

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

May 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

Thank you to all those who helped make our County Convention & LD Caucuses such a success. It was a long, busy, tiring day, but we completed the Platform and most of the resolutions. We will discuss and vote on the rest of the resolutions at the May 19th BCDCC meeting, 6:00 pm at the Richland Library Gallery to send to the State Convention June 5th.

I want to especially thank Andy Miller for chairing the convention. He did a great job, hanging in there even when we went into overtime. Ginny McIntyre was a wonderful Secretary; handling the difficult job of keeping track of the changes in the Platform language and the computer technology we used for the first time. Bob Bowersock was ready as parliamentarian, Michele Levenite and the entire Credentials committee worked extremely hard to help 250 delegates and alternates with registration, presidential preference changes and percentages. Phyllis Bowersock sold our Beat Bush buttons all day. Alma Cahn, Betty King, Sunny Cook, Kathy Ely & an anonymous delegate helped sell Dem merchandise. Gloria Cummins, Judy Gustafson, Fannie Gunn & Alma Cahn helped with coffee & doughnuts. Merci mille fois!

A special "thank you" goes to Paradise Bottled Water who donated the bottled water and use of their dispensers on Saturday. We recommend their services to all of our members.

My deepest thanks go to John Latta. When I was home, I was either on the phone or the computer or about to be! You're the best.

Moving on, we'll begin Get Out the Vote actions soon. One place we'd really like to cover is the Pasco Farmer's Market on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. If you know of any other places we should target, please let me know.

The Republicans think they can take WA State this year. We'll have to work hard to register new voters as well as encourage those already registered to get out to the polls. I'd like to have some voter training later in the summer or early in the Fall as well. I can't do it alone, so I'm asking each of you to call me or one of the other officers to volunteer some time. George Bush must not be re-elected. His blunders argue forcibly against him. Please help. We must not lose.

Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

Congressional District Caucus: The Third Step

Our 4th Congressional Caucus will take place at the Carpenters Hall (507 S. 3rd St.) in Yakima. The Caucus will convene at 10:00 am and will elect one Presidential Elector, two members (one male and one female) to the Judicial Review Panel, four Delegates (two male and two female) to the National Convention and one Alternate (male) to the National Convention.

Final allocation of National Delegate among the Presidential Candidates will be determined by attendance at the Caucus; therefore, it is very important that you attend to support your candidate. Additional National Delegates will be elected at the State Convention, depending on the final State Delegate count there.

The Caucus Rules are in the State Convention packet. If you do not have a Packet contact Mimi Latta. If you have not filled in the Convention Registration Form (located in the Packet) you will not be on the Delegate List and cannot be seated.

Floyd Hodges, State Committee Man

May BCDCC Meeting

The May 19th Benton County Democrats Central Committee Meeting will be at the Richland Library in the Doris Roberts Gallery, with light snacks at 6:00 pm and the meeting from 7:00-8:45 pm.

Tune-In

Welcome Air America

Finally, a "fair and balanced" approach to talk radio! Air America began broadcasting in April with shows by Al Franken, Janeane Garofalo, Randy Rhodes and others. If you are in Portland, listen on AM 620; satellite radio stations are XM 167 and Sirius 125. It may be a while before we have an affiliate in the Tri-Cities, so until then you can listen on-line: see airamericaradio.com.

From the 16th LD

At the Benton County Democratic Convention, the 16th LD Caucus elected the following delegates and alternates: **Kerry delegates:** Janice Taylor, Molly Harker, Tom Gray, Ricky Walsh. **Alternates:** Bill Wilcoxson, Karen Dunbar.

Dean delegate: Floyd Hodges. **Alternate:** Anne Kizerian.

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.

The submission deadline for letters and reference articles is the 3rd Sunday of each month. Calendar items and brief event information may be submitted up to the 4th Sunday.

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 by the 4th Wednesday.

Please send submissions to:

bencodems_newsletter@earthlink.net

E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call 509-585-4900.

