

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

September 2005 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

Congratulations to all those who participated in our award-winning parade entry! Yes, we took 3rd place for Jim Dillman's vision of Democratic contributions to the Mid-Columbia. Jim has the plaque to prove it. Thanks also to Laurel Piippo, Theresa and Chuck Lopresti, Anne & Matt Kizerian, Bob Parazin, Leona Hassing and others who gave their time and energy. You're GREAT!

Thanks also go to Bob Parazin, the Fair Committee Chair and those who assembled and worked in our county fair booth and to Sandy Gourley and Charlotte Lewis and all who worked on our summer picnic. The weather cooperated and people enjoyed themselves. All the positive exposure to the public will pay off next year. (We have an insulated bag with someone's glasses in it. Call Mimi at 627-2679 to claim them.)

Looking ahead to September 21st, we have a few Bylaws changes to consider at our meeting at the Kennewick Union St. library. These were printed in the June newsletter, but we didn't have time to cover them in July and we didn't have an August meeting. You can find back issues of the newsletter on our website: www.bencodems.org if you need to catch up.

In October, we're working with local unions to set up a blood drive at the Richland Labor Temple. The Red Cross desperately needs contributions and it's a way for Democrats to make a difference in our own community. It won't cost you anything and it could save someone's life.

I'll be emailing or calling PCOs with

dates for the next couple of training sessions. Those dates and times weren't available at the time of printing this newsletter. Be prepared to bring your questions about the position of PCO and your duties in supporting our candidates and issues. In the meantime, please begin looking around your precinct for good sign locations such as intersections or major thoroughfares and determine if the homes at those locations belong to Democrats. If you know of good locations already, please write them down so that we can set up a list in each city in Benton County. We'll be available to help if you need it.

Lastly, PCOs: please remember to take voter registration forms with you as you walk your neighborhoods. You can obtain the forms from any of the auditor's offices or at our regular meetings. If we sign up one new Democratic voter per precinct and can cover all the precincts to take information, that'd be 185 new Dems who might become active on behalf of the party. And that could change everything.

Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

September BCDCC Meeting

September's meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21st at 7:00 pm at the Mid-Columbia Library in Kennewick on Union Street.

Vote!

Remember to vote in the September Primary Elections! All Benton and Franklin county elections will be done by mail-in—ballots must be postmarked by September 20th. You should receive a ballot in the mail; the Auditor began sending out ballots on August 31st. If you don't receive a ballot soon (and you are currently registered), please call the Benton County Auditor's office at 736-2727.

Tri-City Democrats Meeting

The September Tri-City Democrats

meeting will be held on Friday, September 2nd at the Richland Labor Hall. The potluck will start at 6:00 pm, the meeting will follow at 7:00. This is a special program featuring Richard Nordgren, Chair of the Law and Justice Advisory Committee; Jim Eagan, member of the Committee; and Andy Miller, Prosecuting Attorney for Benton County.

Democracy for America

The next DFA meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 pm at the Mid-Columbia Library in Kennewick on Union Street. We will discuss the progress on the Wal-Mart film premier, the Downing Street Memo Meeting with Hastings, and review progress on the DFA Corp Ombudsman Project with returning Veterans.

Last Call

For those who want to save about 50% on prescriptions in Canada, call John David at 528-5280 for transportation to Osoyoos, BC Canada, on Tuesday, September 13th. He has room for six passengers. This is a one-day trip. Please bring the following:

- Prescriptions written by your local physicians

(Continued on page 2)

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.

Please submit material for consideration by the date listed in the calendar for each month. 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.

Please send submissions to Matt Kizerian at editor@bencodems.org. E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

Upcoming Events—Con't

- Passport or birth certificate
- \$50 US cash for the Canadian doctor's consultation
- A list of the prescriptions you may need for the pharmacist.

Prescriptions can go on your credit card. To make sure your necessary medications are in stock, you can call Don Millward, pharmacist, toll free 1-866-495-4911, or you can fax him toll free with your list of medicines at 1-866-495-4912, Borders Pharmacy Services, LTD.

Laurel Piippo

Event Reports

Tri-City Democrats

On the very hot evening of August 5, twenty-two members and guests of the Tri-City Democrats gathered at the home of Ginny McIntyre, 121 View Meadows Ct. Inside the air-conditioned house, we enjoyed a hearty potluck, which was followed by an excellent program by Dallas Barnes.

The next meeting will be at the Richland Labor Hall on Friday, September 2nd. Remember that we will be asking for \$1.00 per person to pay for the use of the hall. The evening will be hosted by Bob and Ann Parazin.

Leona Hassing, President
Tri-City Democrats

Democracy for America

We had a great August Meet-Up; we were very pleased with the turnout. We had a few new faces and some old friends returned. We reviewed the status of the DFA Corp Veterans Outreach program. Following a rundown of the Dems calendar for the month, we focused on the THREE candidates affili-

ated with DFA who are RUNNING for (non-partisan) LOCAL OFFICES.

