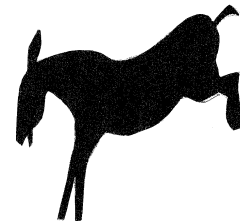


The Benzie Kicker

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

Spring—2008

Visit our Web site: www.BenzieDemocrats.com

Volume 12 Issue 2

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Honoree Dinner 2008:

On May 17th at Crystal Mountain we will be honoring 3 Benzie Stars for their years of service and commitment to our communities. Kay Boyne-Mead, a long time women's rights and peace activist; Dick Haan, a well known performer in the Benzie Community Chorus; and Jane Lean, an economist who serves on the Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital Board and is active in the League of Women Voters.

Our new Rising Star is Kathy Ralston who serves on the Benzie County Planning Commission and who was instrumental in organizing the intergovernmental forum in our County last November.

The evening will begin with a cash bar and silent auction at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the program at 8 p.m. The cost is a minimum of \$40.00 per person and reservations are necessary. Please call Carroll Volpe at 325-6692 or e-mail at mcvolpe@centurytel.net no later than May 5th. Please plan now to join us in honoring these 3 stars and our rising star for an enjoyable evening.



THINK SILENT AUCTION!

A Silent Auction is planned for the May 17 Honoree Dinner at Crystal Mountain Resort. We already have some great items for the Silent Auction, including a Financial Review, Spring Clean-up and Landscaping Assistance, Dinners at Local Restaurants, Sports Memorabilia. But we need additional items!

If you have a service you can provide, or entertainment such as boat rides, or a specialty dinner, or a weekend at a lake, please let us know. Also, hand-crafted items such as pottery, rugs, jewelry. All are welcome.

Contact Joyce Skinner, 275-2553, or Chloe McGehee, 882-9446 if you have an item to donate. This is one of our largest fundraisers (and also is fun as the bidding gets very competitive).

Candidates Wanted:

All Township and County Offices are up for re-election in November 2008. Each Township has a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and 2 Trustees.

The County Clerk, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Sheriff, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner, and all 7 County Commission seats are up for re-election.

Democratic Precinct Delegates will be elected in the August 2008 Primary.

News from the Chair

FROM THE CHAIR **IT IS YOUR TIME TO** **JUMP INTO THE** **CAMPAIGN**



Since the beginning of July, 2007 a group of Democrats who are made up of the Executive Committee and additional volunteers have been planning and working to complete the Coordinated Campaign Plan. It is now done and we are ready to go out and implement this plan; however two parts are still missing and cannot be completed without your help, “volunteers and money”.

Volunteers

We are still in need of people to help make this 2008 election a success. We are short of our goal of 150 volunteers for the election. Please come be a part of this election, you will find it can be enjoyable, plus you will meet a lot of nice people like yourself who want to see a Democrat in the White House and in the State House in 2008. If you would like to become part of the growing volunteer team call Carroll Volpe at 231-325-6692 she will be glad to find a place for you on our team.



Money

We will have three major fundraising events this year, the Honoree Dinner, Chicken Bar-Queue and the Women’s Spa Day. These events are called our “anchor events”. The events give us a basic amount of money each year to support the local party, but do not cover all of our needs. That is why we are asking you to help us cover additional cost of running a major, county, state and national election. Some of you have responded already to our call of donating \$50.00 as mentioned in my column in the last newsletter, and some who received a letter have also



given generously to help our cause.

We know that there are many more of you who would like to give \$50.00 or what ever you can afford to help make this a very successful campaign season. Please make your checks payable to: Benzie County Democratic Committee and mail it to:

Benzie County Democratic Committee
P.O. Box 44
Honor, Michigan 49640



Thank all of you for your support,
Ray Nichols, Chair

Voter Contact—Almira Walk:

We will be going door-to-door in Almira Township with Dan Scripps on April 8th, 15th and 22nd (Tuesdays) from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

We would like to have a lot of volunteers to help with this canvass. It is a lot of fun—if you can join us for any of these dates—please call Carroll at 325-6692 for more information.

