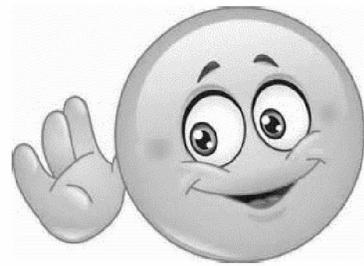


MUTTERINGS...

Keeping Benton County Voters Informed

February 2, 2015

Vol. 1, No. 2



COMMON CORE

Why should I care?

You will notice if you have looked at the agenda for Thursday's Central Committee meeting that we will be having a presentation on Common Core – the Federal Education plan for our nation's children. I had to do some looking for real information, but I have found some excellent research, well written and documented, and seemingly complete. It is on the Home School Legal Defense Association's website found at www.hslda.org/commoncore/ The "answered questions" are excellent and so is the analysis for each of the states including a cost estimate.

As you are looking at this information I would remind you that the assistant to the Director of the U.S. Department of Education was Kevin Jennings (2011-2013) who sold himself as the "Safe School Czar," but was also the founder in 1990 of the Gay and Lesbian Independent School Teachers Education Network (later changed to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network).

Considering his, and other progressives', leadership role, it is questionable whether the emphasis will be valid measurements of academic achievement or measurement of the degree to which indoctrination has affected social and moral attitudes. (For example, the federal government has already demonstrated its tendency to indoctrinate for social engineering purposes in its policy of punishing personnel if they are caught speaking about the Bible or their beliefs.) If you listen to the video link <http://bit.ly/NY6thGradeTeacherSpeakAboutCCTests> as supplied with the Central Committee's agenda for Thursday night's meeting, you will hear what the teacher is saying about the content of the testing as she repeated several times "the material will include objectionable language suited for older reading levels." Think about what exposing children to objectionable language might mean for them – would it be about their sexuality, their morality, their innocence, their family values?

While the federal government would like us to think that Common Core is not a curriculum, but rather just a philosophy, it is prescribing specifics of curricula to match their testing biases and underlying social philosophy. We are already hearing snippets back from various school districts:

- 1) Teachers in Nebraska may not refer to primary students with any pronoun or label that infers male or female.
- 2) California high school students are offered a two week course on how to become a Muslim, including adopting Muslim names and learning phrases of praise for Allah.

The apparent motivation behind this educational plan is very philosophically biased toward Progressivism, Statism, and moral relativism (as you might find summarized in Hillary Clinton's book, *It Takes a Village*). The increased popularity of these philosophies has already demonstrated a correlation in the growth of violence throughout our nation.

When people try to make the government the "know all" and "supply all" they are actually involved in a kind of idol worship that eliminates for them self-governance, personal responsibility and the hope that their own life holds meaning and productivity.



Every man is a fool for at least five minutes a day; wisdom consists of not exceeding the limit. - unknown

Calendar

Precinct Officers

Central Committee will be meeting on Thursday, February 5
At 7:00 in the Richland Public Library Gallery Room



"Freedom at the Capitol" from Freedom Foundation



BILLS

Despite the grumbling, three bills supported by Freedom Foundation and designed to level the playing field for employees in union-controlled workplaces passed out of Sen. Michael Baumgartner's Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

- **SB 5226** requires public employee unions to report basic financial information.
- **SB 5045** allows public employees to vote out forced union fees.
- **SB 5237** gives workers 90 rather than 30 days each contract cycle to vote out or change their union.

Next these need to be moved to the Senate floor for a vote.

PAY RAISES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES?

Senate Majority Caucus leaders have been making the argument that the union contract the governor negotiated with the state employee's union officials (a \$1.1 million donor) might not be called for.

They note:

- 86 percent of state employees are paid more today than they were four years ago.
- Despite inflation of 7 percent, the average wage increase is 14 percent.
- Employee turnover for state jobs is 10 percent; the national average is 16 percent.

