

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

March 2005 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

Mark your calendars! Our first venture into preparation for a better organization will be a brain-storm session at the Plumbers & Steamfitters Hall in Pasco on Saturday, March 12th from 10:00-4:00. All Benton County Democrats are invited. Please bring a brown bag lunch or plan to go to one of the many nearby restaurants. We'll break into small groups at the hall to set goals for the County organization and then combine the results to prioritize those goals to come up with a two-year plan of action we can all sign on to.

Along with goals, the Exec Committee is discussing how to adequately fund our organization. We discussed pledges so that we can more accurately plan our training and actions for the year. We'll ask all our supporters to pledge at least \$5.00 per month. For the cost of one latte or less than one glass of wine, we can do a better job for our candidates and better train our PCOs. If you prefer to make a one-time contribution, you can still do that, of course. Contact someone on the Exec Committee to let them know what you think.

I'd like to bring in Team-building Trainers this year to get us all going in the same direction. Initially, perhaps only the voting members would attend, but then we'd like to extend it. I like the mental image of a rope bridge with each of us as a strand unable to hold up the organization, but woven together we form a bridge capable of supporting our candidates and issues and strong enough to span the gaps where we can't all agree. I think the image has power for me be-

cause Clinton and Gore spoke of building a bridge to the 21st Century.

We are currently working on a new website for Benton County Democrats. The web address will be: www.bencodems.org Letters or information can be submitted to Matt Kizerian, our Newsletter Editor, at: editor@bencodems.org for consideration. We are looking for a Webmaster for this site. It's a position of great importance and we need someone who'll commit to the job for at least a year. If you have the skills required and want to make a real difference, please call me at 627-2679 or Matt Kizerian at 585-4900.

2005 is off to a good start. We'll come out of it stronger, better equipped and better prepared for upcoming elections. Speaking of upcoming elections, we're looking for candidates for City Council and School Board positions this year. You can call Sheila Sullivan, our Candidate Search Committee Chair, at 375-1789 if you or someone you know is interested.

Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

WA-PAC Action Committee Meeting

Washington Patriots Action Committee (WA-PAC), formerly Tri-Cities for Kerry, has reorganized into a community service oriented organization. This month's meeting is: February 24th at 7:00 pm and will be at the Richland Library. Our speaker is Don Porter, Director of the Union Gospel Mission.

We are collecting items desperately needed by the UGM and Family Shelter. These items are as follows:
Clothing: Men's items: socks, underwear (sizes 32, 34, 36), T-shirts (sizes L and XL), PJ bottoms, and coats of all sizes.
Women's items: socks, underwear (sizes 5, 6, 7 & 8 bikini style), coats, and bras.
Toiletries: Disposable razors, small bars of soap, trial size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and deodorant. Also, feminine products.

Charlotte Lewis

4th CD Conference on Activism

The 4th Congressional District Democratic Committee is sponsoring a "Conference on Activism" February 26th, from 10:00-4:00 (Morning: Business meeting, afternoon: Lakoff Presentation) at the Carpenters' Hall, Local Union # 770, 507 South Third Street, Yakima.

We are contacting activist groups that worked in the 4th CD and the State to send a representative to the conference. We are asking them to give us an overview of their organization, Lessons Learned, and any future activities of their group.

One of the goals of the Conference is to heighten the awareness of all grassroots activist groups that worked the last election cycle.

For more information go to www.4thcdDemocrats.org or contact: Charlotte Lewis by phone at (509) 375-0299 or by e-mail at theweb_98902@yahoo.com.

March BCDCC Meeting

The March BCDCC Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16th, at 7:00 pm, at the Benton County Community Center, 802 E. 8th St. (behind US Bank).

Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. Personally written 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. Reference articles without publication name, date, and author will not be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Edited submissions will be returned for review.

Please send submissions to Matt Kizerian at editor@bencodems.org E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

Upcoming Events—Con't

Tri-Cities Democrats Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, March 4. Adriene Stuart, from Planned Parenthood will be speaking to us. Hosts will be Ken and Sharon Ferrigno.

