party organizations within its boundaries, the Benton County Democratic Party [Central Committee] and the 8th Legislative District [LD] Central Committee. Each organization elects the full compliment of the six positions. For **Benton County** and the **8th Legislative District** our reorganization will occur on Saturday, January 15th at the Richland Public Library where our biennial meeting will be held.

**NOW IS THE TIME** to find out more information. If you've had previous experience in serving a Party organization in this manner or are simply interested in finding out more information, PLEASE contact us via [return e-mail](mailto:info@bencodems.org), through our website [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org), or by phone ... **946-6363**. We'd appreciate hearing from you.

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## **FOR BENTON COUNTY SCM - BRAD TAYLOR**

As the Benton County Democrats' State Committeeman (SCM) for the last four years, I have traveled the state's scenic highways to share food and drink and conversation with people everywhere. The drinks were sometimes free and the discussions always animated, and the people always interesting. (A few times there was even dancing!) I sat through meetings in hard chairs, to temporarily relieve my sore backside by standing to argue that nuclear power is still better for the environment as a whole than burning oil or coal is, or that damming the dams would lose Democrats in eastern Washington.

I was constantly reminded that Democrats everywhere have opinions, and sometimes we agree and sometimes not, but we always know we're among fellow patriots who care about the future of the state and of the country. It has been a pleasure to serve as Benton County's representative to the State Party, but due to recent changes in my work I need to turn over the job to a more able person. Prosser Democrat Brad Taylor knows the local issues important to Benton County's Democratic and labor organizations, and he is our best candidate to be a skilled representative and active member of the State Committee. As a member of the Teamsters and their political rep for number of years, he has actively supported Democratic candidates and the local party.

In the January 15 re-org meeting, please join me in supporting Brad Taylor for Benton County SCM.

Democratically Yours,

**John Latta, outgoing Benton County SCM**

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## **CANVASSING BOARD OBSERVER REPORT**

Bob Parazin appointed me to serve as a Democratic Party Observer at the County Canvassing Board's November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Prosser. For the benefit of other Benton County Democrats who have not observed the work of a County Canvassing Board, here is a brief report.

The Benton County Auditor's Elections Department staff welcomed my participation as an observer of the meeting. I was given a copy of the day's agenda and a binder containing "An Observer's Guide to Washington State Elections." Also available was a tabulation of all votes accepted and counted previous to the meeting. The three-member Canvassing Board consisted of Stuart Holmes for the Auditor's office, Jim Beaver for the County Commissioners, and Reid Hay for the Prosecutor's office.

State laws and regulations lay out detailed guidelines for the conduct of elections, including the important role of "political party observers." The 19-page "Observer's Guide" outlines the observer's role and various activities which can be observed – including the opening, counting, and securing of ballots, and the proceedings at canvassing board meetings.

The meeting agenda contained 37 items, each item corresponding to a group of ballots. Of the ballots that the Canvassing Board acted to reject, the vast majority were of two kinds: 100 ballots which either had no signature or a discrepancy between the signature on the outer envelope and

the signature on file in the voter's registration, and, 248 ballots postmarked too late. 212 of the late ballots were received by the Elections Department on 11/4 and had therefore been postmarked for the most part on 11/3, just one day after Election Day!

**John Christenson, PCO (appointed), Yellowstone Precinct**

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## COULD "WHO" BE "YOU" ?

The Benton County Democratic Party was saddened to learn this week of the sudden and unexpected death of one of our Party's most active members. I'm sure many of you knew of them, their name ... SOMEONE ELSE. As we look into a most challenging future, we must all reflect on this very sobering news.

SOMEONE ELSE's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. ELSE had been with us for years and for every one of those years, SOMEONE did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as commitment to results.

It was often said that "SOMEONE ELSE could work with that individual or group." When there was a job to do, a meeting to attend, some information to get out, "Let SOMEONE ELSE do it" ... was the refrain. When it was time to step up to fill one of the many public service positions available in the community, for charitable work, for school boards, for city councils and such .... SOMEONE ELSE would do it.

