

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

June 2006 Issue

www.bencodem.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

## Contacts

*Chair* Mimi Latta 627-2679  
*Vice Chair* Bob Parazin 946-6363  
*Secretary* John Latta 627-2679  
*Treasurer* Mac Dills  
*State Committee*  
*Woman* Phyllis Bowersock 943-4559  
*State Committee*  
*Man* Dann Lewis 969-0277

## From the Chair

As I write this, summer has unofficially started with the Memorial Day weekend. Memorial Day is special for me because I have so many veterans to remember. My grandfather, Bill Case, was gassed in WWI, my dad was a decorated vet in the Philippines, my brother, Douglas, my husband, John, my best friend's husband, Bob, all the guys on John's sub as well as many I knew on the opposite crew (it was a "Boomer") - all served along with thousands I'll never know. Thank you seems like such a little word for their duty, but it's a privilege to thank all who served then or are serving now.

We need **artists** or **crafters** to help with our July 4th parade entry. Jim Dillman envisions a life-sized burro kicking up its back feet. We need help to make his vision a reality. If you can help plan the frame or assist with papier maché, or paint the burro when it's dry, we invite you. We'll also need a flatbed trailer and a truck to pull it (we'll pay the gas!). If you aren't the artistic type, you can walk or ride with us in the parade. Or work in the July 4th Booth out at TRAC with the comfort of air conditioning. For the parade, you can call Jim at 375-0322 or Mimi Latta at 627-2679 or call Mimi to volunteer for TRAC.

We also want to walk some precincts this summer to encourage Tri-Citians to vote Democratic. If you'd like to help get out the word, or if you'd like walkers in your precinct, please call Mimi. Richard Wright will walk some of the precincts with us.

Let's get this election started!

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Call for New Editor

As much as I have enjoyed being Editor of *The Democratic Reporter* for the last 2+ years, I am going to have to pass the quill on to someone else since I am moving to Spokane. Being Editor is a big job, but it is also very rewarding.

Important skills for a good editor include: the ability to see both sides of an issue, attention to detail, good communication skills and grammar skills, and an eye for design.

On the technical side, the Editor needs to have computer access for email and newsletter layout. We have been using MS Publisher for layout, so access to this program would make the transition easier, but it isn't necessary. There is even an open-source (i.e. free) layout program that would work.

If you want to make a difference and play an essential role in getting out the Democratic message in Benton County, please contact our Chair, Mimi Latta, at 627-2679, or by email at [chair@bencodem.org](mailto:chair@bencodem.org).

Matt Kizerian, Editor

## Election Observers

We haven't heard from any volunteers to observe the ballot process for the Primary and General Elections in the Fall. We'll need volunteers if a recount is called for, as well as final signature comparisons and the election certification. All of this will take place in Prosser. We'll arrange carpools whenever possible.

If you can volunteer to help with the September Primary Election or the November General Election, please call Mimi Latta at 627-2679 or email her at [chair@bencodem.org](mailto:chair@bencodem.org)

This is critical. Please look at your calendar and see if you can volunteer for a day or if you can volunteer one day a week. We have a great candidate in Richard Wright and we need to hold our Senate seat in D.C. Our part of the process is crucial and truly can't be left only to the Republicans.

## Upcoming Events

### June BCDCC Meeting

The June BCDCC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21st at 7:00 pm at the Mid-Columbia Library on Union Street in Kennewick. The meeting will take place in Conference Room A.

### Summer Picnic—First Call

This is your first notice for the BCDCC annual summer picnic. The picnic is planned for August 11th, 5:30-9:00 pm at Leslie Groves Park Gazebo #1 (near the entrance on Park St.). We will purchase the hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, buns, sodas and condiments. You bring a side dish to share. There will be a \$5.00 per person donation requested to cover the park costs. I can almost smell the new-mown grass and watermelon; ah summer.

### Save the Date

On Saturday, July 29, the Democratic National Committee, in conjunction with the State Parties, will host the second National Organizing Event of 2006—the Democratic Reunion: 100 Days, 100 People, 100 Actions. The Democratic Reunion will encourage party officials, volunteers, activists and other concerned

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 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@bencodem.org](mailto:editor@bencodem.org). E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 585-4900.

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citizens to gather together in our communities and become part of the 100 Days Plan where they will commit to contact 100 voters between July 29 and Election Day 2006.

Shortly after Memorial Day, we will be sending out more details on the 100 Day Plan, but until then, please save this date and pass on to all of your staff, local parties, clubs, caucuses and other groups throughout your state.

Paul R. Hegarty  
DNC State Partnership Project

### From the 8th LD

As every election season begins to heat up our local Democratic Party looks around for viable political candidates. And typically there are never enough to fill all the available races. There are many worthy folks who could be valuable contributors to our efforts but they do not feel empowered to identify themselves as Democrats.