Leona Hassing, President,
Tri-City Democrats

Democracy For America Meeting

The March Meet-up will be held March 2nd at the Kennewick Library on Union in Room 'E'. We're going to mobilize our local DFA grassroots to protect Social Security by using the framing techniques we learned at the January Meet-up. We will craft a local action plan to protect our seniors and our economy. Start spreading the word now! This Meet-up will be a crucial component of the fight to protect Americans' retirement security.

Bob Parazin

4th CD March Membership Meeting

The 4th Congressional Membership Meeting will be held March 5 in Yakima, at the Carpenters' Hall, Local Union #770, 507 South Third Street, Yakima. The meeting will be held from 10 am – 3 pm, with a business meeting in the morning, and the Lakoff Presentation in the afternoon. For more information go to www.4thcdDemocrats.org.

April State Committee Meeting

The State Committee meeting will be held April 1st & 2nd at Columbia Basin College in the Byron Gjerde Center. CBC is located at 2600 North 20th Ave., Pasco, WA 99301. Registration, caucus meetings and the lunchtime banquet will be held at: Red Lion, Pasco, 2525 North 20th Ave., Pasco, WA 99301. Call for room registration, 1-800-325-4000.

Young Democrats Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Young Democrats February 28th, at 7pm, at the Richland Library. If you, or someone you know, is ready to get active and have their voice heard in an audience of their peers, and is under the age of 30 or so (we're not too picky) come join us at the meeting! For more information, or for any questions concerning membership, contact Caity Guyette at Ceitidh@msn.com.

Event Reports

February Tri-Cities Democrats Mtg.

The Tri-City Democrats listened to Zona Lenhart, Franklin County Auditor, share with us events, issues and stories related to the Governor's race at our February meeting. Prior to listening to Zona, the group enjoyed our traditional potluck, a short business meeting, and status reports from Benton and Franklin County. The evening was hosted by Kae and Pete Hopkins.

Leona Hassing, President,
Tri-City Democrats

Proposed By-Laws

Proposed By-Laws, 2005–2006, for the Benton County Democratic Central Committee were presented for members' consideration at the 16 February BCDCC meeting. A copy of these By-laws may be obtained by contacting Leona Hassing, Executive Chair of the Bylaws Committee (e-mail LHassing@aol.com, phone 946–8140). Suggested changes or additions should be in writing and forwarded to Leona. Adoption of the Bylaws will be on the agenda for the March BCDCC meeting on 17 March.

Bob Bowersock,
Organizational Committee Chair

State Committee Meeting

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee met January 28 & 29, 2005 in Olympia. Those attending from the Benton County Democratic Central Committee as voting members were: State Committeewoman, Phyllis Bowersock and State Committeeman Dann Lewis. The main order of business was to elect executive officers and Congressional District Executive Board members for 2005–2006. Our representatives made a concerted effort to remove the rule that required voting members to sign their ballots, and it failed without a vote by rule of the acting Chair. Those elected were Paul Berndt, Chair; Eileen McCall, Vice Chair; Luis Moscoso, Secretary; and Habib Habib, Treasurer.

Guest speakers for the event were Congressman Jim McDermott and Congressman Dennis Kucinich. Everyone was invited to attend a reception at the Governor's mansion as a guest of Governor Gregoire.

If you have questions call Dann Lewis or Phyllis Bowersock. The next State Central Committee meeting will be in April in the east side.

Phyllis Bowersock
State Committee Woman

Election Reform Task Force

The task force held a meeting Wednesday, February 16th at CBC. Those who attended said that many different ideas were discussed. Input from democratic voters is necessary! Please go to the election reform website and fill out a questionnaire before February 28th. These citizen guidance reports will be used in the final report made to Governor Christine Gregoire on March 1st.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/electionreform>



Web Resources

★ www.dnc.org The website for the Democratic National Committee. Has current news items of interest, as well as resources for voter outreach, etc.

★ www.moveon.org The MoveOn PAC's website.

MoveOn serves to educate the public on salient issues, and to link the public to their legislators to promote positive action.

