

The Voice of the Benton County Democrats
THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

November 2008

WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG

HOTLINE 585-7682

Officers

Chair	Bob Parazin	chair@bencodems.org 946 6363
Vice Chair	Regina Speer	vicechair@bencodems.org 946 5744
Treasurer	[pending]	treasurer@bencodems.org
Secretary	Gloria Cummins	secretary@bencodems.org 430 8718
Editor	Steven Link	newsletter@bencodems.org 948-0054
SCW	Mimi Latta	scw@bencodems.org 627 2679
SCM	John Latta	scm@bencodems.org 627 2679

most gratifying to me to have been associated with the local Party during this period.

I'm truly optimistic that all our hard work, our commitment and donations and of course, our VOTES will make a difference on November 4th. After all, that's what we're in this for ... to **ELECT DEMOCRATS** that we believe will support the values and ideals most important to us, locally, regionally and nationally.

From the Chair

That's all you need -- another piece of political mail or phone call. I hope you treat this correspondence a little differently. It's neither a begging letter asking you to part with your money nor a persuasive postcard to secure your vote. It's simply a **THANK YOU** for all the efforts of Democratic supporters through the last 11 months of intense political activity. From the Presidential Caucuses, the Candidate Receptions, Convention, Rallies, the Forums, the Picnic, the Governor's visits on through to the Headquarters' support which is continuing for the next few days, you've served the needs of the local Party quite well. And I **THANK YOU** for that.

I'm always amazed at how many Democrats we really have in this area. We had record turnouts in our Presidential Primaries and for many, many other events as well. It's been

Closing Campaigns with a BANG!



As you know there are some hotly contested races within the area on both sides of the Columbia. We Democrats in Eastern Washington have learned not to count our chickens before they are hatched. Our campaigns are winding up their efforts to **Get Out The Vote**. This is still an excellent time to donate **your** time to this campaign-ending push. Please call our HQ at 420-4463 or leave a message on our HOTLINE if you'd like to help. Or call our Phone Bank Coordinator Steve Lee directly at 948-2201.

Democratic Victory Celebration

We're planning an area-wide Democratic Victory Celebration for the evening of November 4th at the Pasco Red Lion at 7 pm. As of this writing it remains in the planning stages and we'll be providing more details of the event as they become available. Please check our website and HOTLINE for final arrangements.

Post-Campaign Clean-up

When November 5th arrives, I'm sure we'll have our opportunities to revel in our victories and perhaps lick some wounds too and relax a bit. But win or loose we're always faced with putting our campaigns to bed; there's sign removal, storage and miscellaneous disposal, the cleaning of our Headquarters and return of the furnishings/equipment that our supporters so generously let us use. We'll make every attempt to complete these returns by November 18th. If you'd like to help with these efforts please leave a message on our HOTLINE or call 946-6363.

Permanent Storage Needed

With the completion of any major party event or undertaking not unlike the dismantling of our Headquarters, a Picnic, etc., there's always the need to store our supplies, equipment and Party artifacts. In the past, our officers and long time supporters have used their homes and garages to store these materials. This approach has become more and more difficult as our party has grown in recent years.

At this time we're looking for a more permanent storage solution. If you have any

ideas or suggestions on how to accomplish this at a minimal, on-going cost to the Party, please share them with us. We're considering storage locker rental, purchase/rental of a cargo container on donated property, excess storage space in Party friendly, privately owned buildings and facilities, etc., etc.

Democratic Party Meeting Locations

After the election, 1315 George Washington Way will no longer be a destination location for our activities. The Fearing Campaign has been most generous in allowing us to share their Campaign Headquarters over these past months. It afforded the use of a single location for many of our routine meetings and activities that we will no longer have. So it's back to the Libraries, Community Centers and Labor Halls for our various meetings. As a result PLEASE take special NOTE of locations for our future meetings.

Looking Ahead Reorganization 2009/10

Every two years both County and Legislative District Party organizations are required to hold a reorganization meeting. For Benton County the meeting will be held on Saturday, **January 10th** and I believe the 8th LD will hold their reorganization meeting at the same time. The State Party's Reorganization Meeting will be held January 23rd – 24th. The results of our local party reorganizations must be completed well in advance of that date.

All of the Party's County and LD elected positions will be open; those include the Benton County Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Central Committee Committeeman and Committeewoman and similar positions for the 8th Legislative District.

I would encourage any Democrat that is serious about their politics to consider running for any of these offices. More information will be provided on our website and our December Newsletter due out on December 2nd.

Elected Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs for 2009/10)

This year we elected more PCOs than in the recent past. In fact, the enthusiasm to run for this elected office was so great that we had one Precinct with 4 candidates on the Primary ballot. Many of our PCO races were tied with candidates receiving the same number of votes. Thus according to law, these tied races were determined by lot. To make certain that everything was on the up and up, Bob Bowersock, our PCO coordinator for Richland and West Richland, volunteered to travel to Prosser to oversee the tie-breaking event. Bob reported that the event went quite smoothly. These PCO elections were certified by the Auditor and acknowledgements sent to the winners. But then I received calls from two "Democrat" PCOs who claimed they were NOT Democrats but were in fact Republicans. One even claimed that he never even submitted his name for the office! Both wanted their names removed from the Democratic PCO roles. We directed them to contact the Auditor's Office and their names were withdrawn.

Much of this problem was related to the rescinding of the 10% rule that requires a minimum number of Democratic votes to be elected PCO. This allowed a PCO candidate to be [anonymously] WRITTEN-IN and ELECTED by ONE VOTE. Yes .. you read that right! The situation was fallout of the Top Two primary scheme. Since Party affiliation was no longer a requirement but a preference,

the 10% rule could no longer be imposed. [according to the Secretary of State].

So we had our listing of declared County Auditor/Secretary of State certified PCOs. Then the State Democratic Party upon legal advice, declared that only those PCOs elected WITH THE 10% RULE would be recognized by the Democratic Party. In other words, the Party chose to retain the 10% rule in determining their definition of an ELECTED PCO, which legally they're entitled to do. .

As of this writing it remains a dilemma in that we theoretically have two PCO lists; one certified by the Auditor/Secretary of State and a smaller subset list of those who comply with the 10% rule. For most local Party activities this doesn't pose an immediate problem with the exception of our State Party mandated Reorganization Meeting on January 10th. Only duly elected PCOs will be allowed to vote in those elections as cited in both our County and State Party Bylaws. We'll have more on this issue in our December edition. Rest assured we WILL have a path forward by January 10th, 2009.



**Headquarters Phone No. 420-4463
(until Nov. 5th)**

Website www.bencodems.org

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		*Drinking Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm every Tuesday				1
2	3	4 * Democratic Victory Celebration Pasco Red Lion, 7 pm	5	6 Headquarters Cleanout Day HQ	7 Tri-City Democrats, RLT 6 pm PL, 7pm Program	8 World Citizens for Peace, Sidewalk Vigil , near City Hall, Richland, 4 pm
9	10	11* Veterans Day,	12	13 Executive Board Mtg, 6:30 pm, RCC	14	15
16	17	18*	19 Central Committee Meeting , 7 pm at L77	20	21	22 World Citizens for Peace- 4 pm Sidewalk Vigil @ Target, Col Cntr
23	24	25*	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

* **Drinking Liberally** - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available!
RCC -- Richland Community Center, L77 - IBEW Local 77 Labor Hall, Central Kennewick, HQ - 1315 George Washington Way
RLT – Richland Labor Temple, Corner of Knight St. and Goethels, Richland