

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

JUNE 2007 Issue

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

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a Democrat who’s considering running for the Kennewick School Board. As I said previously, it’s essential that we support all Democrats who rise to the call of PUBLIC SERVICE where ever it may be; school boards, city councils, commissions, various district boards, port offices,

etc. etc. This is the principal way our party can develop strong candidates for the future. If YOU or a fellow Democrat has any aspirations of running for local, non-partisan positions PLEASE contact us. Our NEW Candidate Development Committee has been specifically established to help you. We plan to list both partisan and non-partisan available positions on our website.

Don’t forget to check our HOTLINE at **585-7682** for the latest local party information. Our promise, if there’s ever a change in time and/or location of an upcoming event, the LATEST information will be on the HOTLINE! And note you can always leave a message too; it’s checked DAILY! TRY IT! But please be gentle. ☺

See you at our next Central Committee meeting June 20 at the Dayton St. MCLibrary in **Kennewick!** And don’t forget our State Party’s QUARTERLY MEETING will be at TRAC in Pasco on **June 30th**. We’ll have more details at the upcoming meeting, the HOTLINE and our website.

From the Chair....

We’d like to thank those Democrats in Benton County who quietly contributed to the Party this past month. And we’re also appreciative of those that have decided to contribute on a monthly basis. It is most appreciated!

We’re still in the process of growing our FOUR Standing Committees of Finance, Organization, Outreach and Candidate Development. The initial meetings of these committees will be occurring after the Memorial Day holidays. We STILL need and welcome participants. The more traditional ‘special’ committees we’ve had in the past will be formed as sub-committees under one of these four; i.e. Fair Booth, Parade, Picnic, Holiday Party, etc. And their Chairs will continue to be part of the Executive Board. The breakdown of the sub-committees is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Let me comment on the priorities I described in last month’s letter for GROWING THE Local PARTY, our #1 goal. Our need continues for expanding our base. To that end we’re exploring opportunities with local and state labor organizations to partner in future activities. We’ll also be approaching community activist organizations. We’ve also formed a small team interested in outreach to students in the area. We’ve refined our master database by updating it with current information including Precinct identification. We’re also going to embark on a phone plan to contact ALL NEW REGISTERED VOTERS in the area, identify those that are Democrats and welcome them to the organization.

With respect to our #2 goal of ELECTING DEMOCRATS, we’re obviously involved with the exploratory efforts of George Fearing in his expected run for Congress. We’ve also extended our hand of support to

Where things really get DONE!

Bob Parazin

The lion’s share of the work in any organization is done in committee, and we’re no different. This year we’ve established four standing committees; finance, Operations. Candidate Development and Outreach. The ‘special’ committees we’ve formed in the past for events, candidates, activism issues, etc. will become sub-committees under one of these standing committees. For example our parade and fair booth committees will be sub-committees under the Operations Committee. Or our Autumn Fest committee formed to create a fundraising event a few years ago would have been under Finance.

I’ve summarized the goals of each committee below and the expected sub-committees that could be formed under them. One of the reasons this was done was to simplify communications, list generation, funding, budgeting, etc. Look at it as a way to perhaps look at our

organization differently. Much of an organization's success is really dependent upon the skills and abilities of its supporters and their willingness and available time to share them. Commitment and talent are terrible things to waste. If things don't work out, we'll change it. Here's the Committees Breakdown.

Finance – its primary purpose is to plan and carry out fundraising activities, budget and contract development, and financial oversight. Subcommittees may include: Budget, Events (whose primary purpose is fundraising), Audit, etc.

Organization – Shall provide leadership and support for events/activities whose principal purposes include PCO support, party building, issue support and candidate support. Subcommittees may include Parade, Party, Picnic, Fair Booth, and other party building events not focused on fundraising.

Candidate Development – This committee's principal goal is to find, develop and support Democratic candidates for ALL elected offices, NOT just partisan offices. Subcommittees may include Recruitment, Vetting, Development, etc.

Outreach - Shall see partnering and cooperation with Democratic friendly organizations, associations, institutions, and groups, public service organizations that share common values and/or issues important to local Democrats. Subcommittees may focus on Young Democrats support, joint Labor events, communications, candidate support, issue/policy support i.e. MoveOn, WCP, DFA, PDA, etc.

