

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

July 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

Contacts

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|------------------------|------------------|----------|
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From the Chair

By the time you read this newsletter, the Exec Board should be almost ready to vote on a location for the 2004 Democratic headquarters. The search committee has reviewed many sites in order to find a great location. That location will be announced at our July 21st meeting at the Richland library gallery room.

Also at our July 21st meeting, we'll have a speaker from the Auditor's office to explain the new Primary Election system. This meeting is open to the public, so tell your neighbors to come as well if they'd like a good explanation. We've been in close touch with the Auditor's office as their system develops. You'll have to request a Democratic ballot this fall in the Primary Election. You'll still be able to vote for the candidate of your choice, regardless of party, in the General Election in November.

Speaking of the Primary, don't forget that the last day to register for the Primary Election is August 14. If you know anyone who hasn't registered yet, bring them to one of our meetings, the July 4th booth in Columbia Park, the county fair booth, or the Auditor's office. We will try to have English and Spanish speakers to assist those registering.

Our parade entry for the Independence Day parade on July 3rd in Pasco can use more hands to assemble the entry as well as folks to ride on the trailer and walk in the parade. We'd like to have many Democrats out being visible this Presidential election year. Please phone Mimi Latta at 627-2679, to find out where to go at 7:00 am on July 3rd if you

can participate.

I want to make sure that all of you know that you're welcome at any of our local organization meetings or events. We were thrilled (and a little awed) by the turnout in our February caucuses. We hope that we can find a spot for each of you in our organization. If you want to learn more about the issues and our candidates, or if you want to lend a hand, you'll learn much at our meetings. If you want to pass along information from your union, precinct, or household, the meetings are the nexus of our County. Come say hi, meet new friends, speak your mind, and help us solidify our approach to the election in Benton County.

Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

PCO Filing Deadline

The filing period for PCOs has been changed and radically shortened. The new filing dates are: July 21- July 26 only. We are hoping to have the new filing form by the end of the week of July 5th. The Auditor's office doesn't even have the new forms as of July 1st. They will be mailed directly to the Benton County Democratic Party. We will call you if you are a current elected or appointed PCO or you can check with Mimi Latta if you haven't heard from her by July 17th.

The filing fee for PCO is \$1.00. Mimi stands by her offer to pay the \$1.00 if you can't afford to, but promise to work diligently as a PCO.

Howard Dean did Benton County and the whole country a favor when he encouraged more people to get involved with local politics. He showed that grassroots activity can turn around an area and bring out people to empower others to vote.

Remember, the Republicans have great incentive to work hard this year to elect Bush. Can we work just as hard to put John Kerry over the top? Be a PCO. Be somebody wonderful.

Mimi Latta, Chair

Pasco 4th of July Parade

Pasco's 16th Annual Grande Ole Fourth Celebration is on Saturday, July 3, at Memorial Park in Pasco.

The Parade goes from 10:30-12:00 noon. There is a pancake breakfast at Memorial Park sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Pasco from 7:00 am-12:00 noon. There is entertainment before and after the parade in the park.

Pasco's Fourth of July fireworks will be on Sunday, at Tri-Cities Baseball Stadium. Gates open at 6:30. Evening entertainment from 7:30-9:15. Fireworks Extravaganza starts at 9:15 pm.

July BCDCC Meeting

The July Central Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21st, at the Richland Library. Jessie Malinowski will be doing some grassroots training.

Remember to come early and enjoy light snacks with fellow Democrats. It's a chance to share your favorite snack with others and to talk issues and strategies to Beat Bush in '04. The social begins at 6:00 pm, with the meeting following at 7:00 pm.

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.

The submission deadline for letters and reference articles is the 3rd Sunday of each month. Calendar items and brief event information may be submitted up to the 4th Sunday.

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:

bencodems_newsletter@earthlink.net

E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call 509-585-4900.

Upcoming Events Cont.

