



THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

July 2010

www.bencodems.org

HOTLINE 546-8115

2009/10 Officers

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FROM THE CHAIR

There were few surprises during the filing period for public office in the County. We continue to have one Democratic candidate at the County level, incumbent Andy Miller, one at the Legislative District Level, challenger Carol Moser, and one at the Congressional Level in Jay Clough and of course, Patty Murray for Senate. Out of 9 open seats at the County level we'll have a Primary ballot with 13 Republicans and 1 Democrat. At the LD level we have 6 Republicans, 1 Constitutionalist and 1 Democrat. While at the PCO level we'll have **99 Republicans** that filed and only **20 Democrats**.

If such numbers are indicative of the relative interest in politics among the public at large, I'd have to say that however the Party is perceived in Benton County it's not prompting much interest in either providing Party support or in running for partisan office as a Democrat..

PLEASE Show me a bright spot. Tell me that it's not as bad as it appears. That we've bottomed out and the only way to go is up.

What I need is a change in attitude. Maybe my upcoming participation in the **State Party Convention** this coming weekend will help. The **Chair of the Democratic National Committee** will be key-noting and I'll be attending every speech and celebration available to hear **Senators Murray, Wyden, Gov. Gregoire** and other Federal Candidates as well as our own **Jay Clough**.. Watch it all on **TVW** on Friday night and Saturday.

WHY BE A PRECINCT COMMITTEE OFFICER (PCO)

I hear that question a lot: what does it do for **me**? In truth..... not much. There was a time in politics when voters and candidates largely communicated through personal contact/appearances, print and some radio possibly. Mailings were often too expensive and the party organizations relied on **PCOs** as an integral part of their campaigns to go door to door, eyeball to eyeball with their neighbors on behalf of their candidates. .

With the advent of mass communications, the one-on-one contact with local voters that PCOs offered has played a less important role in campaigning; not because it's ineffective but because we can't get PCOs and those that we **DO** get, for a variety of reasons find the one-on-one contact with voters whether in person, on the phone, etc. too much of a challenge. I've also know of PCOs being chased, victims of verbal harrassment, numerous door slammings, etc. It's rare but it's happened. So why would you want to be a PCO? Here's one reason that come to mind.

Being a PCO is a public declaration that you take your politics seriously. That you believe in the general values that your Party stands for. That you believe in our two party system and are willing to work for the Party that you support. And when candidates who share your Party values run for office, you're willing to go to work

on their behalf. You recognize that as a PCO you can become the voice of the party in your Precinct, among your friends, coworkers and neighbors. And possibly just possibly, such interactions will give you the confidence and experience to realize that speaking up on behalf of Party values you embrace, isn't much different that speaking out on behalf of your friends, coworkers, neighbors and community. Before long you realize that you do have something to say, something to contribute on behalf of your community and beyond. And you'll decide to run for public office, perhaps non-partisan at first, but with success you may move to partisan races at higher levels of public service and before long ...you're Senator PCO! Yea .. I know its a fairy tale, It's rare but it's happened.

YOUR SECOND CHANCE To BECOME AN ELECTED PCO IN YOUR PRECINCT

After the filing deadline came and went June 11th, I received a number of calls and e-mails from folks saying they inadvertently missed the deadline and were looking for a remedy. Well there's always the opportunity of being appointed to a vacant position in your Precinct and it doesn't have to even be your own Precinct. And we traditionally encourage appointments. .

But the down side is that the State Party doesn't recognize 'appointed' PCOs nor PCOs that are elected with less than a threshold Democratic participation level in your Precinct derived from the past major election. The recognition isn't that critical for most routine Party work, but when voting for vacated Democratic seats at the local Party, County, LD and State level, being ELECTED is quite important. It allows you to VOTE for the candidate of your choice, as happened with Bill Grants unexpected vacancy in 09..

If you'd like a SECOND CHANCE at becoming an ELECTED PCO, please do the following..

It's quite possible to conduct a write-in campaign for yourself and get elected PCO of your Precinct, REALLY!.

- 1) Fill out the form found at <http://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/Write-in%20PCO%20Declaration%20of%20Candidacy.pdf> called **PCO Write-In Declaration of Candidacy** AS SOON AS

POSSIBLE there's no filing charge. [just ask if you need a copy]. Mail it or better yet take it in one of the County Auditors Branch offices.

