

The Voice of Benton County Democrats
THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



March 2009

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

HOTLINE 585-7682

2009/10 Officers

Chair	Bob Parazin	chair@bencodems.org 946 6363
Vice Chair	Regina Speer	vicechair@bencodems.org 946 5744
Treasurer	Malakay Betor	treasurer@bencodems.org
Secretary	Ann Parazin	secretary@bencodems.org 946 6363
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

Our 16th Legislative District has a NEW Representative in Olympia: Bill Grant's daughter Laura Grant-Herriot. In an extremely close vote among 11 County Commissioners, she was appointed over George Fearing and Rebecca Francik both from Franklin Co. At February's Central Committee we passed a Resolution authored by John Latta asking our Commissioners to respect the wishes of the 16th Leg. District Democrats and vote for George Fearing. The Resolution was hand carried to our Commissioners' Prosser office the day before the election.

The votes were split along an east/west division of the District with the exception of Benton Co's Jim Beaver, who voted for Walla Walla's Laura Grant. If you see George or Rebecca please thank them for their excellent presentations before the Commissioners. Beaver didn't offer any comments on his choice of Laura, but that's the nature of politics. We had three fine Democratic candidates. We appreciated all the support we had from our 16th LD PCOs. We appreciated too, the dozen or so Bentonites who made the trip to attend the Commissioners' special meeting in Walla Walla.

Now we have to get ready for the 16th LD special election in November. We see that there already are THREE

announced Republicans ready to do battle for the seat! We wish Laura well in her appointment and the challenge she's accepted. Her e-mail in Olympia is

grant-herriot.laura@leg.wa.gov

and her phone is **(360) 786-7828**. Wish her well!

We're in the process of repopulating our Standing **Committees**, which are listed elsewhere in this edition. Please review the scope of the each Committee and sign up for one or more of them. Most of our work is done BY these Committees and their Sub-Committees. And thank you if you've already signed up, committee meetings will begin shortly. We'll also posted the Committee descriptions on our website.

As of Feb 20th our **HOTLINE 585-7682** has been moved to a NEW voicemail server. If you've noticed any interruption in our message service it's been because of this transition.

We are also planning candidate/campaign worker training for April 18th. Look for a formal announcement next month. We're hoping that it will be in the Tri-Cities but it may be in Walla Walla. We'll keep you posted. Anyone who's interested in becoming a **candidate** for partisan or non-partisan office should plan on attending. And equally important, those that are interested in **WORKING ON CAMPAIGNS** should plan on attending as well. There won't be any cost involved except for lunch possibly since the State Party is picking up the cost for the training.

Where things really get DONE!

The lion's share of the work in any organization is done in committee, and we're no different. This year we are planning four standing committees: **Finance, Operations, Candidate Development, and Outreach**. Our Bylaws will have to be changed to accommodate these somewhat re-named committees. 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. Committees formed to create a fundraising will likely be placed 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. Here's the Committees Breakdown. Our priority sub-committee reactivations will be Budget, Bylaws, and Precinct Committee Officer Coordination.

- **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 campaign support. **Subcommittees** may include PCO Training/Coordination, Bylaws, 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, Candidate/Campaign Training, 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, Democracy For America, Progressive Democrats of America, Washington Public Campaigns, etc.

Please consider joining the committee(s) you're most interested in by sending an **e-mail** to me or leave a message on our **HOTLINE 585-7682**. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. 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.

Mar. 13th Tri-City Democrats Meeting

The Tri-City Democrats will meet March 13 at the Labor temple in Richland at 6:00. We will be indulging in corned beef, Irish breads, and some Guinness desserts as well as your potluck item -- and we ask you to wear the green and be Irish for one evening in honor of St. Pat!

The Program will feature Spotlight Speakers to give you first hand accounts of their attendance at the Obama Inauguration in Washington. The Featured Speaker for the evening, from Seattle will be the Executive Director of Washington Public Campaigns who will talk about their plans to launch a series - "Connecting the Dots" which describes how special interest money and lobbying skews public policy - and thereby show how campaign finance reform is essential to restore accountability in our democracy to voters. They're supporting legislation called a "**local options**" law in Olympia of which the current **Supreme Court Fair Elections Bill**, HB 1738 is an example. On the Federal level there's the Federal **Fair Elections Now Act** that is currently in Congress. Potluck at 6 pm, Program at 7. It should be an interesting evening. If you want to read more on Washington Public Campaigns go to www.washclean.org.

Opportunity

John Latta, BCDCC State Committeeman

Albert Einstein once said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." The U.S. is experiencing crisis, and more people may soon be ready to listen to new ideas. We Democrats can take advantage of the opportunity if we're prepared to put our best candidates forward and provide their campaigns with able staff and volunteers.

