

**DFL Senior Caucus Annual Membership Meeting
June 15, 2024 VIA Zoom**

Call to Order:

The DFL Senior Caucus Annual Membership Meeting was called to order by Chair Kay Hendrikson.

The Chair indicated that Secretary Janet Conn would be absent from the Meeting and that Lawrence Sandoval would record the Meeting Minutes for this meeting as well as function as Parliamentarian.

Chair Hendrikson indicated that as speakers arrive she would suspend the agenda to accommodate the speakers. The Chair went on to say that to vote in today's meeting you must be in good standing - which means an annual member sign-up and keeping the Caucus informed of current information. The Chair informed attendees that if they wish to speak during the meeting they must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.

The Chair Hendrikson appointed Tony Scallon as Timekeeper, Lawrence Sandoval as Parliamentarian.

Chair Hendrikson indicated that the next item on the Agenda will be Adoption of the Temporary Meeting Rules. She went on to explain that with the Meeting being conducted by Zoom if questions arise you need to use the reactions function, by raising your hand to be recognized.

A point of order was raised as to whether the Zoom Chat function could be recognized rather than the "PIN" assigned to Members. The Chair indicated that voting would apply to voting on the Agenda, Minutes of the 2023 Meeting, voting on the Temporary Rules and Charter changes. The link to the vote would be available in Zoom Chat - click on the form and enter your assigned PIN to Vote. Enter your Vote, there is not an Abstention feature on the zoom application. PINS are only available for Members in good standing. (Bill Middlecamp, Zoom Administrator mentioned that PINS had been sent out to members via email and he suggested folks look in their junk or spam boxes if they could not find it in their inboxes.

Tony Scallon indicated that he was addressing several Charter amendments and that some Charter changes will be presented later in the Meetings.

Yusav Haji, candidate for County Commission, District 5, in Dakota County, asked to briefly address the Convention. The Chair stated he was in the "chute" to speak.

Pledge of Allegiance Chair Hendrikson called on Vice Chair and Veteran, Don Slaten, to lead the Convention in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Temporary Meeting Rules: Mel Aanerud moved to adopt the Temporary Rules. The Motion was seconded by Don Slaten. There was discussion on the Rules. Tony Scallon proposed a Motion to amend the Rules, the Chair ruled his Motion was out of order but suggested that Charter changes could be addressed under Charter changes later in the meeting.

Betty McCollum, MN Congressional District 4.

Representative McCollum thanked the Convention for the work done by the Caucus. Although she didn't attend our State DFL Convention, she was in Washington DC working on protecting good health benefits, proving protections for our citizens. She stated that she was in Normandy on June 6, 2024 and

was moved by the soldiers and who fought in Europe. She spoke about the hateful language that was being introduced by the GOP affecting appropriation for veterans, SNAP benefits healthcare, people with disabilities and the ongoing comments from Trump. She took questions from several members addressing: the Israel/Palestine War, climate change, regulations of A-I, guns and the gun lobby, Medicare fraud affecting seniors and IRS filings concerns for seniors hearing, dental and vision benefits, SSDI and long term health care costs and making sure that all of us get-out-the-vote.

Ginny Klevorn, District 42-B. Representative Klevorn mentioned she was a Member of the Task on Aging. She indicated the Task Force reviews state resources for seniors, reviews statewide policies, uses demographic data to understand the senior population. She indicated that in Minnesota we have one million people over the age of 65. Klevorn thanked Congresswoman McCollum for her extraordinary work in Washington DC and she also urged folks to get Democrats out to Vote.

Ron Harris, MN Director Biden Campaign

Mr. Harris mentioned that First Lady Jill Biden was recently in Minnesota and spoke about the need to prioritize issues for seniors. Harris spoke about the administration efforts to cap insulin prices, address healthcare costs, provide no cost Covid 19 vaccines, hearing aid cost and inhaler costs, protecting retirement benefits (SS included), and boosting home care funding. He spoke about seniors being the highest turnout voters and the lack of clarity of the GOP political agenda. The GOP believes they can drive a wedge between voters in rural areas by lying about public safety, immigration and inflation. Harris expressed his thanks for the invitation to speak to the Senior Caucus.

Chair Hendrikson brought the meeting back to order. After clarification from the Chair on amendments to the Temporary Rules as well as the role of the Zoom administrator the question was brought back to accepting the Temporary Rules.

Call for the question was made by Julie Doherty.

Motion to end debate was taken; with Outcome: 85 for ending debate, 8 oppose and two abstentions. The Chair moved to the Main Motion, with the outcome reflecting 90 for the Motion to accept the temporary Rules, and 16 voting against and two abstentions.

