

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

June 2005 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

Contacts

<i>Chair</i>	Mimi Latta	627-2679
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Bob Parazin	946-6363
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Kizerian	585-1122
<i>Treasurer</i>	Richard Wright	735-0412
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Woman</i>	Phyllis Bowersock	943-4559
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Man</i>	Dann Lewis	969-0133

From the Chair

I want to start by thanking all those who sent cards and kind words regarding the death of my younger sister, Julia. It helped immeasurably.

Thank-yous also go out to all of those who stuck it out on the Bylaws and helped us update our guidelines. The Bylaws Committee did an excellent job with their recommendations. With the assistance of our PCOs and BCDCC members, we are ready for the future. Bob Bowersock, Leona Hassing, Veda & Terry Guynes & Bob Parazin, you're the best!

I'm happy to report that both Benton and Franklin Counties were well represented at the 4th Congressional District strategy session put on by WA State Democratic Central Committee in Ephrata on May 21st. Many members of BCDCC worked to focus on issues of importance to Democrats in the 4th CD. While not all of the issues that were cited in Benton County's brainstorm session made the master list for the 4th, many of those issues we targeted were highlighted. As soon as the results are posted for the 4th, we'll make those available for our members.

BCDCC is planning training sessions for our PCOs to ready them for next year's crucial Senatorial race. Why crucial? We need to re-elect Maria Cantwell to retain some power in the US Senate.

We've seen what a one-party Congress under the radical Republicans has planned for us. We need a strong vote among Democrats across the state to show that we're not going to sit by and

give in to the likes of Bill Frist. I urge all Benton County Democrats to get out and work to re-elect Maria Cantwell. If you object to any of her votes, please email her and let her know, but don't withhold your vote just to "send a message". The only message we'll get will be another Senate seat held by a Republican. And no Republican is going to represent Democrats well. We have proof enough of that.

2006 is looming. If you'd like to run for office, please call Sheila Sullivan at 375-1789 or Mimi Latta at 627-2679. We need good candidates for county assessor, county auditor, coroner, sheriff, and county commissioner. Who do you know that understands local issues, is a hard worker and upholds Democratic ideals? Let's go, Dems!

Upcoming Events

Democracy For America

There will be a Democracy for America Meet-Up Wednesday, June 1st, at the Richland Public Library at 7 pm. The program will review progress on DFA Corp Project, DFA WA State Summit held May 22nd in Everett, introduction of new partnering campaign with SEIU, and a preview video on Wal-Mart. See you there.

Bob Parazin

Tri-Cities Democrats Meeting

June's meeting will be held on Friday, June 3rd at the Labor Hall in Richland. Potluck at 6:00 pm, meeting follows at 7:00 pm.

June BCDCC Meeting

The June BCDCC Meeting will be held Wednesday the 15th at the Richland Public Library on Northgate. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

Summer Picnic

We will again feature a silent auction at this summer's picnic. Anyone can contribute to the auction with an item

(especially hand-crafted items!) or a service they wish to provide, such as mowing a lawn, painting a house/room, etc. The sky is the limit, and I certainly hope everyone will contribute something. Remember, this is to support the local party and elections are just around the corner.

I am very pleased to announce that the Washington State Vice Chair, Eileen Macoll, will be our featured speaker. Eileen, a very dynamic and energetic Democrat, will be a great contribution to our picnic. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Picnic, August 13th, Keewaydin Park, Kennewick, noon to dusk.

Sandy Gourley

Governor Gregoire in Tri-Cities

Governor Christine Gregoire will be in the Tri-Cities on Thursday, June 23rd. Details of the trip are still being worked out.

Please check www.bencodems.org for updates on Governor Gregoire's visit.

Grand Old Fourth

We are considering having a booth at the Grand Old Fourth celebration at TRAC July 1st-4th. If you are interested in helping out, e-mail Mimi Latta at chair@bencodems.org. More information will be available at the BCDCC meeting on June 15th.