If you have ever considered running for elected public office or helping in a candidate's campaign, or if you just want to know how to make a campaign successful, then a one-day training session with Progressive Majority is what you need. Bob Parazin is working with other Eastern Washington Democratic Chairs and the State Party to bring a training session to the Tri-Cities this April. A couple of years ago Mimi and I attended one of these sessions in Spokane. There we learned the basics for running a successful campaign, including planning, fundraising, and finding the right issues for your area. Progressive Majority training puts the important concepts into meaningful perspective, helping a campaign to build winning strategies. Whether you're interested as a citizen activist, prospective campaign staff, as a candidate or just curious, this will be worthwhile training. Watch the newsletter, or check the website or the hotline (585-7682) for more information and details about this opportunity coming soon to a location near you.

Reflections

Ginny McIntyre

During Robert F. Kennedy's campaign, a local group of dedicated Democrats organized the Tri-Cities Citizens for Kennedy Committee. When Robert F. Kennedy was killed, this group morphed into a political action group called the "Democrats Seeking a Newer World" (DSNW). They determined that the cause would *not* end with an assassin's bullet and would remain a progressive and idealistic force at the local and state, national and international levels.

They believed that this country was on a perilous course and that their strong feelings needed to be channeled toward meeting the obligation they felt. They sought to span differences among diverse groups – those varying in race, age and citizenship. They wanted the Democratic Party to stand for hope, instead of despair.

And with this noble intent, the DSNW moved forward and eventually evolved into the Tri-City Democrats (TCD).

It seems history has repeated itself. We find ourselves in a world seeking the same ideals. And we have, at last, someone in the White House who is offering hope even in these uncertain and dangerous times.

As the chair of the TCD, I am personally committed to seeing the DSNW ideals carried forth in our local Democratic party and, specifically, in the TCD of today.

It has renewed my faith to see the crowds attending the election night festivities, the 300 people attending and bringing food for both the inaugural party and for local food banks, and a lot of positive responses to invitations to an Obama house party held to support the economic stimulus plan. (The food bank drive collected over 1000 pounds of food, completely re-stocking the Grace Clinic pantry and also benefiting the Tri-Cities Food Bank.)

I was awed by the response of so many people just waiting to join us and generously provide so many wonderful gifts from their kitchens for the inaugural event and local food banks. I honestly have never seen such an event where food appeared like manna from heaven. It was as if they had waited for the end of a political drought to emerge and bloom again. (And it was amazing how Kendall Miller negotiated with the Shilo Inn, so that they let us hold a potluck in their ballroom. Unheard of!)

I do not know how we can achieve such success again, but I, as a mere mortal, am willing to do my part -- as I know so many other, wonderful Democrats are -- to try to carry this spirit forward. It will not be easy as we see the economy falter and despair threaten to extinguish our hope.

We at the TCD were honored to have the knowledgeable and inspiring Ginger Wireman educate us on a network she is establishing to protect the local

environment. Also, Lora Rathbone invited us to join her impressive movement to promote Earth Month. I, for one, intend to help. I hope you will too!

While we dine at our monthly potlucks, TCD attendees will be honored to hear activists and local experts involved in the civil rights and social justice movements to share their experiences as well as activists currently involved in election reform, labor issues, and other Democratic activities.

Also, we are planning to hold, in association with other Democratic groups, a celebration at the completion of President Obama's first hundred days in office. We will hold it on May Day, May 1st, while acknowledging that President Obama has answered our Mayday call! Please come and celebrate with us!

Calendar

March 12

E-Board Meeting – 6:30, IBEW Local 77 Hall, Kennewick

March 13

The Tri-City Democrats - 6 pm , Labor Temple in Richland

March 18

Benton County Democratic Central Committee Meeting - 7 pm, IBEW Local 77 Hall, Kennewick

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Every Tuesday Evening
Drinking Liberally – 7 pm, O'Callahans, Richland

Committee Meetings

A number of committee meetings will be called in March as we re-vitalize our committee work. Please check the website and HOTLINE for further information. Personal contacts will be made of committee members PRIOR to these meetings.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3* Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahan's 7pm every Tuesday	4	5	6	7
8	9	10*	11	12. E Board Meeting, 6:30 IBEW77	13 Tri-City Dems. 6 pm potluck, 7 pm program, RLT	14
15	16	17*	18 Central Committee Mtg. 7 pm, IBEW77	19	20	21
22	23	24*	25	26	27	28
29	30	31*				

*** Drinking Liberally - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are always available
RCC -- Richland Community Center, IBEW77 – 2626 W. Clearwater, Ken, RLT. Richland Labor Temple. Goethals and Knight St.
behind Albertsons's**