8th Legislative District Meetings

Thank you, Democratic activists, for all you do! Those of you who are activists know who you are. You also know that summer is a time when many people tend to take vacations, generally enjoy themselves, and leave the politics to others. If you think I'm about to get preachy, OK. November might seem like a long way off, but there are plenty of important things between now and then we can be doing to help make it a success for our side. And this one is so important that we should be doing all we can!

Local Democrats can take advantage of the summer parades, county fairs, and other events where people gather to have fun. We can spread our message of fairness and of civil rights and equal representation, of jobs and fair labor practices and corporate accountability. It is very important if we want our side to win that people know what we really stand for. We can't afford to let right-wing talk radio define us. We need to talk about issues and make it clear where we stand.

You shouldn't have to lose your job or good friends just because you have opinions and share them, though. Do what you can and do what you feel comfortable with, *but do something*. You can even volunteer to help your local party. That's what I'm hoping for, so call Mimi or me at 627-2679 and get started, or get a friend and start coming to meetings. There's plenty to be done, and you can help! (We don't bite, and we have more fun than Republicans.)

John Latta, 8th LD Chair

8th LD Dems are meeting Thursday July 15th at 6:30 pm at the Kennewick Library on 1620 S. Union Street. Michael Ragan of WEA will speak on education issues; some local and statewide candidates have also been invited.

BCDCC Annual Summer Pic-nic

Our annual pic-nic is scheduled for Friday August 20 from 5 pm to 9 pm in Howard Amon's Park (south gazebo). People are needed to help set-up, clean-up and manage the auction items. If you would like to become involved, please call Michelle Levenite at 375-0392. Cost for the pic-nic will be \$5.00 per person. Join us!

Michelle Levenite

Event Reports

State Convention Congratulations!

Tri-City Democrats are incredibly lucky this year. We have 3 delegates representing the 4th Congressional District at the National Convention in Boston. We also have the alternate for the 4th CD. Never in my memory has anything like this happened. We usually manage to get one delegate elected from the Tri-Cities, but not always. The chances of an area the size of ours having this much representation at the National Convention is slim. It shows the quality of our candidates, the amount of work put in by members of our organization and, yes, a certain amount of luck.

An unprecedented number of delegates elected at the County Convention desired to go on to the National Convention this year. There were some problems within the Dean caucus at the State convention, but mostly things went really well for our candidates for National Delegate.

Our congratulations go to Kristin Eby, Scott Brines, Gabriel Portugal and Dave Molnaa—take lots of pictures and bring back stories for our summer picnic and August meeting. Maybe we can post some of those photos in the Democratic Fair Booth so get double prints!

Mimi Latta, Chair

Local News

An Update on the Beat Bush Button Project

So far, we have sold 101 buttons, which means more than \$3,380 raised for the BCDCC. There 264 left to sell. Buttons are \$36.50 each, and proceeds go to support the headquarters and other Democratic projects. Each button has a different date printed on it—you will get your name put up on a sign at the new headquarters for the date you have chosen. Hurry to get the date you want before it is taken! Contact Phyllis Bowersock at 943-4559.

Tri-Cities Democrats

The Tri-City Democrats met on Friday, June 4, at the Richland Labor Hall at 1305 Knight St. for their monthly meeting. After enjoying the potluck meal, hosted by Jane Kane, the group was updated with reports from the Benton Country and Franklin County representatives. Due to the State Democrat's Convention in Tacoma, attendance was lighter than usual, but those attending enjoyed an excellent program provided by Dean Schau, CBC professor of Economics.

Our next meeting will be a picnic/potluck at Gazebo #1 in Leslie Groves Park, Richland. It will be hosted by Brenda Stave. Join us, Friday, July 2, for the meal at 6:00 and the program at 7:00. Along with your food and beverage to share, you might want to bring a chair. The speaker for the evening will be Zona Lenhart, Franklin County Auditor sharing with us changes in the election rules and the upcoming Primary and General Elections.