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 Matt Kizerian at editor@bencodems.org. E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

Event Reports

4th CD May Meeting

The 4th CD had its membership meeting on May 14th, at the Richland Library. Members came from Wenatchee, Yakima, White Salmon and the Tri-Cities area.

We discussed who would be the Eastern Washington Field Coordinator. Keith Gourley, the 4th CD Chair, is on the committee that selected three candidates to be interviewed by Paul Berendt. The committee will also be looking at where the Eastern Washington office will be located. The consensus of many of the Eastern Washington Chairs is that the office should be in a centrally located place, such as Moses Lake. Again, no decision has been reached, but the committee is working as quickly and carefully as possible.

Caity Guyette from the Young Democrats gave a report on the convention she, Amber Stredwick, and Jerad Koepf attended in April. Caity was elected to be the Central Washington YD representative. She has a big job ahead of her and will need the support of all Democrats. Congratulations, Caity!

The next meeting will be held on August 6th, at 10 am in Moses Lake.

Sandy Gourley

Tri-City Democrats Meeting

The Tri-City Democrats were hosted by Caitlin Guyette and Jerad Koepf at the May 6 meeting. Norm Miller reported on Senator Cantwell's luncheon at Three Rivers Convention Center. Norm suggested that everyone write letters to the Tri-City Herald Editor supporting Maria Cantwell because her race will not be easy. State Committee Woman, Phyllis

Bowersock, reported on the new alternative method of candidate selection in the primary election in 2005 and what it means to Benton County. (See Phyllis' article below)

Bob Parazin reported on Benton County Central Committee's last meeting, and Amber Stredwick reported on Franklin County. Bob Parazin presented the video about framing from the book, *Don't Think of an Elephant* by Professor George Lakoff. Bob's presentation included audience participation which allowed us a chance to use "framing"

Margaret Munro

Benton Co. Tri-City Democrats Vice Chair

Democracy for America May Mtg.

This was our 23rd consecutive Meet-Up, and though the turnout wasn't good, the spirit of those attending was quite high. We had what I'd call a more intimate meeting *and* covered a lot of territory. We discussed our successful DFA meeting with Congressman Hastings' District Director and the issues we discussed. We also talked about the upcoming DFA Washington State Summit/Conference in Everett, and more importantly the 'Candidate and Campaign Staff' training to be conducted by the Wellstone Institute called 'Camp Wellstone'.

This will be a full weekend of training to be held in Seattle, June 10-12. The training comes most highly recommended, and not only by DFA. If ANYONE wants to get involved in a campaign either as a candidate OR staff support, THIS is the program for YOU. PLEASE look into it.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to ideas for a DFA Corps activity. The general community service-type activities discussed didn't appear to hold

much interest for those in attendance. So we selected an activity that I won't share with you YET, because we are looking into it further. But I can assure you that it is both unique and could become a significant service project that would involve not only DFA but other community organizations as well.

That's the report for those of you that missed the meeting; I've posted all the handouts, etc. in our Yahoo Group Files section. Take care and see you next month, June 1st at the Richland Public Library.

Bob Parazin

Tri-Cities DFA Chair

State Central Committee Meeting

Because the Blanket Primary formerly used by Washington State to select candidates to run for office has been declared unconstitutional, the State Central Committee found it necessary to provide an alternative method for candidate selection. This year there are only five counties who will have elections in which candidates will need to be selected—Benton County is not one of these.

The State Central Committee voted to have a county convention of elected and appointed Precinct Committee Officers who would choose by majority vote the county candidate who would appear on the ballot in the general election. Each PCO's vote would be weighted by the number of people he or she had in their precinct. The same procedure would be used in the Legislative and Congressional Districts with the elected and appointed Precinct Committee Officers of those Districts voting for the candidate. Adjustments may be made for 2006 at future State Central Committee meetings.

