

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*  
**THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER**



**October, 2009**

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**HOTLINE 546-8115**

**2009/10 Officers**

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**From the Chair**

With this issue we're initiating our first readership contest. Here are the rules. We're going to provide a **SECRET PHRASE** that can be found somewhere in this edition. When you find the phrase [after reading the newsletter cover to cover] let us know via our **HOTLINE 546-8115** or e-mail the **PAGE, COLUMN & ROW** where the **SECRET PHRASE** is found. Please leave your name and we'll put it into a drawing for an exciting prize [ $< \$100$  in value] that will be announced both on our **HOTLINE** and November Newsletter. The **SECRET PHRASE** for this October edition is "**good information**".

In our **NEXT** edition of our newsletter we will be asking you to return a post card or call our **HOTLINE** if you want to continue receiving a PRINTED copy of this newsletter. We're not quite sure how many of the more than 540 copies of this newsletter are really read or simply round filed. At about 70 cents a piece, it's our largest overhead cost with the party.

If you **DO** want to continue receiving a **PRINTED** copy, we'll be more than happy to **CONTINUE** to provide it! **BUT** if it's not read or you're no longer interested in receiving it, we'd appreciate hearing from you. We **DO** provide an e-mail announcement to those that have requested it via our Website [<http://bencodems.org/lists/>] when the latest issue of our newsletter is available on our Website to be downloaded and/or read. All our past newsletters are there as well.

**Don't Forget to Vote**

Ballots will be mailed on Tuesday, October 13th. If you haven't received them by Friday, October 21 call the auditor's office at ... 509-786-5618 Prosser, 736-3085 Kenn, 736-3085 Rich ... and make certain your registration is OK.

If you're **NEW** to WA state, you can register **IN-PERSON** as late as Monday October 26th to vote in the Nov 3rd Election. The last day for in-state address changes/corrections is Wednesday, Oct 5th otherwise your ballot will be mailed to your old address and hopefully forwarded to you by Nov 3rd.

**Voting Suggestions**

Every year we get requests from fellow Democrats AND Independents asking for opinion on how to vote on Initiatives, Referendums, candidates, etc. etc. What I'm comfortable doing is passing on information that's been given to us as a Party regarding ballot measures and candidates you'll have to decide Nov 3. We'll have a **SAMPLE BALLOT** published on our website for your information. But **DO** check these out for yourself. Google ANY of these measures or candidates to get more detailed information if you wish. The Voter's Guide is available at the Sec of State and Benton County Website and we'll have a **LINK** on our Website - [bencodems.org](http://bencodems.org). Please take a look!

**Vote NO on Initiative 1033** – this position is supported by many organizations that share our Democratic values of strong education and labor.

**Vote YES on Referendum 71** – remember a vote **YES** reaffirms to legislation passed by our state Legislature and Governor this year! A vote no puts domestic partnership back in the dark ages.

**Laura Grant for the State Legislature 16th LD Pos 1** – A stand alone and almost singularly visible Democrat in Eastern Washington that shares our Democratic values. She deserves your vote.

**Tom Moak for Kennewick City Council Ward 3** – A stand up Democrat who doesn't hide his party affiliation; who has done admirably in his many, many years of public service - another Democrat who deserves your vote in this non-partisan race.

**WSDCC Fall Meeting - Walla Walla,  
Sept. 25-26 2009**

Friday evening was mainly social for most of us, including a packed Hospitality Suite in the Marcus Whitman Hotel. It was good to see everyone again.

Saturday started bright and early for me in the Labor Caucus. Two issues dominated: the Dime-Pac movement; and how to

ensure use of union labor in all campaign materials. Many in the labor movement are unhappy with elected Democrats and prospective candidates, and would like to withdraw support ("Not Another Dime") from those who cannot show a proven record of Union support. Which leads directly to the second issue: mostly new candidates (but sometimes older ones who should know better) forget to insist that their campaign staff use only Union shops for printing, recording, video materials. A Resolution submitted by King County Democrats "Use of Union Talent in Audio, Live Performances, and Video Production" was recommended to the Resolutions Committee (it passed along with the whole package of other resolutions, later in the afternoon session).

The Eastern Washington Committee met under the excellent leadership of Jackie Bradley and Sharon Smith. Sharon urged us to focus on finding more Democratic candidates in every district so that there would be a Democrat challenger on every ballot.

We need to work the phones and identify more Democrats so we can gradually chip away at the Republican candidates' majority, which, in some places, is quite slim (53%) and not as daunting as many of us perceive! At that point George Fearing mentioned three new candidates in our area: Jay Clough from Tri-Cities; Thor Lund from White Salmon; and John Williams, also from Tri-Cities. Jay was warmly received, but Thor did not arrive until the afternoon session and John was unable to attend, so I did not get a chance to meet either of them.