One of the candidates, Kendall Miller was in attendance and gave a brief presentation on the admittedly unorthodox approach he'll be using in his campaign. We wish him and the other DFAers who are running the best of luck and I'm certain our members will be helping their candidacies in any way then can. Look at our website in the future for volunteer opportunities to help!

We discussed the status of the Walmart Film Premier schedule for November 15. We're seeking the support of UFCW and SEIU regional and local offices in addition to their member support to help is this event! A venue hasn't been selected...but we're hoping to land something significant: TRAC, an auditorium, theatre, etc. The film appears to be on schedule and we're looking forward to it.

The main feature of the evening was our discussion of our planned meeting with Congressman Hastings on August 17 to share our thoughts on the Downing Street Memo. The purpose of the meeting was to share our views on the Memo and its implications and to present him with a petition urging him to support the HB calling for a congressional inquiry.

Please turn to our Yahoo website to monitor the progress on this effort.

Bob Parazin
DFA Chair

Fair Booth

FAIR BOOTH...a success AGAIN!
One goal this year was to have our volunteers work no more than one 3-hr shift in the booth. We were quite successful with the exception of Evan Samaritano and Ryan Block who put in two shifts and of course the Kizerians

our booth co-chairs, who seemed to make the booth their second home. Of course a big thanks goes out to EVERYONE who helped with the setup, tear down, and equipment loans, with particular thanks to Dean Burows for his energy and use of his truck and the Filions for storing the booth. We handed out 1000s of flyers, sold about \$270 worth of Dem materials, gave away about \$90 in 'goodies' and had over 40 voter registrations. The crowd seemed more affirming this year with a lot of 'thumbs' up 'thank-yous' voiced for being at the Fair...a most pleasant surprise!!

Bob Parazin
Fair Booth Co-Chair

Senator Cantwell in Richland

Senator Maria Cantwell visited Richland on August 3rd. More than 50 people gathered at the Richland Community Center to hear her speak and ask questions. Issues discussed included Hanford worker benefits, her stand on the Patriot Act, Medicare, VA hospital closures, CAFTA, and low-power community FM radio stations.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped get things ready for Sen. Cantwell's visit.

Summer Picnic

Thanks to all who showed up. There were plenty of side dishes and plenty of hamburgers and hot dogs. Those who were there enjoyed themselves, especially listening to Autumn Sample, Eastern WA Field Manager for the State Party and Eileen Macoll, State Vice Chair. For all of those who did not show up, you missed a chance to relax and have fun with other Democrats.

Sandy Gourley
Picnic Co-Chair



Web Resources

- ★ www.TruthInTheFinePrint.org Before you vote on Initiative 330 this November, be sure to read the fine print. I-330 would force you to give up your right to your day in court—and gives the insurance industry many hidden benefits at your expense.
- ★ tools.democracyforamerica.com/link/ The new DFA group site for meetings. Register to receive e-mail updates on meeting times.
- ★ www.bluewashington.com Democratic site with an emphasis on Eastern Washington.



Book List

- ★ *God vs. the Gavel* by Marci A. Hamilton
- ★ *Gag Rule: On the Suppression of Dissent and the Stifling of Democracy* by Lewis H. Lapham
- ★ *All the President's Men* by Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward
- ★ *New Rules: Polite Musings from a Timid Observer* by Bill Maher
- ★ *The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court* by Bob Woodward, Scott Armstrong
- ★ *Politics: Observations and Arguments, 1966–2004* by Hendrik Hertzberg

Local Candidates

Shelia Sullivan

My name is Sheila Sullivan and I'm running for Position 6 on the Richland City Council. The four candidates for this position will be a Primary Race on September 20th.

My parents and I came as immigrants to the US and settled in Michigan where I grew up. I attended high school and college there. In 1951, I married Maurice Sullivan and we moved to Richland in late 1955.

I now have six children, all of whom attended school in Richland and colleges in Washington and Oregon. I have been involved in volunteer work here since the 1960s and, for fifteen years, I was co-owner of the Red Door Party Rentals.

My goals as a Council member are to promote a safe and vibrant community with a strong economic base, to encourage a world-class education for a cultural and economic mix of people, and to provide for the enhancement of Richland's quality of life.

I know Richland's history and I care about its future. If you live in Richland, vote for me on September 20th. I am well qualified to be a member of the Richland City Council.

Shelia Sullivan

Kendall Miller

This is a test. Who are the members of the Kennewick City Council? How many are there? Who is the councilman for your ward? What is a ward anyway?

How did you do? When you get ready to mark your ballot are you even going to find the voters pamphlet? If you find it, do you think it is going to tell you enough to make a decision about who should serve on your city council for the next four years? Or are you going to pick the name that sounds the most familiar or has the most signs on the street? If you do, you could put someone like me into office.

I have no experience in public service. I am fairly ignorant of recent issues faced by our city. I have no articulated platform that would give you any idea how I would fulfill the duties of this office. I have the support of no particular political party. I have no special talents

that would be helpful as a councilman. I don't even remember names very well.

When you see my name on the ballot, the most dangerous thing you could do is vote for me.

