

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*  
**THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER**



**Mar. 2008**

[WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG](http://WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG)

**509-585-7682**

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**From the Chair**

**I WAS WRONG** and readily, even happily admit it. Back in November when we were planning the Caucuses, I believed our turnout would be somewhere between our 04 [700+] and our 06 [100+] numbers say 450, largely due to the weak grass roots candidate support I had seen. But to allow for overflow, we planned on a bounding capacity of 700. As you know, it turned out to be 1444, clearly a record along with all our other figures. So those of you who insisted that we'd have a record turnout, INCLUDING our State Party Chair, Mimi, Erik, and others, you were right!

We were fortunate that our 7 Caucus Leaders and 26 Assistants rose to the occasion and together with the most understanding and accommodating caucus goers imaginable, it turned out to be a pretty good experience for everyone. We held a 'Lessons Learned' meeting for our Caucus Coordinators a few days ago and I was both excited and humbled by their enthusiasm, honesty, frankness, and demonstrated commitment. When you consider that only a few of them had any real Caucus leadership experience in the past, it was truly amazing! A loud HA ZAH for **Nancy Beitel, Kathy White, Kendall Miller, Brad/Kirby Taylor,**

**Regina Speer and Jim Timmons.** Our '08 Presidential Caucus will become our new, record setting benchmark for the future.

**8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Caucuses – April 5<sup>th</sup>**

For ALL those supporters who were elected at the Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> Caucuses as Delegates or Alternates, our next round of delegate selection to the Convention will occur on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> at Kamiakin HS. We'll be personally contacting everyone who was elected as a reminder to the event. More specifics will be in our April Newsletter and website. Please look for it and mark April 5<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We DO plan to have Caucus and Training Sessions on March 15<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> [see Calendar]. Also note that our County Convention has moved to Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> a week later than previously scheduled and tentatively set for Southridge High Auditorium.

**Fearing Campaign Update –  
February/March**

**Mimi Latta**

The caucuses in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District surpassed everyone's expectations. In Benton County, every caucus site was standing room only. This was good news and bad news for the George Fearing campaign. The good news is that we have many more names to call upon in our quest for volunteers, staff and monetary supporters. The bad news was that there was no time to play the DVD George sent to each caucus site to thank caucus goers and urge them to get involved and no time at most sites to sign up volunteers or pass out bumper stickers. Still, once the results are compiled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, we'll have a great list to contact. Don't be surprised if we call you to ask for your assistance in defeating Doc

Hastings. – Of course, you don't have to wait for us to call; you can contact us to volunteer!

Then on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, George and a few supporters started at 6:30 in the morning to drive around the 4<sup>th</sup> CD so that George could make his formal campaign announcement. We stopped in Yakima, Wenatchee, Moses Lake and Richland so that George could talk to supporters, give his new stump speech and be interviewed by local press. We sincerely want to thank Ginny McIntyre and John Vann for helping out all day long. We also want to thank all the Democrats who came out to see George along the way and urge him to unseat the incumbent.

We are continuing to work hard to get George's message of a return to balanced budgets, health care for all Americans, an end to American troops in Iraq – and competent medical care for our troops, a lessening of reliance on foreign oil, a reduction in green house gases and fair trade, not free trade with American trade partners.

If you'd like to help our campaign by volunteering or making a donation, go to: [www.georgefearing.com](http://www.georgefearing.com) and under "Pages", click on "Contact the Campaign" to offer your assistance. Or call me at 627-2679.

This is our year. You are part of the answer. Things are going to change for the better and **Change Starts NOW!**

## **Carmichael Caucus**

**Nancy Beitel, Area Caucus Coordinator**

The caucus at Carmichael in Richland held 33 precincts. People started arriving at the cafeteria around 12:40 and they just kept coming, and coming, and coming. I estimate that we had around 375 people, which meant standing room only for many. One precinct had over 50 participants. It was a crowd effort to have everybody find his or her precinct and sign in by 1:30. Meanwhile, over the noise and movement, with the help of the mike the precincts were instructed to choose a chair, tally clerk and secretary. For many, this was a new experience and most seemed to enjoy the process. However one participant asked me why are we using such an archaic system and not just mailing in our ballots for the primary. I think the caucus brought us together for

actual conversation, debate, and learning. It was a good thing and very exciting! I had an excellent, helping committee to put it all together. Thank you all.

## **'08 Caucus at Kennewick High Kathy White, Area Caucus Coordinator**

The caucuses at Kennewick High School were attended by 313 people who signed in and several others (mostly children) who did not. This was the largest turnout ever at this location and there was some chaos due to the large number. People did find their precincts and neighbors met, often for the first time, and delegates to the Legislative District (8<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>) were elected. No one expected this to be a two-person race at this time. Hilary Clinton supporters supplied information about her candidacy. Barack Obama was represented by enthusiastic supporters, but with no literature. George Fearing, candidate for U.S. Congress stopped by and met with attendees personally – everyone was engaged in precinct deliberations when he arrived.