If you have any questions and/or are interested in joining one or more of these committees PLEASE let us know. The meetings of these Committees will be separate from our monthly Central Committee meetings. So there is a measure of commitment needed. As these committees develop, we'll provide more information on their progress and achievements. For example, we're already developed a sub-committee on Student Outreach, a sub-committee managing a fundraising event in conjunction with the State Party Meeting on June 29th and 30th and our Phone Tree committee. So come join us!

George Fearing Campaign Mimi Latta

Have you met George Fearing yet? He's been working hard in the 4th Congressional District to introduce himself. George has formed an exploratory committee to focus on replacing Richard "Doc" Hastings.

George is an attorney in Kennewick who has worked at the same law firm since he passed the bar over 25 years ago. He mostly does civil litigation for municipalities, but also

does pro bono civil litigation for low-income persons. He has held several positions with the Franklin County Democratic Central Committee over the past 10 years including 2nd and 1st Vice Chair and State Committeeman. His love of the law, sense of fair play and Democratic values led him to represent Franklin County Hispanics, without pay, in an attempt to redistrict county commissioner districts. As a Congressman, he will continue to work for more representational government and racially neutral laws.

You can volunteer to help on George's campaign to win in the 4th Congressional District. We need volunteers to help walk precincts, to ask George to speak in front of any groups you belong to, to show support by walking or riding in a parade with George, and of course by donating as early as possible to his campaign fund. Whatever your talent is, we can find a place for you.

Remember, we don't want our next Democratic President to be hindered by a Republican Congress like Bill Clinton was. Volunteer and donate early and encourage your family and friends to do the same. We can't do much alone, but together we can change the country!

Say, Brother...can you spare a room?

Ralph Crowl, Chairman, HomeStay '07 Committee

Tri-City Democrats are launching an all-new program this month, the HomeStay Program. If you receive this newsletter regularly, you will probably hear from us soon. We expect as many as 400 Democrats from all of the legislative districts in Washington to come here for the Washington State Democratic Party Quarterly Meeting held this year at the T RAC, on June 30th. Most of these folks will arrive here Friday afternoon and evening, June 29th, and will need overnight accommodations. We are canvassing the Tri-City area, via phone, this newsletter, and email and snail mail, to find Democrats who would be willing to offer a spare room in their homes for a fellow Democrat from out-of-town. It's a chance for us to show our hospitality up close and personal, and it's a local-party fundraising effort, as well. We will be asking the "guests" to donate \$30 per person, per night, with the donations collected going to the County party—either Franklin or Benton---depending on the location of the host's home. (They will give their donations directly to the HomeStay Committee, or the party—hosts WILL NOT have to collect any funds). The folks coming in will have a chance to save some dough versus a hotel room, and we can help build appreciation for the wonderful Democrats we have in the Tri-City area, as well as perhaps introducing these folks to some of the rare pleasures and beauty of the Lower Columbia River Basin. If you think you might like to help us out by offering a spare room in your home, for Friday night, June 29th, and/or Saturday night, June 30th, please contact us. (If people coming in can spend 2 nights in Tri-Cities, they can have a chance to enjoy our wineries, the

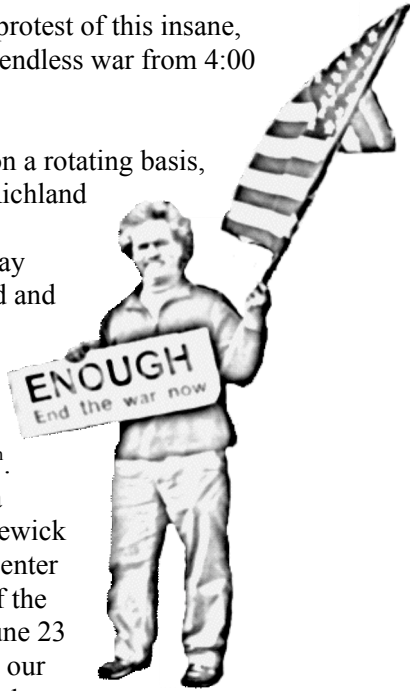
river, etc.!) You can email to homestay@bencodems.org, or call us on the hotline, 509-585-7682, and leave a message so we can get back to you, or call the HomeStay Committee Chairman, Ralph Crowl, at 509-783-8743, and we'll take your information, and try to match your room up with an arriving Dem. Please discuss this with your family, and step up and help us help other Democrats—and our local party activities as well!

