



# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

---

MARCH 2010

[www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org)

HOTLINE 546-8115

---

## 2009/10 Officers

Chair	Bob Parazin	<a href="mailto:chair@bencodems.org">chair@bencodems.org</a> 946 6363
Vice Chair	Regina Speer	<a href="mailto:vicechair@bencodems.org">vicechair@bencodems.org</a> 946 5744
Treasurer	Malakay Betor	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bencodems.org">treasurer@bencodems.org</a>
Secretary	Ann Parazin	<a href="mailto:secretary@bencodems.org">secretary@bencodems.org</a> 946 6363
Editor	Ed Rykiel	<a href="mailto:newsletter@bencodems.org">newsletter@bencodems.org</a> 627-1113
SCW	Mimi Latta	<a href="mailto:scw@bencodems.org">scw@bencodems.org</a> 627 2679
SCM	John Latta	<a href="mailto:scm@bencodems.org">scm@bencodems.org</a> 627 2679

---

## FROM THE CHAIR

### Labor News

We're pleased to announce that the two year wait for the Tri-Cities Lab workers is OVER. Last week, the **UFCW Local 21** represented workers ratified their **FIRST CONTRACT**. It was a long drawn out battle during an unfavorable economy, that involved an attempt to de-certify the union last year and repeated failures in arbitration. The employees successfully certified the union in early '08 and now they finally have a contract!

We're hoping to get a speaker from the Local to talk at our upcoming County Convention. If you'll recall **Brock Ruby** briefly spoke at our holiday party in '08. Well now he'll really have something to celebrate! Huzzah to Local 21, their organizers, negotiation

team and membership.

Also on the labor front, you may not be aware, but the Tri-Cities and Yalley employees of the **Columbia River District of the Red Cross** are trying to get a contract as well. They've been 'negotiating' since last year to no avail. Obviously they don't want to strike, but their lead negotiator **Rich Davies** of the **Teamsters Local 893** has the 80% approval of its membership to strike if necessary. We wish them luck with their negotiations. Hopefully we'll get a favorable progress report on their efforts at our Convention as well.

### County Convention April 12

Regarding the County Convention: mark it on your calendar **Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. We have a special flyer planned with our Newsletter next month providing more details as to location, times, etc. . And remember we're combining the event with the **8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Caucus** and **16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Sub-Caucus**. It will be at these Caucuses where we'll select our Delegates and Alternates to our **State Party Democratic Convention on June 26<sup>th</sup>** in Vancouver.

Kendall Miller our 8<sup>th</sup> LD Chair and Floyd Hodges our 16<sup>th</sup> LD Representative will be handling Caucus duties. And also I should mention that Chuck LoPresti has again accepted our invitation to Chair the **County Resolutions & Platform Committee** that's described further elsewhere in our Newsletter.

It will be at our Convention that our Resolutions and County Platform will be ratified. Note that these documents will be available for your on our website under Documents. We will identify them as DRAFT and FINAL when ratified by our Convention.

**Coupons:** Don't forget to look for more coupons in our Newsletter and patronize these businesses. And if you know of a business, that would be willing to advertise in our newsletter that reaches over 500 homes and is on our website, PLEASE let us know.

**TVW Is Back:** Our supporters that live in Richland will be pleased to know that TVW our state's broadcast of Olympian government in action, will be returning to Richland Cable. It should be available in the coming weeks over Channel 18 that's presently used for U of W lectures. If you're so inclined please let the City manager & council know you're supportive of the change.

---

## CALL FOR MEMBERS: PLATFORM AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - MARCH 2 -

We are organizing a Platform and Resolutions Committee for this election year, and we are looking for members to review/rewrite/accept/reject the resolutions and proposals for platform planks that we're expecting to come our way.

Interested persons please contact Chuck Lo Presti at [clopresti@owt.com](mailto:clopresti@owt.com) or 509-946-0926. I'm calling a kick-off meeting Tuesday, March 2 at 5:30 pm at the Richland Public Library. Please come as you are able.

Resolution and platform, work can be enormously tedious and demanding, and in my view it is enormously important, because it is on the front lines

of defining what the Democratic Party in Benton County and beyond stands for, as well as defining the legislative agenda. We need you!

**Chuck Lo Presti**

---

## ADVERTISING IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

We will be trying to help defray the cost of our mailings with local advertising. Please look for the ad(s) and help support the businesses that choose to support your local Democratic Party.

