

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

November/December 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who worked so hard this election year. Special thanks go to Bob Parazin for taking over management of headquarters, to Dann Lewis & Rusty Jasper for putting up hundreds of campaign signs, to Fitz Reyes & Charlotte Lewis for jumping into the Coordinated Campaign on behalf of Benton County, to Dana Sprenkel, and Veda & Terry Guynes and Charlotte Lewis who worked so hard on the Moms for Kerry events, to the wonderful volunteers who staffed headquarters every day, and to the Benton County officers who kept things going. You've all done a fabulous job and deserve high praise.

Thank you to our candidates for giving the public much to think about and keeping our issues out there. You're terrific. We were well represented and we appreciate it.

If I had any clever words to heal the sting of losing so many important political races, I'd use them now. There aren't any such words, however, and it hurts to lose when we had such good candidates. This much is true, though; we worked hard and did our best. We challenged our opponents and demanded that they think about the best interests of their constituents. That's the role of the loyal opposition—if we can't win the race, we can make the other side improve.

So what do we do now? We begin to think about the next election. We ask all of you to join us in ongoing discussions about values, issues, and strategy. We ask you to help us find candidates

that will run for offices from school board member to city council to county commissioner and on up. We ask you to thank those who ran in this election and request that they think about running again, or help others to do so now that they've acquired some knowledge of the process. We reach out to other Democrats and ask them to join us and to bring their talents to the organization. We improve ourselves.

Our November meeting will be on the 17th at 7:00 pm in the Dayton St. library, Kennewick.

Our annual holiday party will be December 12th, 2:00 pm at the Clipper Ridge clubhouse on Bay Ct., Richland. Betty King (375-0329) and Charlotte Lewis (375-0299) are hosting. The party is BYOB and pot luck. Bring in the holidays with fellow Democrats.

Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

Tri-Cities Democrats

Three days after the General Election of 2004, the Tri-City Democrats held their monthly meeting at the Labor Hall in Richland where 40 members enjoyed a potluck meal, meeting/program and friendship. Three candidates were present (John David, Rick Dillender and Rebecca Francik). Each expressed gratitude for the support received from our club. Status reports were given from Benton and Franklin County. Black armbands/headbands were distributed as an expression of the election results. Letters of thanks from candidates, retirement announcement, and political discussion rounded out the evening. The evening was hosted by Judi Knutzen, Dean and Jean Chau.

The next meeting will be Friday, January 7th at the same location. Electing officers and reading of the predictions made at the January 2003 meeting will be the focus. Dues are \$5.00/year, payable at this meeting.

Leona Hassing, President, Tri-City Democrats

From the 8th

Thanks to all who put in the work to get Democrats and John Kerry elected, even if we were largely unsuccessful. The Republicans would allow even more rape and plunder if they thought we weren't there to counter them! We need to keep up the good work. There is much to do if we still want to turn this country in the right direction. Remember equal opportunity. Remember civil rights. Remember government by the people and for the people.

The people elected 28 Precinct Committee Officers for the 8th Legislative District in the September primary, and 37 in all of Benton County. Those elected precinct officers have a duty to organize and choose the leadership for the local County and LD Democratic Organizations and to send our representatives to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for the next election cycle. It starts in January. Only elected PCOs may vote in the reorganization elections, but all interested parties are invited to attend and speak, or run for elected offices and vie for appointments. Those elected PCOs are charged

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 Matt at 509-585-4900.

November 2004

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From the 8th—Con't

with the task of making a new start, and those of you reading this newsletter are challenged with the job of making it work. Plan to be there January 8th for the Eighth LD reorg meeting, because it won't happen without you!

John Latta, 8th LD Chair

Thanks from 'Moms for Kerry'

On behalf of the Moms for Kerry/Patriots for Kerry, a big thanks to all who helped the Kerry Rally get off the ground and be successful. A special thanks to the BCDCC for their support, and to the speakers who made our program what it was! Thank you all! Remember, we matter. Let your voices be heard!

Dana Sprengle,

Congratulations to our Democratic candidates who won in this election.

Governor: Christine Gregoire (unofficial)
Lt. Governor: Brad Owen
Senator: Patty Murray

State Treasurer: Mike Murphy

State Auditor: Brian Sonntag

State Insurance Commissioner:

Mike Kreidler

Thanks from the Gregoire Campaign

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the endorsement ads for Chris Gregoire. We collected a total of \$1672. Our expenses were: Tri-City Herald, \$1270; the Giant Nickel \$175.50; and La Voz, \$225.50; for a total of \$1671.

As of this writing on November 5th, she is still ahead in the count, and I am confident that she will be victorious.

Shelia Sullivan

Events

November

- 10 Exec Board Meeting, Richland Library Conference Room, 7:00 pm.
- 11 Veterans Day
- 17 BCDCC Meeting, Kennewick Library, Dayton St., 7:00 pm

December

- 1 Democracy for America Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Kennewick, 7:00 pm
- 12 Holiday Party, Clipper Ridge clubhouse on Bay Ct. in Richland, 2:00 pm (meal begins at 3:00 pm)

January

- 5 Reorganization Meeting, Richland Library conference room, 6:30 pm
- 7 Tri-City Democrats Meeting, Richland Labor Hall
- 8 8th LD Reorganization Meeting, Keewaydin Park Library, Kennewick, 10 am

Return Service Requested

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Benton County Democratic Party

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