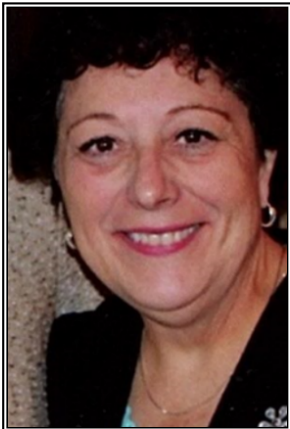


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Senior Caucus News Blast September 2025



By the way with Kay

September 2025

Dear folks,

Sometimes it seems like the current federal government atrocities never ends.

Let me quote Jon Stewart: *"When a society is under threat, comedians are the first to get sent away...Democracy is under threat."* Jon Stewart, Sept 2025.

Let's look at our US Constitution: The First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects the rights to freedom of religion, speech, the press, and assembly, as well as the right to petition the government. Key provisions of the First Amendment include:

- Freedom of Speech: Safeguards the right of individuals to express themselves without government interference.
- Freedom of the Press: Guarantees the freedom of the media to publish information without government censorship.

In this Senior Caucus News Blast issue I have included a template for letter writing to legislators. Write and call your legislators now, please.

I believe we are at a tipping point, but only if we keep up the pressure.

Some other news:

- DFL's Working Families Picnic c on Sunday, September 28 from 1-4 PM. <https://dfl.org/working-families-picnic/>
- DFL party Daily War Room Call at [DFL Daily War Room Call](#)
- The Senior Caucus has about 10 committees you can be on. Please join your friends in the fight against fascism and continue to make the Minnesota Senior Caucus a state wide force to be reckoned with. Sign up for a committee here: [LINK TO SIGN UP FOR COMMITTEES.](#)
- Sad news: Our long time Senior Caucus board member and founder Roger Gehrke passed away yesterday. The South Metro Chapter will be sending us more information as they receive it. We will miss him dearly.

Early voting has started so remember to get out the vote for the special elections.

Be safe, have fun, be healthy!

Always yours,

Kay C. Hendrikson, PhD
Chair, DFL Senior Caucus.

"If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent, we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." — Attributed to a speech by Patrick Henry

The **Senior Caucus Gala** is THE social event of the year!

Join us for good food, good company, good speakers, good music.
And a costume contest with prizes!

Purchase tickets by Tuesday, **September 30**.

Sunday, **October 19**, 1-5:00 pm

Royal Cliff Event Center (2280 Cliff Road, Eagan)

Dinner buffet tickets \$45; cash bar



Speakers include

Senior Caucus Chair: Kay Hendrikson

US Senator: Tina Smith

MN DFL Chair: Richard Carlbom

Master of Ceremonies and Comedian: Stevie Ray

Purchase tickets ASAP before they run out!

[CLICK HERE](#)

For a printable menu, speakers, ticket link, and directions: [CLICK HERE](#)

This event happens only in the fall of odd-numbered years to allow us to meet other seniors in a casual setting. Many thanks to the South

Metro chapter for sponsoring this event once again.

EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

DFL Democratic Farmer Labor Picnic

The weather forecast looks fantastic for Sunday at the Picnic!

Sunday, September 28th from 1-4 pm

State Fair grounds

Tickets are \$25 per person, which includes food, making this an event that should not be missed.

Contact: Tim Wegener, Minnesota DFL Special Projects

Coordinator twegener@dfll.org

Northeast Metro DFL Sr. Caucus Chapter's next meeting will be at 4:30 on

Tuesday Oct. 21.

Meeting will be at the White Bear Lake Library.



Upcoming Cultural Celebrations and Events

Here is an online multifaith calendar that might be useful.

<https://chaplain.williams.edu/2025-2026-multifaith-religious-and-spiritual-observances-calendar/>



CALL TO ACTION!!

Issues Senior Caucus is concerned about today:

Attacks on Social Security, Medicaid and Veteran's Administration

Funding cuts in MN will affect county, state and local services including:

- Disappearance of rural hospitals, rural health care
- Age-Friendly provision not in current budget proposal

Call, email, and write postal letters. Doesn't matter if they are democrats or republicans. If you are unhappy about what is going on, they represent you. Phone calls seem to be the most effective.