From the 8th LD

At the Benton County Democratic Convention, the 8th LD Caucus elected 29 Delegates to represent us at the 4th Congressional District Caucus on May 29th and at the State Convention June 5th.

Twenty-two are supporting John Kerry and seven carry Howard Dean's message.

Kerry delegates: Scott Brines, Barbara McFarlin-Kosiec, Madison Storm, Therese Howe, Gary Henne, Kristin Eby, Theresa LoPresti, David Harvey, M. Jean Thompson, Dave Molnaa, Gloria Williamson, John David, Kirby S. Taylor, Glynn Stevens, Michele Levenite, Roberto Cornejo, Ellen Hostetler, Frank Cole, Patricia Heasler, John D. Vann, Kenneth Buxton and Virginia McIntyre. **Alternates:** Kenny Wright, Charles LoPresti, D. Susan Eberlein, Mary Lou Wing, Sherry Bingman, Paul Brandis, Paul Jensen, Barry Place and John M. Vann.

Dean delegates: Kendall Miller, Sharon Briggs, Roger Briggs, Andrea Dugger, Andrew Dixon, R. Dean Burrows and Regina Speer. **Alternates:** Mac Dillsi and Jennifer Ovink.

Congratulations to all! Any questions should be directed to John or Mimi Latta at 509-627-2679.

John Latta, Chair

Event Reports

County Convention Report

The most impressive element was the enthusiasm of the record number of attendees. Of the 357 potential delegates eligible to attend, there were 210 in attendance (including 12 seated alternates). This was the largest attendance I have seen at a county convention in my 40+ years involvement in Benton County politics. Whereas there were numerous positive aspects, there were two disappointments from my point of view. One was the 32 delegates that were not permitted to participate in the delegates to State election process and the other was

the failure of Benton County to support the Fast Flux Test Reactor. With the anti-nuclear sentiment west of the Cascades, I realize that State support of the FFTF problem isn't realistic. However, here in Benton County where isotope production is not synonymous to production of nuclear weapons, we need to show leadership in support of privatization of the FFTF.

As for the 32 delegates that failed to be "viable" in the delegate selection process, 21 had changed to "Uncommitted" in an attempt to be viable. However, in the final count they were two shy of the 28 needed to meet the 15% threshold in the 8th Legislative District's caucus. Thus they lost their opportunity to select 4 delegates and 2 alternates to go on to State. Although 52 delegates in the 8th LD did make a change in their presidential preference, only 40% of them changed to uncommitted. The problem was that the adopted rules did not address a "viability count" prior to the "closure" of registration for the final credential report. Hopefully, this will be corrected in future democratic caucuses/conventions.

Bob Bowersock, Pct 160

Credentials Committee Thank You

Words can not express my appreciation to the people who were a part of the Credentials Committee. These hard working Democrats were on the front lines (so to speak) and came through with flying colors, doing whatever needed to be done, often sacrificing their participation in the Convention process. These people are the reason registration went as smoothly as it did and my heartfelt gratitude goes out to: John Latta, Jim Dillman, Ann & Bob Parazin, Ryan Block, Jim & Lisa Rogers, Joan Friberg, Jim Price, Floyd Hodges, Matt & Anne Kizerian and Kirby Taylor (who saw a need and jumped right in and helped register delegates and alternates). To quote the younger generation, you rock!

A special thank you goes out to John David who ran around fixing glitches, hauling coffee, moving tables and chairs, getting heat turned off and air conditioning turned on and generally was available to me and others for any crisis management, you rock!

I also want to thank the delegates, alternates and observers for their encouraging words, patience (and even hugs). You rock too!

Michele Levenite, Chair

Pre-Convention Open House Report

This article should have appeared in the April newsletter, but was unintentionally omitted by the editor.

It is my belief that the Central Committee must provide opportunities for the Democrats to participate. Potlucks, events, forums, etc. can become useful tools to capture the enthusiasm that was generated by the election of delegates/alternates at the Caucus and forwarded on to the County Convention. The Pre-Convention Open House was designed to keep the momentum strong in the weeks between the Caucus and County Convention.