★ www.thismodernworld.com Cartoonist Tom Tommorrow's blog on progressive issues. Interesting and informative with links to his political cartoons hosted on Salon.com.



Book List

★ *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas L. Friedman

★ *The Politics of Truth: Inside the Lies that Led to War and Betrayed My Wife's CIA Identity—A Diplomat's*

Memoir by Joseph Carter Wilson

★ *MoveOn's 50 Ways to Love Your Country: How to Find Your Political Voice and Become a Catalyst for Change* by the Staff

★ *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001* by Steve Coll

Democracy For America

We had a fine February meeting. We had some returning faces and a new member! In the early part of the meeting we shared observations regarding the State Reorganization Convention held in Olympia on Jan 29. The recently elected Vice-Chair of the state Labor Caucus, Dann Lewis provided his observations as did a number of the other state committee members that had attended.

We also asked for volunteers to fill the three key groups needed to continue the viability and vitality of Democracy for America, namely the Legislative Action Group, Candidate Support/Training Group and the Steering Committee.

We handed out Letter Writing Kits to be used in sending out Letters to the Editor(s) to demonstrate local Democratic support of Howard Dean's fight to become head of the Democratic National Committee. We also distributed materials on Dean's plans for the DNC.

John Harder of "Citizens Alliance of Central Washington [CACW]" was going to lead a discussion on a film to be shown entitled "Global Banquet: The Politics of Food". CACW is an activist group sponsored by churches, unions, etc. sited in central WA. John had to cancel, but the film was very informative and surprising in its breadth of coverage. Also distributed was a listing of web sites related to farmers and agriculture issues with a populist/progressive slant.

Bob Parazin

State News

The following votes were cast by the Leadership of the State of Washington for National Candidates:

Paul Berendt voted for: Howard Dean, Chair; Mike Honda, Vice Chair; Lottie Shackelford, Vice Chair (unopposed); Susie Turnbull, Vice Chair & Linda Chavez Thompson, Vice Chair.

Eileen McColl voted for: Howard Dean, Chair; Alvaro Cifuentes, Vice Chair; Lottie Shackelford, Vice Chair (unopposed); Nancy Jane Woodside, Vice Chair; & Linda Chavez Thompson, Vice Chair.

Karen Marchioro voted for: Howard Dean, Chair; Mike Honda, Vice

Chair; Lottie Shackelford, Vice Chair (unopposed); Susie Turnbull, Vice Chair; & Linda Chavez Thompson, Vice Chair.

David McDonald voted for: Howard Dean, Chair; Alvaro Cifuentes, Vice Chair; Lottie Shackelford, Vice Chair (unopposed); Susie Turnbull, Vice Chair; & Linda Chavez Thompson, Vice Chair.

Ed Cote voted for: Howard Dean, Chair; Mike Honda, Vice Chair; Lottie Shackelford, Vice Chair (unopposed); Susie Turnbull, Vice Chair; & Linda Chavez Thompson, Vice Chair.

Patricia Whitfoot via proxy carried by Karen Marchioro voted for: Howard Dean, Chair; Alvaro Cifuentes, Vice Chair; Lottie Shackelford, Vice Chair (unopposed); Susie Turnbull, Vice Chair; & Linda Chavez Thompson, Vice Chair.

Ron Sims voted for: Howard Dean, Chair; Mike Honda, Vice Chair; Lottie Shackelford, Vice Chair (unopposed); Susie Turnbull, Vice Chair; & Linda Chavez Thompson, Vice Chair.

Total Washington Votes: Howard Dean was elected by acclamation; Mike Honda 4, Alvaro Cifuentes 3 - (Honda Elected); Lottie Shackelford (elected by acclamation); Linda Chavez Thompson 7, Susie Turnbull 6, Nancy Jane Woodside 1, Marjorie Fields Harris 0, Dianne Wilkerson 0.

Honda (from California) beat Cifuentes (from Puerto Rico) by about forty votes. Chavez-Thompson and Turnbull (both incumbents) were elected decisively on the first vote for the female vice chair positions. Nancy Jane Woodside - who was from Utah received about 10 of the 420 votes cast. Candidates Marjorie Fields Harris and Dianne Wilkerson who were from the Northeast each received over fifty votes - but none from our state.

