

The Voice of Benton County Democrats
THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



June 2008

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

HOTLINE 509-585-7682

Officers

Chair	Bob Parazin	chair@bencodems.org 946 6363
Vice Chair	Regina Speer	vicechair@bencodems.org 946 5744
Treasurer	Jamie Lennick	treasurer@bencodems.org
Secretary	Gloria Cummins	secretary@bencodems.org 430 8718
Editor	Steven Link	newsletter@bencodems.org 948-0054
SCW	Mimi Latta	scw@bencodems.org 627 2679
SCM	John Latta	scm@bencodems.org 627 2679

From the Chair

It's June already and State Convention time. We'll have a fair number of Bentonites attending the event. Brad Taylor, our PCO Coordinator for Rural Benton County will be headed to Spokane as a member of the State's Election Committee where he'll have an opportunity to vote for 17 Unpledged At Large Delegates, 17 Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates and 2 Unpledged Ad-On Delegates representative of Youth and Seniors; ALL will be going to the National Convention. Brad will be Benton County's representative on the floor of the convention since he was one of three Delegates elected at the 4th CD Caucus in Yakima on May 17th as a Clinton Delegate. I also know of at least two Bentonites that are hoping to snare one of those 17 At Large Delegate seats at the State Convention. Wish them well because the competition is really tough at the State level!

The George Fearing Headquarters has opened at 1315 George Washington Way in Richland. And Benton County and the State Party's Coordinated Campaign will be teaming with Team Fearing to open it as a joint Headquarters' to serve ALL Democratic needs and campaigns in the area. We will be making a concerted effort for funding and contributions that can carry us through mid-November.

There are many ways you can support our effort. We are looking for furnishings, particularly desks, touch-tone telephones, file-cabinets, ladders, cleaning hardware/supplies and fans. If you have such furnishings,

[etc. to](http://www.bencodems.org) donate, please send us an e-mail through our website. www.bencodems.org, or call our HOTLINE 585-7682, or for a live person, 946-6363. Anything donated will be marked and if requested, returned to the owner at the end of the campaign.

We also welcome cash/check donations to support the facility. For example, under 'gold star' giving, if you'd like to buy a phone line for the campaign season, we are asking for a \$350 donation. And we would be pleased to commemorate the phone line on behalf of a person, cause, activity, etc. of donor's choosing.

Among the many activates we expect to host at our Headquarters, we are hoping to begin a Film Festival which would show politically oriented films, from Hollywood fare to pointed documentaries and possibly rebroadcasts of important events/presentations. We would like to use the 3,000 sq ft. facility for as many things as possible. Drop by, say hello and don't be a stranger!

4th Congressional District Caucus- May 17th

When it came time for caucus voting, all Delegate seats awarded to Benton and Franklin Counties were FILLED by the 35 Delegates elected on April 5th and the 4 Alternates also elected on the 5th. Before the Caucus began, the Nominating Convention was held with about 25 PCOs from Benton and Franklin counties in attendance. George Fearing was nominated and unanimously elected as the 4th CD candidate to oppose the incumbent Republican. Through his nominating speech we learned that George has come to appreciate his supporters in all the corners of the expansive 4th CD. He first recognized by name and town many of his supporters in the audience and then went on to 'run the table' by naming almost every town in the District from rote memory. The crowd enjoyed it along with his eloquent yet spirited delivery; something that seems to becoming an integral part of his campaign.

PCO Alert! !

If you currently ARE an ELECTED or APPOINTED Precinct Committee Officer, PCO, you must file for your position with the Benton County Auditor's Office by Friday, June 6th. You MUST use the new '08 Filing Form. It is available for download on our website. Click on PCO Resources and look for the 08 Filing Form. Fill it out and

return it with \$1 to a County Auditor's Office in Richland, Kennewick or mail it to Prosser postmarked no later than Friday, June 6th. If you have trouble getting a Form or don't know your Precinct #, please call the HOTLINE and leave a message. The election will be August 19th as part of the Primary. If you don't file, your name won't be in the BALLOT. And though a write-in PCO candidacy is possible, you have to get a minimum number of votes to even qualify.

If you're new to the party and are considering running in your Precinct, even if you haven't done so in the past, you can file as well. And I would encourage any Democrat that's interested to do so. We have ample training materials and would welcome your participation.