If all Senior Caucus members write them once or twice a week or a month, they will get thousands of messages. This is why we are a statewide team – to make a difference!!

<https://www.house.gov/representatives#state-minnesota>

Find your local legislators here:

<https://ballotpedia.org/Minnesota>

For lots of election information:

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/>

Amy Klobuchar:

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-amy>

Tina Smith: <https://www.smith.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/>

Betty McCollum:

<https://mccollum.house.gov/contact/email>

Angie Craig: Eagan, MN Office, 1915 Plaza Dr, Suite 202, Eagan, MN 55122, (651) 846-2120

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Sample letter to representative

Dear Representative/Senator <Name>,

I am your constituent in <City>. I am writing to express my concerns about <issue, include bill number if relevant>. I'm concerned that <negative outcome>. {repeat for additional outcomes but keep it brief – no more than 3}.

<Describe relevant expertise you have on the issue and/or the personal impact of the issue.>

<Describe support you've provided: voting, donating, campaign volunteer>

I understand that being in the minority right now, Democrats are limited in our ability to block these disastrous appointments/changes. I want you to know that I am a loyal voter and strongly support any efforts you make to prevent the dismantling of services that are critical to Minnesota and the country.

<Your signature and your contact information>

Senior Caucus Projects and Committees!

The Senior Caucus has about 10 committees. You as a member can be on any committee! Please join your friends in the fight against fascism and continue to make the Minnesota Senior Caucus a state wide force to be reckoned with. Sign up for a committee here: [LINK TO SIGN UP FOR COMMITTEES](#).

Most of these committees can or will meet virtually on zoom. No matter where you live in the state, you can be part of the action!

Membership!

MEMBERSHIP

Our strength lies in having more voices, actively and loudly supporting senior issues!

- Members must re-register every year. Go to the Senior Caucus website and the [Join/Renew button](#). Don't forget we must have your address.
 - Membership means when people join, they become members of the DFL Senior Caucus as a whole (not a specific chapter). You may indicate which chapter you would like to attend most of the time, but you can attend any chapter meetings. People can be members of multiple chapters and do not have to live in the area of the chapter.
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SAVE THE DATES

Put these on your calendar!

Senior Caucus Events for 2025

- Event: Gala: October 19; Royal Cliff in Eagan; hosted by South Metro Chapter; ticket price: \$45. NOTE: Need volunteers to work the event, Email: dflseniors@gmail.com; put **Volunteer at Gala** in the subject line from each Chapter.

Purchase tickets ASAP before they run out!

[CLICK HERE](#)

DFL Senior Caucus Book Club

Once a month (third Monday at 11:00am, using Zoom), we discuss a book on politics, history, and/or science to help us understand our current political climate.



Next book club Zoom meeting:

The next meeting is **October 20**, when we will discuss *The Presidents and the People: Five Leaders Who Threatened Democracy and the Citizens Who Fought to Defend It* by Corey Brettschneider.

We would love to have you join us. For more info: dflseniors@gmail.com; put BOOK CLUB in the subject line

STATEWIDE SENIOR CAUCUS CONTACT INFO

Contact the Senior Caucus at dflseniors@gmail.com

Board Officers: Chair, Kay Hendrikson, Vice Chair Don Slaten, Treasurer, Nancy Stroessner, Secretary, Jocelyn Heid, Membership Director, Jennifer Willette, Technology Chair: Bill Middlecamp

At Large Directors:

Alston Dutchin. Gary Hansen, Marie Hauser, Linda Hopkins, Jean Lee, Joe Mullery, Pamela Parker, Darrell Paulsen, Tony Scallon, Cindy Spellman, Janet Conn, Jim Davnie, Martha Holton Dimick, Sandra Marks, George Moore, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Byron Richard, Michele St. Martin, David Tilsen, Eric Won. **Past Chair:** Don Bye

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