

Minutes to the DFL Senior Caucus Board Meeting
Thursday, February 25th, Zoom Video Conference

DFL Senior Caucus Chair Don Bye (8th District) called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Don welcomed the Officers and Directors in attendance. Attending were:

- Vice Chair Karla Sand (4th District), Treasurer John Larva (2nd District), Secretary Jim Reed (3rd District), and DFL Executive Committee Voting Representative Kay Hendrikson (4th District);
- Directors Mel Aanerud (6th District), Earl Bower (2nd District), Roger Gehrke (2nd District), Norm Hanson (4th District), Julianne Johnston (4th District), Dwayne King (5th District), Bonnie Lokenvitz (8th District), Joe Mullery (5th District), Georgiana Ruzich (3rd District), Tony Scallon (5th District), Don Slaten (2nd District), and Gary Westorff (8th District);
- Guests Steve Regenstreif, Chair DNC Seniors Council, and Linda Hopkins.

Don presented the following agenda for the meeting:

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Approve Agenda;
2. Guest Speaker Steve Regenstreif;
3. Executive Reports:
 - 3.1. Chair;
 - 3.2. Vice Chair;
 - 3.3. Secretary;
 - 3.4. Treasurer;
 - 3.5. DFL Executive Committee;
 - 3.6. Membership;
4. Committee Reports:
 - 4.1. Political Involvement;
 - 4.2. Education;
 - 4.3. Newsletter;
 - 4.4. Technology;
5. Old/New Business:
 - 5.1. Chapter Task Force;
 - 5.2. New Task Force Proposals;
6. Announcements and Adjourn.

Agenda:

Secretary Jim Reed asked to present the SC budget after the Treasurer's report.

MSC – Secretary Jim Reed moved to accept the agenda as amended. Directory Gary Westorff seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Guest Speaker:

Steve Regenstreif spoke about the nature of the Seniors Council and the issues that the council is addressing:

- (a) Social Security and Medicare top the list as the council primarily addresses federal programs. For example, the council is lobbying for legislation that raises the Social Security tax cap;
- (b) The council works to mobilize seniors in support of these programs, to educate seniors on the issues, and to train seniors on actions they can take;
- (c) The council also reviews the results of elections: what campaign ideas worked and didn't work and how the council influenced results. For example, the council Facebook pages had 380,000 view suggesting that this pathway was successful. The council also worked successfully within the Senate campaigns in Georgia;
- (d) The council is now lobbying the Biden administration on issues, working within the DNC on platforms, and conducting exit polls to better understand where seniors stand particularly in

"battleground" states. The Biden administration is open to senior positions. There are several in Congress who are also open to senior views;

- (e) The Seniors Council is a "council" instead of a "caucus" because councils can include supporting organizations. Caucuses are only made up of members from the 450 members of the DNC.

Executive Reports:

Chair:

Chair Don Bye reported that he has been vacationing.

Vice Chair:

Vice Chair Karla Sand announced that the Senior Caucus has the hearing apparatus used by the DFL.

Secretary:

MSC – Director Mel Aanerud moved to accept the minutes from the January 28th Board meeting. Director Earl Bower seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer:

MSC – Chair Don Bye requested that the treasurer's report for February 2021 from Treasurer John Larva be filed without objection.

The SC Board decided to review the budget during the March SC Board meeting.

Membership:

No report.

DFL Executive Committee:

DFL Executive Committee Representative Kay Hendrikson noted that the DFL committee may revisit the rules for community outreach organizations and community caucuses.

Committee Reports:

Political Involvement:

Director Tony Scallon asked for approval of the Minneapolis chapter endorsements.

MSC – Directory Joe Mullery moved to have the Senior Caucus approve the endorsement slate for Minneapolis city council and Minneapolis offices proposed by the Minneapolis chapter and reviewed by the Political Involvement Committee. Director Tony Scallon seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with ten (10) in favor, three (3) opposed, and two (2) abstaining.

Director Joe Mullery proposed that the caucus support five (5) bills at the Minnesota legislature.

- HF106 – Social Security and Social Security disability offsets removed;
- HF492 – Silver Alert system;
- HF41 – Covid-19 emergency paid sick leave;
- HF586 – Volunteer driver defined, and technical and conforming changes made;
- HF14 – Broadband grant program.

MSC – Director Joe Mullery moved to have the Senior Caucus support a list of five (5) bills at the Minnesota legislature. Supported bills are HF106/SF798, HF492/SF78, HF41/SF331, HF586/SF748, and HF14/SF22. Secretary Jim Reed seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

MSC – Director Joe Mullery moved to have the Senior Caucus send the supported bills list to all DFL legislators (as possible). Director Georgiana Ruzich seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Karla suggested that the caucus review other transportation related legislation along with the five supported bills.

Education:

Secretary Jim Reed reported that the Senior Caucus Book Club listened to Jeff Clark from the Minnesota Move to Amend organization. Move to Amend is lobbying both the US and Minnesota legislatures on a number of issues involved in campaign financing and voter registration.

Newsletter:

Director Norm Hanson reported that development of the April newsletter, the last to be edited by Norm and Julianne Johnston, was underway. Content may include an interview with Roger Gehrke, Covid-19 status, rural issue discussion, Don Bye's column, and a closing statement by Norm and Julianne.

Technology:

Director Kay Hendrikson announced that the DFL approved the existing Senior Caucus logo. Work continues on the Senior Caucus website and Facebook pages. Linda Hopkins is managing the Facebook pages. The Technology Committee is researching alternatives for e-mail blasts.

Old/New Business:

Chapter Task Force:

Director Kay Hendrikson reported that the Chapter "ad hoc" task force was well underway. Twenty-five attended the first meeting.

New Task Force Proposals:

Vice Chair Karla Sand also proposed that a committee informally consider an exit interview process. Possible members were Don Bye, Jim Reed, Josey Warren, and Karla Sand. A task force for the future of the newsletter is needed now.

MSC – Vice Chair Karla Sand moved to have the Senior Caucus form a task force/committee to review the future of the SC newsletter and make recommendations as to how to continue. Proposed members were Norm Hanson, Julianne Johnston, Kay Hendrikson, and Linda Hopkins. Secretary Jim Reed seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Karla proposed that the Nominations Committee restart with Dick Bernard, Don Slaten, Gary Westorff, and Karla Sand as members. The Senior Caucus officers and board are up for election at this year's Annual Membership Meeting.

Director Bonnie Lokenvitz suggested that the caucus review issues of importance to rural seniors as many have moved away from the DFL. Perhaps the caucus could canvas those seniors.

Announcements:

Vice Chair Karla Sand reminded the Board of the following Zoom video conference events:

- East Metro Chapter meeting - 2nd Thursday of each month - contact Kay Hendrikson;
- South Metro Chapter meeting – 2nd Wednesday of each month - contact Roger Gehrke;
- North Metro Chapter meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month – contact Norm Hanson;
- Anoka Chapter meeting – 2nd Wednesday of each month – contact Mel Aanerud;
- East Central Chapter meeting in Mora – contact Bonnie Lokenvitz;
- Minneapolis Chapter meeting – contact Tony Scallon.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 25th at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom Video Conference.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed, DFL Senior Caucus Secretary.

Senior Caucus Board Meeting

February 25, 2021