

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

November 2006 Issue

www.bencodems.org

509-585-7682

Officers

Chair:	Mimi Latta	627-2679
Vice Chair:	Bob Parazin	946-6363
Secretary:	John Latta	627-2679
Treasurer:	Mac Dillsi	375-6061
SCW	Phyllis Bowersock	943-4559
SCM	Dann Lewis	969-0277

From the Chair

Election time has come. We hope this issue of the BCDCC newsletter will help you with those races or initiatives you may still be pondering.

I also want to thank all of our out-going PCOs for their work on behalf of the County organization. It's been a fast two years and I hope you got as much out of being PCO as any volunteer work you've ever done. If you're a returning PCO or a first-time elected PCO, your term will begin on December 1st. We hope the next 2 years will provide a learning experience as we go into the Presidential election cycle.

We have worked all year to keep you up to date, but a review is in order as you get ready to vote. Benton County Democrats have endorsed: Maria Cantwell for U.S. Senate, Richard Wright for the 4th Congressional District, Andy Miller for Benton County Prosecuting Attorney, George Fearing in the 16th Legislative District (LD) Position 1 and Bill Grant, 16th LD Position 2 and recommend endorsing Kimberly Kennedy for Benton County Coroner. We endorse Susan Owens, Gerry Alexander and Tom Chambers in the WA State Supreme Court races.

BCDCC doesn't have a position on any of the State Initiatives, but we'll print the recommendations from the WA State Democrat Party.

If you have any last minute time or money that you can donate to our candidates, please call Erik Horeis at 735-3037 or 539-3929 to offer your assistance wherever possible. Good luck, Dems!

November Meeting

The BCDCC November 15th meeting will be at the Union St. Library in Kennewick. We'll review the election, take time to thank our candidates, and discuss the upcoming holiday party as well as the January 6th Organization meeting and election of officers for the 2007 and 2008 bienium.

Sen. Maria Cantwell Rally November 1st, 4:30 PM

Maria Cantwell will make one more pre-election visit to the Tri-Cities on November 1st, 4:30 PM at the Plumbers & Steamfitters' Hall, 1328 N. Rd. 28, Pasco. Come out and show Maria we're behind her! Bring a friend or bring a car full of friends. Be ready to cheer because it looks like we really have something to cheer about in this race.

Don't you even believe the Tri-City Herald when it says that the Democrats have given up on eastern Washington. We haven't given up and we haven't given in. Our goal is to bring in 3 more votes for Maria Cantwell in every precinct in Benton County. Help be a part of that effort!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Tri-City Democrats

-- The October meeting had a good discussion of the "Green Power" Initiative 937 with pros and cons given by Karen Miller and Jim Timmons. The meeting was hosted by Charlotte Lewis with help from the Lattas.

It was decided to disburse funds from our treasury to five local candidates, and that has been done.

Ann Parazon won Leona Hassing's trivia contest.

November 3 The November meeting will be hosted by Sheila Sullivan and will feature long-time democratic leaders who will reminisce a little and offer their current views. As usual, the potluck will be at 6:00 with the program at 7:00. The location is the Labor Hall on Knight street in Richland.

December -- There is no meeting, we will meet again on **January 5** to elect officers and share our predictions from 2006.

Frank Schmittroth
President, Tri-City Democrats

Candidate Contributions

At the October Central Committee meeting, we lacked a quorum. There was discussion about the desire to donate money from BCDCC to our candidates. Mimi Latta suggested that voting members

be polled via phone calls or email to see if there was a majority of members to support contributions. Jim Dillman moved and Bob Parazin seconded a motion to donate \$500.00 each to Richard Wright and Kimberly Kennedy and \$100.00 each to George Fearing and Bill Grant. All currently serving PCOs with a valid phone number or email address were contacted to determine support. The final vote was in favor of the contributions with a count of for and against. Our treasurer, Mac Dillsi, will send checks to the candidates immediately.



Letter to the Editor Against Stephen Johnson

Disgusted by judicial candidate
from <http://www.bellinghamherald.com>

I was hoping the "Stephen Johnson for Supreme Court" signs weren't referring to the same Stephen Johnson I'd met. Unfortunately, they were.

Stephen Johnson was the state senator for my legislative district when I lived in and taught in Auburn. After teaching 90 fifth-graders a unit on U.S. government, I did a request through the state Legislature Web site to have a representative come speak. They sent Johnson. Johnson entered my classroom and stated the following: When asked by a student, "what would you change about, Washington"?

His reply: "I'd get rid of all the Democrats." "What's the hardest thing about, your job"? "Having to work with Democrats." He went on to disparage two of the Democratic congressmen from the district. This isn't a man who should be on the Supreme Court. It would be impossible for him to be impartial. His hatred and scathing intolerance is so prevalent he felt it appropriate to spew it to a room full of 10-year-olds.

By definition, Supreme Court justices need to be impartial, to put aside their personal views and merely interpret the law. I find it hard to believe someone so scornfully biased would be able to do so.

Jennifer Deshaies Lynden

White House Puts the West on Fast Track for Oil, Gas Drilling

by Alan C. Miller, Tom Hamburger and Julie Cart

WASHINGTON — Placing a heavy emphasis on energy production in the American West, the Bush administration has moved aggressively to open up broad areas of largely unspoiled federal land to oil and gas exploration. The administration has pressed for approval of new drilling permits across the Rocky Mountains and lifted protections

on hundreds of thousands of acres with gas and oil reserves in Utah and Colorado. In the process, it has targeted a number of places prized for their scenery, abundant wildlife and clean water, natural assets increasingly valuable to the region's changing economy. Soon after taking office in 2001, the Bush White House set up a little-known task force that acts as a complaint desk for industry, passing energy company concerns directly to federal land management employees in the field. Although the creation of White House task forces is commonplace, experts on the executive branch say it is unusual to have one primarily serving the interests of a single industry.