It was common knowledge that SOMEONE ELSE was among the most committed Benton County Democratic Party supporters. Whenever there was an important task to be accomplished or need to be filled, almost everyone assumed that SOMEONE ELSE could get it done and more often than not .... SOMEONE ELSE did!

SOMEONE ELSE was a fine person, sometimes appearing to be superhuman, but a person can do only so much. In private, most would admit that everybody expected too much of SOMEONE ELSE. Now sadly SOMEONE ELSE is gone!

We wonder what we are going to do. SOMEONE ELSE left a wonderful example to follow, but WHO is going to continue? WHO is going to do the things we were always too willing to let SOMEONE ELSE do?

It means of course, that we can no longer depend on

SOMEONE ELSE. But WHO is going to continue? Could that WHO ... be YOU? Happy New Year ... to ~~WHO~~ YOU !

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## WHY LTE YAHOOGROUPS?

A small group of willing volunteer Democrats and Independents have formed a group to write Letters To the Editor (LTE) of the Tri-City Herald.

**Our raison d'être:** Apolitical people / Independents, misread the Republican strategy of stalling the Senate and voted against Dems because they did not see any "CHANGE".

The Democratic base failed to take the initiative to inform non-partisan people about the reasons for the stalled economy, while the Corporate sector was hugely successful in misinforming people and creating the "Tea Party" movement. They were able to misguide and direct public ire towards Democrats. Republicans plan to continue this 2010 blueprint in the next two years to make Obama an one term president **if we don't act.**

### We intend to:

1. To challenge misinformation by writing letters to editor in the Tri-City Herald.
2. To discuss among ourselves, the actions and inactions of Government.
3. To work as a liaison between the Democratic Party and our community to explain, inform and challenge the misinformation and to make people informed voters.

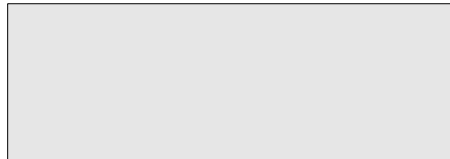
**Lastly, how can YOU help?** By joining the group and promising to write approximately one letter a month (only one/person/month will be published by TCH) on relevant issues of the week, based on your expertise, interest, passion and available time.

If you wish to join this initiative – please send an e-mail to Sandip <[dasverma@yahoo.com](mailto:dasverma@yahoo.com)> or Kay Sisson <[kay\\_sisson@yahoo.com](mailto:kay_sisson@yahoo.com)>, Buck <[bluespudy2k@yahoo.com](mailto:bluespudy2k@yahoo.com)>)

**Sandip Dasverma**

# JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR

<b>Tue Jan 4</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland</b>
<b>Fri Jan 7</b>		<b>Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)</b>
<b>Sun Jan 9</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Planning Meeting for Reorganization - Richland Public Library</b>
<b>Tue Jan 11</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland</b>
<b>Tue Jan 13</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting - 500 Amon Drive, Richland, WA 99352</b>
<b>Fri Jan 14</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Tri City Democrats Program &amp; Potluck featuring Prof. Richard Chisholm</b>
<b>Sat Jan 15</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Reorganization Meeting of the Benton County Democrats - 955 Northgate Dr., Richland</b>
<b>Mon Jan 17</b>		<b>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</b>
<b>Tue Jan 18</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland</b>
<b>Wed Jan 19</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Democratic Central Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Tue Jan 25</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland</b>
		<b>Last Day for Newsletter Submissions</b>
<b>Thu Jan 27</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Newsletter assembly and mailing @ Shilo Inn</b>
<b>Fri Jan 28</b>		<b>State Committee Meeting OLYMPIA</b>
<b>Sat Jan 29</b>		<b>State Committee Meeting OLYMPIA</b>



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