



## **First chance to vote (or raise your voice) in 2008 ...caucus, caucus, caucus!**

Your first chance to cast a meaningful vote in 2008 is at your precinct caucus on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 5. To participate, all you have to do is show up at your DFL precinct caucus site. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m., the caucus begins at 7 p.m.

Even if you are undecided on the candidates, showing up helps the party of your choice. The relative attendance at each party's caucuses is reported by the news media and winning that first "election contest" can mean a lot to the candidate you choose. Winning helps the party recruit good candidates and encourages its supporters to work with enthusiasm and confidence.

Remember, the caucus is the first step in choosing a party candidate for any and all party designated offices *from park board to President*. Remember also that the DFL Party platform, the document which gives voice to the policies and concerns of the party, begins with resolutions proposed and voted on at each caucus.

Caucuses are gatherings of neighbors from within your precinct, a relatively small geographic area defined for election purposes. To find the location of your caucus in your neighborhood contact one of the following.

- The Secretary of State - call: 651-215-1440 – toll free 800-627-3529, web: [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) or e-mail: [secretary.state@state.mn.us](mailto:secretary.state@state.mn.us).
- DFL Party - call: 651-293-1200 (metro) or 800-999-7457 (toll free) web: [www.dfl.org/](http://www.dfl.org/)

Close to the Feb. 5 caucus date, your local paper may also publish locations.

For more information about caucuses, or if you would like a ride to yours, get in touch with the Senior Caucus, 651-457-5121, [lfeist@comcast.net](mailto:lfeist@comcast.net), or leave a message for us at the DFL 1-800-999-7457. We'll try to line up a ride for you.

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## **Energize the DFL - Shape its direction for 2008**

Want to shape direction of the DFL? Concerned about the future of the DFL? Want to put your skill and commitment to work for democracy? Want to shape the 2008 election? Think there needs to be more grass-roots involvement? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then the Senior Caucus urges you to seek party office.

Each precinct will elect a precinct chair and associate chair at the upcoming Feb. 5 caucuses. These individuals are the backbone of the DFL organization and play a major role in the success of DFL candidates. If you do run and are elected, the Senior Caucus will be there to help!

Feb. 5 offers an open door to opportunities for leadership and involvement. Why not jump in?

A side benefit: those willing to assume leadership roles at the precinct level are very likely to land a spot at the next convention level (district, state, national).

## The next President of the United States is...

You can cast your vote at your DFL precinct caucus for who you think should be the next Democratic President. Show up for registration beginning at 6:30 p.m. After registering you will receive your Presidential Preference Ballot. At 8 p.m. the ballots will be tallied and the results certified by the caucus and sent to the Minnesota Secretary of State for a final state tally. This ballot is binding and determines how many of the Minnesota delegates each candidate gets at the national convention.

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## Resolutions: Building the party platform

An important part of precinct caucuses Feb. 5 is the initial development of resolutions that will, during the 2008 DFL convention, become the action agenda of the party platform for the next two years. These statements lay out specific legislative and policy priorities. Attendees at DFL precinct caucuses begin the process of building the action agenda by introducing resolutions.

Submitting resolutions at a caucus is each individual's opportunity to influence party action. Come prepared. Have your resolution(s) ready. When the chair announces that resolutions will be considered, raise your hand, read your resolution and tell the group why you think it is important. The caucus will vote on your resolution

Resolutions should be submitted on the official DFL Resolution Form. They may be hand-written or typed. Each resolution should be on a separate form.

The following three resolutions have been developed and approved by the Senior Caucus Resolution Committee as party actions that will be important to seniors.

### 1 } Medicare Plan D

Be it resolved that at least one Medicare Plan D drug benefit plan be offered through Medicare giving consumers the choice between a cost-effective public plan and a private for profit plan

Be it resolved that the federal government be required to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies on behalf of seniors and persons with disabilities for lower drug prices for Medicare Plan D drug plans.

### 2 } Maintain Social Security

Be it resolved that Congress stop using Social Security Funds for use in the general budget and use the funds only to pay social security benefits.

### 3 } Health Care

Be it resolved that the Minnesota Legislature enact legislation providing access to, and a funding method for, affordable, accessible, quality healthcare for every Minnesotan.

**A copy of each of these resolutions is attached as a pdf file to the e-mail that delivered this newsletter**

While the Senior Caucus Board recommends these resolutions, you may submit any that promote issues that you are especially dedicated to. Follow the form of these resolutions and be as brief and direct as possible. A copy of the form can be downloaded from the DFL Website., [www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org).

