

Benton County Democratic Central Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:00 PM - Zoom Meeting - <https://bencodems.org/>

In attendance: Judi Johannesen (chair 6175); Allison Dabler, PCO 1414, 1st Vice Chair; Brent Kirby, PCO 1665; Cait Guyette; Carl Baker, PCO 4011 (WR11), Activity Chair; Christopher Tracy, 8th LD Chair; Chuck LoPresti; Durga Victorine, PCO 6235, Treasurer; Govind Rajagopal; Jayce Wright 3535; John Christenson, PCO 5623; Justin Raffa, Elections Chair; Kate Moran, SCM; Kendall Miller, PCO 6260, Webmaster; Kitty Tominey, PCO 4103, Platform & Resolutions; Kurt Conrad; Lora Rathbone PCO 1640; Ragan Faylor 6135; Randy Slovic; Stan Moon; Tracy Wilson

Guests: Paula Sardinias and Rep Debra Enteman; Mary Weber, Rep of the Tri Cities Womxn's March

Called to order: 7:02pm.

Approved agenda

Secretary's report/approve minutes Approved

Still need a Secretary. **Lora agreed to take minutes for this meeting. Cait Guyette will help.**

(Note correction: Doug McKinley PCO appointment)

Treasurer's report/Finance Committee (adopt budget) **Balance: \$13,138.34**

Guest Speaker: Paula Sardinias- now president of F&S Global Strategies. Mentors black businesses. Put us in touch with Debra Entenman Representative 47th LD. *See details on pg. 3**.

Action to take: Individual letters or all our signatures on a letter from a group.

Lora: working with Durga to put Tri Cities Groups priority bills in one place so we can work together.

Chair's Report (Judi) Attended State Meeting in Jan. Attended 16th LD mtg last night.

Letter condemned unsigned complaint. Signed by five executive committee members.

Vice Chair 1's report/Organization Committee -Alison.

- Every PCO was sent a map and 2 lists: strong and likely dem precinct members. Use to build a committee to help you. Tell them about BenCo Dems meetings, invite to fill committee positions,...
- Forwarded Rise & Organize info: Free training from the state: how to GOTV. Let her know if you want to learn vote builder.

Vice Chair 2's report -Dori met with 9 state reps on zoom meetings: Enviro and Arts agenda. Made a you tube video on how to do public comments. Will also do one on how to follow state website to track bills and make comments. <https://youtu.be/z3nSfSliz24> Will be posted on FB pages & website.

State Committee Member 1 report Kate: We had state mtg at end of Jan. July Johnson, member of one of tribes won. Kate was elected to military families & vets; enviro and separation of church & state executive boards for state caucus. Contact her if you want to be part of caucus.

State Committee Member 2 report Not here. Judy listed the caucuses he's a part of.

Events Committee report Carl:

- No kids in cages February 27 Noon John Dam Plaza CLAF
- Tri-city Democrats March 12 - Snake River Dams Save our Salmon group.

- workshop to discuss ways to get scholarships (Durga)
- Continuing community engagement
- Women's March March 14, 1pm, Volunteer park. (Mary Weber) *Details below.***
Alison moved to **donate \$200 to Women's march**, was seconded, discussion. Alison stated reasons to support. Vote done in chat by typing yes or no. Judy called it **as passed.**
- B F Co. Fair. They think will hold fair. Backup plan might be a Dem Party display. Haven't received our invoice yet.
- Kate Bitz Western States Center "Based in the Pacific NW & Mt. States, W.S.C. works nationwide to strengthen inclusive democracy so all people can live, love, worship & work free from fear."
- Anti fascist organization may be April speaker for TC Dems mtg.
- Tri-city Diversity & Inclusion Council -LULAC -Racism Survey -Issues & actions analysis (Kurt Conrad)
- At Large Separation of Church and state Caucus
- CLAF - Community and Labor Against Fascism
- CCL- 2nd Tues. of the month, 7pm

Elections Committee report- **Ratified chair appointment: Justin Raffa.** This current election includes all non partisan races. He's working to find who's running again to find vacant seats, and who are our allies to identify people who may run. **March 3, 6pm next committee** mtg. Please join. info@justinraffa.com

Randy: we need to do petition to get signatures for election by district. Otherwise [wasting our time].

Resolutions/Platform Committee report (Kitty) sent letter to Kendal to get it on website. Wants approval to **send to all PCOs.** Judy: fine. Kendall or Judy will help with I-contact.

Kate: asked for **resolution for Ranked Choice Voting.** HB 1156 Boehnke voted for it. Kitty: we already did a resolution. Chuck: may be resubmitted- may be good as is. Kate: the bill is for counties, cities, etc.

Labor Committee report. Jessica: no report. Kate: bill in leg now: 1076 worker protection act. L&I already does what this bill says will do.

Communications Committee report (ratified chair appointment: Durga) Remade advertisement for monthly mtgs and gave new marketing materials to Kendall to put on FB & website and Tumbleweird. Has time to do some graphic work for any of communities. Judy will add her as admin to FB page.

