

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

September 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

## Contacts

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<i>Woman</i>	Phyllis Bowersock	943-4559
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Man</i>	Floyd Hodges	582-6748

## From the Chair

The Primary Election is taking place as we speak, if you consider the absentee ballots. There is controversy and some confusion over the different ballots for each party, but we're continuing to get the word out to those with questions. Please have friends and neighbors call Campaign Headquarters at: 585-7682 if they need assistance.

This is a crucial election for the candidates in the Governor's race, AG, 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and Supreme Court Justices. We truly need your vote to help determine those representing us for the next term.

We also need more volunteers for the election. If you can do phone calling to Get Out The Vote (GOTV), if you can help to walk precincts, work at the Auditor's office on election night, work at the polls, drive voters to the polls, wave signs to remind people to vote, or any of the other jobs that make a difference, call Headquarters or my home phone if we haven't talked to you about this. You can change the regime in this country. Never doubt that your contribution means a lot to us—especially at the grassroots level.

I hope you had a chance to stop by the Democratic Fair Booth. Bob Parazin and his team of Leona Hassing, Michele Levenite, Charlotte Lewis, and Heather Dillender did a truly wonderful job of staffing the booth and getting it all together. I think it was our best year yet. If you see Bob or any of his team, please take a moment to thank them. All of you who donated time to represent us are owed a big thank-you as well. And I can't forget Denis and Ellen Fillion who

are storing the booth until next year. We have great members in Benton County and you make us look good!

Thank you also go out to the Iron Workers who walked with us in the Benton Franklin Fair parade. About 20 members showed up and some brought their kids. Laurel Pippo brought the costumes once again, Kendall Miller brought the hay, Ryan Block and Jared Koepp helped to put decorations on the truck with some last minute touches by Jim Dillman and Ginny McIntyre. We had candidates with us and, altogether, there were about 50 people who turned out to support BCDCC.

Our Headquarters is open from 10-6 most days and from 10-8 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We still have many openings on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons (2:00-6:00 pm) and on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings (6:00-8:00 pm). If you can donate some time, please call Mimi Latta at home or at Headquarters (585-7682).

Thank you all for talking to your neighbors, coming to meetings, volunteering for candidates, working at headquarters and all the other things you do. This is going to be a tough election. Hang in there. The reward is worth it.

Mimi Latta, Chair

## Upcoming Events

### Primary Election

Don't forget the Primary Election, September 14<sup>th</sup>. For those of you voting absentee, remember to write in your Democrat PCOs name and precinct number in the write in section of your ballot. Vote Democrat—it's GOOD for you!!

### September BCDCC Meeting

The September Central Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at BCDCC Headquarters. Come early and enjoy light snacks with fellow Democrats. The social begins at 6:00 pm; the meeting follows at 7:00.

## Outfoxed

*Democracy for America Presents: Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism*

Democracy for America is sponsoring a free showing of the Robert Greenwald film, "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism". The 77-minute film will be shown at the Richland Public Library on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 pm. Following the film the audience will have the opportunity to hear reactions from local media personalities and to comment and/or ask questions of the media.

"Outfoxed" examines media mogul Rupert Murdoch, and how the Federal Communication Commission helped Murdoch break the rules to establish a fourth major television network in the United States. The film explores the impact on society when a broad swath of media is controlled by one person. It also looks at Fox News and the potential dangers of ever-larger corporations controlling the public's right to know.

Contact Sharon Briggs, Democracy for America, at 783-2080 or by email at [sabriggs@charter.net](mailto:sabriggs@charter.net) for further information.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Calendar items and brief event information may be submitted up to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

Please send submissions to:

[bencodems\\_newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:bencodems_newsletter@earthlink.net)

E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

## Upcoming Events—Con't

### Tri-Cities Democrats

Many gathered for the monthly meeting of the Tri-City Democrats on August 6, at the home of Bev and Scott Jennings. After enjoying the potluck, the group was updated with reports from representatives of Benton and Franklin Counties, and with campaign messages from Rick Dillender, John David, Andrew Dixon for Craig Mason, and Rebecca Francik.

