

**DFL Senior Caucus Board of Directors Candidates  
6/5/2025**

**POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION**

**Senior Caucus Principal Officers:**

- Chair
- Voting Director
- Vice Chair (not the same gender as Chair)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Director/Outreach Director
- Technology Officer (pending Charter amendment approval)

**At Large Directors:**

- At least eight (8) at-large Directors can be elected.
- The elected Directors must achieve equal division by gender identity.

**SELF NOMINATING CANDIDATES**

<b><u>OFFICER CANDIDATES</u></b>		
Chair	Kay Hendrikson	<p>Thank you to the members of the statewide DFL Senior Caucus for your support these last four years!</p> <p>I am Kay C Hendrikson running as an incumbent for two offices: Chair of the DFL Senior Caucus and Voting Director/Liaison to the DFL SEC.</p> <p>As an incumbent, I continue to want to make a difference in the lives of Senior Citizens and help elect Democrats across Minnesota through grassroots statewide political efforts. As a team, we have accomplished a tremendous amount of achievements, many of which have never been done before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved and increased statewide events, including a statewide Protest Rally at the Capitol.</li><li>• Increased treasury approximately 500%, even though we eliminated membership dues.</li><li>• Increased endorsements of candidates to over 200 candidates statewide.</li><li>• Implemented successful statewide GOTV efforts through multiple methods.</li></ul>
Voting Director	Kay Hendrikson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased membership to almost 8 times what it was when elected; Membership description is known and effective.</li><li>• Enriched credible social media presence through website, Facebook, monthly messages, and multiple email streams.</li><li>• Created a mutually beneficial relationship with the DFL party.</li><li>• Aligned with DFL party in multiple areas including DFL processes, use of DFL resources, and Code of Conduct to remove bullying.</li></ul>

		<p>As your Senior Caucus Chair, I have the following experiences that steered me to run for statewide Senior Caucus Chair and Voting Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the MN Board on Aging &amp; Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities - 5 years.</li> <li>• Director of Minnesota statewide Adult Public Guardianship Program for adults --15 years.</li> <li>• Staff/Manager at MN State Department of Human Services developed and implemented policy for people with disabilities, aging, and mental health services across Minnesota - 20 years.</li> <li>• Systems Director - Ombudsman's Office Mental Health &amp; Developmental Disabilities; policy &amp; technology.</li> <li>• Established the first Minnesota Guardianship Association; Original member of the National Guardianship Association.</li> <li>• Two graduate degrees in Policy and Administration in running organizations; strategic planning / organizational development.</li> <li>• Local DFL Senior Caucus Chapter Chair – 5 years.</li> <li>• Statewide DFL Senior Caucus Chair and Voting Director - 4 years.</li> <li>• Extensive experience in public speaking and policy development.</li> <li>• I am a grandmother!</li> </ul> <p>I am not aware of any potential conflicts of interest that might arise from my election as an officer.</p> <p>I appreciate your vote for Chair of the DFL Senior Caucus and as Voting Director, thanks!</p>
Vice Chair	Don Slaten	<p>I running for another term as vice chair of the DFL Senior Caucus Board. Chair Hendrikson and I, along with an amazingly talented Board of Directors, have grown membership from approximately 200 members statewide to over 1500 statewide members in the past four years. Together we have added two new chapters while revitalizing two others. We have much yet to accomplish. I am a DFLer and am unaware of any potential conflicts of interest that might result from my election as an officer or at-large director.</p>
Secretary	Jocelyn Heid	<p>I am a long time Democrat. Currently, I am Vice Chair/Secretary for my local Senior Caucus chapter, the NE MN DFL Sr Caucus. I've been a member of that group for some years. Since 2016, I've been involved with my local DFL units, Senate District 8 and then the Duluth DFL. I started as a Director on the SD 8 board, and eventually served a term as Chair. I am finishing up my term this month as Vice Chair on the Duluth DFL board. I have assisted with many Duluth DFL and SD 8 events, projects and activities, including fundraising (e.g., lead organizer of the SD 8 Solon Munger Dinner for many years), convention planning/support (e.g., acting as secretary at the Duluth DFL convention in 2022), chairing pre-convention committees and caucus planning. During my term as SD 8 Chair, I organized a virtual convention (due to covid restrictions) and developed a monthly online newsletter to update our local DFL community.</p> <p>My DFL activities and my past career in healthcare recruitment have given me many skills that would be put to good use in the Secretary position.</p> <p>I am unaware of any potential conflicts of interest that might arise from my election as Sr Caucus Secretary.</p>
Treasurer	Nancy Stroessner	<p>My name is Nancy Stroessner, and I live in Apple Valley. I am running for re-election as your DFL Senior Caucus Treasurer. I believe in the goals of the</p>