If you can’t walk you could sign on to be a driver. Everyone is urged to join us.
Carroll Volpe
Campaign Coordinator

2nd District Candidates:

There are 2 candidates vying to run against Hoekstra their websites are listed below:

Fred Johnson: fredjohnsonforcongress.com

Kimon Kotos: kotosforcongress.com
District meetings are held at 2 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday or each month at the Ramada Inn on US. 10 just east of Ludington city limits on the south side of the Hwy. Come early and eat in the lounge.

District Convention:

The 2nd District Convention to select the delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Denver August will be held at West Shore Community College (Scottville) on Saturday, April 19th. Any Democrat who was a member of the Michigan Democratic Party as of March 29th is eligible to participate in electing the delegates.

Negotiations are still being held to try to seat the delegate at the National Convention.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 10 a.m. (You must be in line to register by 10 a.m. in order to be seated to participate). The Convention begins at 10 a.m. and will break out into caucuses for the delegate selection after everyone is seated and the rules are read.

You must chose which caucus you wish to participate in when you register (Clinton or Uncommitted); and you will receive a card to participate in that caucus only. You should bring your Democratic Membership Card to help in facilitating the registration process.

Candidates Needed:



We would like to have candidates in every position on the ballot right down to the township offices. This will not only help the whole ticket; but will give the voters a choice for a change!

There are several current office holders that are retiring which leaves vacancies to be filled. Some of these are full-time and some are part-time positions depending on the township involved. If you would like more information to help you decide whether or not you would like to run for an office please call Carroll Volpe at 325-6692 or Ray Nichols at 882-4790 or Sue Pyne at 882-5721.

We are still seeking candidates for County positions of Prosecutor and Register of Deeds. These are both full time positions and are both very important to have democrats fill these positions on the ballot. We also need Precinct Delegate Candidates, contact Dick Robb at 325-9069.

Support the Troops, Bring Them Home: Stop the Stop Loss:



See the movie and take action

“Stop Loss “ starring Ryan Phillips is a new film dramatizing the practice of stop loss. This film gives a first-hand perspective on how the military’s policy affects the lives of our soldiers and their families.

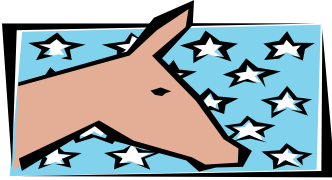
Sign the Stop-Loss petition

Tell Defense Secretary Robert Gates to end the stop-loss backdoor draft. Sign the petition at: <http://credoaction.com/stop-loss>

“Stop Loss has been one of the most painful Pentagon policies for those who have served in Iraq. While the film examines how the policy might affect one soldier, this issue affects thousands and thousands of those who serve our nation, in a very similar way . Longer and more frequent deployments have been linked to depression and even suicide among our troops and veterans. We must rally behind our troops and end this destructive policy.”-Jon Soltz...Jon Soltz Is a leader of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans community and chairman of VoteVets.org

BENZIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
P O BOX 44
HONOR MI 49640

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BENZIE DEMS DATEBOOK

April 19th, 8 a.m. 2nd District Convention, West Shore Community College, Scottville MI (Delegate Selection).

May 3, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting, Benzonia Twp.

May 13, 4 p.m.: Deadline to file candidate petitions

***May 17, :** Honoree Dinner/Silent Auction, Crystal Mtn.

June 7, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting, Benzonia Twp

***July 5, Noon—?** Chicken Bar B Que, Maley Park Honor

***July 12, Time ?** - A Midsummer Night's Dream of a President in the White House , Rau's Centennial Lily Farm

August 2, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting, Benzonia Twp.

August 5, Primary Election

September 6, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting at HQ

October 4, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting at HQ

November 1, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting at HQ

November 4, General Election

Note: **Designates fundraiser*

All Meetings are on the 1st Saturday, No meetings in July, and December.

Everyone is welcome to attend meetings - to be on the agenda, please call Ray Nichols prior to the meeting .

Help Wanted

Volunteers for campaign activities! Want to get involved? Contact Carroll at **325-6692** or e-mail at **mcvolpe@centurytel.net** or mail contact info to:
Benzie Democrats, P.O. Box 44, Honor, MI

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.*

The Benzie Kicker Newsletter Staff

Jim Dulzo - 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 **mcvolpe@centurytel.net**. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter—send a note.