Adoption of the Agenda: Seth Papopiliski(?) asked if the Agenda could be amended being that the Temporary Rules cannot be amended. After some discussion, the Chair asked for a Motion to call the Question. It was moved by Julie Doherty, seconded by Pamela Twist. There was no discussion and the question did not receive a two-thirds majority.

A question was raised as to whether Tony Scallon could present his request on prior action by the Board. The Outcome was 64 for ending debate with 47 opposed and 4 abstentions.

Steve Regenstreif Chair of the National Biden Campaign. Regenstreif mentioned that Vice President Harris had recently spoken in Green Bay WI and Duluth MN. He said Harris understood senior issues, our community and senior citizens issues tied to the National Inflation Reduction Act. Regenstreif mentioned that Trump was kept out of Office because of voter turnout in 2020. She said we need to maintain the Blue Wall in 2024 by working on Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Arizona, Georgia and Minnesota. The party is seeing a growth in Latino and population as well as women over 65. He spoke about seniors supporting insulin caps, negotiable drug pricing, Roe v Wade protections and the National Inflation reduction Act along with Medicare coverage and medical coverage for hearing aids, vision and dental care.

Mary Paddock asked about the post card writing campaign. The effort will continue in 2024, along with a phone banking program for swing states. Regenstreif mentioned that other States have similar Council and Caucus groups and we need to utilize those programs to address Democratic issues and support.

A ten minute break was called from 12:10 PM to 12:20 PM.

Chair called the Meeting back to Order. Chair indicated that since the Agenda last call for the question did not attain majority the Agenda was still pending. The second issue was whether the Parliamentarian had rules on presenting Motion previously acted upon by the Board. The answer was yes they could be presented to the Convention for action. The Chair indicated that Scallon's issue would be brought up under new business.

The Chair deferred to the Governance Committee for a response to a question raised regarding amending the Charter as it relates to Scallon's question. Consequently a Motion was made to adopt the Agenda with amendment to include Scallon's question under New Business. A Motion was made and duly seconded. There was no further discussion. The outcome of the Vote was 98 for the Motion, 5 against and four abstentions.

Adoption of the 2023 Convention Minutes: Adoption of Minutes of the 2023 Meeting Minutes submitted electronically. Moved by Mel Aanerud, seconded by Bill Middlecamp. There was no discussion. The Outcome of the vote on the Motion to Adopt the Minutes was 101 for, 12, against and 1 Abstention.

Executive Committee Reports

Chair Hendrikson: The Chair welcomed the attendees indicating that their efforts have been to prioritize process and infrastructure. She recalled that when she came on as chair there were 150 members but that number has expanded significantly, we have a larger bank account, dramatic improvements in our technology and have established a significant voter block in Minnesota. Our membership has grown over to 800 members; our finances have grown. She stressed we can't permit Trump back in Office. And we need to reach out to the Northwest, Central, and Southwest sections of the state.

Hendrikson also mentioned the upcoming 2024 post card writing effort.

Vice Chair Don Slaten: Slaten thanked the various Caucus Committees who have helped advance our standing within the DFL. He spoke about the various tabling efforts which have resulted in ongoing membership development. Slaten mentioned that several chapters have outgrown their regular meeting locations. Slaten thanked several folks for their ongoing assistance including Mary Ann Vandevusse Chair of the South Metro Chapter as well as Sandy Sandoval on various events activities.

Nancy Stroessner Treasurer. Stroessner mentioned she has served as Treasurer since 2021. She spoke about the current Caucus balance as of January 1, 2024 through June 11, 2024. Starting balance was \$10,664.55. For 2024 we have received \$5080.00. Expenses were \$1645.61, resulting in an ending balance of \$14,118.94, as of June 20, 2024. The Financial Report was received by the Annual Meeting and will be filed for auditing.

Stroessner mentioned that the MNCFB report was filed in a timely manner and that members could access that report online at MN.CFB.org. Folks can also make contribution to the Caucus at DFLseniors.org. A request for a copy of the Financial Report will be made available.

Jennifer Willette Membership Director reported on current Membership numbers which reflect 838 members in good standing. Willette spoke about the use of the Action Network to assist in getting electronic information to our members and that the notices going out to the Caucus have resulted in greater meeting attendance. Willette presented several informational slides which reflected increased outreach. She addressed: email addressed for meeting notices, methods of keeping members up to dates on events, expanding member contact by telephone, setting up a welcome protocol for new members and keeping membership engaged.