The speaker for the evening was Cindi Laws. Her topic was "Full Frontal Politics". Cindi has 15 years experience fundraising and conducting public affairs for non-profit organizations, government agencies, and political officials. Cindi gave a very spirited talk.

The September meeting will be at the Richland Labor Hall, 1305 Knight Street with Michele Levenite as the hostess. Program will be National Convention in Boston report, update from local candidates, and open discussion.

Leona Hassing, President, Tri-City Democrats

### Democracy for America

The next Democracy for America Meetings will be Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Mid-Columbia Library, Room A. We will continue doorbelling and will discuss a new Veterans Project. For more information please call Bob Parazin at 946-6363.

Next month's meeting will be Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, and will also be held at the Mid-Columbia Library.

### Democratic Party Meetup

The next DNC-sponsored Democratic Meetup will be September 14<sup>th</sup>. Location and topic TBA. For more information call Bob Parazin at 946-6363.

### Kerry Meetups

Kerry meetups will be held at 7:00 pm in Campaign Headquarters until the November Election. The schedule is:

Tuesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>

Special meetings will be called, if necessary.

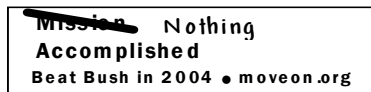
### John Kerry Rally at John Dam Plaza

The Tri-Cities Chapter of Moms For Kerry is hosting a Kerry/Edwards rally on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the John Dam Plaza, 12-1 pm. October 30<sup>th</sup> is the National Rally Day for Moms For Kerry. There will be local candidates and several speakers on topics pertinent to this area. These include health care, the local economy, environmental issues, and education. Individual speakers and topics will be announced later. For more information, to join, or volunteer call Dana Sprengle at 308-2856 or email mostly-sunnymom@hotmail.com.

## Fundraising

### Bumper Sticker Ad Campaign

The MoveOn bumper stickers we purchased saying:



have languished lately. We would love to have a large ad in the Tri-City Herald and we still have time to place one if we can sell more bumper stickers. See if there's room on your car or window for one more reminder of the failings and braggadocio of this administration.

Mimi Latta, Chair

## Event Reports

### Benton County Fair Booth

The County Fair Booth has been put to rest once again. It served us very well this year. Nicely decorated and staffed by 40+ interested and energized Democrats, I think we really made a favorable impact on the fair crowds and hopefully made some new friends!

We registered more than 150 people, handed out countless pieces of candidate information, and instructed 100s of voters on the use of the multi-ballot primary system and according to KEPR TV had the hottest giveaway item ... a small red, white and blue glider.

Our candidates enjoyed their stay in the booth and engaging with the crowd. Thanks to all those that made it such a success with particular thanks to Heather Dillender, Charlotte Lewis and Michele Levenite who shared with me a daily dose of fair frivolity and Mimi for the decoration support and Dean Burows for the transportation.

Bob Parazin

Fair Booth Committee Chair

### Summer Picnic

Our annual Summer Picnic was a hit. Approximately 75 local Democrats braved the heat to enjoy the gathering. Special thanks goes to Frank and Donna Ling, and Ginny McIntyre, who graciously lent us their BBQ grills, to John Latta who helped get the grills to the picnic, and to Leona Hassing, who ran the donations table.

### Fair Parade

The Fair Parade was a great success. We had people in period costume, along with our giant Constitution and about 20 members of the Local Ironworkers Union. Thanks to all who participated.



### Web Resources

★ [www.capitolreader.com](http://www.capitolreader.com) Subscription site which gives detailed summaries of current political books. 30-day free trial.

★ [www.washingtonmonthly.com](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com) Online version of the monthly periodical. Excellent political commentary.

★ [www.politics1.com](http://www.politics1.com) A comprehensive online guide to American politics.

★ [www.slate.com](http://www.slate.com) News site on MSN. Mostly political, and refreshingly liberal. Includes articles by commentators such as William Saletan; also has daily Doonesbury comic strips.



### Book List

★ *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Seizing Power in the Age of the Internet* by Joe Trippi.