Phyllis Bowersock

State Committeewoman



Web Resources

★ www.informationclearinghouse.info/article8869.htm Streaming video link of British MP George Galoway's testimony to the US Senate. Requires RealPlayer (separate download from www.real.com).

★ www.nwprogressive.org/portal/ The Progressive Northwest website—a portal to a bunch of progressive sites in our region.

★ www.downingstreetmemo.com Copy of the "Downing Street Memo, which purports to show that Pres. Bush had decided to overthrow Saddam Hussein in Summer 2002, and ensured that US intelligence supported this decision.



Book List

★ *Nellie Taft : The Unconventional First Lady of the Ragtime Era* by Carl Sferrazza Anthony

★ *Everything Bad Is Good for You* by Steven Johnson

★ *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv

★ *On American Soil* by Jack Hamann

★ *1776* by David McCullough

★ *The Flight of the Creative Class* by Richard Florida

Local News

From Senator Cantwell

The Senate Energy Committee is currently crafting national energy legislation. As a member of that committee, it is my job to bring Washington state's interests to the table. I am proud to report that during hearings last week, I convinced my colleagues to support two amendments that are very important to Washington state consumers.

One of my amendments will stop Enron from suing Washington State ratepayers. As ridiculous as it seems, the unscrupulous energy company, responsible for our high energy rates and the destruction of so many retirement and pension plans, is suing ratepayers in Snohomish County for \$122 million, demanding payment for electricity they never delivered. My amendment sends Enron a reality check: ratepayers should not be forced to reward criminal activity. This measure will ensure that consumers who have already been victimized by Enron's massive mugging won't become the deep pockets for its bankruptcy.

The committee also passed my amendment to prevent crooked energy traders from continuing their manipulative tactics while working for different energy trading companies. Energy traders from Enron played games with the pocketbooks of Washington State ratepayers, using illegal trading strategies to drive up the cost of our electricity. My amendment will allow the federal government to ban crooked energy traders and corrupt corporate officers from continuing to work in the energy industry. We don't give bank robbers your ATM pin numbers, so why would we allow these criminals to set your energy rates?

These are two important steps to make sure consumers are protected. As the energy bill works its way through the Senate, I will continue to make sure consumers' interests aren't run over by the special interests.

Sen. Maria Cantwell

Governor's Seat Election Contest

SEATTLE—On the third day of trial, it became even clearer that the Republicans have no evidence of fraud in this election.

Dino Rossi has wasted another day

in court throwing out baseless allegations with no ability to provide any evidence. For three days, the Republicans have been screaming fraud, despite the fact that Judge Bridges, who is presiding over the election contest trial, has repeatedly said fraud is not an element in this case.

"For 50 minutes during their opening argument on Monday, Dino Rossi's lawyers argued that they would be bringing forward witnesses that would prove fraud, claiming that Nicole Way's testimony would provide the proof," Washington Democratic Party Chair Paul Berendt said. "Instead, today, Ms. Way testified that the reports she submitted were correct, based on the best information available to her at the time."

Then, Dino Rossi, in desperation, unable to convince expert witnesses to provide testimony that would support the allegations he wanted to make to the court, brought in a Republican political operative to testify via innuendo to try to buttress their failing claims.

"It's Dino Rossi who is defrauding the citizens of this state when he makes outrageous claims that he has no evidence to support," Berendt added.

WA State Democratic Party
Press Release, 25 May 2005

Letters to the Editor

WA Progressive Caucus

The Washington State Progressive Caucus (WSPC) has been very busy since it started in January. They have elected officers, have Bylaws, and are working on getting the financial aspect of the organization in order.

The WSPC is looking for Progressives. At the April meeting in Pasco, the sign-in sheet developed legs and walked off. If you or someone you know went to the meeting in April and signed in, please send your name to me as soon as possible with your e-mail address, especially if you are interested in any future mailings. The WSPC is putting a database together and would like to receive this information soon.

