

DFL Senior Caucus Board Meeting
Zoom Meeting Thursday, May 28, 2020

As board members were joining the meeting, Jim Reed gave some information about the status of his health. He said he is feeling good right now, and prognosis is positive.

Members in attendance: Don Bye, Karla Sand, Jim Reed, Kay Hendrikson, Earl Bower, Tony Scallon, Roger Gehrke, Julianne Johnson, Josie Warren, Russ Warren, Bonnie Lokenvitz, Patricia Mann, Mel Anerud, Sandy Trudeau, Norm Hanson, Joe Mullery, Duane King, Lyn Burton, Sandy Sandoval

Meeting called to order at 11:04 by Chair Don Bye.

MSP - Motion to approve minutes from meeting several months ago. Jim Reed-M Second by Roger Gehrke- Passes

Officer reports

Chair Don Bye still learning zooming. Made National Delegate by his SD. His district endorsed Quinn Nystrom. No report about elector yet.

Vice Chair Karla Sand got a call from a newspaper called the Minnesota Reporter, and asked from a reporter about a resolution by the Minneapolis chapter taken to the convention. His question was why the resolution regarding the waterway in Mpls., stopped at Mpls. Convention and didn't go on to the state convention. Meeting with Ken Martin with all caucuses, and main message was GOTV. Veda, chair of DFLEC wants to be a DNC Delegate and want to get all caucuses support. Karla says seems only at this time it was the only the African American Caucus pledging support.

Secretary: Don Bye regarding Sandy Sandoval as temporary secretary. Chair is of the opinion that we don't need any formal action for Jim to be on excused medical leave and to appoint Sandy as acting secretary, but she would not be a voting member. We request her assistance through the summer months. June, July and August. Kay is recording the meeting to help with minutes and accommodations for people with hearing issues. Kay will send it to Sandy. The board agrees Sandy will take minutes, and use the audio recording to fill in the gaps.

Treasurer: John Larva not in attendance, no report.

Debit card discussion by Mel Anerud and Karla. All we need is to ratify it. The Executive Committee authorized the purchase of a debit card for purchases. The card would be held by John Larva and Karla Sand.

MSP - Motion to ratify a debit card, by Josie. Second by Kay. Discussion ensued about limits for expenses. Jim offered an amendment of limits, it was withdrawn. Ratified

Membership Chair Josie Warren discussed the acceptance of the St. Paul chapter.

MSP - Motion to accept the new St. Paul Charter by Josie. Second by Kay.

Josie reported that they may have some language that is not within guidelines. Josie is developing a guideline of what to do about admitting new charters. Need to formalize so we are on the same path, will be uniform for all new chapters. I will present at next month's meeting. Karla says we have guidelines on website. Josie says these will be discussion points including the website guidelines, and have documents available when meeting with groups. Earl Bower wants to introduce Lyn Burton who is the chapter's new chair. She's on this call today.

Roger has question to Josie, has the St. Paul chapter designated officers? Some are filled. Roger would like to invite them to the next meeting; Josie says they are on today. Roger offers South Metro help if anything needed. Lyn Burton will receive a \$100 start-up fee. Lyn says honored and excited to join this vibrant caucus. Julianne asks if Lyn will forward their information to Julianne and Norm to be printed in July newsletter. Have check sent Lyn by John Larva. Earl or Karla will talk to John Larva.

Committee reports:

Book Club: Karla and Jim will talk about book club meeting, and the new acting chair. The new book is *Price you Pay* and will be next recommended reading about healthcare. Karla reports Book Club will be virtual on third Monday, 11:00 to 1:00.

Events Committee: Roger South Metro has not had a meeting since the slowdown. We'd established speakers until end of this year. But our chapter is now discussing if we will have a zoom meeting in a couple weeks. Endorsed Jon Olson for Senate District 20, Northfield area.

- *Picnic:* Don says seems very difficult to have virtually. Roger says picnic is scheduled for August 9, and confirmed but Duane, unless it gets canceled. Don suggests the authority be left in the hands of the Executive Committee to adjust details if necessary.

