

DFL Senior Caucus Annual Membership Meeting June 5, 2022

Meeting was held over Zoom, with approximately 95 participants, including all but 7 Board members. Caucus Chair Kay Hendrikson presiding. Guest speakers Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Governor Tim Walz and State Auditor Julie Blaha made appearances before and during the meeting.

Kay called the meeting to order at 12:23 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was read by Vice Chair Don Slaten.

Sandy Sandoval made and Don Slaten seconded a motion to accept the agenda as published, but it was determined that we did not have a quorum (20%, or 116) so no motions could be voted on.

The Affirmative Action statement was read by Membership Director Mary Bliesmer.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting of September 11, 2021. Janet Conn is the new Secretary since Pat Driscoll had to step down.

Officer Reports

Chair - Kay Hendrikson: She referred to the report distributed by email (with link to Google Documents) which listed the Chair's many activities. She stressed the importance of working together, GOTV (Get Out the Vote), marketing for the Senior Caucus, and our partnerships with other groups. We need active members.

Vice Chair – Don Slaten: Senior Caucus tabling at DFL conventions has been very successful, yielding over 100 new members.

Treasurer – Nancy Stroessner: as shown on her report, our cash balance is \$7132.90. The on-line contribution process is working well.

Membership – Mary Bliesmer: This year the Caucus redefined who is a member: dues are no longer required, just an annual on-line renewal. Current membership is 573; 554 have identified as members on Facebook. There is a new brochure, which is available on-line. Caucus signs were used for tabling; they are still available for chapters to take. Bill Middlecamp added that renewal emails will be sent annually, along with other announcements, to those who have supplied their email addresses.

Standing Committee Reports

Events - Sandy Sandoval and Don Slaten: They have set up an events calendar for the year. Coming up are the Summer Social (July 17), the Fall Gala (October 23), and tabling at the State Fair on August 29 and September 1. Volunteers needed for the Fair.

Political Affairs – Earl Bower and Mary Bliesmer: The three areas of focus have been issues, resolutions and endorsements. Chapters are distributing and collecting candidate questionnaires and then screening candidates. So far 28 candidates have been endorsed by the Senior Caucus. Going forward they will be working on GOTV.

History – Cindy Spellman: The committee has changed its purpose from establishing a Caucus “Honor Roll,” which it deemed unworkable, to documenting a history of the Caucus, a project which might take several years.

Technology – Bill Middlecamp: The goal is to provide tools to allow Senior Caucus members to do more with less effort. Cindy Spellman manages the Caucus website, the vehicle for official Caucus communications, and where membership forms can be accessed. Linda Hopkins manages our Facebook page, the unofficial voice of the Caucus, where members can post their comments and questions.

Chapters Coordinator – Mel Aanerud: Chapter chairs meet monthly to share information and ideas. Chapter meeting information is posted online; anyone can attend any chapter meeting.

Governance – Mel Aanerud: Several changes to the Senior Caucus Charter had been prepared for a vote by the membership, as required, but we were not able to proceed with them because of the lack of a quorum. There was a lengthy debate on the 20% requirement, which is stipulated in the State DFL Constitution, but not in our Charter. It was determined that we won't violate the State rule (to do so risks their pulling our Charter); we will pursue the options for calling a special membership meeting in the future for the purpose of voting on Charter changes, as well as the possibility of getting a waiver of the 20% requirement from the State DFL.

Unfinished Business: Kay said members could send GOTV questions and suggestions to dflseniors@gmail.com.

Following some announcements, the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Janet Conn, Secretary

As amended 7/21/22