## Contribute to state races; get a refund

Contribute to a DFL candidate for a state office or the DFL party and get a refund! Minnesota law allows individuals to contribute up to \$50 and married couples to contribute up to \$100 and get a full refund from the state. Minnesotans are eligible to participate in the Political Contribution Refund Program if they are at least 18 and have lived in the state for at least 20 days. To participate, take the following steps:

1. Write a check or make a contribution to either a DFL candidate for a state office or the DFL party, and get a receipt. If you mail in the contribution, the receipt will be sent to you. Candidates are required to provide receipts.

2. Once your contributions in 2007 have totaled \$50 per individual or \$100 per couple, fill out the PCR form. You can obtain one from the Department of Revenue website, [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us).

Fill out the form, attach your receipt(s) and send to Minnesota Political Contribution Refund, Minnesota Department of Revenue, St. Paul, MN 55146-1800. It must be mailed by April 15, 2008. The state will then send you a check for the amount of your contribution.

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## Take brochures and membership forms to your caucus

Recruit new members for the Senior Caucus — Take copies of our brochure and membership form to your precinct caucus, county, senate district or congressional district conventions. Contact Linda by phone, 651-457-5121, or by e-mail: [lfeist@comcast.net](mailto:lfeist@comcast.net), and she will arrange to get them to you.

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## Important facts and dates

If you are unsure in which congressional district, senate district or DFL county unit you reside, go to the DFL Website at [www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org) or the Secretary of State Website at [www.sos.state.mn.us/home/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/).

### DFL Caucus and Conventions Dates

#### **Precinct Caucuses**

The 2008 precinct caucuses will be on Tuesday, Feb. 5

#### **County Unit Conventions**

County units will schedule their conventions from February to April.

#### **Senate District Conventions**

Senate district endorsing conventions will be scheduled from February to July.

#### **Congressional District Conventions**

Congressional district conventions will be scheduled from April to June.

#### **State Convention**

The 2008 State Convention will be June 6-8 in Rochester, Minn.

#### **National Convention**

The 2008 National Convention will be Aug. 25-28 in Denver, Colo.

## Senior Caucus chair witnesses democracy in action

DFL Senior Caucus Chair Linda Feist remembers lively political conversations at her family dinner from an early age: her parents were political activists. Her first political campaign was in 1952, when she was treasurer of New York Teenagers for Stevenson and Kefauver (TASK). She was a leader in Minnesota politics in the Vietnam era, and, after taking a respite to work in a non-partisan job, was a leader of the John Kerry campaign in Colorado. She's proud to call herself a political junkie.



Because she says 2008 is the most important election year in decades, and because she shares a sense of adventure with husband Roger, the couple bundled up and hit the road for Des Moines – to attend the nation's first caucuses Jan. 3.

“Our plan was to see all the candidates and attend a caucus,” she said. “We saw five – Sens. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John McCain, Rep. Ron Paul and Gov. Mike Huckabee. We tried to catch the others but they were elsewhere in the state.”

They attended a caucus at a Des Moines high school. “The room was designed for about 40 people; 126 attended,” she said. The outcome of the local caucus reflected the state: Obama won two national delegates; Clinton and Edwards received one each.

“The caucus was much like Minnesota's, a friendly neighborhood meeting. Turnout this year was huge, but the meeting moved smoothly from party business to candidate choice and cookies,” she said.

“Iowa is remarkable,” Feist continued. “Iowans, and residents of New Hampshire too, are democracy's blessed. They get to read about, see and question the candidates up close. The people we talked to made every effort to hear as many candidates as possible and many did not decide until the last minute.”

Feist urged all members of the DFL Senior Caucus to attend precinct caucuses Feb. 5. “Take this first step in choosing our Democratic Party standard bearer. Turn out! If you need help getting to the polls, if you want information on the caucus or a candidate, or if you just to talk about what to expect at the caucus, let me know. My number is 651-457-5121 or 800-999-7457 (toll free), or check out online information provided by the DFL at [www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org)”




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## Caregiving: Let's talk about it!

What is it like to be a caregiver? How can I support a friend who is caregiving? How will caregiving impact my children?

The Minnesota Senior Federation Northwest Suburban Chapter invites everyone to a forum to answer these questions and learn about resources, including the Federation's new *Caregiver's Guide*. This event is free.