Paul Berendt, State Chair

Speakers Needed for Local Central Committee Programs

Paul Berendt recently sent out an e-mail with the following message:

We are currently assembling a speaker bureau and programs for local central committees throughout the state. We are focusing initially on three subject matters; Social Security reform; The Bush effort to raise electrical rates in the Northwest through the dismantling of

the BPA; and the federal Budget deficit. We have already made a connection with several energy and senior organizations. I am asking you to forward the names of people who might be qualified to speak to local central committees on these subject matters or other issues of concern that we could then make available to central committees for consideration.

If you have some expertise in an issue area that you would like to make available as a program to a local central committee please forward your name to henry@wa-democrats.org or call Angela Henry at 206-583-0664. We look forward to building a strong speakers committee.

Jaxon Ravens
Managing Director

Washington State Democrats
(206) 583-0664

National News

DNC Chair Howard Dean's Plan for the Future of the Democratic Party

Governor Dean's Plan for the Future of the Democratic Party:

Show Up! Never concede a single state, county, district, or voter. Build a truly national party that wages a permanent campaign in all 50 states.

Strengthen State Parties and the Grass-roots. Better integrate state and national party operations and support Democrats organizing in local communities.

Focus on Our Core Values. Articulate core Democratic values strongly and clearly, and show people how our agenda for reform reflects those values.

Take Advantage of Cutting-Edge Technologies. Leverage the Internet and cutting-edge technologies to better organize, empower, and communicate with people.

Train Tomorrow's Leaders. Strengthen our leadership institutes so we can recruit new talent, cultivate new leaders, and elect Democrats at every level of office.

Howard Dean
Governor/DNC Chair

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. See submission information on the front page.

March 2005

Hillary Clinton Interview

By Associated Press, 2/20/2005 18:11

WASHINGTON (AP) Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday the United States should not set a deadline for withdrawing troops from Iraq so it can help the fledgling government secure the country.

Clinton, D-N.Y., spoke by telephone from Kuwait after two days in Iraq, where she and four other senators, including John McCain, R-Ariz., met with military personnel and Iraqi officials.

Clinton and McCain previously criticized the Pentagon's planning and execution of the Iraq effort. Clinton said a deadline for withdrawal would strengthen the hand of the insurgents who are conducting daily attacks.

"I don't think it's useful to set a deadline because I think it sends a signal to the terrorists and the insurgents that they just have to wait us out," said Clinton, who lives in Chappaqua, N.Y.

The senator said all the Iraqis she met opposed a public deadline for U.S. troop withdrawal.

Events

February

- 26 Conference on Activism, 10-4, Local Union # 770, 507 S. 3rd St., Yakima
- 28 Young Democrats Meeting 7:00 pm, Richland Library

March

- 2 Democracy For American MeetUp, Room B, Mid-Columbia Library, Kennewick, Union Branch, 7 pm.
- 4 Tri-Cities Democrats Meeting, potluck at 6:00, meeting at 7:00 at Richland Labor Hall
- 5 4th CD Membership Meeting 10:00 am, Carpenters Hall Local #770, 507 S. 3rd St., Yakima
- 9 Executive Committee Meeting
- 16 March BCDCC Meeting, Benton City Community Center, 802 E. 8th St. (behind US Bank), 7:00 pm
- 25 Last day to submit material for the April Newsletter

April

- 1,2 State Committee Meeting CBC, Byron Gjerde Center

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 ★	3	4	5 ★
6	7	8	9 ★	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 ★	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 ★	26
27	28	29	30	31		

(April continued)

- 20 May BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Union Street Library, Kennewick
- 22 Last day to submit material for the May newsletter

May

- 18 May BCDCC Meeting Richland Library Gallery 7:00 pm
- 27 Last day to submit material for the June newsletter

August

- 13 Benton County Summer Picnic Keewaydin Park, Kennewick Noon to dusk

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