There is a website for Progressives (<http://pdcw.org/wsdcc/index.php>) and they are looking for anyone who is interested in being a County or LD coordinator. The 4th CD has a Congressional Coordinator, Aaron Case, from Yakima. If

you are interested, please let me know.

The WSPC is moving full-steam ahead and hopes that you will want to be a part of it.

Sandy Gourley
Eastern Washington Vice Chair
Progressive Caucus

Wal-Mart

Whatever happened to good corporate citizenship?

In America today, a business you might know pays such poor wages its workers have to turn to taxpayers to pay for their health care. The same firm has made China, a totalitarian dictatorship that holds wages down by outlawing unions, its supplier of choice—the source of 70 percent of its inventory.

And the family that owns this company and has become wildly wealthy? They make sure to invest their money in the Republican Party—where they know their investment will pay off with tax cuts for the richest few.

What company is this? Wal-Mart—the largest, richest corporation in the world.

Major organizations we work with—groups such as the Service Employees International Union, and the United Food and Commercial Workers—believe America's largest corporation should do better. To make that happen, they've launched a massive campaign to show Americans the massive scale of Wal-Mart's irresponsibility. But those groups need allies. Should we join the fight? The choice is yours: www.democracyforamerica.com/walmartvote.

Tom Hughes
Executive Director, Democracy for
America

"To those who have received honors, awards and distinctions, I say, well done. And to the C students, I say to you: 'You too, can become president of the United States.'"

GW Bush, upon receiving an honorary degree from Yale

Letters to the editor may be submitted concerning local, national, or international issues, or as a forum for commentary on the newsletter.

Potluck with Patty Murray

Don't miss your opportunity to host a Potluck with Patty Murray on Thursday, July 7th! Senator Murray has been reaching out to her constituents to discuss Social Security, and now it's your turn to bring your friends and neighbors into the conversation.

It's easy to do! Go to www.pattymurray.com/house_party.php to sign up as a host (if you don't have an account set up, you will need to create one), and we will send you all the materials you need to run a Potluck! We will provide you with information about Social Security, and tips to help you run a successful Potluck. Your job will be to invite friends and neighbors, open your home to other people interested in protecting their Social Security benefits, and provide a speaker phone.

At 6:45 pm, Senator Murray will lead a conference call with Potluck parties across the state! Senator Murray will share news from the fight to protect Social Security, and will take a question from each party.

Events

June

- 1 Democracy For America, Richland Public Library, 7:00 pm
- 3-4 Western Regional Caucus of the DNC, Helena, Montana
- 3 Tri-City Democrats, Richland Labor Hall, 6:00 pm potluck, 7:00 pm meeting
- 7 June Exec Committee Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Union St. in Kennewick, Room B, 7:00 pm
- 15 June BCDCC Meeting, Richland Library, 7:00 pm
- 23 Governor Gregoire in Tri-Cities, details TBA
- 24 Last day to submit material for the July newsletter

July

- 1-4 Grand Old Fourth, 4th of July Celebration, Pasco TRAC (www.grandold4th.com)
- 4 4th of July Parade, details TBA
- 7 Potluck with Patty Murray, see www.pattymurray.com/house_party.php for more information

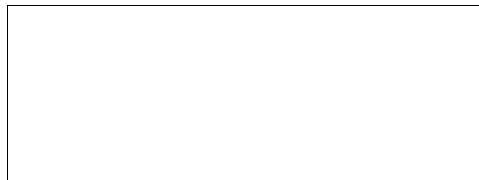
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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		

- 12 July Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 20 July BCDCC Meeting, Kennewick Dayton St. Library, 7:00 pm
- 29 Last day to submit material for the August newsletter
- 29 State Central Committee Meeting, Tacoma, time & location TBA

August

- 6 4th CD meeting, Moses Lake, 10:00 am
- 13 Benton County Summer Picnic Keewaydin Park, Kennewick Noon to dusk
- 20 Benton-Franklin County Fair Parade
- 26 Last day to submit material for the September newsletter



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