Legislative District report. Chris: had first mtg. of 2021 tonight. Approved our budget commission and Shir will chair? Will meet feb ,March and august & Nov.- months proceeding state mtg.

16th Legislative District report no report

Young Democrats no report

New Business

Budget. Durga presented spread sheet. Jayce moved to pass Budget as presented. Kate seconded. Discussion: Judy has been paying for use of her personal zoom so. Judi: is up to PCO committee to decide how to spend for their needs. Kitty offered her zoom account if needed. Voted in the Chat.

Budget Passes. Unanimous.

Alison: introduced **Ragan Faylor appointed as new PCO of 6135.**

Unfinished Business- none

Good of the Order- see pg. 4***

Adjourned 9:16pm. Proceeded with informal discussion.

Details:

*Debra Entenman Representative 47th LD

Debra: has been working since last year with Gov office and task force around police accountability. About 23 bills trying to get to floor. Has seen some docs from Brad Klippert saying doesn't understand- but they have been working with many community organizations. We are being very careful and thoughtful about legislation they are putting together. Have worked with retired judges, lawyers and others to craft this leg. Are working with interfaith communities. (FAN). Remember what's going on in TC and Spokane. All AME- we're family. I represent a fairly conservative community (Kent). We care about equitable public safety for everyone. Shouldn't vary by zipcode.

CO sponsored Police tactics 1054 bill: set up teams state wide for training, and Independent investigations 1267. Lora read Klippert's letter on 1267 - If he's offering amendments, she hasn't seen them. And he was in her committee.

More information about our the WBBBA: <https://www.fmsglobalstrategies.com/wbbba>

She pays more attention to personal letters. Listens to and responds to the letters. Hearings are public: if want voices heard. Please make a comment.

We know there are short and long term goals. Doesn't mean bills died.

Streamlined sales tax bill. Kent has changed their tax structure. For communities with

Debra- wants min. age for police officer 23, and not on street until 25. We also have a police culture: we have a number of police officers who have come from the military- studies show this is not a good transition. Experience in military as a plus for getting in police dept needs to stop- is a new bill for this.

Wants to create a list of officers who have been decertified so can't go from one dept to another. Once WA state Patrol collected data, found out that there is a problem.

Randy- only Pasco has body and dashboard cameras. Debra- they turn them off, or film not made available. Best cameras are from the community. Pasco has tech. that's automatic. Deb- hopeful about cameras, but more hopeful about training. We need to be honest about the policing depending on the neighborhood. They have community policing. She wants fair & equitable treatment no matter where you live. We need to build relationships with our officers. **It's important for all of us to support community policing with an active relationship with our police.**

**Women's March, March 14, 1pm, Volunteer park -----

Speakers for one hour. Requiring masks and social distance. 2pm march and resource fair. Theme survival. Is reaching out to businesses in community to donate cash and goods&services. Is open to women and Fems. Alison moved to donate \$200 to Women's march, seconded, discussion. Alison stated reasons to support. Vote done in chat by typing yes or no. Judy called it as passed.

Durga: what will you do to track expenditures? Mary: paying speakers fee, time recording videos, - we don't have a website to go see. **Mary agreed to send a financial report after the event.**

*****Good of Order:**

Jayne- Tues feb. 23 at Pasco PUD- Hispanic man had police knee on his neck- stopped when bystanders took photos. 7 officers. Only 2 out of 7 wearing masks. May have lost consciousness. Will let us know.

John Ch.- Current problem with Benton Co. Sheriff position. Opportunity for us to get out message that we want sherrif that enforces law. Jayce: attended the current recall mtg. of Hatcher. We have some extremists here. **Tracy: We have until May 1st for the signatures.** Are aiming to over shoot. Are at half way point. Have been threats, and weather has been difficult. **Signing stations T,Th SAT Hanson park 9-5, Jeff park 9-5, some in Prosser, at fairgrounds with vaccines, others.** Recall vote would be in fall around Oct. <https://recallsheriffjerryhatcher.com/> John wants to help find and support a candidate that will enforce the laws.

Kate: do as group to **ask county commissions to create a charter for Benton Co. Could change county positions to be non-partisan.** Asks us to **watch our city council meetings.** Tues 6pm will decide if will chance bombing range and Keene to a larger circle or a 4 way signa/.

Jayne: is working with Irving Brown of Franklin on **an AACP here.** College chapter?

Justin: when our R officials vote for what we want, Thank them. Durga mentioned mtg with Boehnke today. He co-sponsored Working Families Tax credit.

Durga: we have the most people ever today in this meeting. Would like to know why.

Elections Committee report (ratify chair appointment: Justin Raffa. Report: wants to stay involved after the election. Repeats we need more volunteers. This current election includes all non partisan races. Is working to determine who is running again, to find vacant seats, and who are our allies. And identify people who may run. Want to be sure opponents are well matched. **Mid may is official filing week.** Knows there's a lot of anxiety and hesitation. Is willing to guide people. Non partisan races are a little easier for us.