MSP - Kay Hendrikson makes motion to leave picnic plans in the hands of the Executive Committee between now and June meeting. Second by Earl. Passes.

- *Gala:* date reported by Roger, is set for October 18, Sunday at Royal Cliff as it has been last four years. But South Metro asks another chapter to take over Gala this year. Royal Cliff wants down payment, but we've declined based on the present conditions. We've done an excellent job, bringing up attendance of average of near 100. We suggest it is opened up to all chapters. Karla says maybe the 3 metro chapters get together and possibly locate it more centrally. But not stop discussing it today.
- *Annual meeting:* Karla says scheduled in June at Sheet Metal Workers. Could we get an extension this year, or option to put on zoom, but it's a lot of people for zoom. Don says

we don't have to hold annual meeting; no elections this year. Kay says zoom has been going very well, we could try it. Don suggest we invite Al Franken to annual meeting. Kay says our zoom meetings have been getting better, and a zoom annual meeting could be worth a try. Don says could move that to executive committee too.

MSP - Motion by Josie to move further discussions about the Annual meeting to the Executive Committee, second by Jim. Passes.

Technology, protocol explained by Kay: Shared report on screen. The tech team did a lot of training and held meetings to practice. One question was, do chapters have to purchase their own zoom subscription? Not too expensive, but doesn't seem necessary. Meetings can be scheduled on the calendar, only one at a time. There is a meeting host, but can have another chair/host. Karla asked if notifications could be sent out ahead, with attachments? Kay says information can be sent to someone and can be shared for all to see if sent to zoom host in advance of meeting.

Newsletter: Julianne or Norm on phone reports: Working on July issue. Invited Ken Martin to do head article, but haven't heard from him. Main article by Don, and JP Maroney on the DNC, others are by Rick Hanson, Julianne and Norm on elections, and other updates. Julianne will have technology report from Josie. Since no State fair, we will rename it as *Recruitment Edition*, including all 11 chapters listed, and about what the Senior Caucus has been able to do in the past, including some zoom pictures. Working hard but it has been difficult when we can't meet together. May include an article about the Duluth Chapter with several interviews.

Endorsements: Joe Mullery reporting by phone. Roger mentioned South Metro endorsed Jon Olson, Gary's chapter in Duluth for legislators endorsed, but one was defeated. In that race, Simonson's opponent asked the Senior Caucus for endorsement, but that will be left to the Duluth chapter, and they may leave it until primary. St. Paul endorsed John Lesch. In SD 41 we endorsed in the Senate, House 41B Columbia Heights, but the candidate was not SD endorsed. Congress we endorsed in the 8th and 6th. The endorsement in the 5th was conducted by the Mpls chapter. In the 4th no contest for Betty McCollum. Preferred to wait until after state convention for her, and send her questionnaire. Questionnaire was sent to Collen Peterson, and sent to the CDs first, second and third. St. Cloud legislator asked for endorsement and will screen him. Don Bye said endorsed Quinn Nystrom, who was very appreciative, and said senior issues will be at the top when in DC. Screened 6 candidates for congress, and all agreed with all positions of senior issues.

Tony Scallon says the committee was successful with all but 2. County boards were all successful. One disagreement with Joe about endorsement of congressional incumbents that the DFL endorsed, and feel we do not go through lengthy process. See no reason to wait now. Joe reports we should not take any action today. We would have to change the rules, and rules require a 10-days-notice to change. Joe says got feedback from congressional candidates that they were appreciative with our discussions. Don't think we should just endorse because the SDs endorsed. Other caucuses don't do automatically. Should go through questionnaire and

interviews. Need to find out where folks are with their positions on our basic issues. Russ would like to see a recommendation that CD incumbents be automatically endorsed. Kay asked Joe and Tony if there is procedure in an uncontested endorsement? Assuming there's no contest, can we just expedite an endorsement, without missing a deadline? Tony says yes with no contest. Tony disagrees with rules that don't allow us to move forward. Prefer, except in 5th, to endorse incumbents right away. Duane called in just now. Joe says it is correct that the board can do it without 10-day notice.

