

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

JULY 2007 Issue

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

509-585-7682

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From the Chair....

As you know, one of our goals in Benton County is to encourage Democrats to run for public office and not limited to partisan positions. I'm pleased to tell you that we have at least FIVE candidates that filed for public office positions in Benton County. None of the races are 'partisan' but ALL are contested races. But as we've said before 'public service' has to start somewhere and I'm pleased that we have Democrats in the area that are willing to raise their hand and answer 'YES, I want to participate in government and I believe I have the values and commitment whereby I can make a difference'. That's the spirit as a party we want to encourage and help!

Understand that these races are NOT partisan and these candidates will be looking for votes

from all spectrums of political affiliation not just Democrats. But that doesn't mean we can't share common values most voters can appreciate and help them get elected. Putting signs up, doorbelling, leaflet dropping, precinct analysis, fundraising, etc. all can be done without wearing a big D on our T-shirts. Not that we're ashamed or fearful of talking politics with the public, we're simply participating, not because we're pushing a Democratic agenda but because we support the values the candidate represents and we believe others in the community will support them for the very same reasons.

The standing committee we've established, the Candidate Development Committee, will be meeting Tuesday, July 17th Union St. Mid Columbia Library Conference Room to talk about how we can organize and support these candidates and look at strategies to identify public service openings throughout the county and other strategies to promote public service as an entry to partisan elected office.

If you're interested in helping candidates anywhere in Benton County, PLEASE attend this MEETING and meet some of the candidates! If you are new to grassroots activism, it will give you an opportunity to get an inside look at the mechanics of campaigns at an entry level AND help fellow Democrats further their goals of public service. So PLEASE put it on your calendar, July 17th at

6:30 pm Union St. Mid Columbia Library, 16th & S. Union in Kennewick.

If you get this Newsletter BEFORE June 29 or June 30, PLEASE consider participating in the Washington State Central Committee Meeting. The host hotel will be the Richland Red Lion. If you are interested in next year's February Presidential caucuses, there is Caucus training on Friday June 29th at 6:30 in the Main Ballroom. Hospitality suites will be open to the public at 8:30 for the various activist groups and state caucus groups. Of course, we will be welcoming statewide Democrats at our own hospitality suite in Room 186. Drop on by Friday night and meet your fellow Dems. And don't forget the full day sessions of training, caucus meetings, and the general meeting that will be held at TRAC in Pasco, they are all open to the public! Our County Prosecutor and Democrat Andy Miller will be speaking at the TRAC Luncheon. We have a complete schedule of activities on our website www.bencodems.org. PLEASE look it over!

See you at our next Central Committee Meeting, Wed. July 18, 7 pm at the Richland Library. And don't forget to call our HOTLINE 585 7682 for the latest in party information and/or to leave a message – it's reviewed DAILY!

The Ripple Effect

Bob Parazin

All our daily actions whether of a political nature or not creates ripples. Those ripples affect and impact the people around us. Some times the way we interact with a person and its consequences, do not necessarily end with that person. It may be reflected and ripple across to others and reach places one's never expected.

Whether sharing your opinion about a candidate, a fellow Democrat or the party in general, it creates a ripple effect; one that may be favorable OR unfavorable.

Since taking the Chair's position I've created a number of ripples; some both good and bad. Some I suspect have been detrimental to the growth of the party and others I believe were positive. But what I've learned is that you really have to listen to people; whether candidates, supporters, officials, or others; then carefully listen to what they say and particularly to what they do. Then you have to be very clear and honest in YOUR responses and actions. If you have a tendency to broad brush, assume, take-for-granted or second-guess folks, you may very well be generating ripples that ultimately will work against you or your goals. Just as time stills the water, so too the ripples. Let's hope that any negative ripples that we generate haven't turned into roiling waves that've left a lasting impression on our local party landscape.

What's Your Religion?

Kendall Miller

Religion has a bad reputation these days. And it's well earned. In the name of religion, homosexuals are deprived of basic human rights. In the name of religion, young women are put at risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. In the name of religion, people are deprived of their life's savings. In other parts of the world, religion lies at the root of terrible civil conflicts. In the name of religion, terrorists kill innocent people including children. How can one dare to claim a level of religiosity in the face of all that? And how can religion appropriately inform our social and political processes?

