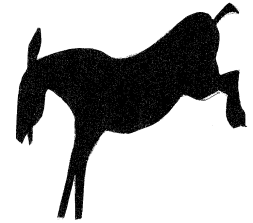


The Benzie Kicker

The Benzie County Democratic Newsletter



The Benzie County Democratic Party is a dynamic part of the community working inclusively and creatively for the betterment of all

Summer - 2006

Volume 10 Issue 3

Executive Board *An Interview with Antoinette Schippers Candidate for State Senate 35th District*

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* Designates Candidates

By Jerry Solanics

Kicker: Tell us some of your background and how you eventually wound up living in Cadillac
Tiyi: I came here twenty years ago from Chicago. I taught music at parochial schools in Chicago. A friend in Cadillac said there were jobs here so I decided to move here with my husband, David Bunce. I've taught music in grades K-8 and have even been a principal. My husband teaches adult ed. in Cadillac. Chicago is such a large place and in Cadillac I feel I can really make a difference. I'm very involved in the arts and politics. I firmly believe that one person can make a difference. I have three children; Zack (23), Rachel (23), Arra (21), and Ezra (18.) Zack plays in the band De-tour, Rachel (Davis) is a singer-songwriter, Arra is in school at the Traverse City Blue Heron Academy studying Asian medicine, and Ezra is graduating high school. David and I are in the band Lake Effect. Lots of musicians in the family!

Kicker: What do you like about teaching?

Tiyi: Everything!! Especially the relationship with children and watching them open their minds.

Kicker: Why are schools in Northern Michigan under funded compared to downstate schools?

Tiyi: Don't get me started!! Bloomfield Hills gets \$11,000 per student—Pine River gets \$7,000! In addition, transportation in rural schools takes up much of their budget. For the present, how about a consortium of school systems buying fuel as a group and getting a reduced cost? The whole school funding system needs to be revisited.

Kicker: Why did you decide to throw your hat into the ring?

Tiyi: (Laughs) I was asked! Actually, my kids were very active in the last presidential election and disheartened and ready to give up when Bush won. I made a point of telling them not to give up and that one person can make a difference. I ran for mayor of Cadillac because of the award to the local Nazi group for keeping a stretch of highway clean. I didn't win, but my candidacy caused others to speak out. Now the mayor and others take part in diversity training. But back to my kids! When the opportunity came along to run for the Senate, they looked at me to see if I would practice what I preach.. And here I am! I want to give McManus a run for the money!

Kicker: Economic development is an important part of the Benzie Democratic Platform. The Kicker asks all candidates to give their plans to help the area's economy and in particular, Benzie County. So go ahead.

Tiyi: Because of the importance of the tourism industry, we need to bring in non-polluting industry—green industries that pay decent wages. Northern Michigan would be a great renaissance area for alternative energy sources. We need zoning laws for greenways and rain gardens. Greenways make sure that development doesn't destroy green areas and rain gardens collect runoff and turn it into usable water.

Kicker: How do you differ from your opponent?

Tiyi: I think McManus gets her policy from downstate (Grand Rapids) Republicans. I think we need to represent local viewpoints—not Grand Rapids.'

Interview continued on Page 3

News from the Chair

Time For Action!!

By Ray Nichols



What a difference a year makes. We have three great candidates who will appear on the November 7th ballot running for County Commissioner. We are all very excited about the possibility of having three seats on the County Board of Commissioners.

Anne Damm will be running in Benzonia, Kathy Ralston in Homestead and Jeff Sandman in Gilmore/Frankfort. These three candidates need your support in any shape or form you are willing and able to contribute. Every candidate needs money for their campaign to help cover the cost of printing signs and literature and postage and for newspaper ads. Help is needed to get on the phone, getting their names out, putting signs on your lawn and have your friends do the same. Probably the most important thing is for you to get out and vote for these candidates on November 7, 2006, if they are in your district.

This is a great opportunity for Democrats to finally break the barrier in our county of having a one party government, it is time for a change, help your candidate and vote.

A fundraiser for the Commissioner candidates is being planned for September 18th at the Cabbage Shed in Elberta from 5—8 p.m.. More information will be in the next newsletter. Put the date on your calendar now.