★ *Fanatics and Fools: The Game Plan for Winning Back America* by Arianna Huffington.

★ *The Halliburton Agenda: The Politics of Oil and Money* by Dan Briody.

★ *A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq, and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies* by James Bamford.

★ *Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George W. Bush Presidential* by James Moore.

## Local News

### State Committee Woman Election

Congratulations to our new State Committee Woman, Phyllis Bowersock, who was unanimously voted in at the most recent Benton County Democrat Central Committee Meeting. Although she was unable to attend, Shirley Miller nominated Phyllis and spoke on her behalf; Jim Dillman seconded the nomination.

Her opponents, Barbara McFarlin-Kosiec and Sheila Sullivan both withdrew from the race previous to the vote. Both said that they had chosen to run because they were concerned the position would not be filled, but felt that Phyllis would do a fine job.

### Vina Hudson has Moved

Due to health considerations, Vina Hudson has moved to be near her children. Her new address is 100 Crockett St. #325, Seattle, WA 98109-2595.

### Patty Murray Headquarters

A new campaign office for Patty Murray has been opened in Richland. The office is located in the Control Technology Services building, at 1840 Terminal Dr. (near the Richland airport).

Fitz Reyes has recently joined the campaign as the new organizer for the Tri-Cities area and is seeking volunteers to work in the office, as well as door belling, phone banking, and writing letters to the editor. He can be reached at fitz@pattymurray.com, by cell phone at (509) 832-0560, or at either office number: (509) 946-2501 or (509) 946-9032.

### Thank you to Newsletter Committee

Thank you to Missy Keeney Baker who made arrangements with the Richland Library and for organizing a group to get the August newsletter ready to mail. Those who joined her to assemble it were: Margaret Munro, Alan Stellwagen, Rukmani Atri, Shari Smith Dick & Nyla Brouns, Skip Yelding, Michelle Smith, Katherine Ely, Betty King, Sharon Ferigno, Leona Hassing, and Charlotte Lewis. If you can help with the next newsletter, please call Missy Keeney Baker at 943-2890. Our newsletter is our voice and goes to over 1,000 residents of Benton County. Help us get out the word!

## Local Headquarters

Our Headquarters is located at 115 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Kennewick, and is open from 10-6 most days and from 10-8 on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The phone number is 585-7682. Staffers are needed; please volunteer by calling Headquarters or Mimi Latta at home.

### Attention PCOs

To All Precinct Committee Officers: Volunteers at the Benton County Democratic Headquarters will be putting together packets of literature on all Democratic Candidates for 2004. These will be given to residents during "Walk the Precinct Week", September 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. If yours is a large precinct, you may be able to get Democrats on each block to help with contacting people. I've had pretty good luck in recruiting people to help. If you are interested and have questions, call me at 375-1789. If you leave a message, tell me the best time to call you back.

Sheila Sullivan

### From the 8<sup>th</sup>

Vote Democratic. The 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic nominee we pick to beat Doc Hastings (i.e. Craig Mason, Sandy Matheson, or Richard Wright) will be determined only by voters who choose the Democratic ballot in the Primary. Another reason to vote Democratic in the Primary is to show your support of the 8<sup>th</sup> District Democratic candidates Jerad Koepp, John David, and Rick Dillender. The three 8<sup>th</sup> LD candidates are all technically running unopposed in the Primary and so they'll be on the ballot in November either way, but the number of votes they receive in the Primary will show potential General Election voters the level of support the Democrats have in our District. People like to be with winners. Show them what we know: that Jerad, John, and Rick are winners!

John Latta, 8<sup>th</sup> LD Chair



*Letters to the editor may be submitted concerning local, national, or international issues, or as a forum for commentary on the newsletter. Please keep letters to 125 words or less. See submission information on the front page.*

## Letters to the Editor

### To Get Involved—or Not?

To get involved, or not to get involved: that is the question many of us ask ourselves during this political season. Not everyone can be an activist. But how can the average citizen justify his or her refusal to get involved in the political process while continuing to grouse about those in office? I used to feel satisfied with just casting a fairly informed ballot. But the very different outcomes of the Gore and Cantwell candidacies in 2000 opened my eyes to the fine line between enough and not-enough support! So I volunteered for the Mason campaign, because I do not want to see Doc Hastings elected to another insufferable term. I'm coming down on the side of get involved this year, and I hope many of you Democrats out there will do the same.