MSP- Kay would like to move to streamline in an uncontested DFL Congressional endorsed candidate, and that Senior Caucus endorsement is expedited. Second from Roger. Clarify pre-convention, if no DFLer has challenged race should the incumbent's endorsement be expedited. Motion would not apply to Tina at this point because there is still contested race and she is not congressional race. Earl disagrees with this motion based on lack of opportunity to communicate our issues. Kay to amend my motion, as part of expedited endorsement can mean talking to that candidate. Joe says they can send out the questionnaires now, and interviews are usually 45 to 60 minutes, but could do those in 15 minutes if they agree with all on questionnaire. Candidates like for us to explain our issues. It could be done in 2 weeks. Bonnie reminds Dan Feehan is not incumbent. Question is called by Josie. Passes by majority.

Resolutions

Tony says we should be supporting no delays in licensing of nursing homes. Secondly, joining lawsuit to not require a witness signature on absentee ballot. Up to Minnesota if want to join first issue. Norm asked by joining the lawsuit what would that involve? Discuss at new business.

Letters to Legislators: Karla says we need to support licensing right away of assisted living and nursing homes. Kay and Karla say it will come up in special legislative session in June. Sent our letter of support to the legislators working on it already. Roger asked if this is the immunity bill? Don and Karla put off our agenda to later.

Kay reports on State Executive Committee report: zoom call went well, voted for delegates at many levels and candidates, and resolutions. 87 resolutions whittled down from 2002 resolutions. Josie's favorite boarder to boarder broadband. Saturday is training and panels. State is hosting a friendly competition between OUs of highest percentage of delegates to State DFL convention, and will get \$500, second place will get \$250. All pre-convention committees did their own work and then went to Executive Committee for blessing.

Russ Warren report of Documents. No report.

New Business

Julianne wants board to approve the development of a rules and regulations document about all these procedures and rules we use.

MSP- Earl makes the motion to set up a committee to the development of such a document, second by Norm. Jim says added sounds like writing bylaws, ok with that. Josie envisions a

manual of guidelines, but not bylaws. Bylaws and guides would both have to be approved by the board. Don says would be acted on by board and then approved by annual meeting. Chaired by Julianne and add members later. Kay likes idea of procedures, but protocol for zooms, endorsements, etc. as everyone has some special skills. Julianne explained, set up what has been approved by board, put into a document with steps, so everyone has that to go by, and doesn't have to be reinvented each time. Julianne will chair this committee. Passed

Amend agenda at this point to submit Kay's report as the State Executive Committee report, following Resolutions, which will regularly be in that section of agenda.

Tony regarding resolutions: says letter about licensing is appropriate. And regarding the lawsuit where a witness is required on application to absentee ballot, Tony recommends Caucus should sign on to that. He speaks about Mpls chapter resolution to join League of Women Voters opposing witness on ballots. (Also, a strictly Mpls issue is the closing of a parkway that discriminates to seniors, and he doesn't expect Caucus to act on that.)

MSP - Kay makes motion to join LWV on lawsuit opposing witness requirement on absentee ballots. Second-by Julianne. Tony and Joe will help frame it and send it on. Passes. It should be sent it to LWV. Men are members too.

Announcements: Congratulate Don who is voted DNC delegate at CD level. Josie on state ballot as a candidate for elector.

Don asked do we want an hour on Sunday DFL virtual State Convention. Don accepted 11:00 A.M. spot to give Senior Caucus information. Julianne said is it like having a booth, or a power point she set up before, but this time as a zoom? Don said not sure what is wanted, but virtually. Julianne may try to prepare something if know what's wanted. DFL EC is having guest speakers. Do we want to do something like that? Tony and Don and Karla will follow up on that.

Motion to adjourn at 12:55 PM.

Minutes by Sandy Sandoval

South Metro Senior Chapter Secretary
Senate District 56 Secretary
CD 2 Director
SCC Delegate
DFLEC Board Member
Temporary Secretary for State Senior Caucus

Any corrections, please email me at Lssandoval@msn.com.