We will be sponsoring a event “Benzie County Looks Ahead” on August 5th at the Sail Inn Restaurant in Benzonia to help us better understand county government. There will have speakers on the environment, economic development, the county master plan, health care/financial accountability and housing. The event will be open to the public and there will be no cost to attend. Please come out and learn about your county government and how it can better serve the people.

We have new t-shirts, buy one at the Bar-B-Que and march with us on July 4th in the parades.

Annual Chicken Bar-B-Que

Our annual Chicken Bar-B-Que will be held in Maley Park in Honor on Saturday, July 1st. The chicken will be ready at 12 noon and will be served until we run out—so come early to get your dinner. We will be serving 1/2 chicken, potato salad, baked beans, rolls, dessert and beverage for only \$8.00. Come earl.

Honoree Dinner

Friends and family gathered with Benzie Democrats at the Sail Inn Restaurant on May 6th to honor Will Wolfe, Virginia Sorenson, Virginia Griffith, and the Essay Challenge Winners Charlotte “Carly” McKay, Frankfort High School Senior, and Sean Morris, Benzie Central High School Senior. The two essay winners were awarded certificates of appreciation and \$100.00 checks.

We learned how Will Wolfe’s passion for trout fishing lead to a lifetime of working to protect the environment. Virginia Sorenson’s career in education blossomed into educating others on protecting our environment. Virginia Griffith’s commitment to her church, as well as to helping others through Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, Gleaners and Habitat for Humanity provides a service to our community.

Non-partisan candidates present were J.B. Daugherty and Probate Judge, Nancy Kida, as well as the Democratic candidate for the 2nd Congressional District, Kimon Kotos; Dan Scripps, candidate for the 101st State House District and County Commission candidates Anne Damm for District 4 (Benzonia Township) and Kathy Ralston for District 5 (Homestead Twp.)

Many thanks to Dewey Blocksma and Sandy Hulst for a most successful Silent Auction and many thanks to all those who donated articles to auction: Jerry Solanics, Ann Strehle & Barb Skurdall, Joyce Skinner, Platte Valley Auto Lube Center, Pat Jehle, Virginia Griffith, Charlie Kehr, L’Chaim, Kay Boyne, Roxanne & Ken Miner, Patty Haan, Crystal Crate & Cargo, East Shore Market, Virginia Sorenson, Chloe McGehee, Victoria’s Floral, Vanessa Mills, Elizabeth Foley, Diane Wilbur, Dewey Blocksma, Cherry Republic, Jerry Jehle, Bea Stone, Carroll Volpe, Dick Haan, Kathleen Hibbard, Marcia Curran, Phoenix Café, Gallery 31, Maxine Nelson, Eden Hill Greenhouse.

Special thanks to Jim Sheets for a wonderful job as Master of Ceremonies and Mel Schuman for the video tapes of the event . Also special thanks to the Sail Inn for the wonderful food.

Governor Granholm:

Governor Jennifer Granholm: Fighting for ALL of Michigan's Citizens!

Michigan workers are suffering because of the Bush Economics of outsourcing, unfair trade agreements, and jobs shipped overseas.

It's time for someone to stand up and fight. Governor Granholm is standing up and fighting for all of us.

That's why Governor Granholm ordered the state to **buy Michigan products** and is **investing in Michigan businesses** that hire Michigan workers.

That's why Governor Granholm **opposes President Bush's trade agreements** that promote the outsourcing of Michigan jobs to China and elsewhere.

That's why her **Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow Plan** is helping create tens of thousands of jobs in Michigan, right now. She is bringing jobs back to Michigan from overseas and out-of state.

That's why Governor Granholm **fought to raise the minimum wage** and is **working to provide health care** for all of Michigan's citizens.

GOVERNOR JENNIFER GRANHOLM
Fighting for Michigan, fighting for you.

Let's Build a Benzie Bus System:

A millage request to fund the Benzie Bus System will appear on the August 8, 2006 county ballot. With voter approval in 2006, the bus system would start early in 2007.

Express bus service to Traverse City and Manistee—with direct links to Frankfort, Beulah, Benzonia, Thompsonville and Lake Ann—and multiple countywide dial-a-ride buses would operate from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Routs and hours would be adjusted to meet demand.