		<p>Senior Caucus, to advocate for seniors and make our voices heard. In addition to serving as your Treasurer since September 2021, I am currently a member of the CBRC (state-level DFL Constitution, By-laws, and Rules Committee), the State Executive Committee, and served as Chair of SD56 for seven and a half years. I was Treasurer of CD2 for five years, and have an MBA in Finance.</p> <p>I am a DFLer and am unaware of any conflicts of interest.</p>
Membership Director & Outreach Director	Jennifer Willette	<p>I am nominating myself, Jennifer Willette, for Membership Director. I am a DFLer and am not aware of any potential conflicts of interest that might arise from my election as an officer.</p> <p>I have served as the DFL Senior Caucus Membership Director since 2023. In that time, we've created a membership committee to discuss and resolve membership questions. I have worked to formalize the membership recruitment, retention, and data management process to increase collaboration and transparency for board members, chapter chairs, and members. I am seeking reelection to continue to modernize, increase automation, and document membership policy and processes.</p>
Technology Officer	Bill Middlecamp	<p>I have been leading the technology team for the DFL Sr Caucus since the 2020 annual meeting in the first year of Covid. I am a retired software engineer with a master's degree in computer science and 40 years of experience in the field. He applies his systems design skills to create tools for membership tracking and communications, which helped the caucus transition to functioning online during the pandemic. I enjoy working in a supportive role and would like to continue serving as the technology chair, or technology officer if the creation of that office is adopted by the membership.</p>

At-Large Director Candidates (In the order received)		
1	<p><b>Janet Conn</b></p> <p>I've been involved in Minnesota politics since I joined the DFL Feminist Caucus in the 1980's. In the 2000's and 2010's I was a volunteer board member, then president, of the MN chapter of Compassion &amp; Choices, the end-of-life advocacy organization. I've been on the Board of the DFL Senior Caucus since 2021, and Secretary since 2022. I also became the de facto secretary for the Political Action Committee. Now I am ready to dial down my Caucus workload, but I would like to continue to be a part of the Caucus as a Director at Large. I am a DFLer and I am not aware of any potential conflicts of interest that might result due to my election as a director.</p>	<p><b>Jim Davnie</b></p> <p>After 22 years serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives, I retired in 2022. Looking for a new political home I found the Senior Caucus. I am running for an at-large director position. I can bring my experience and insights to strengthen the Caucus. We need to recognize that Donald Trump has placed a target on seniors. His and DOGE's attacks undermine Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, risk reducing Veterans services, and defunding Meals on Wheels and Heating Assistance demand a robust response from seniors. I am a lifelong DFLer and am unaware of any conflicts of interest.</p>
2	<p><b>Jean Lee</b></p> <p>Created legislation since 1980s, covering all Legislative Committees. (Commerce, Education, Employment/Economic Development, Judiciary, Health/ Human Services, Housing, Public Safety, Transportation, Veterans, etc.) Helped create new committees, councils, task forces to involve community and people with lived experiences, expertise, and advocacy.</p> <p>Local, state, and national levels: Created innovative solutions, systems transformation, technologies to help seniors, the disabled, their families, and others live and thrive. Pioneered in numerous policies and solutions to meet people's needs.</p> <p>Did numerous activities to outreach/recruit people to DFL, vote Democrats, join Senior Caucus. More plans in process. Worked on numerous local, state, and national campaigns and fundraisers. Jean Lee</p> <p>*DFL Outreach Officer SD 54, fmr CD 2 OO now Director, fmr Disability Caucus OO.</p> <p>*Fmr Party Affairs Co-Chair of Community Caucuses &amp; Outreach Organizations.</p> <p>*Fmr State SAAC (now Outreach) Secretary &amp; Policy Co-Chair.</p> <p>*Senior Caucus: Director-at-Large; PAC and Membership Committees;</p> <p>*Fmr Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair</p> <p>*Rural Caucus; Veterans &amp; Families Caucus, Progressive Caucus, and others</p>	<p><b>George Moore</b></p> <p>The values of economic and social justice, freedom of thought, and diversity underlay my career as a physician assistant in inpatient psychiatry, working with vulnerable citizens, and my involvement in DFL politics.</p> <p>In Mexico, I helped counter government efforts to divide the Mayan Zapatistas by organizing programs that created unity through openness and mutual listening.</p> <p>Trump's "law and order" tactics, weaponized against immigrants, are eroding our society -- stealing our human rights and seeding division. With safety nets and public institutions under attack, I will work to strengthen the Senior Caucus' advocacy.</p> <p>I am a DFLer without conflicts of interest.</p>

