

Minutes to the DFL Senior Caucus Board Meeting
Thursday, March 28th, DFL Headquarters

DFL Senior Caucus Chair Don Bye (8th District) called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Don welcomed the Officers and Directors in attendance. Attending were:

- Vice Chair Karla Sand (4th District), Treasurer John Larva (2nd District), and Secretary Jim Reed (3rd District);
- Directors Roger Gehrke (2nd District), Kay Hendrikson (4th District), Julianne Johnston (4th District), Joe Mullery (5th District), Charlie Rike (8th District), Georgiana Ruzich (3rd District), Ann Seifert (4th District), Don Slaten (2nd District), and Gary Westorff (8th District);

Membership Director Linda Larson and Directors Norm Hanson and Dwayne King asked to be excused.

Chair Don Bye presented the following agenda for the meeting:

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Approve Agenda;
2. Executive Reports:
 1. Chair;
 2. Vice Chair;
 3. Secretary;
 4. Treasurer;
 5. Membership;
 6. Chapter Reports;
3. Committee Reports:
 1. Education;
 2. Political Involvement;
 3. Newsletter;
 4. Technology;
 5. Nominations;
4. Old/New Business:
 1. SC Table;
 2. Communications Committee and Related Topics;
5. Announcements and Adjourn.

Agenda:

MSC – Director Julianne Johnston moved to accept the agenda. Director Gary Westorff seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Executive Reports:

Chair:

Chair Don Bye reported a quiet month in CD8 politics. The next DFL Central Committee meeting is in CD8 at Cosby. Unfortunately, there are other DFL events of interest that day.

Vice Chair:

Vice Chair Karla Sand reported that she is mostly working on Political Involvement Committee issues.

Secretary:

Secretary Jim Reed noted that the motion for Outreach and Involvement should read Outreach and Inclusion.

MSC – Director Don Slaten moved to accept the minutes from the February 28th Board meeting as amended. Director Roger Gehrke seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer:

MSC – Chair Don Bye requested that the treasurer's report for March 2019 from Treasurer John Larva be filed without objection.

John noted that the caucus paid for VAN e-mail usage.

Membership:

Treasurer John Larva announced that membership dues can be paid on-line through Act Blue.

Chapter Reports:

East Central: Director Charlie Rike reported that the chapter discussed district elections.

East Metro: Director Kay Hendrikson reported that Elder Voices Family Advocates representatives spoke.

Duluth: Director Gary Westorff announced that the chapter has been lobbying at the Capitol on assisted living.

South Metro: Director Roger Gehrke reported that the chapter listened to a good presentation on health care from AARP. About forty-five attended.

North Metro: Director Julianne Johnston reported that the chapter listened to a discussion on Medicare. A portable speaker system helped those with hearing loss.

Anoka: Secretary Jim Reed reported that the chapter discussed union programs in Anoka County.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Secretary Jim Reed reported that book club reviewed “Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism”, a long book describing what led voters to move in those directions. Unfortunately, seniors were the most likely to vote for Trump, Brexit, and authoritarians. Discussion went well. The next book is “One Person, No Vote”.

Political Involvement:

Vice Chair Karla Sand reported she represented the Political Involvement Committee at the legislative sessions addressing elder abuse. Abuse issues are complicated by reimbursement. However, licensing of assisted living facilities as care facilities may pass.

The committee is also looking at special transportation issues as new issues have arisen. Volunteer drivers for seniors may be required to hold commercial driver’s licenses and insurance. The committee will also consider our endorsement policy as the working group has dissolved.

The committee is still developing an agenda for the Annual Membership Meeting on May 19th. A good speaker is probably needed to attract members.

Newsletter:

Director Julianne Johnston announced that the April edition of the newsletter has been distributed by e-mail and regular post. The edition includes a letter from Don Bye, a report on the “Day on the Hill” event, nominations and technology committee reports, and a feature on Vice Chair Karla Sand. The next edition is in July.

Technology:

Director Kay Hendrikson announced good progress on website, logo, e-mail service, and Act Blue dues. The new logo is consistent with the current DFL logo. Automatic withdrawal of monthly payments for dues is being set up through Act Blue. Secretary Jim Reed added that automatic withdrawal would simplify membership renewal.

MSC – Director Kay Hendrikson moved to have the Senior Caucus adopt the presented logo as the official logo of the Senior Caucus. Director Ann Seifert seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

MSC – Secretary Jim Reed moved to set membership dues to twelve dollars (\$12) if paid monthly by automatic withdrawal of one dollar (\$1) per month through Act Blue but remain

at ten dollars (\$10) if paid yearly by cash or check. Director Gary Westorff seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by voice vote with one (1) opposed.

Nominations:

Director Don Slaten announced that the committee is ready to accept applications.

Old/New Business:

SC Table:

Vice Chair Karla Sand questioned if the caucus should have a table at the upcoming Central Committee meeting in Crosby. Director Gary Westorff volunteered to be at the table.

Communications Committee and Related Topics:

Vice Chair Karla Sand felt that the Communications Committee should be restarted with clear definitions and responsibilities. The committee, for example, could write the biannual report to the DFL.

Director Julianne Johnston suggested a Chapter Development Committee to develop and support chapters. The Membership Director shouldn't have to do all membership and chapter tasks.

Announcements:

Vice Chair Karla Sand reminded the Board of the following events: (Contact Secretary Jim Reed, 763-213-5171, for the phone numbers of those representing the events.)

- Riverside Wednesday Luncheons – 4th Wednesday of each month at Riverside Perkins;
- East Metro Chapter meeting - 2nd Thursday of each month – contact Kay Hendrikson;
- South Metro Chapter meeting – 2nd Wednesday of each month - contact Roger Gehrke;
- North Metro Chapter meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month – contact Norm Hanson;
- Anoka Chapter meeting – 2nd Wednesday of each month – contact Mel Aanerud;
- East Central Chapter meeting in Mora – contact Patrice Windfield;
- Storytelling on the 4th Wednesday of the month – contact John Martin.

Adjournment:

MSC – Director Don Slaten moved to adjourn. Director Gary Westorff seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m. at the DFL Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed, DFL Senior Caucus Secretary.