

The Voice of Benton County Democrats
THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



July 09

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

HOTLINE 546-8115

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From the Chair

July marks the halfway point on the calendar. Summer's just begun and there area number of special events we're looking to mark on our calendars. The **Pastors for Peace** will again be traveling through the Tri-Cities on **Thursday, July 9th** on their humanitarian trek to Cuba. This will be their 20th anniversary visit of compassion. The related event is co-sponsored by the Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasco. World Citizens for Peace and the Tri-City Democrats will begin at 6 pm at the Church with a potluck with the program to follow.

On **Saturday, July 18th, 10 am 'til noon**, a number of local unions [SEIU, OPEIU & Teamsters] have invited area Democrats to join them across from Kennewick General Hospital for an informational picket and distribution of flyers. The theme will be "Justice for Health Care Workers". Unfortunately they're still at an impasse with a number of employers working out fair and just contracts.

And then on **Saturday, August 1st** we're holding our area-wide **Democratic Party Picnic**. This year it'll be

on the Franklin County side of the River in **Chiawana Parkin** West Pasco. We expect candidates to be there both partisan and non-partisan, some state party officials, games and of course a special entrée by way of a 'shrimp boil'! A donation of \$10 perperson would be appreciated. Look for more information on these events elsewhere in the newsletter and on our website! And Party participation in the Benton Franklin County Fair & Rodeo booth we'll be running **August 25th thru 29th**. Our **Co-Chairs** for our Fair Booth will be **Ann Muggli** and **Mickey Beary**. If you'd like to volunteer **EARLY** please give us a call, four two person shifts per day need to be filled, 10 to 1, 1 to 4, 4 to 7 & 7 to 10.

Regina Speer has graciously accepted the position of **Finance Committee Chair** recently and **Casey Burns** has volunteered to head up our **Phone Tree Committee**. And of course, **Dyanna Forsythe** is continuing to do a fine job in distributing our newsletter.

We're still looking for Chairs of our Organization, Outreach and Candidate Development Committees. If you're interested, please contact me. And beginning with July we are going to try conducting our Executive Board meetings via teleconferencing. It's a tool routinely used in business and committee work and we're going to give it a try.

Our next Central Committee Meeting, July 15th will be held at the Richland City Services Building on S. Duportail, north of the Target Store in Richland.

We have a NEW **HOTLINE** Number. PLEASE put it in your address book, and your calendar Phone Directory: **546-8115**; the old number will be good through August. Please use the number to verify the specifics on upcoming meetings and planned events. And remember you can always leave a message.

Those of you that are interested in Party activities with a more regional perspective remember that the Regional 13 state meeting of the Democratic National Committee will be meeting **August 7th, 8th and 9th in Coeur d'Alene**, practically in our backyard! In attendance will be the DNC Members from the Western States, Democrats from Idaho and Washington States. The training sessions will once again include the top experts in the areas of polling, training, targeting and other campaign skills. Featured speakers are to be announced. If you are serious about your politics and just may be considering a future therein, it would be a great opportunity to meet fellow Democrats and make a vacation out of an interesting opportunity. Please call me if interested.

For ANY information on upcoming events, meetings, of the Party and related organizations, PLEASE use our website calendar at www.bencodem.org for the latest information.

Mid-Columbia Community for Change

Gail Blegen-Frost

Members from MCC4C have been busy marching for health care reform in Seattle (May 30th) and getting trained to participate in gleaning projects with Fields of Grace (www.fields-of-grace.com) to help feed our community! To answer the call by Organizing for America to serve our community on June 27th, the National Health Care Day of Service, MCC4C members have created a Personal Health Care Notebook, which will be distributed, free of charge, at various venues in the Tri-Cities on that day. Help is needed! If you see this newsletter before that day and can help staff a table for a few hours that day please contact Ann Eaton at 375-1319. Information can also be found at <http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/nationalhealthcareservice/gpcgty>

We continue to meet monthly. At our May meeting we heard a report about an exciting new endeavor by MCC4C members Dean Bell and David Willis called Greenlight Tri-Cities. This project is based on Greenlight New Orleans (www.greenlightneworleans.org) and its mission to help low- and middle-income households make the switch from incandescent light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescents, which in turn helps to reduce carbon emissions and lower utility bills. For information about this project contact Dean at deanbell13@gmail.com or Willis at willis@columbiabasinsolar.com.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Kennewick library located at 1620 S. Union. Jim Wise will be leading a discussion and presentation on Energy. There are some exciting possibilities regarding energy development in our Mid-Columbia region (hydro, nuclear, gas, wind, solar) and we hope to touch on many of them. Hopefully those attending the meeting will learn ways they can become engaged and involved in these projects.