Over 160 delegates, alternates and guests filled a colorfully decorated room at the Royal Hotel in Richland on Friday, March 19th. Besides enjoying a variety of hors d'oeuvres and drinks, the audience listened to state and local candidates.

I would like to thank my committee who worked very hard to make this event a huge success. Thanks go to Michele Levenite, who organized and displayed the hors d'oeuvres, Shirley Miller, Phyllis Bowersock, Margaret Munro, Naomi Sherer, and Floyd Hodges. Also to the many volunteers who donated food, time and support for the event, especially Jean Thompson, Gloria Cummins, Neal Finne, Stacy Hodges, Mimi and John Latta.... and THANKS to all who attended.

Leona Hassing, Chair



Web Resources

★ Blogs—short for *web logs*—are a type of on-line diary. Often used to share running commentary on a particular subject, blogs have become a good way to discuss current political topics. Some well-respected and insightful blogs are: talkingpointsmemo.com, emergingdemocraticmajorityweblog.com, and juancole.com.



Book List

★ *Plan of Attack*, by Bob Woodward

★ *1984*, by George Orwell

★ *Disarming Iraq*, by Hans Blix

★ *House of Bush, House of Saud: The Secret Relationship Between the World's Two Most Powerful Dynasties*, by Craig Unger

¡Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

A *muchas gracias bien grande* goes out to all who participated in the Cinco de Mayo parade last Saturday in Pasco. Present were Ginny McIntyre, Roger Dickey, Jean Thompson, Chris King, Roberto Cornejo, Jim Dillman, Bob & Ann Parazin, Anne & Matt Kizerian, and Mimi & John Latta. Candidates Sandy Matheson, Craig Mason, Richard Wright and Jared Koepp were also out in force. Ginny and Roger brought their Land Cruiser and decorated it with signs, flags, parrots and a "bit of fringe on the top"; Jared decked out his Land Cruiser with his campaign signs and Craig Mason's; and Richard Wright brought a 1949 Ford fire engine and entertained the kids by cranking up the siren. We went through over 30 pounds of candy and received lots of cheers of *¡Vivan los democratras!* from onlookers. Thanks again to all who helped us make such a good showing. Special thanks also goes to Gabriel Portugal for his help in making arrangements for the parade.

Fundraiser

An Update on the Beat Bush Button Project

So far, we have sold a total of 100 buttons, which means a total of \$3,365 raised for the 2004 election campaign. However, there are 265 left to sell.

For those of you who are not familiar with the project, our county chairperson came up with the idea last November that there were 365 days left until the 2004 election. Crunching some numbers, she computed that 10 cents a day for those 365 days until election was \$36.50 and thus the price for each individual BEAT BUSH BUTTON. This would yield a total profit of \$13,000 plus, which will support the headquarters and other Democratic projects to BEAT BUSH.

The unique feature of the buttons is that each button has a different date printed on it to represent one day of the year of the button sales. So you can buy your birthday, your wedding anniversary date your favorite child's birthday or your mother-in-law's birthday etc. Of course now 100 are gone so you need to hurry so you can get the date you want before it is taken. Contact Phyllis Bowersock 943-4559

National Convention

Those delegates elected at the County Convention have the chance to run for a National delegate position at the 4th Congressional District Caucus on May 29th in Yakima. There are additional slots to be voted on at the State Convention as well. In order to be eligible, Paul Berendt must receive the following letter *via* certified mail no later than May 15th. Send letters to:
Paul Berendt, Chair
WA State Democratic Party
P.O. Box 4027, Seattle WA 98194

Dear Mr. Berendt

I intend to be a candidate for National Convention delegate or alternate supporting (your presidential preference) and with my signature below pledge my support for (presidential preference). I am submitting this letter pursuant to Section III; Rule A.4.b. of the WA State Delegates Selection Plan for the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Your Name
Address
City & Zip
Phone & Email

Sincerely,
Your Signature

Also, you will be responsible for all your costs traveling to and during the National Convention. We want you to participate, but with no surprises.

