

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

July 2006 Issue

www.bencodem.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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## From the Chair

Our June meeting agenda was crowded with speakers, issues, and a resolution, and out of 83 voting members, we scarcely had a quorum. George Fearing, Mark Cope, & Richard Wright all elicited applause with their comments. The questions from the audience were excellent, but only a few souls heard them.

I'm asking PCOs and other interested local Democrats to come out to meetings, come to the picnic on August 11th, and volunteer to help campaign for one of the fine candidates who're running to represent you and the Democratic Party. Victory requires volunteers.

There's no one to do the work for us. No one will come to our aid like Superman and make all our problems go away. It truly is up to you and me. We must wrest the seats from the Republicans; they won't give them away. Without you, the voter phones won't ring, the stamps won't stick, the invitation won't fold, the checks won't come in, the race won't be won.

You are the difference. An hour a week for Richard, an hour a week for George or Mark—your time and work will win it for us.

Our candidates are qualified and dedicated. Voters are sick of excuses and lies and corruption. We have an opportunity here. Ask yourself how good you'd feel going to a victory party. Invest in your country's future even if you're too young or too old or too busy or discouraged or too new to the process. It's the only way we win. It's the only way we ever have.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Thank You

I and all the members of the Benton County Democratic Central Committee want to extend a very heartfelt thanks to Matt Kizerian for his work as Newsletter Editor for the past 2½ years. He's done a professional job volunteering many hours of his own time to do it and we're grateful. We will miss his participation and Anne's as they transition to Spokane and we'll miss their cheerful addition to meetings and events.

The great thing about volunteer organizations is the people you meet and get to work with. The downside is saying good-bye when they have to move on. I'll particularly miss you, Matt and Anne, but Spokane will be good for you and I know you'll find wonderful people there who'll welcome you and make you feel at home. Please drop in on any of our events when you can and if you participate in State-wide events, I'll look forward to seeing you there. You're the best.

## Upcoming Events

### Election Observers

We need more volunteers for the Primary and General Elections in the Fall. We've gotten two pledges of support and must keep asking until we can cover the full time period of the election. We have to provide our own election observers; there is simply no other option. Call Mimi at 627-2679 or email her at [bencodem@verizon.net](mailto:bencodem@verizon.net).

If you're a campaign volunteer, ask your coordinator if they can set up a car-pool to Prosser in September and November to ensure fair ballot procedure and a reliable outcome for our candidates. It isn't hard work, but it's indispensable.

### July BCDCC Meeting

The July BCDCC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19th at 7:00 pm at the Mid-Columbia Library in Richland. The meeting will take place in the Conference Room.

## PCO Filing Deadline

The filing period for PCO candidates is July 24th-28th. You can pick up your forms from any Auditor's office and take them back when completed, or you can pick them up at the July 11th E-Board meeting or the July 19th Central Committee meeting and I'll file the completed form for you. The filing fee is still \$1.00.

## Summer Picnic

Get ready for the BCDCC annual summer picnic. The picnic is planned for August 11th, 5:30-9:00 pm at Leslie Groves Park, Gazebo # 1 (near the entrance on Park St.).

We always have a good time and relax before the big Primary Push. Richard Wright, Andy Miller, George Fearing, and Mark Cope will all be there to speak and answer questions.

We'll bring the dogs and burgers, you bring a side dish to share. There will be a \$5.00 per person donation requested to cover the park costs.

## Tri-City Democrats

The Tri-City Democrats will meet Friday night, July 7th. The potluck will begin at 6:00, and the program will start at 7:00 pm. George Fearing from Pasco will speak; he is running for the State Legislature 16th District, Position 1.

## 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 the Editor at [editor@bencodem.org](mailto:editor@bencodem.org). E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 585-4900.

## DFA

Yes, as the political year heats up along with the weather, DFA will resume our monthly meetings. July's meeting will be held in the air-conditioned Gallery of the Richland Public Library. We'll begin with the continuation of our Night School program. Of course we will have discussion of political news regarding the county, state and national political scene. I sincerely hope you can drop by to relax, take your shoes off, and kick back.

Please attend the DFA meeting on Wednesday, July 12th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will take place at the Richland Public Library in the Gallery.

Bob Parazin

## Benton-Franklin County Fair Parade

We didn't have an entry in the July 4th parade, but still hope to participate in the County Fair parade if we have volunteers.

The parade is Saturday, August 19th and begins at 10:00 am. We need to meet to decide on a theme and we're still looking for a trailer so that some participants may ride.

All levels of experience are welcome. All help is appreciated.

## Party Business

### Campaign Office Wish List

Dear Democratic Supporters,  
My name is Erik Horeis and I work for the Democratic Coordinated Campaign out of Tri-Cities which works to help elect Democrats up and down the ticket; we also serve as Senator Maria Cantwell's campaign field staff. We set up our ground operation in South-central WA last week and things are going great!