If you wish to be included on our e-mailing list please send an email to info@mcc4c.org. Visit our website www.mcc4c.org or check us out on Facebook!

Laurel Piippo

Well, well, the salary information I have been seeking from WSU President Floyd since March finally arrived, stating that I asked for the information June 19:

Provost Bayly, \$300,000, (former dean of the veterinary school, who makes disastrous decisions in the liberal arts department).

John Gardner, VP for economic development, and global engagement, \$270,000

Viji Murali, VP for information systems, \$270,000

John Fraire, VP for enrollment management, \$210,000.

While adjunct professors have not had a raise in 18, 16, or 10 years, depending on how long the adjunct professor who talked to me has been working at WSU; while Dr. Jose Garcia-Pabon's department has been eliminated; while Mark Moreno, Latin American

historian has to leave WSU Tri-Cities so we can pay Hoch his \$245,000 salary for teaching one (or two?) courses; while student tuition goes up, WSU continues to hire highly paid administrators plus their nice retirement benefit, failed provost Hoch continues to receive \$245,000 for teaching one or two courses; and Pres. Floyd's \$500,000 retention bonus in 2012 remains intact. Things look mighty rosy for the administrators.

When is the legislature going to investigate these extravagant practices and bad management of personnel at WSU?

Tri-Cities area Democrats Summer Picnic

**Regina Speer
Vice Chair BCDCC
&
Glynn Stevens**

The BCDCC is planning a shrimp boil for our annual summer bash. The event will be August 1, 2009 beginning at 1:00pm at Chiawana Park in Pasco. Please bring a salad or side dish to share and your chairs and blankets for seating. The cost per person is \$10. Rep. Laura Grant (16th LD), state party officials, statewide officers, and nonpartisan candidates are being invited to speak. Please RSVP to events@bencodems.org or call our new Hotline 546-8115. And check the website for updates on this event.

Come spend time with fellow democrats and feast on a recipe of shrimp, sausage, corn on the cob, potatoes and special Cajun spices. Watch as the epicuian feast is laid out onto the tops of picnic tables for you to enjoy.

Bylaws Voting – John Latta

We need you! Please plan to attend the July 15th meeting of the Benton County Democratic Central Committee (BCDCC) to vote on the new Bylaws. The meeting will be 7:00 PM at the Richland City Shops at 2700 Duportail in Richland. (For more information and a map, see the Calendar at www.bencodems.org.)

Your vote is needed! For your review and consideration, the proposed new Bylaws, Rules, and Policy Guide are available on our website as "Combined Draft 2009" and a copy of the current Bylaws. We'll also email copies to our PCOs.

If you have any questions about the proposed Bylaws, please don't hesitate to contact me at 509-627-2679 or scm@bencodems.org, or call Bob Parazin at 946-6363.

HOTLINE 546-8115

Website www.bencodems.org

July Calendar

Tue, Jun 30	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Sat, Jul 4		Independence Day
Tue, Jul 7	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland,
Wed, Jul 8	6:30pm – 8:30pm	E Board Meeting - 500 Amon Park Drive, Richland, WA 99352
Thu, Jul 9	6pm – 8pm	Tri-City Democrats PASTORS FOR PEACE.. Potluck & Program - 2819 W. Sylvester, Pasco, WA
Tue, Jul 14	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Wed, Jul 15	7pm – 9pm	BCDCC Central Committee Meeting - 2700 Duportail, Richland, WA 99352
Sat, Jul 18	10am – 12pm	Justice for Healthcare Workers - 911 E Auburn, Kennewick, WA
Mon, Jul 20	7pm – 8:30pm	MCC4C Monthly Meeting - Focus on ENERGY! - 1620 S. Union, Kennewick
Tue, Jul 21	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland,
Jul 24-26		Water Follies - Columbia Park
Mon, Jul 27	8pm – 9pm	Last Day for Newsletter Submissions
Tue, Jul 28	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland,
Thu, Jul 30	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly/ mailing - Shilo Inn Board Room .. in Richland
Fri, Jul 31		Absentee Ballots Mailed - See your mail box in the coming days
Sat, Aug 1	1pm – 5pm	Democratic Party Picnic - 2201 Road 96, Pasco, Wa
Mon, Aug 3		Last day for in-person registration for primary ballot
Tue, Aug 4	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland