

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

June 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

Contacts

<i>Chair</i>	Mimi Latta	627-2679
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Jim Dillman	375-0322
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Kizerian	585-1122
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michele Levenite	375-0392
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Woman</i>	Position Open	
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Man</i>	Floyd Hodges	582-6748

From the Chair

June 2004. Five months until the November election. Have you volunteered to help a candidate? Have you found a place to work in our County or 8th LD organization? I am hearing much about how we have to defeat Bush, but not many people are volunteering. Volunteer an hour a week. If you can, volunteer to Chair a committee such as: Summer Picnic, July 4th Parade, County Fair Parade, Headquarter Search committee, New Voter Registration. If you can't Chair a committee, come to monthly meetings to see how you can help. I know what I'm asking. I know there isn't enough time for everything in your lives now. But the opposition is counting on the fact that we won't activate voters and members enough to overcome their efforts. I ask you to think about 4 more years under Bush, Cheney, Ashcroft, & John Snow. I ask you to remember that there might be 4 retirements from the Supreme Court in the next year or two. Feeling guilty isn't enough. You must feel empowered to do something about the upcoming election. County politics is hands-on and up close. It's exciting, tiring, basic and worthwhile.

We are beginning to plan our summer parade entries. If you have done such work before or would like to lend a hand on a project that is sure to be fun, please call Mimi Latta at 627-2679 or come to discuss it at our June 16th meeting, 7:00 pm at the Kennewick main library on Union Street.

Summer is a busy time. We need a committee to work on the summer pic-

nic. The picnic will be Friday, August 20th, 5:30 pm at the south gazebo in Howard Amon Park near the new community center. We traditionally ask many Democratic candidates to attend the picnic. This is a good time for members to ask questions in a relaxed, informal setting. The next day, Saturday, August 21st, will be the Benton/Franklin county fair parade and Sunday the 22nd we'll meet at 8:30 am at the fairgrounds to put up the Democratic fair booth.

The aim of all this activity is to focus attention on Democrats in the community so that we can attract new members and voters and get our message out. Even fun has a purpose.

My hope is that local students will donate some of their free time this summer, and that many of you will attend our meetings and events and bring a neighbor or friend who will become active in support of Benton County candidates as well as those at the district, state and Federal level.

On November 3rd, I hope we'll wake up to read headlines proclaiming that a record voter turnout aided Democrats in their races. If each of you will donate a small amount of time weekly, we'll reach that goal.

Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

State Convention

The Washington State Democrats State Convention begins this Friday and runs through Sunday in Tacoma. Much like our recent County Convention, the two primary goals of the State Convention are to adopt the State Party platform and to elect delegates to the National Convention in July in Boston.

Those attending the State Convention from Benton County will have a great time: Al Gore will be there to address the Convention, as will Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. Delegates will also be busy electing national electors and training for the Get Out The Vote effort.

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.

June BCDCC Meeting

The June Central Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16th, at the Mid-Columbia Library on Union St. in Kennewick.

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

It should be an interesting program at the next 8th LD meeting at the Richland Public Library, 6:30 pm on Thursday, June 10. As some of you have noticed already, the WA 8th Legislative District Democrats organization has not been regular about having monthly meetings during the last few months. Well, if we want to support our candidates that's got to stop! I am the guilty one, and I apologize for the lapse. I'm turning over a new leaf.

From now on, I will do my best to make the meetings something worth coming to by inviting guest speakers from other organizations or our own to tell us something we want or need to know. If any of you have ideas for speakers or presentations that would help us fire up the 8th LD organization, please tell me about it by sending email or making a phone call. My phone number is (the same as Mimi's) 627-2679, and my email is Democrat8th@verizon.net.

John Latta, 8th LD Chair

Event Reports

4th Congressional Caucus

The 4th Congressional Caucus was held on Saturday, May 29th in Yakima. The principal purpose was to elect four delegates and one alternate to the Democratic Convention in Boston. In addition, we elected a Presidential Elector and Alternate, and male and female members of the State Democratic Party Judicial Review Board.

Preliminary numbers from the County Conventions indicated three delegates for Kerry and one delegate for Dean. However, a greater proportion of Kerry no-shows, and a few Kucinich

delegates switching to Dean, resulted in two Kerry delegates and two Dean delegates. The alternate went to Kerry. The Kerry delegates are Kristin Eby and Scott Brines, both of Richland and the Dean delegates are Ellen Skarin of Yakima and Harry Kent of White Swan. The Kerry alternate is David Molnaa of Richland. Patsy Whitefoot, our new Washington State National Committee-woman from White Swan, was elected as our Presidential Elector and Walt Braden of Mabton was elected as her alternate. Myrna Contreras and Carlos DeLeon, both of Yakima, were elected to the Judicial Review Board.

