

The Voice of Benton County Democrats
THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER



May 2008

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

HOTLINE 509-585-7682

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From the Chair

April was quite a busy month for the local Party; our LD Caucuses on April 5th with a record turnout of more than 700, our Candidate Reception at the Clarion with close to 300 people and our County Convention with close to 75. All in all, a pretty busy month! Our count indicates that close to 100 supporters helped in putting these events together. Some of our supporters did double and even triple duty; involved in all three events. We also had a large number of NEW supporters helping as well. It's most gratifying to see these new faces and I sincerely hope that their support and general participation in party activities continues.

Election years and particularly presidential years are busy. This year has been especially difficult with the confusion surrounding the presidential primary, multiple caucuses, and a separate County Convention. And the State's inauguration of the 'top two' Primary to be held in August will only add to the confusion. Please read the article on "Nominating Conventions – vs. the August Primary" for more explanation.

Our LDs within Benton County have elected **38 Delegates and 19 Alternates** to the **4th Congressional District Caucus on May 17th in Yakima** [see sched for time and place]. The Delegates who emerge from

this Caucus will be headed for Denver and the National Convention! We've been contacted by a number of these Delegates who want to do just that go to Denver! One of the Delegates headed to Yakima will be Elbert Timmes an Obama supporter from Precinct 690 in Kennewick. Elbert is an 82-year-old decorated World War II veteran who graciously led us in the Pledge of Allegiance at the County Convention. We particularly wish him well in his Delegate quest.

Nominating Conventions vs. the August Primary

Just as the State Democratic Party did not recognize the results of the Feb 19th Presidential Primary, the results of the upcoming August State-wide Primary will be ignored as well. In an effort to truly have Democrats select the Party's nominees for ALL partisan races in the State, the Party will implement a series of Nominating Conventions through which only recognized Democrats will be allowed to vote and select the Party's nominees. What this means for Benton County is pretty straightforward. Democratic candidates for Legislative District and partisan County positions will be elected by Precinct Committee Officers [PCOs] on May 21st at the County Central Committee Meeting. ALL PCOs will be contacted by mail and phone to assure their maximum participation in this effort at the County/LD level and at the Congressional District level as well. No NEW PCOs can be appointed prior to this Meeting because of the 30-day rule.

This policy is consistent with State Party Rules as implemented in 2005. It's similar to the process by which the Party replaces a vacated partisan position at the County or LD level. It is one of the principal responsibilities of a PCO to participate in such elections. The last time such a process was exercised in the County was in 1994 when a Democratically held 8th LD position was vacated and replaced by Tom Moak.

Any candidate who wants to file for public office and be on the November ballot must STILL follow state rules for filing, etc. So it's possible that at the close of June filings, there may be candidates that file as "Democrats" and their affiliation may be identified with a "D" on the November ballot, but unless they abide by Party rules, their candidacy will NOT be recognized by the Party; not unlike the results of the Feb 19th Presidential Primary. And it's quite possible that the ballot issued in November will NOT uniquely identify the Party nominated Democratic candidate. However this WILL BE mentioned in the Voter's Pamphlet.

'08 County Convention

We had a beautiful day, an excellent venue, terrific support from the Tri-City Democrats in providing a timely/tasty hot lunch and almost 75 participants. Though cut short by time, the Convention achieved its intended purpose. Our County Party Platform was approved along with 4 Resolutions recommended by the Platform/Resolutions Committee. At closure we were left with a number of Resolutions for further consideration. Their disposition will be left to the Platform/Resolutions Committee for future action. As a result, Benton County will forward the County Platform along with the passed Resolutions to the State Party's Platform and Resolutions Committee. Our own Platform and Resolutions Chair, Chuck LoPresti has been offered a seat on that Committee and it is hoped that he will champion our Platform efforts on that Committee. If you have an opportunity to talk with Chuck, please encourage and thank him for doing so. Chuck, Kendall Miller and our other Committee members brought considerable clarity and understanding to the myriad of statements, comments and preliminary resolutions and planks that were submitted to the party over the past few months. Their efforts ARE appreciated. Our Convention Chair, Andy Miller with help from Ginny McIntyre and John Latta, screen editors, and Convention Secretary Kendall Miller, evenhandedly and astutely managed the deliberations that extended through the afternoon. They're all to be commended for their efforts

February Caucus DONORS - HELP!

Regina Speer

You generously gave at the February 9, 2008 precinct caucuses. The BCDCC collected more than \$1100 in anonymous cash donations. However the Washington

state Public Disclosure Commission has ruled we must report the names of our donors. If we are unable to obtain the necessary information, we must return the money to the state general fund. Therefore, if you are one of our anonymous friends, please complete the online form, leave your name and number on the hotline, or mail the BCDCC the information.

WHO SIGNS PETITIONS FOR INITIATIVE 1000: Death with Dignity?