Candidate Laura Grant spoke briefly about her campaign, thanking the party and all of us for support. As our only Democratic candidate, we really need her to retain her seat! We also heard some horror stories about "Public Event Bad Behavior" in Eastern Washington districts. But Sharon and Jackie both urged us to continue with our outreach efforts, to follow our President's high road, be professional, even get "non-violence" training, stick to Democratic values, and don't even think about "hate" buttons!

We also spoke about our two senators. Maria Cantwell's office in Spokane has a new person who "really gets it," said Sharon. But Patty Murray needs to visit Eastern Washington, especially as she starts her campaign for reelection. We need to obtain email/cellphone info of the outreach people (who are rarely in the actual office) so we can get Murray (or Cantwell) to our local events. They also can help you get speakers for rallies on special events: environment, health care, etc. I found this session to be helpful, practical and even inspiring. The afternoon session was marked by long, often heated discussion on proposed changes in rules for the selection of candidates. Mimi and John Latta have worked tirelessly to keep Eastern Washington in this debate and, finally, a compromise was reached. Unfortunately, time was running short and we did not have the privilege of discussing any of the individual resolutions brought out of the various committees - we just got to vote for the whole package! Not very democratic, I would dare to say.

--- Ann Eaton, 8th L.D. State Committeewoman



## Mid-Columbia Community for Change

will hold its October meeting on Monday, Oct 12th at the Kennewick Library located at 1620 S. Union. This meeting will start earlier than normal, at 6:30 p.m., with a brief business meeting followed by the film *Money-Driven Medicine: What's Wrong with America's Healthcare and How to Fix It*. Produced by Academy Award winner Alex Gibney (*Taxi to the Dark Side*; *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*) and based on Maggie Mahar's acclaimed book, *Money Driven Medicine: The Real Reason Health Care Costs So Much*, the film offers a behind-the-scenes look at how our 2.6 trillion dollar a year healthcare system went so wrong and what it will take to fix it. Please join us to watch and discuss the film which Bill Moyers claims "... is one of the strongest documentaries I have seen in years and could not be more timely. The more people who see and talk about it, the more likely we are to get serious and true health care reform."

In September MCC4C teamed up with Shalom United Church of Christ to host two health care related events on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The first was a visit by the Mad as Hell Doctors from Oregon. The group shared their unique perspective of the health care crisis and why they feel a single-payer system is the answer. The Mad as Hell Doctors made their stop in Richland as they began a cross country Care-A-Van to Washington, D.C. to promote the single payer idea. To learn more about the Mad As Hell Doctors and their mission visit their website: [www.madashelldoctors.com](http://www.madashelldoctors.com).

In the evening of Sept 9th the PBS/Frontline program *Sick Around the World* was shown and followed by a moderated discussion. Both events were well attended and provided good information for those wishing to better understand the health care issues and the debate on how to reform our system.

All meetings and events sponsored by MCC4C are open to the public and always feature a collection site for donations to the Tri-Cities Food Bank. To be included on the MCC4C email list please send your contact information to [info@mcc4c.org](mailto:info@mcc4c.org).

Gail Blegen-Frost

## State Committee Report – John Latta

Mimi and I were proud to represent the Benton County Democrats at the Washington Democrats' State Committee meeting in Walla Walla at the Marcus Whitman this September 26th. Like Mimi said in her report, there was a lot going on there. On the Friday night before we met for those sometimes contentious discussions and votes on the nomination rules and delegate selection plan, the 4th Congressional District Caucus met to organize.

We elected 2008 congressional candidate George Fearing as our new Chairperson. Eleanor Hungate of Yakima was elected to be the Secretary, and Douglas County State Committeewoman Kathy Humphrey was elected as the new committee Treasurer. George described the 4th CD organization's role, which includes informing and facilitating the activities and friendships of Democrats. He also urged us to continue helping to elect Democrats at all levels of government, partisan and non-partisan positions alike, so that the 4th will have a pool of experienced Democrats from which to field strong candidates for Congress.

In other business on Saturday, the WSDCC chose Vancouver for the site of the 2010 Washington State Democratic Convention in June (which gives Eastern Washington a better chance at hosting the 2012 event), and passed resolutions to oppose Tim Eyeman's I-1033, endorse Referendum 71 to retain the Domestic Partnership Law, and urge Congress to pass a healthcare bill which includes a robust public option.

Also, we had fun! If you have any questions about the State Committee meetings, or if you would like to participate in the next one, please call me or Mimi at 627-2679.