Everyone pitched in and helped make it a pleasant, successful event; however, special thanks are due to Ted Higley (Chelan) who served as Secretary, Clarence Gipson (Yakima) who served as Sergeant-at-Arms, and Scott Brines who served as Parliamentarian. Thanks also go to Erik Nelsen (Grant County) and our own John and Mimi Latta for forming the Credentials Committee. John and Mimi also provided the doughnuts that gave us enough sugar to keep going through lunch. Thanks to all!

Floyd Hodges, State Committee Man

May BCDCC Meeting

The following candidates spoke briefly at May's BCDCC meeting on the 19th: Sandy Matheson, Richard Wright, Jared Koepp, and John David.

Newsletter Committee

A special thank-you to the group of 12 who met at the Richland Library to assemble the May newsletter for mailing. Those helping were Jean Thompson, Laurel Piippo, Judy Gustafson, Dick Brouns, Rukmani Atri, Kathy Ely, Betty King, Naomi Sherer, Skip Yelding, Shirley Miller, Margaret Munro and Leona Hassing.

Local News

An Update on the Beat Bush Button Project

So far, we have sold more than 100 buttons, which means more than \$3,365 raised for the 2004 election campaign. However, there are fewer than 265 left to sell. Buttons are \$36.50 each, and proceeds go to support the headquarters and other Democratic projects to BEAT BUSH. Each button has a different date printed on it to represent one day of the year of the button sales. So you can buy your birthday, your wedding anniversary date your favorite child's birthday or your mother-in-law's birthday, etc. Of course, now more than 100 are gone so you need to 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, May 7, at the Richland Labor Temple at 1305 Knight St. for their monthly meeting. After enjoying a bountiful potluck dinner, the group conducted business and heard status reports on campaigns from Jerad Koepp, (8th Legislative District), Richard Wright, (4th Congressional District) and Craig Mason, (4th Congressional District). The speaker for the evening was Patricia Whitefoot, a member of the Democratic National Committee for the State of Washington. The next meeting will be Friday, June 4, at the same location with potluck dinner at 6:00 and the program at 6:45. The speaker will be Dean Schau, CBC professor of Economics.

Leona Hassing

Kerry Meet-Up

The Meet-up is on the 24th at 7:00 pm at Barnes & Nobel bookstore—location tentative. Questions? Call 585-1122.



Web Resources

- ★ www.wa-democrats.org: Washington State Democrats webpage.
- ★ www.dailyhowler.com: Edited by Bob Somerby, The Daily Howler exposes the intricacies of the conservative press' inaccuracy and deception.
- ★ www.thehill.com: Online version of newspaper by the same name. Balanced reporting on Capitol Hill happenings.
- ★ cantwell.senate.gov and murray.senate.gov: Websites for our Senators. These pages give up-to-date information about current legislation, as well a convenient way to contact the Senators.



Book List

- ★ *Blinded by the Right*, by David Brock
- ★ *The Politics of Truth*, by Joseph Wilson
- ★ *Neoeconomy*, by Daniel Altman
- ★ *American Dynasty: Aristocracy, Fortune, And The Politics Of Deceit In The House Of Bush*, by Kevin Phillips
- ★ *The Emperor's New Clothes*, by Hans Christian Andersen
- ★ *The Bubble of American Supremacy*, by George Soros
- ★ *All the King's Men*, by Robert Penn Warren

Volunteers Needed

The Washington Democratic Coordinated Campaign is in need of three dedicated volunteers in your community and would appreciate your help in finding them.

There are four major “media markets” here in our state: Seattle, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Yakima. In each of these markets we need three volunteers who will tape the local news every night of the week between now and Election Day, November 2. We need three volunteers in each community because we need all three broadcast stations being recorded (ABC, NBC, and CBS), so each person can cover one channel. We are only in need of the local evening news (generally from 5 pm to 6 pm) and not the late night news or national news.

The State Coordinated Campaign will provide the VHS video tapes and postage paid return envelopes, which need to be returned to us at the end of each week. If someone is willing to volunteer for this very important job, but is concerned about being out of town for a week during the summer, or a similar situation, it is not a problem at all for them to have a friend or neighbor help them out during that time so long as the shows get taped.

We would like have names in place at the beginning of this week so we can send out tapes and instructions by Wednesday night so that people can begin taping shows no later than Monday, June 7.