Leona Hassing, President, Tri-City Democrats



Web Resources

★ www.wa-democrats.org/site/current/2004_WA_Dem_Platform.pdf State Democrats Platform, as adopted last month at the State Convention in Tacoma

★ www.4thcddemocrats.org 4th Congressional District's website

★ www.fahrenheit911.com Website of the controversial new film *Fahrenheit 9/11* by Michael Moore. Go there to see the trailer (slow download over modem, but worth it).



Book List

★ *Battle Ready* by Tom Clancy with General Tony Zinni (Ret.) and Tony Koltz

★ *The Republican Noise Machine: Right-Wing Media And How It Corrupts Democracy* by David Brock

★ *My Life* by Bill Clinton

★ *George W. Bush Quiz Book* by Paul Slansky

Fahrenheit 9/11

The following is an excerpt from Roger Ebert's recent review of Michael Moore's new film *Fahrenheit 9/11*, a documentary about the Iraq war and the Bush administration's response to the 9/11 attacks. The film opened last Friday.

"'Fahrenheit 9/11' is a compelling, persuasive film, at odds with the White House effort to present Bush as a strong leader. He comes across as a shallow, inarticulate man, simplistic in speech and inauthentic in manner. If the film is not quite as electrifying as Moore's 'Bowling for Columbine,' that may be because Moore has toned down his usual exuberance and was sobered by attacks on the factual accuracy of elements of 'Columbine'; playing with larger stakes, he is more cautious here, and we get an op-ed piece, not a stand-up routine. But he remains one of the most valuable figures on the political landscape, a populist rabble-rouser, humorous and effective; the outrage and incredulity in his film are an exhilarating response to Bush's determined repetition of the same stubborn sound bites." ©Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.

The film won the prestigious Palme d'Or award at the international Cannes Film Festival (only the second time in over 40 years that a documentary has won the award) and has been generating heated debate over the past few months.

This is an important film. Fortunately, our local Regal theater at Columbia Center Mall has recently decided to show the film beginning June 30th. Call the number below for showing times.

Regal: (865) 922-1123

Also Showing in Spokane at:

AMC River Park Square 20
808 West Main St. (509) 747-FILM
99201 is the ZIP code, which you would need if you want to pre-purchase tickets on movietickets.com or fandango.com.

4th CD Candidate Forum

There will be a 4th CD Candidate Forum, Wednesday, July 7th, at the Mid Columbia Library, at 7:00pm. All three Democratic candidates should be there for a good question and answer session and potential debate! Come join us!

Benton County Fair

As in the past, BCDCC will have a booth at this year's fair. The committee is looking for folks to help set-up the booth on August 21, 2004 at 8:00 am, staff the booth during the fair (in 3 hour shifts) and help tear down the booth on August 29, 2004 at 8:00 am.

We are also looking for space to erect the booth before the fair so that we can determine what painting/repairs are needed. The target time frame is the week of July 18th and we need either a large garage or a large flat surface.

If you can help with any of these endeavors, please call Michele Levenite at 375-0392 or Bob Parazin at 946-6363. The fair is a great opportunity for the Democrats to get out there and be visible.

Michele Levenite

June Treasurer's Report

As of 5-12-04, balance was \$15,371.68. Disbursements total \$1,275.88. Deposits, \$100. Balance as of 6-16-04: \$14,185.90.

Michelle Levenite, Treasurer

State Committee Woman

We want to thank Hope Pollard, who has resigned, for her work as State Committeewoman in the Benton County Democratic Central Committee. We wish her luck in Nevada. Unfortunately, that means that we need to elect a new State Committeewoman in Benton County. Because of the agenda in the July meeting, we'll hold the election in the August 18th meeting at the Richland Public Library. If you'd like to run, be prepared with a 3 minute speech. You may have another member nominate you or have two members split the 3 minute time period.

Also, there will be an election for State Committeeman at the 8th Legislative District meeting on July 15th. The same rules of election and nomination will apply. Please call John Latta 627-2679 with any questions.

