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We're on the Web!
dflseniors.wordpress.com

CALL TO ACTION! (FOR A BETTER MINNESOTA)

**By Don Bye, Chair
 DFL Senior Caucus**

Make it your New Year's resolution to get involved—stay involved in politics in your community. If we just sit and complain and do nothing we will have a very bad year just like 2010. Too many seniors didn't even bother to vote and now we all pay the price.

We have a lot to offer to make our government responsible and caring. Seniors are ever more active. We have a lot of wisdom and experience to share. We know what works and what doesn't. If we take the time to learn and sort out the facts we can see through the phony claims, and exaggeration, and outright lies that drive our poli-



Attend your precinct caucus Feb. 7

tics and dominate our airwaves.

Let's sort out the truth and hold our candidates and elected officers to that truth. If you do nothing more than learn the truth about our Affordable Health Care Act and pass it on to others you will have done good service.

Don't let Republicans fool our fellow seniors with scare tactics and misleading catch phrases. There never were any "death panels".

(Continued on page 4)

Attend your precinct caucus Feb. 7

This issue of DFL Senior News is devoted to precinct caucuses on Feb. 7. Inside, you will find how redistricting will impact caucuses (page 2) and review Senior Caucus Resolutions (page 3). This is an important election year, and it starts with your caucus.



Redistricting process will affect 2012 precinct caucuses and conventions

By **Julianne Johnston,**

DFL Senior Caucus Membership Chair

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Submit letters or commentaries to judyber-

The plan for redistricting based on the 2010 census was submitted by the Republican majority in the Legislature and was vetoed by Governor Dayton. The Legislature has until Feb. 21 to come to an agreement on a new plan that meets the state requirements. If not, the State Supreme Court will set new senate district and congressional boundaries on or before Feb. 29. However the new lines are drawn, many DFLers will find themselves in new senate districts. For purposes in this article, Old Senate District refers to prior to redistricting and New Senate District refers to the Senate District after redistricting.

All precinct caucuses will be held on Feb. 7 in the Old Senate Districts. It is important to confirm where your precinct caucus will be held since sometimes the precinct caucus locations within the Old Senate District could change. See contact information at the end of this article.

When you arrive (this is important), you should vote for President Obama on the straw ballot which will determine how the delegates to the DFL Delegates to the National Convention will vote at the National Convention. Join your friends and neighbors in the precinct caucus and elect the chair for the precinct caucus (this meeting only) and also officers to lead the precinct caucus for the next two years. Place your name in nomination to become a delegate to the New Senate District or County Convention (now called an organizing unit)! Sign up to be on one of the committees that will set up the convention in your New Senate District! If you have been involved with any of these committees before, it is extremely important that you volunteer to provide the expertise for the New Senate District or County convention. You can also submit and/or vote on resolutions to be considered for the State DFL Party. The Senior Caucus has prepared some resolutions for seniors to consider bringing to their precinct caucuses.

If you were elected as a delegate to your New District Convention in the precinct caucuses, you will be notified by email or mail of the location of the New Senate District Convention. Volunteers to set up the conventions will receive the same notification with an organizing date and location to meet for each committee.

In the new Senate District Conventions, officers for the district will be elected. There will also be endorsement for the House and Senate based on the New Senate District boundaries. Delegates to the Congressional Convention will be elected and volunteers for the organizing committees for the Congressional Convention will be accepted. This New Senate District Convention will also elect delegates to the DFL State Convention to be held on June 1-3 in Rochester. The State Convention will hold elections for delegates to the Democratic National Convention which will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, on September 3-6.

Important contact information

City Hall – will have information about the location of your precinct caucus

Secretary of State's office – will have information regarding your precinct caucus by phone or online precinct finder

Minnesota DFL – will provide online information regarding precinct caucuses and conventions

Local Newspapers – will publish locations of the precinct caucuses before Feb.7.

Get involved! Attend your precinct caucus Feb. 7

Do you want meaningful solutions to the problems facing Minnesota's senior citizens? Get involved! Attend your precinct caucus Feb. 7.

These neighborhood meetings begin the process of selecting candidates and building party platforms. If you have been active in the DFL, you know it's easy to participate in precinct caucuses. It's fun. Anyone can attend to observe. You can participate and vote in the DFL caucus if you are eligible to vote on Election Day, and if you are likely to support DFL candidates. The following things occur at a caucus:

- Election of delegates to endorsing conventions. Being elected a delegate allows you to vote on candidate endorsements.
- Election of local party leadership. Local leaders, including precinct chairs, are elected at the caucus level.
- Party platform resolutions. You can submit and vote on resolutions that will become part of the party platform. Below, you will find five resolutions approved by the DFL Senior Caucus Board of Directors. These resolutions are printed on resolution forms that are attached to the e-mail version of this newsletter. They are also available on the DFL Senior Caucus Website.