- 2) Obtain a list from the Party, {me} of serious Democrats in your Precinct. Contact them in person or by phone and say you'd like to become their Democratic PCO for the Precinct. Ask them to write-in your name on the Ballot they'll receive about July 28th under PCO Write-In (we can provide an example of the ballot) IMPORTANT! using your name as written on Declaration of Candidacy form in item 1)
- 3) Make as many contacts as possible [remember the threshold]. Some candidates have even mailed letters to Dems in their Precinct with the needed information in addition to contacts. It's all up to you.
- 4) If you diligently follow the steps 1 thru 4, I can almost guarantee that you'll become an **ELECTED PCO! ! Huzzah ! !**
- 5) If your PCO race is contested and you win, your name will appear with the total number of votes.

More information ...

http://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/02-10%20DeclarationCandidacy_Writein.pdf

Write-In information via Secretary of State

FUTURE EVENTS

We have a number of events planned for July and of course, our Fair participation in August 24th thru the 28th . Look for them on our website calendar AND in the August issue of the Democratic Reporter.

BLAME THREE DECADES OF DEREGULATION

Recently, Steven Newman, President and CEO of Transocean, the owners of the Deepwater Horizon rig, responded to questions on new environmental regulation with, "The Obama administration should focus on fixing the leak!" In Jefferson County Alabama, on a sewer project that was originally supposed to cost \$250 million, the county now owes a total of \$1.28 billion just in interest and fees on the debt, all public services have been decimated and it will take decades to recover.

What do environmental destruction and predatory lending practices have in common? Both are a result of deregulation and shirking of corporate responsibility from the private sector to the public sector. Our system now allows for corporations to wreak havoc and then expect, no demand, that the government and the taxpayers clean up the mess.

The cult of unthinking deregulation has allowed America to become prey to the same problems of corruption and exploitation that have caused misery in much of the rest of the world. In a recent article in Asia Times, Chan Akyra compares the BP spill to the Bhopal disaster "the Karmic perspective, that is, that what BP is doing to America is pretty much what American companies have done and are doing to the rest of the world."

We imagine that Americans are better and that it cannot happen here but without good governance, America can become just another slum and God will not protect us.

Malakay Betor

O'Callahan's

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL
946-9006

Sunday Brunch
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On the Riverfront at
Comstock in Richland

Omelette stations with all the trimmings, Vegetable frittata, Cheese blintz's with NW berry compote, French toast with bananas & walnuts, Smokehouse bacon, Carved honey baked ham, Sausage & kielbasa, Biscuits & gravy, Traditional eggs benedict, NW eggs benedict with smoked salmon, Hashbrowns O'Brien, Fresh baked breads, muffins, scones, pastries & baby croissants, Fresh fruit & berry display, Assortment of desserts, Chocolate fountain, Beverages

BOTTOMLESS CHAMPAGNE OR MIMOSAS
\$3.95

SENIORS...\$12.95

ADULTS...\$15.95

CHILDREN...\$8.95

CHILDREN UNDER 6 EAT FREE!

BCDCC Fundraising Challenge

Matching Donations up to \$500

**Double Your
Donation**
\$\$

The Benton County Democrats need money to print our newsletters, maintain our website, produce informational material, organize events and support our candidates.

We are very grateful to our volunteers, members, and donors but our coffers are low.

Times are tight, so in an effort to make your money go further, some of us will match all donations (including those regular monthly donations) between now and July 4, 2010 - up to \$500!

If you donate \$5 - we will donate \$5 ; donate \$50 and we will donate \$50.

Send your contribution to: Matching c/o
BCDCC, Box 636,
Richland, WA 99352

Donate today- Make us Pay!

Challenge expires
7/4/2010

REMEMBER

This June, the Afghanistan War, Operation Enduring Freedom, became the longest war in United States History. On Independence Day, please remember our soldiers and their families and consider donating to **Operation Homefront**

<http://www.operationhomefront.net/>

National Military Family Association

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/> or

Homes for our Troops

<http://www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer>

JULY 2010 CALENDAR

Sun July 4		Independence Day
Tue July 6	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Fri July 9		Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)
	6:00 PM	Tri City Democrats Meeting - Richland Labor Temple - 1305 Knight St, Richland
Tue July 13	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Thu July 15	6:30 PM	Executive Board Meeting - Richland Community Center Patio
Sun July 18	1:00 – 4:00 PM	Benton County Dems Picnic and Candidate Forum - Program Pending
Tue July 20	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Wed July 21	7:00 PM	Democratic Central Committee Meeting - Richland Public Library
Fri July 23	4:00 PM	Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)
Tue July 27	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
	8:00 PM	Last Day for Newsletter Submissions
Thu July 29	10:00 AM	Newsletter assembly and mailing @ Shilo Inn