Democratic State Convention – June 14th

If you have never gone, this may be the year. I don't know if reservations are still available at the host hotel, but it just may be the year to go. Senator John Kerry will be the keynote speaker and I'm certain that other nationally recognized politicians and political personalities will be in attendance. Though the date for the Convention is Saturday, June 14. It is really a THREE DAY event.

Starting with early reservations on Friday, June 13th, there will be State Committees and Caucus Meetings along with hospitality suites sponsored by candidates, activist groups, caucuses, and issues organizations. Sunday, June 15th will be the time devoted to electing the 36 remaining Delegates to the National Convention.

If you would like more information on the activities, PLEASE go to the state's website, www.wa-democrats.org and find the Convention pages, the agenda, rules, and allied events. I'm sure there will be information on the status of reservations and accommodations, etc. Please consider it. 2008 will be a great year for Democrats!

Carol Moser Campaign

The kick-off event of Carol Moser's campaign for the State Legislature will be held on Sunday, June 1 at Bookwalter's Winery from 5 to 8 pm. The public is welcome and RSVPs are encouraged. Please call 627-4295 or e-mail to friendsofcarolmoser@gmail.com

State Platform Committee

Charles Arthur Lo Presti

The chair of the Resolutions and Platform Committee for the Benton County Democrats wish to acknowledge the following committee members: Tikva Glantz, Diane Florance, Angela Alden, Heidi Hill, Amidee, Emmett Marx, Pam Sebelien, Bob Bowersock, John Truax, and Alex Teimouri for their hard work and thoughtful deliberations as the committee met several times and worked through at

least 66 resolutions and planks collected at the county caucuses and by other means. Kendall Miller served valiantly as editor, and both Kendall and Bob Bowersock provided invaluable guidance from their extensive experience in platform work over the years. In spite of getting a late start, the committee got the county platform and four resolutions to the state Platform Committee in time to be included in deliberations at the State level. Of the remaining resolutions, six were approved at the Central Committee meeting on 21 May to be sent up for consideration at the State level. Details will be posted at our website www.BencoDems.org. Drafts of the State Democratic Party platform and resolutions are beginning to be posted on the State website now. Fine work, everyone.

Barak Obama

Michele Levenite

I have been fortunate to be able to attend several events where there was a presidential or vice presidential (sometimes both) candidate. My first was Bobby Kennedy. My father kept me out of school to hear Bobby speak. I remember the excitement of that campaign, and have never felt the same way since. I was idealistic during the McGovern campaign, my first presidential vote. I worked on the campaign, stuffing envelopes, registered voters door to door and actually was shocked that the entire nation did not feel the same way and Nixon was reelected.

Fast forward 32 years to the 2004 Democratic Convention where a young senator from Illinois gave a key note speech. This speech got my attention and I knew Barak Obama was going to be a strong force. Thankfully, for our nation, he declared himself a presidential candidate.

I heard Senator Obama was coming to Pendleton on Sunday, May 18th. I was able to get 2 tickets and our seats were right next to where Senator Obama would enter the room. Senator Obama shakes hands as he is coming into a venue and I was lucky enough, for the second time, to shake the hand of the, would be next president. He bounded up on the stage, in a white shirt with the sleeves rolled up, tie-less, and ready to work for Oregon. To cheers, Senator Obama criticized Senator McCain's foreign policy, reiterated his plans to help make college affordable to more people by giving each student a tuition credit of \$4,000, universal health care, services to our returning veterans must be better, including mental health services/screenings for every veteran at the time of discharge. He energized the crowd more with his discussions of the Iraqi War, bringing our troops home and using the money being spent daily on the war spent finding jobs for Americans.

Senator Obama answered questions. The first question was in regards to Cuba; lifting the travel restrictions so that there could be travel from the United States to Cuba; opening up dialogue between Cuba and the United States, noting that concept was nothing new – citing various Presidents who had opened up communication with

our “enemies”. This was the item that most irked Senator McCain and it was nice to see clips from the Pendleton rally on MSNBC.

Senator Obama then took a question regarding the funding for the Hanford Clean-up. Senator Obama admitted he knew nothing about Hanford but would know about it before he went to sleep that night. The news noted just the first part of that statement that he knew nothing but the “liberal media” did not mention he was going to learn.