Funding the pay raises and benefits for state workers would cost the state about \$440 million over the next two years. Pay raises the governor proposes for all unionized public employees and providers would require approximately \$1.5 billion.

MORE BILLS HIGHLIGHTING THE UNION RACKET

On Feb 2 at 1:30 p.m., the Senate Commerce and Labor committee will be hearing two bills of interest:

- **SB 5552** Corrects flaws in state law to uphold the rights of those who object to union payment for religious reasons.
- **SB 5332** Ends the union scheme where local wage and employment mandates like minimum wage or paid sick leave are not applied to unionized workplaces.

This law is based on Max Nelsen's findings, which were published in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Additional bills to curb the special privileges of the union enterprise were introduced this week:

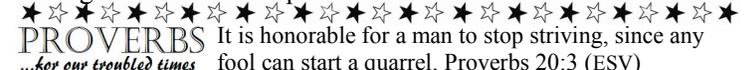
- **SB 5671** assuring that the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Harris v. Quinn* are actually implemented by the governor's state agencies.

The law assures that home healthcare workers, childcare providers and others are not required to pay union dues unless they actually want to do so.

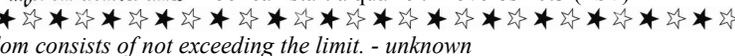
This bill ends taxpayer-funded union activities.

- **HB 1773/SB 5602** ends the union scheme whereby taxpayers rather than dues-payers, are paying for the union officials salaries, benefits and pension. Often these union operatives are working directly against the interest of public service recipients and taxpayers—filing complaints, stopping accountability, driving up the cost and working to lower service expectations. These bills end taxpayer-funded union operations like the wages of union officials who work only for the union.

Action step: Write, telephone or send an email to your legislators asking them to support these legislative improvements to union fairness and telling them what you think about taxes funding union officials' operations.



PROVERBS It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel. Proverbs 20:3 (ESV)



BILLBOARD...



Upcoming bills of interest
Interested in Health Care?
If you don't like ObamaCare...
how about InsleeCare?



I'm Wondering...

Constitutional Convention

Health Security Trust SB 5132 - NEW SECTION Sec. 3. An agency of state government known as the Washington health security trust is created. The purpose of the trust is to provide coverage for a set of health services for all residents.

Requiring UNIVERSAL screening for autism and provider payment for autism and developmental delays for children (HB 1365) – [What I don't understand about this bill is if “universal” IS actually limited to medicare families, but still it seems heavy handed to require families to comply with processes that are not actually explained as to their invasiveness, time involvement and follow-up procedures]

Telemedicine (HB 5175) – This bill would facilitate payments from state sources for telemedicine (medical consultations done remotely via computer). [It has terrible gaps in accountability and would allow the abortion industry to charge the state for prescribing chemical abortions remotely, as has been done in other states.]

WA Health Security (HB 1025) – This would put WA state in competition with the Federal Government for the takeover of a citizen's personal health care, promising price fixing and exemption from anti-trust laws. [A better option would be a law to give employers a choice to make Health Savings Accounts available with the umbrella of catastrophic insurance.]

Employee Reproductive Choice Act (SB 5026) – In spite of the Supreme Court's decision to recognize the right of conscious, this bill would force every business in Washington to cover twenty specific forms of contraception in their insurance policies, using as justification, the lie that mothers that use contraception are healthier than those who don't. [As you know many forms of contraception have caused women health problems, including loosing the ability to bear children and higher risk of cancer as well as the health-dangerous practice of using abortion as if it were contraception.]

Requiring oximetry screening for newborns – [I don't think it is appropriate for the state instead of my physician to determine the health decisions for individuals. Physicians are paid, trained, licensed and up to date. We pay the experts to do this. The state is an overlayment of unnecessary cost and interference.]

There are probably 30 bills in the “Health Care,” “Health Care Authority,” and “Health Care Professions” (under the title “Bill by Topic”) which are simply interfering with a professional's rights and duties by circumvention of the State. If you are involved in any of these professions you are more qualified to respond to your legislators over these issues than I am. **PLEASE, do us a favor and contact them.**

Free and Fair Elections (HB 4000) - “The Legislature requests Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution.”