It is well-recognized that the training ground for strong candidates is local government and public service. The opposition dominates the local scene because it offers a place where their major motivations, power and greed, can be fulfilled. At a local level this can go on "under the radar" because there are just not enough watchdogs to cover the territory. Even the media gets compromised because they aspire to become a part of the power network themselves rather than the champions of those who have no power. "Well, we've got trouble my friend, right here in River City..." The very fact of the absence of a viable Democratic opposition to the Republican-dominated local government leads me to a conclusion that the local level is a target-rich environment. As Democrats we need to get in there and find them. At-

tend the meetings of your City Council and other public boards and commissions. I have no doubt that what we find there will ignite the kind of passion for justice and integrity that motivates Democrats into public service.

Kendall Miller

### PCO Filing Deadline

The filing period for PCO candidates is July 24th–28th. You can pick up your forms from any Auditor's office and take them back when completed or you can pick them up at the June 11th Executive Board meeting or the June 21st Central Committee meeting. The filing fee is still \$1.00 according to the information I recently received. If there's any change, I'll get it to you ASAP. If any of you can't afford the fee, we'll take up a collection to pay for those who need it.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

### County Fair Booth

Our plans for the Benton Franklin Fair are well underway. We'll be setting up the booth on Sunday 10 am, August 20th and we'll be staffing it from Tues. Aug 22 thru Sat Aug 26 with teardown Sunday Aug. 27 starting at 10 am. If you'd like to help this year please call 946-6363 or leave your name on our Democratic Phone Line 585-7682. We're hoping to fill 4 hr shifts 10 a.m. to 10 pm. for the days the Fair runs. We'll also welcome help in setup, decorating and teardown. As in years past we'll have a limited number of day passes, but no parking passes. The Bus/Fair Admissions combo is \$9 if purchased BEFORE Aug 1; a DEAL! Senior Day is Wed Aug 23. Fair Parade is Saturday Aug 20th 10 am in downtown Kennewick; contact Jim Dillman for further details or call 585-7682.

Bob Parazin  
Fair Booth Chair

### DFA

NEW Night School sessions will RESUME in July, check on our Democracy for America website, <http://tools.democracyforamerica.com/link/> for more details

### An Inconvenient Truth

HOLLYWOOD, CA (May 10, 2006)-

"AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH," produced by Participant Productions which had previously pledged to contribute their profits to the Alliance was acquired by Paramount Classics at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. It is a riveting documentary that weaves the science of global warming with former Vice President Al Gore's personal history and longtime commitment to communicating the need to reverse the effects of global climate change. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, "AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH" was produced by Laurie David, Lawrence Bender and Scott Z. Burns. Jeff Skoll, Davis Guggenheim, Diane Weyermann, Ricky Strauss and Jeff Ivers are the executive producers and the co-producer is Lesley Chilcott. The film opens in New York and Los Angeles on May 24 and will expand to every major market across the country.

"I hope that 'AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH' will be an action movie in the truest sense of the phrase—that the film will motivate people to take action to address the climate crisis," said Former Vice President Al Gore. "In addition, the more tickets that are sold, the more funds will be raised giving the Alliance the opportunity to educate and galvanize millions more around this issue and inspire them to be a part of the solution."

"Mr. Gore and the filmmakers made a fascinating and startling film that we

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### Web Resources

★ [www.dnc.org/a/2006/05/dean\\_on\\_the\\_dai.php](http://www.dnc.org/a/2006/05/dean_on_the_dai.php) A link to the video of Howard Dean appearing recently on *The Daily Show*

★ [www.nwprogressive.org](http://www.nwprogressive.org) Website dedicated to fighting for progressive values and working to take back America from the radical conservative right and the irresponsible people it has helped get into office.

★ [undispatch.com](http://undispatch.com) A blog providing commentary and coverage on UN issues.



### Book List

★ *Impostor: How George W. Bush Bankrupted America and Betrayed the Reagan Legacy* by Bruce Bartlett

★ *Hostile Takeover: How Big Money and Corruption Conquered Our Government—and How We Take It Back* by

David Sirota

★ *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq* by Michael R. Gordon

★ *Shield and Cloak: The Security of the Commons* by Gary Hart

★ *The Mighty and the Almighty* by Madeleine Albright

## Party Business

### Proposed Bylaws Change

Because Benton County Democratic Central Committee voting membership is now more than eighty members and growing, and because the current requirement for a quorum at regular meetings of the BCDCC is 20% of members but not less than 10 members, and because current regular attendance at BCDCC meetings is very near to that necessary to meet the minimum quorum requirement of 20%, it is proposed that Section XI.4 of the BCDCC Bylaws be changed to read as follows, changing the 20% requirement to 15%:

#### Section XI.4:

The quorum requirement for all meetings of the Central Committee shall be **15%** of eligible central committee members, but not less than 10 members. The quorum requirement for the Executive Committee shall be seven (7) members. Once the Central Committee or Executive Committee adopts an agenda, a call for quorum count cannot be made until the approved agenda is completed.