Four long years of this misbegotten war Had enough? Gene Weisskopf

I certainly have, and I encourage you to express yourself in the time-honored and quite effective fashion of the sidewalk protest. Bring a sign of your choosing or borrow one from our growing collection. You might also bring a friend, a loved one, a flag, a child, or a dog that needs walking, but mainly bring your spirit, your patriotism, and your outrage.

You can join us in protest of this insane, obscene, and evidently endless war from 4:00 to 5:00 PM:

- Once a week, on a rotating basis, in downtown Richland on George Washington Way near Swift Blvd and City Hall. Our next scheduled days are June 4, 12th, and 20th.
- One Saturday a month in Kennewick on Columbia Center Blvd in front of the Target store. June 23 and July 28 are our next scheduled days.



You can find a link to our sidewalk schedule at <http://www.wcpeace.org>

Perhaps you've already gotten a phone call or e-mail from local Democratic rabble-rouser Margaret Munro, who has been encouraging her friends and fellow Democrats to come out on the sidewalk and help get this war over with. This sidewalk protest was started and is organized by members of World Citizens for Peace, a 25-year old local peace organization.

Holding a sign on a busy street can be highly therapeutic during times such as these. It gives you a chance to participate in our democracy in the most primary of ways, by speaking out. This not only helps take the load off your American shoulders, but it also lets the world know

that things are not right in our country. Your efforts just might encourage others to open their eyes, and maybe even their mouths!

Too Many Organizations -Too Little Time

There are many, Democratic-leaning organizations out there competing for your attention, your \$\$\$ and your time from MoveOn, 21st Century Dem, Progressive Democrats of American, Democracy for America, etc. etc. They all seem to have their special niches and candidate support networks. They're frequently built around a 'cause' of some sort; ending the occupation, the environment, campaign reform, internet freedom, women's rights, etc. You'll see some of them represented at our upcoming State Party meeting June 29th and 30th.

My question is ... do YOU think they help or hinder a LOCAL candidate's ability to get elected? Do they dilute the time and \$\$\$ a person is willing to commit to candidates and party support? Or does it HELP in stimulating voters to take a serious interest in politics and ultimately work for candidates/party organizations. **Let us know what YOU think! E-mail responses to editor@bencodems.org**

Upcoming Events

- June 1 Tri-City Dems., Richland Labor Hall 6 pm potluck, 7 pm program
- June 4 First Day for Candidate Filing in Person at Auditors Office
- June 5 Candidate Development Committee – Meeting 6:30-8, Tues Richland Community Cntr, Conf Rm
- June 8 Last Day for Candidate Filing
- June 12 Executive Board Meeting 5:30 RPL Gallery
- June 20 Benton County Central Committee Meeting, Dayton Street Library KENN 7 pm
- June 29 Activist and Party Hospitality Suite activities at the Richland Red Lion Hanford House. 7 pm Public Is Invited w/ available space
- June 30 Wash. State Democratic Central Committee Quarterly Meeting at TRAC in Pasco, 8 am Caucus Meetings 1:30 PM Central Committee Meeting – Public Is Invited with avail. Space

* Drinking Liberally - Every **Tuesday** at the Shilo/O'Callahan's Richland. 7 pm



FLASH ! ! !

The State Party has selected the Tri-Cities for their next WA State Democratic Central Committee Meeting June 30th at TRAC in PASCO! A detailed schedule will be published on our **Website** and the **HOTLINE** when available!

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		*			1- Tri City Democrats	2
3	4 Candidate Filing-Starts at Auditor's Office	5* Candidate Development Comm. Mtg.	6	7	8 Candidate Filings-Close at Auditor's Office	9
10	11	12* Exec. Board Mtg	13	14	15	16
17	18	19*	20 Central Committee Mtg	21	22	23 Peace March
24	25	26*	27	28	29 Activist & State Caucuses Richland, Red L	30 State Quarterly Meeting TRAC

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