In addition, the Bureau of Land Management has been pushed to issue drilling permits at a record pace for three of the last four years, an increase of 70% since the Clinton administration. Internal memos and interviews show senior administration officials have directed federal employees to be responsive to industry, commended offices that approved large numbers of drilling permits and chastised those that were slow. The effort is so intense in the oil- and gas-rich Rockies that some Bureau of Land Management employees there have taken to calling the region "the OPEC states."

WA State Democratic Recommendations – Non Partisan

Sample Ballot for Nonpartisan Races

Initiatives and Referenda

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 917
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 918
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 920
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 924
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 926
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 933
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 937
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 944
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 947
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative 949
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referendum 65

Washington State Supreme Court

Position 2

Susan Owens

Position 8

Gerry L. Alexander

Position 9

Tom Chambers

1st Notice Jan. 6th, 2007 BCDCC Organization Meeting

Benton County Democrats will elect new officers to 2-year terms on January 6th. Any Democrat residing in Benton County is eligible to run as an officer of the Central Committee. All the offices are open and we encourage those with an interest to self-nominate. You'll have 3 minutes to make a speech on your behalf or to have someone speak for you. If elected, you'll take office immediately.

There'll be more on our Organization meeting in the December newsletter



8th LD Chair's Report

Here's something to share with the Doc Hastings supporters you may know.

Through no fault of his own (at least not any we know about) the 4th CD race has ceased to be about the merits or failings of Congressman Hastings. As Republican races across the country implode for all kinds of reasons from corruption to the general dissatisfaction with failed policies and empty promises - even Republican Party officials are focusing on damage control. They know the House is lost to them and perhaps even the Senate.

The voters in the 4th Congressional District (including Doc supporters) need to be thinking about what happens to the voice of our district in the coming Democrat-controlled House of Representatives. If that voice is a long-term Republican loyalist you can be sure he will be moved to the very back of the line when it comes to priorities. Doc's influence will be zilch, nada, beyond zero. The voters have to ask themselves if that is what they want for their district? The voters have to ask how many important things that are needed by this district are going to suffer because of Doc's imminent impotence?

Ask your friends if they are willing to sacrifice the needs of this district on the altar of loyalty to the Republican power structure? Is this the kind of cause for which they are willing to make a futile gesture?

Then ask them to consider this. Richard Wright is a truly decent man who has every desire to do the right thing. When he gets to Congress he is not going to be a party clone. He has a mind of his own and his most important goal in Congress will be to be the voice for everyone in his district. Because this race has been seen by the national Democratic organization as a backwater, down-the-list race he will not be beholden to them for his seat. Instead he will be free to serve his constituents the way they deserve to be served.

Kendall Miller
8th LD Chair

4th Congressional District Democratic Committee

Reorganization Meeting - Nov 11, 2006

Carpenters Hall Local Union # 770
507 South Third Street
Yakima, Washington
10:00am

Revised Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Flag Salute/ Introductions
- 3) Secretary Report –Ted Higley
- 4) Financial Report – Tom Zeilman
- 5) Committee Reports – 2006 Final
- 6) Chairs Report – Keith Gourley
- 7) Financial Business
 - a) Outstanding obligations for 2006 – Keith Gourley
- 8) New Business
 - a) Elections of Officers
 - b) Bylaws Committee
 - c) Audit Committee
- 9) Unfinished Business
 - a) Sept 06 State Committee Meeting Update – Ted Higley
- 11) Good of the Order
- 12) Adjournment



KIMBERLY KENNEDY'S WAVING SCHEDULE ☺

Below are scheduled dates to get out and wave, I need name recognition and this is a fun way to get out and do it. I would appreciate your help/support at as many corners as you can make it to. Kids and dogs welcome!!

- Monday Oct 23rd** – 4:15PM – 10th & Edison – Kennewick
- Tuesday Oct 24th** – 4:00PM – Bypass & Stevens
- Wed. Oct 25th** – 4:15PM – Bombing Range & Van Geisen
- Thursday Oct 26th** – 7AM – Bypass & Stevens
- Friday Oct 27th** – 4:15PM – Columbia Center & Canal
- Monday Oct 30th** – 4:15PM - Keene & Queensgate
- Wednesday Nov 1st** – 4:15PM – Leslie & Gage
- Thursday Nov 2nd** – 4:00PM – Geo Way & Swift
- Friday Nov 3rd** – 7AM – 27th and 395
- Monday Nov 6th** – 4:15PM – Canal & Edison

Hope to see you. Thank you all for support.
Kimberly ☺

P.S. If you could e-mail or call me and let me know what days you may be able to come that would be great!

Kimberly4coroner@aol.com

November

6, 7:00 PM EBoard mtg., Hastings coffee shop, Richland

7 **Election Day**

15, 7:00 PM Central Cmtee mtg., Union St. Lib. Kenn.

23 **Thanksgiving Day**

25 Last day to submit mat'l for Dec. newsletter

December

1 New PCOs ' Term Begins

9 **Holiday Party**

22 Last day to submit mat'l for Jan. newsletter

January 6 Organization mtg. 2:00 PM

Richland Labor Hall Elect New Officers for 2007-2008
Only Elected PCOs vote!

Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material for consideration to the newsletter editor at email: editor@bencodems.org. Submissions should generally be kept to 125 words or less unless prior approval is obtained. Your submission may be edited for space or grammar, or other concerns as deemed necessary by the editor. Please submit your material by the date listed in the calendar for each month. Submissions received earliest will get priority.

November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu rs	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		

The Best Thanks You Can Give Our Troops Is To Vote



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