[In the political climate of today, when wisdom, rationality, justice and equality has been swept aside, I would not trust political activists to rewrite any part of the Constitution or to come up with a better document.

Changing election laws would be an easy and more productive way to meet the requests of the bill to make fairer elections if this is what these people actually wanted. It would not be safe to turn loose a Constitutional Convention with nebulous goals allowing them to reword the greatest contract any people of the earth already has with those who are to form their government. In my opinion we don't need to change the Constitution, we need to be able to count on the government to live up to the Constitution. Read the bill, give it some thought and **let your legislators know.**]

Valid Voter Registrations?

Voter Registration Information (SB 5259) – This would require landlords to provide each new residential tenant with a voter registration form at the time the tenant signs a lease with the landlord. [Instead we need some no nonsense laws requiring proof of citizenship at the time of voter registration.]

Youth Voter Registration (HB 1264) – This would allow 16 year olds to register to vote when they get their driver's license. Their records are to be held for two years until they are old enough to vote. [I can't see a valid reason for this extra paperwork.]

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Here's the ad the Anti-Gun NFL Banned for Super Bowl XLIX (Bob Owens of Human Events:)
<http://bearingarms.com/>

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Hillsdale College Online Courses

Learn what a Democratic Republic Is

Hillsdale College offers free, not-for-credit online courses taught by its faculty. These online versions are based on those in the College's undergraduate Core Curriculum, which all Hillsdale students must complete prior to graduation.

In addition to lectures, these online courses feature readings, study guides, quizzes, and discussion groups. There is also an opportunity to receive certificates of completion for each course.

Study the “Constitution,” “The Presidency and the Constitution” etc. **Check into the possibilities:**

<https://online.hillsdale.edu/>

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Political Humor

A little girl asked her father, “Daddy, do all fairy tales begin with ‘Once upon a time’?”
He replied, “No, a whole series of fairy tales begins with ‘If elected, I promise . . .’”

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This newsletter is published and distributed by Karen Batishko, the current precinct committee officer for Benton County Precinct 1365, as well as the 16th state legislative district representative on the Benton County Republican Party Executive Committee. It's purpose is to keep voters informed of legislative activity, and how their own District 16 elected officials are acting on their behalf. She may be contacted by email at pco1365@gmail.com, or by phone at 509-628-8442.

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As a PCO, do you have a designated proxy?

When you accepted the position of Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) of your precinct, you made a commitment to represent voters in your precinct as a link between them and the Benton County Republican Party. Part of that commitment is to faithfully attend meetings of county PCOs, and as appropriate, voice your questions and concerns, and vote on issues on behalf of your constituents. If you are unable to attend such a meeting, your constituents have no voice unless you have made arrangements for a proxy to attend in your place. Please read the following statement regarding PCO proxies and make the appropriate arrangements for a proxy to assure that your constituents have a voice.

PCOs absent from Central Committee Meetings...

may be represented by a proxy who is a declared Republican [It is your responsibility to know they will vote the same as you would vote if you were there] and a registered voter in the same precinct. All proxies shall be in writing, signed by the maker, and delivered to the County Chairman or the Credentials Chair via electronic transmittal, mail or in person. The proxy's standing shall be verified by the Credentials Chair. The proxy authorization must be provided at least 24 hours in advance of the subject meeting. Standing proxies are permitted in the case of PCOs who have reasonable expectations of not being able to attend due to working commitments.

PCO Proxy Form

I, _____ of _____ Precinct do hereby appoint _____

to vote as my proxy at a meeting of the Benton County Republican Central Committee to be held on _____, 20____

or at any adjourned meeting thereof, with all the power I should possess if personally present, hereby revoking all previous proxies.

Signed _____ Date _____

Witnessed _____ Date _____

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