**15% OFF** Any Order \$10 or more for Democrats  
with this Coupon [expires 3/31/2010]

- >>> **Gourmet Soul** <<<  
We Love To Feed Ya ! ! !

Gourmet Soul is a place where you can go to get great tasting food at reasonable prices. Our menu is down home soul food with a twist. Come hungry! Located in Richland, Guyer & Williams, South of the Uptown Shopping Center. So if you have a big crowd coming for dinner call ahead so you can experience the difference and taste the quality of Gourmet Soul. Phone us at 371 9649

See Menu at <http://gourmetsoul.food.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx>

---

## HOTLINE 546-8115

Web Site .... [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org)

### O'Callahan's

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 946-9006 **Sunday Brunch** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On the Riverfront at Comstock in Richland

Omelette stations with all the trimmings, Vegetable frittata, Cheese blintz's with NW berry compote, French toast with bananas & walnuts, Smokehouse bacon, Carved honey baked ham, Sausage & kielbasa, Biscuits & gravy, Traditional eggs benedict, NW eggs benedict with smoked salmon, Hashbrowns O'Brien, Fresh baked breads, muffins, scones, pastries & baby croissants, Fresh fruit & berry display, Assortment of desserts, Chocolate fountain, Beverages

*BOTTOMLESS CHAMPAGNE OR MIMOSAS*  
\$3.95

SENIORS...\$12.95

ADULTS...\$15.95

CHILDREN...\$8.95

CHILDREN UNDER 6 EAT FREE !



## EDITOR'S NOTES

The Editor also happens to be the President of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society ([lcbas.org](http://lcbas.org)), and

wishes to invite YOU and your family and friends to a movie double feature on March 6, 7PM, at the Battelle Auditorium.

The first show follows a Black-Chinned Hummingbird (they do nest in our area) from egg-laying to fledging of her young – “First Flight.” The second movie displays the warblers of the western US in all their glory by film makers whose credits include National Geographic and Nova. \$3 for child to 17 years, \$5 for adult 18 and up, \$15 maximum for families. Visit our website, [lcbas.org](http://lcbas.org), for complete details. Come join us for an evening of family fun.

## Tri City Democrats Need Your Help

The Tri-City Democrats are truly in need of your help. The organization is viewed by many as the social outreach of the local Democratic Party. Its charter encouraged the participation of both Benton and Franklin County Democrats. Its goal is to foster camaraderie and good will among Democrats while talking 'shop', candidates, campaigns and political issues. Its program was relatively simple; a potluck ~ 6 pm and a Program at 7 pm built around a speaker and topic relevant to the community. In years past the meetings were held in private homes, more recently, meeting halls have

been used. Frequently candidates were invited to speak, local officials and community leaders. It occasionally sponsored topical Forums and events on issues important to the Community. It's a formula that worked for so many years. Perhaps it needs to be tweaked a bit

They held their February Meeting, a reorganization meeting, with disappointing attendance. In addition to the election of new officers, the main feature of the evening was the reading of the previous year's political predictions by its members. And amidst the ensuing discussions of winners and losers and a healthy spirit of discourse, new predictions were written for the current political year and secreted off until 2011.

In the past it was one of the most well attended and popular meetings held. This year, it was poorly attended and as a result only one of the vacant positions had a nominee, that of Treasurer, the position Kendall Miller indicated that he'd be most willing to continue for 2010. The positions of President, Franklin County Representative, Benton County Representative and Secretary were unfilled.

Those in attendance expressed concerned that the group may not continue for lack of support. Like so many organizations today, i.e. service clubs, fraternal clubs and professional organizations, it's becoming more and more difficult to attract the sustained support of interested individuals.

Please consider your participation in this organization in the month of March. Their meeting will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Richland Labor Hall. Potluck at 6 pm, Program at 7. Hope to see you there.

## MARCH 2010 CALENDAR

**Tuesday, March 2**

7:00pm - [Drinking Liberally .....](#)

**Friday, March 5**

All day - [Hanford Friday OFF \(site-wide\)](#)

12:00pm - [UFW Rally Re: Fired Dairy Workers](#)

**Monday, March 8**

7:00pm - [Mid Columbia Community 4 Change](#)

**Tuesday, March 9**

7:00pm - [Drinking Liberally .....](#)

**Friday, March 12**

6:00pm - [Tri\\_City Democrats @ Richland Labor Hall](#)

**Sunday, March 14**

All day - [Daylight Saving Time Begins](#)

**Tuesday, March 16**

7:00pm - [Drinking Liberally .....](#)