Democratically Yours,

--- **John Latta**

Benton County Democratic State Committeeman

## State Committee Report – Mimi Latta

The quarterly WA State Central Committee meeting held in Walla Walla last weekend was intense. The agenda was tight and the sense of much work to be done was felt by.

As a member of the Rules Committee and of a subcommittee to research the viability of the Judicial Review Board (JRB), I was very active for the past couple of months. There was discussion of the scope of the Board, intent of the founders, lack of Board activity and whether to replace or amend it. We emailed and then met in Kent 2 weeks prior to the September meeting. Finally, the night before the report was due, we came to an agreement. We recommended abolishment, but only on condition of establishment of a more flexible, workable, Board that could meet more often and render decisions more quickly. I'm satisfied that the new Board will fulfill the needs of the WA State Democratic Party for an independent Board that can recommend actions and refer members to proper channels for conflicts or rules infractions.

We also established the rules for Nominating Conventions in non-presidential race years in case the "Top Two" Primary is still in effect. We won't know until later whether we'll need Nominating

Conventions, but we must be prepared for it. A decision by a majority of the Rules Committee to forego Congressional Caucuses in favor of allowing State Committeewomen and men to vote for a candidate in each Congressional District (CD) caused friction. I favored retention of local voting within each CD. A compromise was reached when an amendment was put forth requiring each CD to caucus separately at the WA State Convention to vote for a candidate and to forward that nominee to the floor of the Convention for affirmation. In a case where a decision can't be rendered in the caucuses, the State Convention body as a whole will vote for the nominee. It's a good compromise and I'm proud to be a part of the group that worked so hard to come up with it. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to represent you as part of the State Central Committee. Thank you.

--- **Mimi Latta**, State Committeewoman

## Comments on the 4th CD Hospitality Suite at the WSDCC Sept Meeting

At the State Central Committee meeting held in Walla Walla, on the weekend of September 25, the Democratic Party's Fourth Congressional District Caucus reorganized. The caucus elected the following officers: Chairman - George Fearing, of Pasco; Secretary - Eleanor Hungate, of Yakima; and Treasurer - Kathy Humphrey, of Mansfield.

The caucus reviewed its purpose of electing a Democrat to Congress in central Washington, while removing from office the unethical, worthless Congressman now serving the district. To effectuate this principal purpose, the caucus will work to elect Democrats to city councils, other local governmental bodies, and the state legislature, which will develop a farm team of potential congressional candidates.

On the evening of September 25, the Fourth CD caucus hosted a multitude at its hospitality suite, featuring central Washington wines and fruits. Jay Clough, a potential candidate for Congress in 2010, attended the suite and mixed with the merriers.

--- **George Fearing**

## Our Calendar on the Web

<http://www.bencodems.org/calendar.shtml>



**HOTLINE 546-8115**

**Website [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org)**

# OCTOBER 2009

Tue, October 6, 2009	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly and mailing - Shilo Inn Board Room .. in Richland GW Way and Comstock
	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Thu, October 1, 2009	5:30pm – 8pm	Laura Grant - Special Harvest Fundraising Reception - 16304 North Dallas Road, Richland, Goose Ridge Estates and Winery
	6pm – 8pm	Tri-City Democrats Potluck & Program – Richland Labor Temple Program TBD
Sat, October 10, 2009	9am – 2pm	UFCW Local 21 Informational Picket RE: Tri-city Labs - Precise Time and Place TBD
Mon, October 12, 2009	Columbus Day	
	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Mid Columbia Community 4 CHANGE! - 1620 S. Union, Kennewick, WA Library
Tue, October 13, 2009	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Thu, October 15, 2009	6:30pm – 8:30pm	E Board Meeting - E Board Via Teleconference
Fri, October 16, 2009		Absentee Ballots Mailed
Mon, October 19, 2009		Last Day Registration In-Person - Any Benton County Auditor's Branch Office
Tue, October 20, 2009	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Wed, October 21, 2009	7pm – 9pm	BCDCC Central Committee Meeting – Richland Shops Admin Bldg on Duportail and Queensgate
Mon, October 26, 2009	8pm – 9pm	Last Day for Newsletter Submissions
Tue, October 27, 2009	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland, 99352
Thu, October 29, 2009	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly and mailing - Shilo Inn Board Room .. in Richland GW Way and Comstock
Sat, October 31, 2009	11am – 2 pm	Halloween Fun Raiser - 500 Amon Park Drive, Richland, WA 99352, Richland Community Center
Sun, November 1, 2009		Daylight Saving Time Ends
Mon, November 2, 2009		Get Absentee Ballot for Nov 3 election - Any Benton County Auditor's Office BEFORE 5 PM!



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