Respectfully,

John Latta, BCDCC Secretary

### Benton County Elected Officials

The following salaries are for several of the elected positions in Benton County. The numbers are from the most recent budget found on the county's website (Google search: benton county washington)

Assessor	\$84,842
Auditor	\$63,630
County Commissioner	\$94, 224
Coroner	\$86,912
District Court Judge	\$123,240
Sheriff	\$97,568
Superior Court Judge	\$388, 274

### Dems and America's Veterans

Democratic veterans across the country are running for Congress. These brave men and women have defended our country on the battlefield and are now seeking to continue their service to our nation in the halls of Congress. They share the Democratic Party's commitment to a bold agenda that will provide Americans with real security by keeping our nation safe and secure, creating good jobs, strengthening public education, promoting retirement security, creating a

health care system that works for everyone, and making America energy independent. Democrats believe that America is best protected by national security policies that are both TOUGH and SMART. We will:

★ Hunt down terrorists and provide our troops and agencies with the tools they need to stop future attacks.

★ Make sure that our streets here at home are safe. Homeland Security Begins with Hometown Security.

★ Do a better job securing our shipping ports and nuclear power plants, equipping our first responders and our national guard.

★ Do a better job of securing good jobs for American workers, the retirement security for our seniors, and college opportunities for our children.

Alice Germond, DNC Secretary

### No Child Left Behind

On his trip to Great Britain, George Bush had a meeting with Queen Elizabeth. He asked her, "How does one manage to run a country so smoothly?"

"That's easy," she replied, "You surround yourself with intelligent ministers and advisors."

"But how can I tell whether they are intelligent or not?" he inquired.

"You ask them a riddle," she replied, and with that she pressed a button and said, "Would you please send Tony Blair in."

When Blair arrived, the Queen said, "I have a riddle for you to answer for me. Your parents had a child and it was not your sister and it was not your brother. Who was this child?"

Blair replied, "That's easy. The child was me."

"Very good," said the Queen, "You

may go now."

President Bush went back to Washington and called in his chief advisor, Karl Rove. He said to him, "I have a riddle for you, and the answer is very important. Your parents had a child and it was not your sister and it was not your brother. Who was this child?"

Rove replied, "Yes, it is clearly very important that we determine the answer, as no child must be left behind. Can I deliberate on this for a while?"

"Yes," said Bush, "I'll give you four hours to come up with the answer."

So Rove went and called a meeting of the White House Staff, and asked them the riddle. But after much discussion and many suggestions, none of them had a satisfactory answer. He was quite upset, not knowing what he would tell the President.

As Rove was walking back to the Oval Office he saw former Secretary of State Colin Powell approaching him. So he said, "Mr. Secretary, can you answer this riddle for me. Your parents had a child and it was not your sister and it was not your brother. Who was the child?"

"That's easy," said Powell, "The child was me."

"Oh thank you," said Rove, "You may just have saved me my job!"

Rove went in to the Oval Office and said to President Bush, "I think I know the answer to your riddle. The child was Colin Powell!"

"No, you idiot!" shouted Bush, "The child was Tony Blair!"

*from an anonymous, popularly-circulated email*

*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. Submission information on the front page.*

✂

**Benton County Democrats need your financial support.** Donations fund the County Convention, and support local Democratic candidates, as well as our activities and events throughout the year.

\$200      \$100      \$50      \$35      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (other)

monthly       quarterly       one time

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## An Inconvenient Truth—Con't

(Continued from page 2)

hope will have the power to promote change,” said John Lesher. “We are committed to bringing awareness to the climate crisis and are proud to support the efforts of Alliance for Climate Protection.”

Alliance for Climate Protection will use the money for a major national education and organizing campaign to mobilize the public on global warming. The primary goals of the campaign are to motivate a critical mass of the public and influential constituencies to demand action to cut U.S. emissions and to make solving global warming a national political imperative, to implement solutions to global warming that cap and cut U.S. global warming pollution emissions in the near term, and develop a political consensus for further international agreements that includes full participation by developing economies in achieving emission reduction targets. Ted Roosevelt, IV and Larry Schreiber are serving as the board co-chairs on the group.

## Events

### June

- 13 BCDCC Exec Committee Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Kennewick, Union St., Room B, 7:00 pm
- 21 June BCDCC Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Kennewick, Union St., Room A, 7:00 pm
- 26 Last day to submit material for the July newsletter

### July

- 4 4th of July Parade
- 11 BCDCC Exec Committee Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Richland, Seminar Room, 7:00 pm
- 19 July BCDCC Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Richland, Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 26 Last day to submit material for the August newsletter
- 28 Filing deadline for all candidates
- 29 The Democratic Reunion, details TBA

### August

- 8 BCDCC Exec Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 11 Summer picnic in Leslie Groves

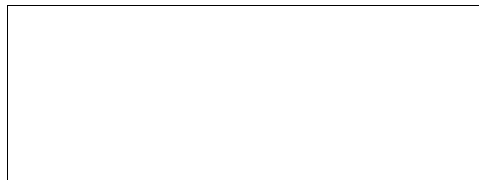
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- park 5:30–9:00 pm
- 19 County Fair Parade
- 20 Set up County Fair Booth
- 22-26 County Fair
- 26 Last day to submit material for the September newsletter
- 27 Take down Fair Booth

### September

- 12 BCDCC Exec Committee Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Richland, Seminar Room, 7:00 pm
- 19 Primary Election
- 20 BCDCC Mtg., Mid-Columbia Library, Richland, Gallery, 7:00 pm
- 26 Last day to submit material for October newsletter



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