Mimi Latta, Chair
Benton County Democratic
Central Committee

**Liberty means responsibility.
That is why most men dread it.**
George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

John Kerry's Qualifications

Author Scott Turow's remarks on John Kerry and why he is the right person to be President:

"I could say the following without blushing: He is running against a man who was not fit for duty in 1968 and is not fit for duty today, a man who lacked the qualifications for the office when he was elected and has demonstrated it. We have been through a skein of national disasters, for which he accepts no blame, because he literally doesn't understand enough about the job to realize how a better President would have responded. John Kerry has been in public life for 35 years. He was a prosecutor when GWB was running an oil company into the ground. And he was already a seasoned United States Senator when GWB decided it was time to give up abusing substances. JK has a sharper grasp of foreign policy, and more experience with it, than any candidate for President in the last 50 years, with the possible exception of George H.W. Bush. His dedication to the cause of our military and veterans is long established. And his commitment to economic and social justice for all Americans cannot be doubted. A man can't be the committed liberal Bush sometimes maintains Kerry is, and also the unprincipled waffler. Life and public service are complicated, as GWB doesn't understand. John Kerry does. He has a sense of nuance, and the experience and values to improve the life of the country. "

Letters to the Editor

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.

Attention All Candidates

The Democratic Reporter is inviting any Democratic candidates to include campaign fliers inside the newsletter mailings. Copies (825) must be provided by the candidate, and must be printed on 8½×11 paper. The deadline is the first Tuesday of the month; please contact Chair Mimi Latta (627-2679) or Editor Matt Kizerian (585-1122) for arrangements.

July 2004

Democratic Candidates

If you are aware of other candidates, please send names and positions to bencodemns_newsletter@earthlink.net.

Governor: Christine Gregoire,
Ron Sims

Lt. Governor: Brad Owen

Senator: Patty Murray

Secretary of State: Laura Ruderman

State Treasurer: Michael (Mike) J. Murphy

State Auditor: Brian Sonntag

State Insurance Commissioner:

Mike Kreidler

Public Lands Commissioner: Mike Cooper

Attorney General:

Deborah Senn, Mark Sidran

Supreme Court Justice:

Robert Alsdorf, Mary Kay Becker

4th CD Congressperson:

Craig Mason, Sandy Matheson,
Richard Wright

8th LD Representative: Jerad Koepp

16th LD Representative, Pos. 1:

Jim Barnett, Tom Schmerer,
Rebecca Francik

Events

July

- 3 4th of July Parade, Pasco
- 6 Tri-Cities for Kerry meeting, Richland Central Firestation, 7:00 pm
- 7 4th CD Candidate Forum
Mid-Columbia Library 7pm
- 13 Meeting at DS Watkins Gallery/
Coffee House. Susan Vann speaking on separation of church and state.
- 14 Exec board meeting
- 15 8th LD meeting, Kennewick Library, Union St., 6:30 pm
- 21 BCDCC meeting, Richland Library. Light snacks at 6:00 pm, meeting from 7:00–8:45 pm.
- 21-26 The filing period for PCOs is July 21st to 26th
- 26-29 National Convention, Boston

August

- 14 Deadline to register for Primary Election
- 20 Annual Summer Picnic, 5:30 pm
- 21 Benton-Franklin County Fair Parade, Kennewick

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3★ |
| 4 | 5 | 6★ | 7★ | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13★ | 14★ | 15★ | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21★ | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26★ | 27★ | 28★ | 29★ | 30 | 31 |

(August continued)

- 22 Assemble County Fair Booth, 8:30 am
- 24-28 Staff Fair Booth

September

- 14 Primary Election

October

- 2 Deadline to register for General Election
- 13 Absentee Ballots mailed

November

- 2 Election Day
- 6 Post-Election Party

Return Service Requested

Benton County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 636
Richland, WA 99352

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