



Events Committee Annual Report
June 28, 2023
Coordinators: Sandy Sandoval and Don Slaten

The Events sponsored and conducted by the Senior Caucus in the past year all were of significant importance and success. This report highlights the Events convened since the last Annual Meeting of June 5, 2022 to the present 2023 Annual Meeting. We will also give an overview of the remaining 2023 Events yet to come. We are pleased with the participation of our members. We are especially grateful to all of the awesome volunteers who make our Caucus Events outstanding.

We featured many special speakers at these Events: Governor Tim Walz, U.S. Representatives Betty McCullom and Angie Craig, Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman, Majority Leader Ryan Winkler, Representative Ginny Klevorn, MN Senators Bobby Champion and John Hoffman, MN Representative Liz Reyer, DFL Chair Ken Martin and Vice Chair Marge Hoffa, Retirees AFL-CIO Ken McGinnis, Compassion and Choices Organization Rebecca Thoman, HCAM representative Ann Jones, *just to name a few*. Many local candidates and City and County Elected Officials attended as well. And even Republican Rep. Deb Kiel dropped in at Day on the Hill.

June 5, 2022 kicked off our 2022-2023 Events with the Senior Caucus Annual Meeting. The zoom meeting was led by Caucus Chair Kay Hendrikson. Lawrence Sandoval performed the duties of Parliamentarian, and Bill Middlecamp expertly handled the Communications. All Caucus Officers and Committees presented annual reports, Charter revisions were voted, and Special Speakers addressed the Annual Meeting.

We held a Summer Social on July 17, 2022. Paul Beneke secured Brookview Park, Golden Valley, Jim Reed grilled the hotdogs, Sandy and Lawrence Sandoval brought the ice cream, and others brought pot luck items. Attendance was considered low, less than 35, with hopes that it will improve in 2023.

August 29th and September 1st, was Minnesota State Fair Seniors' Days. Tim Bonham made arrangements with the State DFL and a schedule for Caucus Seniors to staff a table. Again, quite successful as contacts with seniors state-wide were made, and many new members were added.

October 23, 2022 was the Annual Blue Gala! John Corcoran headed up the Event planning with South Metro Chapter Volunteers Carolyn Thornton, Nancy Stroessner, Mary Ann Vande Vusse, Anne Starr, Sandy Sandoval, John Larva, Roger Gehrke. It was held at the Royal Cliff Banquet Center in Eagan. Attendance was high, Italian food and cash bar; the program included special speakers, live music entertainment by our loyal DFL friends "Squirrels in the Attic", and Caucus Chair Kay Hendrikson emceed the fun evening.

Then we rested, (not really), until our February 21, 2023 Day on the Hill. We met at the Capital, with many speakers, who, not without lots of juggling, were lined up throughout the morning by South Metro Chair Mary Ann Vande Vusse and Caucus Vice Chair Don Slaten. Chair Kay Hendrikson convened the meeting and introduced speakers. Continental breakfast was served, we adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Today, June 28, 2023 we hold our Annual Meeting, and much planning has been happening. Of significance is the election of Senior Caucus Officers and Board Members.

Three events remain for 2023. A Summer Social, will be hosted by the Minneapolis Chapter. The Caucus will table once again at the State Fair; Tim Bonham will make those arrangements. Those dates to be determined. Finally, the Annual Gala will be October 22, 2023, hosted once more by the South Metro Chapter. It is proposed that the Gala will be held only in off-election years going forward. Next ones in 2025, 2027, etc. Candidates and their volunteers are extremely over scheduled during the election years, 2024, 2026, etc.; and we recognize that our efforts are better served volunteering with their campaigns.

Going forward, the Events Coordinators, with Caucus Board approval, will organize the same events for the 2023-2024 year. Notably, we have learned a few things along the way. The most challenging is securing speakers for our Events, especially during the Legislative Session. The simplest is appreciating how important, and then the rewards, of this work for *“Making a better world for our children and our grandchildren, and ourselves”*. Thank you one and all for your dedication! Sandy and Don welcome all suggestions for enhancing our special Events, and encourage enthusiastic participation and volunteerism. Nothing happens without involvement, some (or lots) of experience, connections, and perseverance.

In Unity, Events Committee Co-Chairs

Sandy Sandoval
Don Slaten