A Benzie Bus System would grow communities and the economy by taking people to work, school, local shops and restaurants, the doctor and to see family and friends. We urge you to get the facts and to Vote YES on August 8, 2006

An Interview with Tiyi Schippers Continued

Kicker: How do you feel Democratic "family values" compare with Republican "family values"?

Tiyi: Harry Truman said, "Anybody who works for a living and votes Republican is a damn fool." Republicans' values are schizophrenic. They want rules to free the individual, but control everyone's behavior at the same time! Democrats value the richness of possibilities through diversity. We need to keep Republicans from defining values.

Kicker: What political person has influenced you the most?

Tiyi: Mother Jones. She was a union organizer and stopped child labor during Teddy Roosevelt's presidency. Teddy labeled her (at 83 years old) as the "most dangerous woman in America." She saw a need for change and went after it in spite of her age.

Woody Guthrie. He helped change the world through his art (music.) I'm an artist and that's what I'm trying for.

Kicker: What person in your life has influenced you the most?

Tiyi: My father. He is very active in politics and has been for a long time. He was a part of Bobby Kennedy's task force on organized crime and helped investigate the Mafia in the Chicago area. **Full interview at BenzieDemocrats.com**

Wanted

- **Visible location for Campaign Headquarters. Call Ray Nichols at 882-4790**
- ♦ **Precinct Delegates for Almira, Blaine, Colfax, Inland, & Homestead Townships and the City of Frankfort. Call Jerry Solanics at 882-5173 for information.**



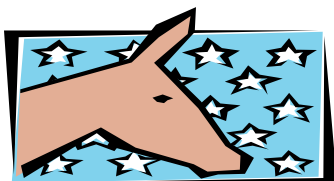
Benzie Democrats' Core Values

Integrity: *We believe that government, as well as the Benzie Democratic Party, must operate with transparency.*

Stewardship: *We are responsible for caring for and nurturing our human and natural resources.*

Tolerance: *We believe respecting differing points of view and the dignity of others are strengths.*

BENZIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
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HONOR MI 49640



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BENZIE DEMS DATEBOOK

July 1, noon: Chicken Bar-B-Que,* Maley Park, Honor

July 4th Parades: Frankfort and Beulah

August 5, 9a.m. -Noon: "Benzie County Looks Ahead"
Sail Inn Restaurant, Benzonia

August 8: Primary Election

August 19th, 9 a.m.: County Convention/Regular Mtg.
Benzonia Twp. Hall

August 21: Stabenow Fundraiser*—Contact Mary Rob-
ling 882-9912 for information.

**August 21: Office Grand Opening/Watch Record Pa-
triot and Web site for information**

August 26-27: State Convention—Detroit
August 26, 2 p.m.: Coho Parade, Honor,

September 2, 9 a.m.: Regular Meeting, Campaign Office

**September 18, 5-8 p.m.: Commission Candidates
Fundraiser*** at the Cabbage Shed, Elberta

October 7, 9 a.m.: Regular Meeting, Campaign Office

November 4, 9 a.m.: Regular Meeting, Campaign Office

November 7: Election Day

November 11, 9 a.m.: Close Campaign Office

November 19,: Women's Spa Day* Best Western

You Can Still Be a Precinct Delegate!

While we had a very successful drive to fill avail-
able precinct delegate positions (we filled 47
slots) we can use more. And even though filing
through the County Clerk's office is no longer an
option, being a write-in candidate is still possible.

According to state law, "an individual who wishes
to seek a precinct delegate position with write-in
votes is required to file a 'Declaration of Intent'
with the city or township clerk by 4:00 p.m. on Fri-
day, August 4, 2006."

If you'd like to be a precinct delegate or have
questions, you can get the necessary form and
information from Jerry Solanics by calling 882-
5173. Join the team!

The Benzie Kicker Newsletter Staff

Jim Dulzo - Jerry Solanics - Carroll Volpe

Please let us know what you think! Send us your
comments and suggestions! Call Carroll at 325-6692
or e-mail her at mevolpe@centurytel.net. If you no
longer wish to receive the newsletter send a note.