3	<p><b>Sandra Marks</b></p> <p>For 22 years as a State of Minnesota Training Specialist, I educated state managers, supervisors and employees in the mandated Manager and Supervisor Core programs, HR policy, professional development topics, and other relevant content to state worker positions.</p> <p>In a consulting role to managers, supervisors and occasionally with the C-suite, I conducted needs assessment, tailored training programs to work unit needs and evaluated such programs.</p> <p>I offer my skillset as an approach to take the defined needs and wants of the DFL senior caucus and impart them to the state executive committee.</p> <p>I am a strong lifelong supporter of the DFL and politically engaged. I am unaware of any potential conflicts of interest that might arise from my election as an officer or at-large director.</p>	<p><b>Joe Mullery</b></p> <p>I ask for your vote for election to the Senior Caucus Board. My main goals are improvement of laws and services affecting seniors, electing senior-friendly officials, and uniting seniors to work together. I believe I have many attributes that other Board members don't have. During my 20 years in the legislature, I developed an expertise on legislation affecting seniors. Before that I lobbied for, and advised, the Minnesota Senior Federation and the Attorney's Association, on Senior Issues. I chaired the Political Involvement Committee of our Senior Caucus, including greatly expanding endorsements, legislative issue development, and interviewing important officials. I have always been a DFLer, have served on the DFL State Central Committee almost 40 years, and am unaware of any potential conflicts of interest that might arise from my election as an at-large director.</p>
4	<p><b>Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer</b></p> <p>I am thankful for the work of the DFL Senior Caucus. I am retired from a career in the nonprofit sector, managing programs that affect all Minnesotans. As director of Exodus Lending, I coordinated work with seniors and others targeted by predatory lenders. As a grandmother, I want to join with other seniors who are worried for future generations. Motivated to counter the devastating policies of the Trump administration, I wish to use my skills to support Senior Caucus efforts to build a better Minnesota. I am a member of the DFL and am unaware of any conflicts of interest.</p>	<p><b>Darrell Paulsen</b></p> <p>I am writing to express my intent to continue serving as a dedicated leader within the Senior Caucus. Over the past two years, I've been honored to contribute as a member and active participant on the Political Affairs Committee, helping design the local candidate questionnaire to uplift senior voices. As Outreach Officer for Senate District 44 and Director of the Maplewood DFL, I bring a strong commitment to inclusive engagement. I attend monthly meetings and work to ensure full participation of seniors and people with disabilities in our political process.</p>
5	<p><b>Pam Parker</b></p> <p>I have been an active Senior Caucus member for several years, including currently serving as Vice Chair of the Political Affairs Committee, and as an At Large Director. At the request of the SC Chair, I served as Rally Coordinator for our Stop the 100 days of Destruction protest at the State Capitol. I have over 45 years of professional experience working in the field of aging, including developing an advocacy agency for nursing home residents, serving as the first State Long Term Care Ombudsman, as Director of Long-Term Care at the MN Department of Human Services (DHS), and in other health care policy management positions for home and community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities. I have also been a national leader in developing programs for integration of care for people with both Medicare and Medicaid (dually eligibles), and a frequent speaker at national conferences and meetings on related topics. Since</p>	<p><b>Jim Reed</b></p> <p>I would like to continue on the board. I, with five others, started the DFL Senior Caucus in 2006. Of those, only Dwayne King and myself remain. I was the secretary for the caucus for the first sixteen years ending that involvement only when I was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2019. I'm attended the Senior Caucus Anoka Chapter since it forced, and I'm also a member on my local DFL Senate District committee.</p>