Laurel Piippo, Precinct 195

As of Friday, April 25, Yours Truly is # 31 in the state for having collected 378 signatures so far. We need 220,000 signatures by June 30. Here are three particularly memorable signers:

When I asked my cardiologist to sign, he said, "No, no, I'm not interested in politics."

I replied, "This isn't politics! It's non-partisan." He took a good look and said, ""I believe in this. I'll sign it."

At the Franklin County convention, one man said, "I was hospital chaplain for 320 years. You bet I'll sign this."

On April 22, the day of the public forum I was going nuts trying to find our guest speaker from Tacoma, who was trying to find me, and a TRI-CITY HERALD REPORTER was trying to find both of us. I was so distracted, I rear-ended the vehicle in front of me and followed the driver to a side street where we parked and got out to assess the damage. None. I apologized profusely, hesitated, and then asked, "Um. By the way, would you like to sign my petition?" He did.

Public Informational Forum - Death With Dignity Report (4-22-08)

Veda Guynes, President, Tri-City Democrats

As President of the Tri-City Democrats I would like to report that I felt that this, our FIRST, event was a **rousing success**. There are MANY people who worked long and hard on this forum, who spent their time in meetings, planning, and on the phone making arrangements so that this could happen. They gave of their time and energy in developing the flyers, handing them out, posting them, and talking about this forum at any group they attended and at any opportunity. Our purpose and their purpose were to create a vehicle that would allow our community to be knowledgeable and

aware of issues that could have a bearing on its population. I believe, that not just I, or Laurel Piippo, but the Event Committee did a great job! And I thank David Chassin for his encouraging words and feedback.

A marketing plan was developed and followed by the TCD, and the CBC ASB did a great job of advertising this event through their press releases to other colleges, website coverage, making sure it was in their weekly school bulletin, their visual messaging system, placing the message on screens on campus, and on their reader board, **even though their main contribution was to be the facility and the subsequent set-up.** I applaud Chris Fulton, the ASB President, and all that his group accomplished!

To set the record straight, during the middle of this event, my husband counted 55 people present. During the remainder of the event other people came in and also some left, and several left early. The Tri-City Herald and KVEW TV interviewed both speakers and subsequent coverage was given both in the Herald and on the news on KVEW. As a first time event, by a group not really known within the Tri-City area, I again state that in our book, this was a successful and well-attended event. Of course, at our next one, we will expect more people, as the word spreads that our informational forums are just that - good solid and factual information. And perhaps, if we are successful in our first attempt in this organization at fundraising, we can purchase advertisement, which will have an impact on attendance.

The majority of the audience gave great feedback, and they had an opportunity to ask any question that was meaningful or important to them. All but a few of the audience's questions were answered, as they were still writing questions as we were reaching the speakers' time to summate their points and had to stop accepting them. Again a sign that the audience was engaged in what the speakers were saying and participating in the forum.

Both speakers, Mr. Carlson and Dr. Olson, were excellent and professional in their delivery and their answers.

Our moderator, Mr. Blasdel, did an excellent job of moderation and guiding the forum process in a professional, timely, and easy manner. The true test in producing events is that the expected "Unexpected Challenges" be met professionally and gracefully. The Event Committee did that and I believe that the Tri-

City Democrats are on their way to being a "known" entity that supports the democratic base in the Tri-City area. We are on to planning the 'next event'.

If you are interested in being a part of unifying the democrats within the Tri-City and surrounding areas, please attend our next potluck on May 2, 6:30 pm, at the Labor Temple in Richland. We are having a 'timely' program on the Tri-City real estate picture at this meeting. For more information, you can call Leona Hassing, 492-4111 or Veda Guynes 946-1546.

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday – “Drinking Liberally”, 7 PM, at the Shilo... O'Callahan's

Friday, May 2th – Tri-City Democrats, **5:30 PM Potluck, 6:30 PM Program** ... Check **HOTLINE** for program specifics. **Note Time Change!**

Thursday, May 15th - Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 Richland Community Center Conference Room

Saturday May 17th – 4th CD Caucus and Nominating Convention, Eisenhower HS Auditorium, 702 S. 40th, Yakima 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 21st Central Committee Meeting/LD & County Nominating Convention, MC Library –Union St. Branch Kenn.

Thursday, May 29th Organization Committee Meeting, Richland Community Center, Conf. Rm



May

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Tri-City Democrats 5:30 PM NEW TIME !! RLT | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 *Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13* | 14 | 15 6:30 pm Exec. Board Mtg RCC | 16 | 17 4 th CD Caucus & Nominating Convention, 10 am EHS, Yakima |
| 18 | 19 | 20 * | 21 Central Comm & Nomination Convention Mtg 7pm MCLU | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27* | 28 | 29 6:30 pm Org Comm. Mtg RCC | 30 | 31 |

* Drinking Liberally - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available!

RCC -- Richland Community Center MCLU -Mid-Columbia Library 16th & Union RLT - Richland Labor Temple

EHS - Eisenhower HS Auditorium, 702 S. 40th Ave, Yakima