If you could donate office supplies...an extra desk...or an old phone it

would really help the campaign! Below is our office wish list; anything that you can contribute will make a difference! We will only need to use donations through Election Day, November 7th, so please label your things with your contact info and we will ensure it gets back to you!

### Office Wish List:

LaserJet 1000 toner cartridge  
Paper  
Desk  
Table  
Computer chair  
Clipboards  
Tape dispenser  
Stapler/staples  
Two phones  
Large poster pad  
File cabinet  
3-Hole punch  
Waste basket  
Paper plates and plasticware  
Snacks and bottled water for volunteers  
Microsoft Office software  
Microsoft MapPoint software

I really appreciate your support! Thanks for helping make a difference!

Erik Horeis  
erik@wa-democrats.org  
539-3929

### Get Out the Message

July 29, 2006—100 days prior to Election Day—will be an important day of the current campaign cycle. The DNC, State Democratic Party, local party organizations, and the Coordinated Campaign have been working together to plan an aggressive push to both celebrate the 100-day mark, as well as build support for the Democratic ticket across the state.

On that day, volunteers from Bellingham to Spokane will be asked to bring the Democratic message to 100

voters in their community. Participants will be able to sign up online at the DNC website (available shortly), meet at the 12 Coordinated Campaign offices across the state, and either phone bank, doorbell or write postcards to their neighbors. The day is bound to be a tremendous success, and a great step towards an overwhelming victory on Election Day.

Questions regarding the event can be answered at your local Coordinated Campaign office.

We look forward to your participation on July 29th—onward to victory!

Michael King

Field Director

WA State Dem Coordinated Campaign

### Cope for Coroner

I would like to thank all in attendance at the BCDCC June meeting for your endorsement for Benton County Coroner. For those of you not in attendance, I request your support in the election. I have been a professional firefighter for 23 years, the past 19 at Hanford. I have held the rank of Captain for the past five years. For the past three and half years, I have worked as Deputy Coroner for Franklin County.

I have resided in Benton County for 17 years with my wife and two sons. My family and I are very involved within our community. I am an active volunteer with several organizations.

Please contact committee chair Jamie Cope to assist in fundraising at 948-7437 or Mark1Jay1@charter.net, or send donations to: Cope for Coroner, 1305 Knight St., Richland, WA 99352.

Mark A. Cope

### Richard Wright: Campaign News

What's New?

Democrats from all over the State received a letter about Richard Wright



### Web Resources

★ [www.dnc.org/a/2006/05/dean\\_on\\_the\\_dai.php](http://www.dnc.org/a/2006/05/dean_on_the_dai.php) A link to the video of Howard Dean appearing recently on *The Daily Show*

★ [www.nwprogressive.org](http://www.nwprogressive.org) Website dedicated to fighting for progressive values and working to take back America from the radical conservative right and the irresponsible people it has helped get into office.

★ [www.wright06.com](http://www.wright06.com) Richard Wright's election campaign website.



### Book List

★ *Big Coal: The Dirty Secret Behind America's Energy Future* by Jeff Goodell

★ *America Back on Track* by Edward M. Kennedy

★ *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation* by Jon Meacham

★ *AWOL: The Unexcused Absence of America's Upper Classes from Military Service—and How It Hurts Our Country* by Kathy Roth-Douquet & Frank Schaeffer

★ *The Case for Impeachment: The Legal Argument for Removing President George W. Bush from Office* by David Lindorff & Barbara Olshansky

from Washington's Democratic Party Chair Dwight Pelz. Thank you, Dwight! Get ready for a special campaign event sometime in August with former 4th CD Congressman—and current 1st CD Congressman—Jay Inslee (date to be announced). We are delighted to have Jay's support.

We are thrilled to announce two new campaign field coordinators on board, Clara Chaney and Gustav Moore will be working with Bob Parazin and Anna Fahey to implement an aggressive field strategy. You'll be hearing from them soon about Wright campaign activities in your area. If you're not on our mailing list, sign up today.

A new Tri-Cities outpost of the Coordinated Campaign is located in our office! We are pleased to have Erik Horeis in town to help mobilize Democrats in the area!

We look forward to the exciting work ahead and we count on your support. Our main goals in June and July are fundraising and increasing our volunteer base.

Contact me to sign up for a Richard Wright letter writing party: 554.0229.

Anna Fahey  
Committee to Elect Richard Wright  
anna@wright06.com  
www.wright06.com

### News from Maria Cantwell's Office

WASHINGTON, D.C, June 28, 2006. On Wednesday, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) voted against the Senate Commerce Committee's sweeping revision of U.S. communications laws. Cantwell faulted the committee's failure to pass a net neutrality amendment that would have established a principle of nondiscrimination when it comes to Internet content. Cantwell voted against final committee passage of the bill citing concerns over net neutrality, the lack of build-out provisions for new video service providers, and the elimination of numerous consumer protections. The committee passed the legislation on a 15-7 vote.