Bill Middlecamp, Chair the Technology Committee mentioned that the Committee works on supporting the Caucus data base, developing voting forms during Caucus meetings and creating solutions to help the Caucus communicate electronically. Middlecamp introduced and thanked the Committee Members, Linda Hopkins for running the closed Facebook group and Cindy Spellman who helps develop the official information for the website.

Reports of Standing Committees

Governance Committee Mel Aanerud responded to a question regarding the Charter Changes and adoption of the Charter. Aanerud indicated that required changes will be implemented, even if not approved by this Annual Membership Meeting, until changes come into compliance, since the Senior Caucus is subordinate to the DFL.

Aanerud then reviewed the Charter Changes the Governance Committee is proposing to the Convention. Those changes included a change in Membership definition of Members in good standing to Active Member. Other changes referenced voting status of active members. Active members are able to vote in Annual and other membership Meetings.

Other substantive changes pertained to achieving equal gender diversity, not being able to endorse if not in compliance with the DFL requirement. The Caucus can function under the current election status until the next Caucus election. Chapters cannot endorse but can recommend endorsement. Chapters cannot take a public position on issues but are allowed to advocate for changes to the Senior Caucus Board; changes to the Senior Caucus Charter must be approved by the DFL Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBRC) BRC.

Motion was made by the Governance Committee (Aanerud) to approve the recommendations, seconded by Julie Dougherty. After some discussion, the question was called by Sandy Sandoval. Outcome of the vote was 70 for ending debate, 19 against and 1 abstention. On the original Motion to accept the Committee amendments to the Charter, the outcome was 69 for the changes, 22 against and 2 abstentions. The Chair thanked the Governance Committee for their great work.

Events Committee: Sandy Sandoval and Don Slaten presented an overview of the Committee's work. Sandoval said the 2023 Gala was well attended. No Gala event is planned for 2024. March 27, 2024 was the Day on the Hill event, which also had good attendance, lots of accommodations for persons with disabilities, DFL Van provided shuttle service. Don Slaten was complimented for scheduling speakers and tabling at the seniors events. Sandoval thanked Tim Bonham for his work at the State Fair tabling.

Slaten reaffirmed the activities of the Committee. He did mention that the summer get together was dropped this year because there was not a large attendance last year for the amount of work that it takes to put on the event.

Political Affairs Committee: Chair Mary Bliesmer thanked the Committee Members for their hard work. The large Committee is composed of Pam Parker, Vice Chair, Janet Conn, Secretary, Wally Swan, MaryAnn Vandevusse, Jean Lee, Tony Scallon, Marie Houser, Tim Bossom, Daryl Paulson and Linda Hopkins. The Committee manages the political programs for the Caucus which includes screening candidates for school boards, county commissions, State House and Senate candidates and congressional candidates. They meet to discuss the Task Force on Aging and address Caucus Resolutions.

Chapter Chairs Mel Aanerud reported on the development of the website page for Speakers, as well as developing methods to help chapter chairs learn more about the Caucus, ways of interfacing with the Caucus Board and supporting Senior Caucus activities.

New Business Tony Scallon was called on to address the issue of the Model Chapter changes. Scallon spoke on presenting a Motion to strike two sentences in the Model Chapter language, and the impact on the Model language and its impact on the Senior Caucus. The Chair oversaw discussion around the impact of changing language to the Model Chapter Rules, which can change from time to time and are permitted to change. The Model Rules are merely a guideline for pending Chapters to help expedite development of their Chapter. Stroessner indicated that the DFL Constitution is the controlling document and that it controls even if the Convention turns down proposed language or Model Rules.

After much discussion clarifying that the Model Chapter Charter is only a guideline and that they can be amended, a Motion was made by Wally Swann to Amend Article VII as reflected in the Motion submitted by Scallon. The Motion was seconded by Kathleen Obrien. Discussion followed regarding reassuring the Annual Membership Attendees that the language was not compulsory and that it served as a guideline (a working document) to help formation of Chapters, when getting started.

Sandy Sandoval called for the Question. The Chair restated a call for the question the Outcome resulting in 65 for ending debate 17 against and 2 abstentions. The Motion passed. The Chair then moved to the original Motion submitted by Scallon. The outcome of the Vote was 50 for the Motion, 34 against and 5 abstentions. Scallon's Motion passed.

Adjournment Susan Link requested to speak and after getting her clarification on the outcome of the vote on the Model Rules, subsequently she moved to Adjourn. There was a Second by Wally Swann. An oral vote was taken and a unanimous vote resulted in adjournment at 2:38 PM.

Minutes by:
Lawrence G. Sandoval
June 15, 2024