The system of caucuses was encountered, figured out, accomplished and democracy is flourishing. And when they left, attendees had smiles on their faces.

## **Hanford Caucus '08**

**Regina Speer**

The site was filled; the noise was deafening; and the energy was abundant. 290 Democrats streamed into the Commons at Hanford school to express their political will. There were the Obama supporters, both young and old, and enthusiastic for their candidate. They came with signs and stickers, determined to make a difference. The Hillary people melded more into the din. Outnumbered, they pressed ahead, taking the delegate slots available to them. Some precincts overflowed. Several had more than 30 voters attend. Every precinct was represented. Sometimes confusion and chaos seemed to reign, but patience and persistence ruled. It was a great day for Democrats. Hanford attendees were terrific in their support for their candidates and generous to the local party.

## THANK YOU OBAMA SUPPORTERS

### Bob Bowersock

Turnout for the Benton County Democratic Precinct Caucuses, Saturday, February 9th, was a record high at 1,444. Compared to the '06 caucus attendance of 100+ and the previous presidential year caucus of '04 of 700+, this was a major accomplishment. The number of delegates elected was 295 for Obama, (60%); 190 for Hillary (38%); 10 uncommitted (2%) and 1 delegate for Edwards.

A special thanks to Josh Hyman, the Obama regional field representative and his dedicated lap top/phone crew for their hours of work on getting people to the caucuses. Josh has been reassigned to help out in Ohio. I wish him success there also.

Sylema Pacheco has tentatively arranged for an "Obama Rally" to watch the election returns from Ohio and Texas on Tuesday, **March 5th**. The "Rally" will be held at the Richland Community Center at around 5:30 p.m. All are invited. Please check the Democratic Hot Line, 585-7682 to confirm the time. Bring a few snacks to share with other supporters.

### THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION

#### Bob Bowersock

The delegate selection process is a three-tiered election process. The 1st tier was the precinct caucus of February 9th, where your precinct elected delegates and alternates to represent your precinct at your Legislative District (LD) caucus to be held on Saturday, April 5th. At the LD caucus, the 2nd tier of election of delegates and alternates will be held to determine who will represent your LD at the Congressional District (CD) caucus to be held on Saturday, May 17th. At the CD caucus a 3rd tier election will be conducted to elect delegates and alternates to the August 25-28, 2008, National Convention in Denver. Our CD, the 4th, will elect 2 males and 1 female delegate and 1 female alternate to the National Convention.

While any registered voter in the 4th CD is eligible to run for national delegate or alternate, only those

delegates (or seated alternates) elected at their LD caucus are eligible to vote at this 3rd tier election. A person wishing to be considered for election as a national delegate/alternate must file a statement of candidacy designating his or her presidential (or uncommitted) preference and a signed pledge of such support with the State Party no sooner than March 5, 2008, nor later than Friday, May 2, 2008 at 5:00p.m.

### PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY NUMBERS

#### Bob Bowersock

For people who like to crunch numbers, here are the results from the State Website.

#### Benton Co.

78,251 Registered voters, 42,235 Ballots cast (53.97%) of which 11,828 were by Democrats and 20,635 were by Republicans. 77% of ballots cast had political affiliations designated.

<b>Hillary</b>	5,921	49.69 %
<b>Obama</b>	5,509	46.23%

#### Statewide

<b>Obama</b>	349,244	51.20%
<b>Hillary</b>	311,668	45.69%

Total Democratic Votes	682,132	<b>57%</b>
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McCain	258,870	49.48%
Huckabee	125,781	24.04%

Total Republican Votes	523,147	<b>43%</b>
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Total Votes 1,205,279

### Upcoming Events -

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

**(See Calendar for others)**

## March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>*Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm</b>				<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 *</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11* Executive Board Mtg (check HOTLINE for time &amp; place)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Caucus &amp; Convention Training, IBEW, 1 pm</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 *</b>	<b>19 Central Committee Mtg 7 pm IBEW</b>	<b>20 Finance Comm Budget/Fundraising Mtg 6:30 RCC</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 * Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27 Operations Comm Mtg 6:30 RCC</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29 Caucus &amp; Convention Training, IBEW, 1 pm</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

- **Drinking Liberally - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available!**
- **IBEW – Local 77 Hall, 2626 W. Clearwater, Kenn      RCC -- Richland Community Center      MCLU -Mid-Columbia Library 16<sup>th</sup> & Union      MCLD --Mid-Columbia Library 405 Dayton St, Kennewick in Keewaydin Park**