Letters to the Editor

Iraq

Before he can expect to regain the trust of the American people, President Bush needs to explain his strategy in Iraq and lay out a plan for success. He needs to start listening to the military experts telling us what's happening on the ground there. And he needs to start listening to the concerns of people here at home. On Sunday [August 21st], Republican Senator Hagel warned President Bush against ignoring the advice of his military officials when putting together a military plan for Iraq. And, he is right. Our troops deserve better.

The President can't make up for the mistakes he made in taking the United States to war in Iraq, but he can do the right thing going forward.

When President Bush speaks this week to members of the military and veterans, he should lay out a clear plan for future success in Iraq based on the informed advice of his military command.

It's long-past time for the President to show some leadership, for the sake of our troops, their families and America's security.

Alice Germond
DNC Secretary

Cindy Sheehan Vigil

There were five DFA members at the Cindy Sheehan vigil in Kennewick [on August 17th]; in all I counted 22 people there holding candles (the *Herald* said two dozen). This was about twice the number who came out to counter-protest.

For what it's worth, this Republican, Bush-supporting district produced twice as many peace supporters as Bush supporters willing to come out and take a stand. Don't give up on 2006.

Tim Mesford
on 3cities4dean yahoo group

'No' on Initiative 330

This November, Washington state voters

will decide on a medical malpractice initiative that would cap damages and take away civil rights. Passage of Initiative 330 would affect all patients in Washington state by taking away hard-earned patients rights – at the benefit of the insurance industry.

But I-330 does more than just place a cap on damages:

- I-330 could force you to give up your right to your day in court—under I-330, before you can get health insurance, medical care or a prescription, HMOs, insurance companies, and hospitals can force you to sign a mandatory binding arbitration contract saying, “By signing this contract you are agreeing to have any issue of malpractice decided by neutral arbitration and you are giving up your right to a jury or court trial.” This also applies to nursing and veterans homes.

- Under I-330, the cap on damages applies to all cases of medical negligence, regardless of how bad the negligence or how serious the injury. There are no exceptions even in serious cases of true medical negligence resulting in brain damage, loss of limb, permanent paralysis, or death. I-330 even shields the few doctors who repeatedly cause serious injuries. Because I-330 allows continued secrecy, you can never learn who they are.

- 330 Gives the insurance industry many hidden benefits at your expense— I-330 allows the insurance industry to pay the money they owe you over a period of twenty or thirty years or longer. If you die before they fully pay you, the insurance company gets to keep your money instead of paying it to your family. [Section 10(4)]

Even if I-330 passes, they still don't have to lower doctors' insurance rates. Insurance rates aren't even mentioned in I-330.

I-330 contains 20 pages of fine print, all of which you read at www.TruthInTheFinePrint.org.

Vote NO on I-330.

Gabriela Quintana
WSTLA

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. submission information on the front page.

September 2005

Factoids

- Since Bush's 1st inauguration, gas prices have risen by \$1.09, a 75% increase. According the Energy Information Administration, the price of regular, unleaded, gasoline has risen by \$1.09, or 74.5 percent, since Bush's 1st inauguration. On January 15, 2001 just before Bush's first inauguration the average price of gasoline was \$1.46 a gallon. As of August 16, 2005 the average price of gasoline is \$2.55 a gallon. [Energy Information Administration, www.eia.gov]

- Big oil companies have experienced record profits of nearly \$34 billion since Bush took office. Higher overall gasoline prices have cost the American consumer a net of over \$25 billion during Bush's first term in office. This money has gone directly from consumers pocketbooks into the hands of oil companies and oil producers, including OPEC. The big three U.S. oil companies have profited \$33.6 billion over the past three years alone. [EIA Monthly Energy Review; ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco, Conoco-Phillips Financial Reports]

Events

September

- 2 Tri-City Democrats Meeting, Richland Labor Hall, 6:00 pm
- 7 Democracy for America Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Kennewick on Union Street, 7:00 pm
- 13 September Exec Committee Meeting, Richland Fire Station, 7:00 pm
- 16-17 State Committee Meeting, Everett, Quality Inn/Comfort Inn
- 20 Primary Election
- 21 September BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Mid-Columbia Library, Union St. in Kennewick
- 23 Last day to submit material for the October newsletter

October

- 7 Annual Rossellini Dinner, Tacoma
- 7 Tri-City Democrats Meeting, Latta's home, 6:00 pm
- 11 October Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 15 Eastern Washington Conference, Moses Lake, ATEC Center
- 19 October BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm

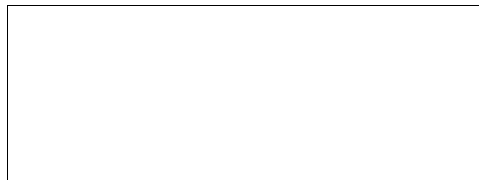
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28 Last day to submit material for the November newsletter

November

- 6 4th CD Meeting, 10:00 am, place TBD
- 8 General Election
- 11-12 Fall State Central Committee Meeting, Ocean Shores
- 8 November Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 16 November BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 25 Last day to submit material for the December newsletter



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