	<p>retirement at DHS, I have been a health care consultant on Medicare and Medicaid issues and recently retired from that work. I am also a current member of the MN State Board on Aging serving as Co-Vice Chair, appointed by Governor Walz. I am a lifelong Democrat and have served in many party positions since 1972 including most recently as past SD 62 Chair, and currently as SD62 SCC alternate and have no other conflicts of interest.</p>	
6	<p><b>Cindy Spellman</b></p> <p>I have been active in my local Senate District for more than 15 years, including serving on CD4 and SCC meetings. I have been an active member of Senior Caucus and the North Metro chapter for about a decade, and I provide the technology to support speakers.</p> <p>I am currently serving as a director for Senior Caucus and would like to continue in that position to help further the goals of the Senior Caucus and increase our status among MN DFL seniors. I update the website (dflseniors.org) with current information; being part of the board helps keep me aware of needed changes and posts.</p> <p>I also facilitate the Senior Caucus book club, which meets monthly to discuss books of current interest to attendees.</p> <p>I am a DFLer and I am not aware of any potential conflicts of interest that might result due to my election as a director.</p>	<p><b>Byron Richard</b></p> <p>I've been invigorated by my work with the Senior Caucus and look forward to our future growth and influence. Many of us have found a political home here for our fight against the threats MAGA poses to us, our children and neighbors by working together in rallies, candidate forums, and electoral recommendations. Housing, healthcare, reform of immigration and public safety policy are issues impacting seniors and all of our neighbors. I hope to work on these together with you through Caucus action. I have had a life-long commitment to the Democratic Party/DFL, and am unaware of any conflicts of interest.</p>
7	<p><b>Michele St. Martin</b></p> <p>I am active in the Minneapolis chapter, where I am the fundraising chair and serve on the chapter's Political Affairs Committee. I coordinated the media coverage for the state caucus' rally, and assisted with speakers that day. I've been a legislative lobbyist, journalist (editor, Minnesota Women's Press, and executive editor, New Moon Girl media), and nonprofit leader. I am active in the DFL (previous senate district chair, among other offices), and on campaigns. I am excited about the Senior Caucus' growth and want to help expand our influence. I am a staunch, loyal, active DFLer, with no conflicts of interest.</p>	<p><b>Tony Scallon</b></p> <p>I have served on the Board of Directors for the past few years and have helped to facilitate timekeeping on the Board meetings. My email was hacked this month so I may have missed notices. I am very active in the Minneapolis Area DFL Senior Caucuses working on screening candidates and serving on the state Political PAC. I can be helpful to recruit DFL candidates and ensuring the DFL maintains a majority in the state. I previously served on the Minneapolis City Council and as a neighborhood activist helping to preserve Milwaukee Avenue National Historic site. I hope to continue serving on the Board. I would like to serve as a director and continue supporting seniors.</p> <p>I am a DFLer and am currently chair of the 2nd ward Minneapolis DFL. I will support DFL candidates.</p>

8	<p><b>Martha Holton Dimick</b></p> <p>I am a retired Hennepin County District Judge who practiced law for over 30 years. Prior to entering law school, I was a registered nurse. I joined the Hennepin County Attorney's Office in 1999 and was subsequently appointed Minneapolis' Criminal Deputy Attorney. A past member of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers and the Board of DeLaSalle High School, I have volunteered as a tutor for high school students in reading and writing. Most recently, I joined Hennepin County Sheriff Dawanna Witt's Community Advisory Committee. A past member of DFL's CBRC, I belong to the Minneapolis Area Chapter of the DFL Senior Caucus.</p> <p>I am an active DFLer, and I have no conflicts of interest.</p>	<p><b>David Tilsen</b></p> <p>I'm David Tilsen, from Minneapolis, and I would be honored to serve on the DFL Senior Caucus Board of Directors. I am a DFLer. I have no known conflicts of interest involving the Senior Caucus or its Board of Directors. I have spent my life starting businesses, raising a family, and trying to be a positive force in our community. I went to my first DFL caucus in 1968 to work for Gene McCarthy to try to end the war in Vietnam. Since then, I have worked for candidates from Paul Wellstone to School Board members. I was elected twice to the Minneapolis Board of Education. I promise to be productive, listen, and help make the Senior Caucus effective.</p>
9		<p><b>Eric Won</b></p> <p>A retired Federal executive residing in North Minneapolis, I am an active DFLer with no other political affiliations and I am unaware of any potential conflicts of interest. I currently serve as DFL's State Co-Chair for Outreach and Inclusion, having also served on the CBRC and Nominations Committees. For my Federal career, I joined the Carter White House in 1979, served in 7 Federal departments, then retired under President Obama. I now serve on the board of All Elders United for Justice, chair Minnesota's Public Safety Advisory Council, and am a trustee of the University of Minnesota Medical School's Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain. Born in Hawaii, I was educated at Princeton</p>