There were questions regarding energy. Someone shouted out in the crowd, what about nuclear? Senator Obama is not in favor of building new plants; he has concerns about the waste and how to dispose of it. I hope once he is up to speed on Hanford, he will have also learned about the Vit Plant.

Senator Obama worked the crowd, shaking as many hands as he could, thanking people for coming. I thank him for putting the fire in the underbelly of our future, the young people with an intensity that I have not seen since Bobby Kennedy.

Humanitarian Aid Trip to Cuba Margaret Munro

Benton County Central Committee and World Citizens for Peace are the sponsors of my June humanitarian trip to Cuba. The sponsorship does not involve financial aid but if the medical or other supplies are held up at the Texas/Mexican border, sponsors may be asked to contact our senators or representatives.

Since 1992, the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), Pastors for Peace, and United Church of Canada have been educating US citizens about the current US economic blockade and travel ban against Cuba.

The Caravans will be using cars, trucks, and school buses on 14 different routes and visit more than 125 cities in Canada and the United States to pick up supplies and travelers. After loading the supplies into a cargo ship in Tampico, Mexico, we will fly to Cuba. We will attend cultural events and visit farms, homes for the elderly, and health care centers in Cuba.

Thank you, Democrats, for your sponsorship! I will be happy to share my experiences with you when I return.

Attention Obama Supporters Bob Bowersock

The purpose of the meeting is to organize strategy between now and November for our support campaign of the party's. There will be a meeting on June 2nd, at the new Benton County Democratic Headquarters, at 1315 George Washington Way, Monday, June 2, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

nominee for President. Your input and comments for his/her election are important. It also gives a chance to get to know each other and divide the responsibilities for the campaign.

George Fearing Campaign Update Mimi Latta

George continues to travel throughout the district working hard to secure the support of voters in addition to endorsement of the tribes and unions. So far George has been endorsed by the Carpenters, the Teamsters, Machinists and HAMTC. George was unanimously endorsed at the 4th Congressional Nominating Convention in Yakima on May 17. He has also received endorsement from the Democratic Central Committees in Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat and Yakima Counties. He’s also been endorsed in the 8th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th Legislative Districts. Way to go, George!

Our headquarters is open weekdays 9-5 and weekends when we’re in the Tri-Cities. We’re looking for supporters who can work on a regular basis to make phone calls to get George’s name out and to help us with precinct work to drop off literature. We’ll need more volunteers to help us with computer work to find phone numbers for those voters where we only have addresses and addresses when we only have phone numbers.

We need your contributions. Another man has announced he will file for the office; we need to run some ads before the Primary Election. If you haven’t contributed to George’s campaign, this is a great time to do it. If you’ve contributed, but can do so again, please take the time to send your donation in before August.

Come down and tell us what you’d like to do at the George Fearing/Benton County Democrats’ office. We’re also going to support Carol Moser, Governor Gregoire, and all the WA State candidates. The address is: 1315 George Washington Way, Richland (in the Uptown Shopping Center next to Some Bagels). We hope you’ll make it your “hang out” this summer and into the fall. We’ll work hard, but we’ll have a good time watching election returns, the National Convention, and celebrating victory in November!

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday Night Drink Liberally, 7 PM, at the Shilo... O’Callahan’s

[See Calendar on Page 4](#)

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3*Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm	4	5	6	7
8	9 PCO Leads Meeting RCC 6:30 PM	10 *Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm	11	12 E-Board Meeting 6:30 HQ	13	14
15	16	17 *Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm	18 Central Committee Meeting 7 pm HQ	19	20	21
22	23 Fundraising Comm Mtg RCC 6:30 PM	24 *Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm	25	26 Org Comm Meeting, HQ 6:30 PM	27	28
29	30					

* **Drinking Liberally** - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available! **NOTE** O'Callahan's & Restaurant are operated by a subcontractor **NOT** the Shilo Inn Corporation.
RCC -- Richland Community Center **MCLU** -Mid-Columbia Library 16th & Union **HQ** – 1315 Geo Washington Way, Richland
MCLD --Mid-Columbia Library 405 Dayton St, Kennewick in Keewaydin Park