Local News

New PCOs

Congratulations to our newest PCO, Ryan Block!

Letters to the Editor

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.

There were no letters to the editor submitted this month. Please consider utilizing this opportunity to share your feeling on subjects important to Democrats in our area, in future editions of the newsletter.

Focus Issue: Healthcare



Letter From the Editor

June is the first month the Bush administration's new Medicare plan takes effect. Billed by Tommy Thompson as the most significant update to Medicare since it was enacted in 1965, this plan's primary goal is to make prescription drugs more affordable. Sadly, this plan has been more about partisan politics than providing better health care.

As this election year approached, the Bush administration knew it had to make good on some of its campaign promises, including improved health care. Congress failed to pass the original Medicare reform plan by 13 votes in the House. The current plan was not viable until the stated cost was brought below \$400 billion. Unbeknownst to the Congress, however, the Congressional Budget Office had estimated the actual cost at \$550 billion. As reported in the Washington Post, Richard Foster, Medicare's chief actuary, was threatened with his job should he reveal this accurate, and significantly higher, cost estimate.

Now that individual prescription rates have been published, it is apparent that the plan doesn't truly address affordable drugs. For example, Celebrex costs between 5%–110% *higher* through the Medicare plan than through a reputable on-line pharmacy, such as drugstore.com. Two major shortcomings of the Act are that it doesn't allow government to bargain with pharmaceutical companies for lower drug prices, and that it doesn't allow for the reimportation of drugs from Canada.

We cannot continue to allow such deceptive politicking to get in the way of better health care. Write Sens. Murray and Cantwell and Rep. Hastings and share your opinions!

Next month's focus issue will be Defense spending.

Matt Kizerian, Editor

Corrections

In April's newsletter, when listing the names of people who spoke at the Pre-Convention Open House in April, Laura Ruderman, who is running for Secretary of State, was inadvertently omitted.

May 2004

Democratic Candidates

If you are aware of other candidates, please send names and positions to bencodemns_newsletter@earthlink.net.

Governor: Christine Gregoire,
Ron Sims

Lt. Governor: Brad Owen

Senator: Patty Murray

Secretary of State: Laura Ruderman

State Treasurer: Michael (Mike) J. Murphy

State Auditor: Brian Sonntag

State Insurance Commissioner:

Mike Kreidler

Public Lands Commissioner: Mike Cooper

Attorney General:

Deborah Senn, Mark Sidran

Supreme Court Justice:

Robert Alsdorf, Mary Kay Becker

4th CD Congressperson:

Craig Mason, Sandy Matheson,
Richard Wright

8th LD Representative: Jarad Koeppe



Events

May

- 1 Cinco de Mayo Parade, Pasco
- 7 Tri-City Democrats meeting, Richland Labor Hall. Potluck-6:00 pm, speaker 6:45 pm
- 11 Kerry Meet-up. 2118 Harris Ave., Richland. 7:00 pm
- 12 Exec. board meeting, 89 Bremmer, Richland. 6:00 pm
- 19 BCDCC meeting Doris Roberts Gallery in the Richland Library. Light snacks at 6:00 pm, meeting from 7:00-8:45 pm
- 29 Congressional District Caucuses: Delegates elected to the National Convention, Yakima

June

- 4-6 State Convention in Tacoma

July

- 4 4th of July Parade, Pasco
- 26 The filing period for PCOs is July 26th to August 13th
- 26-29 National Convention

August

- 14 Registration deadline for Primary Election
- 20 Annual Summer Picnic, 5:30 pm

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					

21 Benton-Franklin County Fair Parade, Kennewick

22 Assemble County Fair Booth, 8:30 am

24-28 Staff Benton-Franklin County Fair Booth

September

14 Primary Election

October

2 Deadline to register for general election

13 Absentee Ballots mailed

November

2 Election Day

6 Post-Election Party

Return Service Requested

Richland, WA 99352
P.O. Box 636

Benton County Democratic Party

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