"Overall, consumers are the big losers with this bill. Protecting consumer rights should have been the first priority, but sadly, this bill doesn't meet the mark," said Cantwell, a member of the Senate Commerce Committee. "We need

a system that looks out for ordinary Americans, fosters innovation, and keeps our marketplace of ideas open to a broad range of diverse voices. We can't risk allowing discriminatory practices that may stifle competition and restrict access. I'm going to continue fighting for a better bill that looks out for the interests of all Americans."

Along with Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Byron Dorgan (D-ND), John Kerry (D-MA), and Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Cantwell cosponsored an amendment to the telecom bill that is based on the Snowe-Dorgan Internet Freedom Preservation Act (S. 2917) and would have ensured net neutrality. Today, they offered a narrower version of the legislation, which failed on a tie vote.

In a win for media diversity, the committee did accept a measure introduced by Senators Cantwell and John McCain (R-AZ) based on their Local Community Radio Act (S.312). This legislation would implement the recommendations of an FCC report on low-power FM radio stations. These stations, with a broadcast range of about 3.5 miles, provide an affordable alternative to community groups unable to obtain expensive full-power radio station licenses on very scarce broadcast spectrum. The FCC created this new classification of stations in 2000, but Congress later rolled back the Commission's ruling with a rider to an appropriations bill. The McCain-Cantwell amendment would repeal this rider, allowing local community stations to flourish.

"Right now, Washington has about 15 licensed low-power FM licensed stations," said Cantwell. "With about 18 in Oregon and ten in Alaska, these stations provide a valuable, independent voice to

schools, community groups, and others during a time of mass media consolidation and concentrated media markets. We need to make it easier for these stations to thrive. Originally, 68 groups in Washington State applied for low-power stations, but most of these were denied because of a law we don't need."

The committee also accepted a Cantwell-cosponsored measure related to the Federal Communications Commission's controversial media ownership rules. The amendment, also sponsored by Senators Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Trent Lott (R-MS), requires the FCC to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking for public comment before it proceeds with a broad rewrite of media ownership rules. Last week, the FCC announced its intention to reopen these contentious rules, although some commissioners have already raised concerns about whether the process outlined by Chairman Martin will provide for sufficient public input. The FCC last rewrote media ownership guidelines in 2003, but the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals overturned key parts. In 2004, Cantwell joined with a bipartisan group of senators in opposition to the FCC's rules, which would have allowed large media conglomerates to control a greater number of newspapers and radio and television stations. The Cantwell-backed amendment approved Wednesday will help ensure a fully informed, transparent process, and will help make sure citizens across the United States can participate in the process.

*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.*

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**Benton County Democrats need your financial support.** Donations fund the County Convention, and support local Democratic candidates, as well as our activities and events throughout the year.

\$200      \$100      \$50      \$35      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (other)

monthly       quarterly       one time

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Letter from the Editor

The past 2½ years have flown by. When I began as Editor of this newsletter, the 2004 election season was well underway. The BCDCC just had its County Convention and our mailing list had swelled to well over 800 members. John Kerry had all but won the Democratic Primaries, and locally we had three strong candidates vying to run against Hastings in the House race here in the 4th CD.

Issues debated then were many of the same issues we now face: the war in Iraq, how the US is perceived by the rest of the world, what we need to do to protect the environment, and how to improve the health care system to name a few. Unfortunately, at the time many Americans still did not understand how the Bush Administration was pushing the nation further into debt, and further away from the social progress of the past several decades. In 2004 the Bush Administration was reinstated, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The future, however, remains to be written. The decisions we make as a country over the next three years may

well define the direction our nation takes over the next 230 years.

Now is a time of great responsibility. We cannot allow our individual differences to override the greater goal of returning the country to a position of respect and leadership among the nations of the world. Each of us must work to unseat the Republican Party's current stranglehold on our nation, and work to elect persons that will embody the principles upon which this nation was founded, and restore our reputation in the world.

Adopt a hopeful attitude, choose a candidate, get involved, and support BCDCC in its mission to elect Democrats in this county, state, and the nation. We can succeed with your help.

Matt Kizerian

### July

- 7 Tri-City Democrats, 6:00 pm potluck, program begins at 7:00 pm
- 11 BCDCC Exec Committee Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Richland, Seminar Room, 7:00 pm
- 12 DFA, Mid-Columbia Library, Richland, Gallery, 7:00 pm

### Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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23	24	25	26★	27	28★	29★
30	31					

- 19 July BCDCC Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Richland, Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 26 Last day to submit material for the August newsletter
- 28 Filing deadline for all candidates
- 29 The Democratic Reunion, details TBA

### August

- 8 BCDCC Exec Board Meeting, Howard Amon Park, near the "fingernail" building, 7 pm
- 11 Summer picnic in Leslie Groves park 5:30–dusk
- 19 County Fair Parade
- 20 Set up County Fair Booth
- 22-26 County Fair
- 26 Last day to submit material for the September newsletter
- 27 Take down Fair Booth



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