When: Friday, March 28

Where: Brooklyn Park Community Center, 5600 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Brooklyn Park.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Representatives from local agencies will be available to meet with you before and after a 45-minute presentation that begins at 10 a.m. Join us for refreshments and sign up for door prizes! If you have any questions, please call Mary Ann Beneke at 763-522-6103.

## Upcoming Events

### Jan. 27

**SD-41 CD3 candidate forum**-Join all of the candidates at the Bloomington City Council Chambers for a candidate forum that begins at 2 p.m. The Bloomington City Council Chambers are located at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington.

### Jan. 29

**Minnesota Senior Federation presentation** on "Senior partners care, best buy drugs and dental program." , 11 a.m. to noon. Salvation Army, 401 7th St W, Saint Paul. Contact: Elisa Nonini 651-783-5002

### Jan. 30

**MPLS Central Labor Union Council forum**- The Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council will be hosting a candidate forum beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Creek Center at 14800 34th Ave. N. in Plymouth. CD-3 candidates are Terri Bonoff, Jim Hovland, and Ash Madia

### Jan. 31

**2008 Session Preview: Policy Showcase for Affordable Housing Advocates and Supporters.** Highlights include: Legislative leadership perspectives on what to expect for 2008, affordable housing leaders' policy agendas and priorities, report on Minnesota housing trends, coffee and bakery bar. Event is currently scheduled to be held at the Northwest Area Foundation and is sponsored by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation.

9 to 11:30 a.m. Northwest Area Foundation, 60 Plato Boulevard East, Suite 400, St. Paul  
For more information contact: 651-649-1710

### Feb. 6

Minnesota Senior Federation members join us to select representative for Feb. 19 Advisory Board meeting  
2 p.m., Rondo Public Library, 461 N. Dale Street. Saint Paul

### Feb. 15

**Session Line Up.** This is a not-to-be-missed annual event where you will hear directly from leaders of the legislative caucuses who will share their priorities for the session, identify issues which they think will dominate the debate, and give their ideas on how nonprofits can be a resource to decision makers and their staff. Join as hundreds of nonprofit leaders share in the opportunity to get their questions on the table from the get-go!

10 a.m. to noon. Kelly Inn, 161 Saint Anthony Avenue, St. Paul  
For more information contact: 651-642-1904

### Feb. 28

**Policy Open House.** This free event will lay out the Citizens League's policy agenda and provide an opportunity for you to help the Citizens League discover how "Policy Happens Everywhere." It will feature speakers and break-out sessions on various policy topics that demonstrate innovative processes to engage citizens as policymakers. In addition, Citizens League members and staff will be on hand at information tables throughout the evening to discuss our current policy work. Come for the whole evening, or just stop by for 15 minutes - everyone is welcome!

4 to 8 p.m. St. Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave., Saint Paul. For more information contact: 651-293-0575x16  
Website: [www.citizensleague.org/events/past/2008/02/policy\\_open\\_hou.php](http://www.citizensleague.org/events/past/2008/02/policy_open_hou.php)

# Senior Caucus Membership Dues

Membership dues provide the primary financial support of Caucus activities, and are \$8 per year (July thru June).

This year, dues paid after Feb. 1 will cover membership until June 30, 2009.

While not a requirement for participating in the Caucus, we strongly urge everyone who can afford it to send in their dues. These funds make possible the newsletter, special mailings, flyers, tables at gatherings, the Website and a multitude of other activities that make the Caucus an effective voice for seniors in the DFL. 2008 will be an important year.

Use the following form to send in your dues.

Jan. 19, 2008

## DFL Senior Caucus Dues Payment Form for 2008-2009

Dues for the Senior Caucus membership are \$8 per year.  
Dues paid after Feb. 1 cover membership until June 30, **2009**).

*All money collected is used solely for DFL Senior Caucus business (newsletter copying and mailing, Website, flyers, conference tables and other expenses supporting senior initiatives and communicating with members).*

Yes, I would like to support the work of the Senior Caucus. Enclosed is my \$8 \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name \_\_\_\_\_.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ MN Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

( If you have an e-mail address, please print it clearly. It will make your dues contribution go further.)