Civil, Human and Constitutional Rights

Be it resolved that we oppose an amendment in the Minnesota Constitution to require an otherwise eligible voter to present a government-issued photo identification as a precondition to casting a vote in any Minnesota election.

Be it resolved that the Minnesota DFL Party oppose any amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that prohibits or limits marriage, civil unions and/or legal protections to same-sex couples.

Education

Be it resolved that early childhood education be provided for every child in Minnesota.

Health and Human Services

Be it resolved that the Democratic Farmer Labor Party supports and works to enact a universal, single-payer health care plan on the federal level and the single-payer Minnesota HealthAct at the state level.

Transportation

Be it resolved that the Minnesota DFL requests the Minnesota Legislature to support the new coordinated transportation effort led by Metropolitan Council as a follow up to The Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Action plan - Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

- Adopted by the Metropolitan Council on March 29, 2007 that includes transportation needs identification and strategies. The purpose of this plan is to encourage the coordination of transportation services serving disadvantaged groups in the seven-county metro area, making them more efficient and effective through the use of 5310, JARC and New Freedom Federal funding programs.

Minnesota's Democrats heartened by State of the Union

The Minnesota congressional delegation left the House chamber Tuesday night [Jan. 24] divided but largely diplomatic about President Obama's third State of the Union address.

The state's Democrats were heartened by Obama's calls for a new, fairer tax code and measures to protect American industries, predicting a productive 2012 session if Republicans are willing to work with them.

Minnesota conservatives, meanwhile, were split on the speech. Reps. Erik Paulsen and Chip Cravaack said in interviews that they're willing to work with Democrats on some issues, even if there is still a wide chasm between what the president wants done and what can be accomplished by a divided Congress. In statements and on television, Reps. John Kline and Michele Bachmann cast pessimistic eyes on the ability of Congress and Obama to come together.

Obama's address was structured so that he could both list his accomplishments as president and set forth his agenda going into an election year. He started by noting the end of the Iraq War and the killing of Osama bin Laden, and he listed some of the economic accomplishments he will try to base his re-election campaign on.

Call to Action

(Continued from page 1)

Social Security should be secure. The rich are not "job creators" for the rest of us. The rich can well afford more taxes.

Dig right in as our 2012 election process unfolds. It all starts Tuesday night, February 7, right in your neighborhood. "Precinct caucus" is an awkward term for what is usually an informal, friendly meeting of your DFL friends and neighbors. Vote on resolutions and most important, run for delegate and encourage other seniors to do the same. Then keep right on by going to your organizing unit convention. We need the senior influence all the way to November.

Active seniors are the best messengers to carry our DFL message of fairer taxes and adequate health care, and to protect Social Security and correct the misinformed. We can do it!

"In the last 22 months, businesses have created more than three million jobs," he said. "Last year, they created the most jobs since 2005. American manufacturers are hiring again, creating jobs for the first time since the late 1990s. Together, we've agreed to cut the deficit by more than \$2 trillion. And we've put in place new rules to hold Wall Street accountable, so a crisis like that never happens again."



President Obama and Rep. Gabrielle Giffords

(Reprinted from Minnpost. For entire article, go to www.minnpost.com)

If we come out in full force we really can make a difference in 2012.

Be a Senior Caucus member now. Join or renew your DFL Senior Caucus membership for this year. Commit to really getting to know the candidates and issues. Sign up and sign on for our programs: Seniors calling Seniors and Senior Resident Projects. Recruit new members. Volunteer for a whatever campaign or issue interests you.

Contact us. We'll help you get started. If there is not a Senior Caucus chapter in your area, we will help you start one.

Older but wiser, we stay active and make a difference. Together we make A Better Minnesota, a state we can once again be proud of.

The State of the Union?

Have we become a nation of “manufactured realities?”

By Dick Bernard

This was written BEFORE the actual State of the Union was presented by President Obama.

This [Jan. 24] afternoon I sent my own mailing list a reminder of President Obama’s State of the Union (SOTU) address this evening. The subject line read: “What would you ask President Obama?”

A friend, who I think would answer to “Leftie,” shot back: “How do you [Obama] expect to regain all of the voters you have lost since ‘08, either by breaking promises (closing Guantanamo) or failing to stop the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? (Yes, Iraq.)”

In response, I said, “I’ll respond when you can give me the specifics of what Obama promised, and when. These have to be first person (his own specific quote) in context...you know what I mean.”

Volley: “No one I know saves his [Obama’s] quotes. That is a cop-out.”

Counter-volley: ” “Cop out? You can do better than that. You’re the one who provided the allegation. Where’s the beef?”

Of course, this business of standing firmly on belief or assertion is not one-sided, not at all.

Yesterday, or was it the day before, a coffee friend related about the “forwards” his right-wing uncle dutifully sends him. A recent one was so obviously false that even the uncle said he’d checked Snopes, and yes, it was false. But it must have been one uncle really liked, so he sent it on anyway.