Mimi Latta

Attention All Candidates

The Democratic Reporter is allowing all 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 for each mailing is the first Tuesday of the month. Please contact Chair Mimi Latta (627-2679) or Editor Matt Kizerian (585-1122) for arrangements.

State Dems Open HQ

The Washington State Democrat headquarters has officially opened in Seattle. The address is 1848 Westlake Ave. North, Seattle 98109. The phone number is 206-281-9124.

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.

Dear Sir:

There is a hole in the new Medicare drug bill called the “doughnut” where the senior pays ALL of his own drug costs (\$2,850). Medicare pays up to 75% of the first \$2,250, then nothing until drug costs reach \$5,100. In my case where I already have adequate drug coverage (which could be cancelled), my cost will go from 25% to 70%. Also, it is my understanding that purchasing insurance to cover the doughnut will not be permitted. This can't possibly be considered Constitutional?

The new drug card is proving to be a farce; in fact, the entire bill is a farce. It does not provide genuine relief for those in need and will obviously financially hurt the majority of senior citizens.

Sincerely,

Gregory M. Bennett

Battleground States

“Less than six months from election day, polls suggest that Mr. Kerry is leading the President in 12 of the 16 so-called swing states. In some states the lead is slight, but in places such as New Hampshire, which Mr. Bush won in 2000, Mr. Kerry has a lead of almost 10 per cent.

“The battleground states, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin, are likely to prove crucial in deciding who carries the day on 2 November. Republican and Democrat strategists know that in at least 30 states, along with the District of Columbia, the outcome of the vote is a foregone conclusion. But in the battleground states—which were won in 2000 by six percentage points or less—everything is up for grabs.”

Submitted by Leona Hassing,
by Andrew Buncombe, *Independent*,
on 27 May 2004.

July's Focus Issue is: Foreign Relations.

Focus Issue: Defense



Letter From the Editor

Living here in the Tri-Cities, we are all keenly aware of the realities of the nuclear arms race. In 1943, people in Hanford and White Bluffs gave up their homes and farms so the government could build the world's first full-scale nuclear reactors. Through 1989, many workers passed through the security checkpoint at Wye Barricade, some of whom have suffered serious health consequences. Since that time, many have been actively working to clean-up the deleterious effects of 40 years of Cold-War plutonium production. Through all of this, we generally knew that, like it or not, Hanford was necessary—necessary for the continued safety and protection of the United States.

The SALT treaties of the 1970s, the ABM and more recent START treaties, and the Comprehensive Test Ban treaty, have all worked to reduce the incentive to continually build our nuclear arsenal.

The current Administration is throwing this progress out the window. Starting in 2001 with the Department of Defense's *Nuclear Posture Review*, the Administration has quietly and systematically sought to find new reasons to develop new nuclear weapons. This year's budget for all nuclear weapons activities, is \$6.5 billion dollars—over 1.5× the amount Reagan was spending in the mid-1980s when the threat of nuclear attack from the Soviet Union was real. Two weapons programs in the current DoD budget before Congress include “bunker busting” bombs to penetrate hardened underground targets, and “mini-nukes”—low-yield atomic bombs designed for tactical use in the field.

The U.S. should not be pursuing these programs. Perhaps Hans Bethe, one of the last of the Manhattan Project's “fathers”, expressed it best when he and several other scientists wrote the following to the Senate:

“Any use of nuclear weapons would demolish a firebreak that has held for nearly sixty years and would be a disaster for the world. The United States should be seeking to increase the barriers to using nuclear weapons, not decrease them.”

June 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: Jarad Koepp

16th LD Representative, Pos. 1: Jim Barnett,
Tom Schmerer

Events

June

- 4 Tri-City Democrats meeting, Richland Labor Temple, 1305 Knight St. Potluck 6:00 pm, speaker 6:45
- 4-6 State Convention in Tacoma
- 9 Exec. board meeting, 89 Bremmer, Richland. 6:00 pm
- 10 8th LD meeting, Richland Library, 6:30 pm
- 16 BCDCC meeting Mid-Columbia Library. Light snacks at 6:00 pm, meeting from 7:00–8:45 pm
- 24 Kerry Meet-up, Barnes & Noble bookstore, 7:00 pm (location may change)

July

- 4 4th of July Parade, Pasco
- 6 Tri-Cities for Kerry meeting, Richland Central Firestation, 7:00 pm
- 26 The filing period for PCOs is July 26th to August 13th
- 26-29 National Convention

August

- 14 Registration deadline for Primary Election
- 20 Annual Summer Picnic, 5:30 pm
- 21 Benton-Franklin County

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		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			

- Fair Parade, Kennewick
- 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

PRRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
RICHLAND WA 99352
PERMIT NO. 75