Darci Coffman, Kennewick

### Support the VFW

I've never thought too much whenever contributions were being collected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Occasionally I have stopped to contribute, but often, like many so lunchtime shoppers in rush, have not. Today I stopped as I usually do at the local Safeway for lunch. I noticed the table set up and saw by the bright red poppies on the table that it was the VFW. Today I stopped and contributed because I knew I had to. I could not walk by as a supporter of John Kerry for President without contributing. It will be nice to have a President who understands the needs of the veteran and who knows the meaning of true Patriotism.

Roger Briggs, Kennewick

### Thank you

Rick and I would like to wholeheartedly thank some of our faithful supporters and friends for making his announcement a wonderful success. Thanks goes to Charlotte Lewis, Sandy Gourley, John and Mimi Latta, Bob Parazin, Dann Lewis, Ginny McIntyre, Margery Dickin-son, Charlie Bickenheuser, Scott and Bev Jennings, John David, Jerad Koepp, Mike Ragan, Margaret Munro, and all of our guests in attendance. We are touched by everyone's unselfish generosity.

Heather Dillender, Richland

# September 2004

## Democratic Candidates

If you are aware of other candidates, please send names and positions to [bencodem\\_s\\_newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:bencodem_s_newsletter@earthlink.net).

*Governor:* Christine Gregoire,  
Ron Sims

*Lt. Governor:* Brad Owen

*Senator:* Patty Murray

*Secretary of State:* Laura Ruderman

*State Treasurer:* Michael (Mike) J. Murphy

*State Auditor:* Brian Sonntag

*State Senate:* John David

*State Insurance Commissioner:*

Mike Kreidler

*Public Lands Commissioner:* Mike Cooper

*Attorney General:*

Deborah Senn, Mark Sidran

*State Supreme Court Justice:*

Robert Alsdorf, Mary Kay Becker

*4th CD Congressperson:*

Craig Mason, Sandy Matheson,

Richard Wright

*8th LD Representative:* Jerad Koeppe,

Rick Dillender

*16th LD Representative, Pos. 1:*

Jim Barnett, Tom Schmerer,

*16th LD Senator:* Becky Francik

## Events

### September

- 1 Democracy for America Meeting  
Mid-Columbia Library Room A  
7:00 pm
- 7 Kerry Meetup at Headquarters, 7pm
- 8 Exec-board Meeting, Headquarters,  
6:30 pm.
- 14 Primary Election
- 14 Democratic Party Meetup, location  
TBA. Call Bob Parazin 946-6363  
for info.
- 15 BCDCC Meeting, Headquarters.  
Light snacks at 6:00 pm, meeting  
from 7:00-8:45 pm.
- 16 8th Legislative District Meeting,  
Headquarters, 6:30 pm. Christine  
Gregoire is scheduled to speak.
- 22 Free screening of *Outfoxed*, Richland  
Library, 6:30 pm.
- 23 Kerry Meetup, Headquarters, 7 pm
- 25 State Committee Meeting, Moses  
Lake Best Western Hallmark Inn

### October

- 2 Deadline to register for General  
Election
- 5 Kerry Meetup, Headquarters, 7 pm

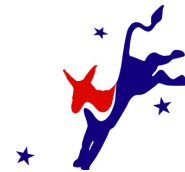
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12	13	14★	15★	16★	17	18
19	20	21	22★	23★	24	25★
26	27	28	29	30		

- 6 Democracy for American Meeting  
Mid Columbia Library at 7 pm
- 13 Absentee Ballots mailed
- 21 Kerry Meetup, Headquarters, 7 pm
- 30 National Rally Day for Moms For  
Kerry, John Dam Plaza, 12-1 pm

### November

- 2 Election Day
- 6 Post-Election Party



Return Service Requested

Benton County Democratic Party  
P.O. Box 636  
Richland, WA 99352

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