In my view there are two kinds of religion, one is poisonous and destructive, but the other calls us to become genuinely good people. Often both threads coexist in the same sect or movement. The poisonous

kind is a truly destructive force in society. It destroys lives, hopes, dreams, and even the political process by which we conduct our society in an equitable manner. On the other hand the inspirational kind of religion challenges society to do things better than it has ever done it before. It calls for a broadening and deepening of the quality of human experience for everyone. The positive power of religion has fostered the movements of non-violence, respect for others, planetary stewardship, and compassion for the disadvantaged.

There are times when the light of peace and justice seems to grow dim. I remember feeling that way in the first years of the Bush administration. It is in those times when the exercise of faith proves its worth. One continues to fight the good fight nonetheless because one must. It would be unconscionable to do less.

And now, look where that faith has brought us. Public support for the war of aggression in Iraq has evaporated. With a few gentle taps from a Congress that has become empowered to exercise real oversight, the Bush administration's imperial façade is shattering before our eyes. Each week bring another scandal or discovery of outrageous behavior.

So rather than evict religion from our political life I think we just need to be on our guard about it. We also need to use the humble power it places in our hands. It's a power not to be exercised against others, but rather power over our own actions. It's a power to call forth the best in our own spirits to bring about the best results.

Keep the faith!

OBAMA '08

Bob Bowersock, PCO Pct. 160

If you would like to learn more about Barack Obama and possibly even get involved in his election campaign, please contact me at 943-4559 (my preferred means of communication because one gets an instant exchange of information) or by e-mail (pnbsocks@aol.com). My mailing address is 84 Hodges Court, Richland 99354. What I need from you is your phone number and e-mail address, your preference of day of the week for an initial kickoff meeting, and the time of day that works for you.

Depending on the responses received, I will schedule such a meeting and inform you of the location, time, and date. I will also provide you with feedback from this survey and keep you aware of future meetings if you are unable to join us at the kickoff meeting.

There will be Obama information available at this weekend's Washington State Democratic Central Committee quarterly meeting at TRAC in Pasco and possible at the Richland Red Lion Hanford House (the host hotel). The WSDCC meetings are opened to the public. I encourage any political active person to take advantage of the issue caucuses, informative meetings, and the opportunity to talk with other political active people from across the state.

Upcoming Events

July 3rd & 4th. Pasco Parade/TRAC **TBD** Check **HOTLINE** for latest info if we participate

July 11th Wed Outreach Committee – Richland Community Center, 6:30 pm

July 12th Thurs Organization Committee- Richland Public Library – 6:30 pm

July 16th Mon E-Board Meeting – Richland Public Library – 5 pm

July 17th Tues Candidate Development – Mid-Columbia Lib - Union St. 6:30

July 18th Wed Central Committee Meeting.- Richland Public Library 7 pm.

* **Drinking Liberally** - Every **Tuesday** at the Shilo/O'Callahan's Richland. 7 pm



JULY

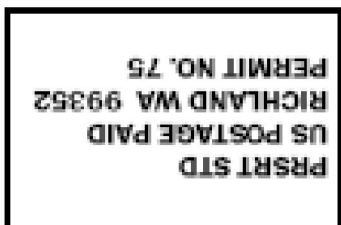
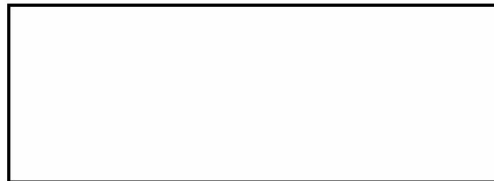
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3* TBD Check HOTLINE	4 TBD Check HOTLINE	5	6	7
8	9	10*	11 Outreach Comm. RCC 6:30 pm	12 Organization Comm. RPL 6:30 pm	13	14
15	16 E-Board Mtg RPL 5 pm	17* Candidate Development Mtg MCLU 6:30 pm	18 Central Committee Meeting RPL 7 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24*	25	26	27	28
29	30	31*				

* Drinking Liberally - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm

RPL Richland Public Library

RCC Richland Community Center

MCLU Mid-Columbia Library 16th & S. Union



Return Service Requested
Benton County Democratic Party
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Richland, WA 99352