Uncle apparently liked the made up version of “truth”.

Earlier this afternoon, I happened to be in my coffee shop sitting next to the editor of the local on-line Patch publication. Patch is a burgeoning national alternative media, a

creation purchased by AOL in 2010 and developed by them.

About a year later, AOL and on-line publication Huffington Post merged.

The local Patch editor observed that he gets complaints (with no basis in fact) that Patch must be left-wing – that Arianna Huffington herself is setting editorial policy for the local on-line publication.

On the other ideological pole, when the Huffington-AOL merger happened, I can remember a flurry of communications from the left, complaining that Huffington had literally sold out to the right....

There is a caution in these alternative realities: we seem to be a nation full of manufactured realities – our own fantasies of what is truth. It makes no difference what side of ideological spectrum one occupies, or even in the middle, we seem satisfied to delude ourselves. For what I hope are obvious reasons, this delusion is dangerous behavior.

I’ll watch SOTU with great interest tonight, and tomorrow there will be endless translations of it, according to individual points of view.

And I’m still interested in that exact quote of the President which begins this post....

Now to the State of the Union address.

Nationwide health care law helped 32,000 more Minnesotans

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this month provided state-by-state numbers showing that the Affordable Care Act continues to significantly increase the number of young adults who have health insurance, helping 32,000 young adults here in Minnesota and 2.5 million around the country.

Before the Affordable Care Act, more young Americans lacked health insurance than any other age group – accounting for more than one in five of the uninsured. Going without insurance put the health and finances of millions of young people at risk. Contrary to the myth that young people don't need health insurance, one in six young adults has a chronic disease like cancer, diabetes or asthma. Studies show that nearly half of uninsured young adults reported problems paying their medical bills and others forwent regular care, like checkups or recommended screenings, due to cost.

President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act to put affordable, quality health insurance back within

reach of all Americans. Thanks to the new law, young adults can now stay on their parents' plan up to age 26. Originally, HHS projected that 1.24 million young adults would gain coverage in 2011 as a result of this part of the law. The actual numbers far exceed initial expectations. The CDC recently announced that 2.5 million young adults now have health coverage, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. In Minnesota, that means an estimated 32,000 young Americans have access to health care because of the new law.

Read more about this data from the National Center for Health Statistics at the CDC at www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/12/20111214d.html

Start a DFL Senior Caucus Chapter

Please contact your Congressional District Representative for more chapter info or to express your interest in starting a new chapter in your area. Here are your CD Reps:

CD1

Phil Castrovinci 507 271 4738 philcastro44@yahoo.com
Mary Petersson 507 286 1061 MaryPeterson@msn.com

CD2

Earl Bower 952 432 6928 EarlJune-Bower@yahoo.com

CD3

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Ed Mars 218 287 2693 ed_mars@hotmail.com

CD8

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Charlie Rike 320 629 2048 crike@usfamily.net

FRIENDS

OF THE

DFL SENIOR CAUCUS

(As of January 21, 2012)

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Congressman Keith Ellison, CD 5
Secretary of State Mark Ritchie

State Senators

Tony Lourey, SD 8

John Marty, SD 54

Sandra Pappas, SD65

Ann Rest, SD45

State Representatives

Tom Anzelc, 3A

Lyndon Carlson, 45B

Jim Davnie, 62A

Andrew Falk, 20A

Patti Fritz, 26B

Marion Greene, 60A

Mindy Greiling, 54 A

Melissa Hortman, 47B

Tina Liebling, 30A

Michael Paymar, 64B

John Persell, 04A

Nora Slawik, 55B

Linda Slocum, 63B

John Ward, 12A

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First Class

Visit the Senior Caucus Website
<http://dflseniors.wordpress.com>
Contact us at
dflseniors@gmail.com



2012 Calendar of Events

February

- 7 **Precinct Caucuses**
- 8 **Noon, 2nd Wednesday Lunch, Southwest Metro, Godfather's Restaurant**
- 22 **Noon** DFL Caucus 4th Wednesday Lunch, Riverside Perkins, I94 & Riverside Ave, Minneapolis
- 23 DFL Senior Caucus Board Meeting, 2 p.m., DFL Headquarters, 255 E. Plato Blvd., St. Paul

March

- 14 - noon, Southwest Metro DFL Senior Lunch, Burnsville Godfathers Restaurant
- 22 - DFL Senior Caucus Board Meeting, 2 p.m., DFL Headquarters, 255 E. Plato Blvd., St. Paul
- 28 - noon, DFL Caucus 4th Wednesday Lunch, Riverside Perkins, I94 & Riverside Ave, Minneapolis



Check our Web site for details of the DFL Senior Caucus Day at the Hill in March.

<http://dflseniors.wordpress.com>