**Please return this form and your check made out to DFL Senior Caucus to:**

Mary Ann Beneke, Treasurer  
DFL Senior Caucus  
255 East Plato Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55107

**Thank You!**

## Officers and Directors—DFL Senior Caucus, 2007—2008

Chair	Linda Feist	CD4	(651) 457-5121	lfeist@comcast.net
Asst. Chair	Ed Mars	CD7	(218) 287-2693	ed-mars@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Mary Ann Beneke	CD5	(763) 522-6103	pmbeneke@comcast.net
Secretary	James Reed	CD3	(763) 421-9387	jreed11665@comcast.net
Membership	Jim Poradek	CD4	(952) 997-3169	jimp27@gmail.com
Directors	Dick Bernard	CD6	(651) 730-4849	dick_bernard@msn.com
	Earl Bower	CD2	(952) 432-6928	EarlJuneBower@Yahoo.com
	D. Perry Kidder	CD4	(651) 646-0377	dpkidder@mnseniors.org
	Marie Mars	CD7	(218) 287-2693	prairiegoldvintage@hotmail.com
	John Martin	CD5	(952) 926-4522	bigheadjohn1@comcast.net
	Lucy Robinson	CD4	(651) 489-7946	
	Georgiana Ruzich	CD3	(763) 424-5164	grsrb1@peoplepc.com
	Joy Swanson	CD5	(612) 822-3020	jes2118@yahoo.com
	Vetsch, Millie	CD6	(763) 295-2839	mivgr@soncom.com

**Currently, we are looking for a representative from CD1 and CD8.**

**The next Senior Caucus board meeting will be Feb. 16, 10 a.m.**

**DFL Headquarters, 255 E. Plato Blvd, St. Paul**

**All Members are welcome**

### Senior Caucus Website

[www.dflseniors.org](http://www.dflseniors.org)

### Senior Caucus mailing address

DFL Senior Caucus, 255 East Plato Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55107

**E-mail:** [seniors@df1.org](mailto:seniors@df1.org)

Phone messages may be left at the DFL toll free number 800-999-7457

### Senior Caucus list serves

[DFLSC@yahoo.com](mailto:DFLSC@yahoo.com)

[DFLSCWORKGROUP@yahoo.com](mailto:DFLSCWORKGROUP@yahoo.com)

List serv moderator — [bigheadjohn1@comcast.net](mailto:bigheadjohn1@comcast.net)

### Useful Links

Minnesota DFL

[www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org)

Minnesota Senior Federation

[www.mnseniors.org](http://www.mnseniors.org)

Minnesota Senior Resources

[www.seniorresource.com/mn.htm](http://www.seniorresource.com/mn.htm)

Minnesota Senior Corps

[www.mnseniorcorps.org](http://www.mnseniorcorps.org)

## Communication among Senior Caucus members— newsletter, e-bulletins, list serv and Website

### The newsletter and e-mail addresses —

The newsletter is an important part of an overall plan to keep Senior Caucus members throughout the state informed about what other members are doing, future events, Caucus positions on legislation initiatives and our interaction with the DFL. Of all the methods of communicating to members, it is the only one that reaches every member, those with e-mail and those without.

Newsletter printing and mailing costs are the greatest single expense of the Caucus and are supported entirely by member dues. Members with e-mail addresses contribute significantly to savings.

**If you have an e-mail address, we request that you register it with the Caucus and, if you change it, let us know. If you have given us your e-mail address and do not receive e-mail from the Caucus, please notify us.**

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### The list serv —

The list serv is used to improve communication of Caucus business between members. It also saves the work and cost of postage for mailings. The list serv makes it easy to send and receive group messages, coordinate, vote, and share files. **All Caucus members with email are encouraged to join the list serv.**

The general list serv is **DFLSC**.

To join go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DFLSC/> , then select *Join this Group*.

To send a message the address is: [DFLSC@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DFLSC@yahoogroups.com)

A special list serv is **DFLSCWORKGROUP**. This list serv is for special projects. Currently it is used to continue the work started at the St. Cloud Senior Caucus meeting. Here, we will formulate our action plan, finalize the Caucus positions and generate resolutions.

To join go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DFLSCWORKGROUP/> , then select *Join this Group*.

To send a message the address is: [DFLSCWORKGROUP@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DFLSCWORKGROUP@yahoogroups.com)

If you have any problems or questions contact John Martin at [bigheadjohn1@comcast.net](mailto:bigheadjohn1@comcast.net).

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### The Senior Caucus Website —

The Website, [www.dflseniors.org](http://www.dflseniors.org), is under development. It will be a place to find the latest news of interest to seniors and Caucus members and provide contact information and resources for letter wiring, etc.