

## **Senior Caucus Zoom Board Meeting June 25, 2020 Minutes**

Board members present: Don Bye, Karla Sand, Kay Hendrikson, Earl Bower, Anthony Scallon, Melvin Aanerud, John Larva, Roger Gehrke, Dwayne King, Georgiana Hanson, Josey Warren, Russ Warren, Julianne Johnston, Bonnie Lokenvitz, Joe Mullery, Norm Hanson, Don Slaten, (Sandy Sandoval)

Don Bye, Senior Caucus Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

**MSP-to accept the agenda.** M-Earl,S-Roger Julianne wants to add policies and procedures under old business, and it was added as a consensus of the members.

### **Officer Reports:**

Chair Don Bye says he would like to have some volunteers to work on a monthly flyer that would include up-to-date information about events, candidates, etc., which was proposed by Kay Hendrikson.

Reed Perkins is running for Senate in SD 1 and actively seeking caucus endorsement in expedited manner. Don told him to get in touch with Joe Mullery who will send out the questionnaire.

Don also mentioned that he would like the caucus to have more interaction with the other caucuses. Lastly, he says it looks like he won't be going to Milwaukee for the DNC which is moving to a virtual convention.

Vice Chair Karla Sand is working on the City of Maplewood race, our endorsement is important. Ian trying to get all caucuses to work together, and will pass our rules to Julianne.

Secretary report: Sandy Sandoval is temporarily filling in for Jim Reed who is on medical leave. She made a couple minor corrections that were reported to her for the May minutes. Duane King's name was included in the May 28, 2020 minutes. No correction was needed. MSP-to accept the corrected May minutes. M-Roger, S-Earl.

Treasurer John Larva screen shared his report. Started with \$2891.89 and paid one fee for Act Blue. The caucus took in some money \$115.50. The balance is now \$3004.14. Members in good standing is 247. The South Metro Caucus is at  
The report will be filed.

Membership Report, Josie Warren no additions right now. Karla received a resignation from the board, Jackie Lindholm, and we should fill that position.

### **Committee Reports**

Education: no report

Book Club: Karla sent out flyer for the July book, *Can American Capitalism Survive?* This link is to the Book Club <https://dflseniors.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/sc-book-club-6-15-2020.pdf> She reports we are getting good attendance for book club and good discussion. Earl said Joe Klemmer came and added great commentary.

Newsletter report: Norm Hanson. July issue is in production and reduced from 17 pages to about 12 pages, thanks to Julianne's magic. Thanks to the chapter chairs and representatives who contributed: Mel Aanerud, Patricia Man, Tim Bonham and North Metro...three Metro chapters and the Rochester (SE Mn) chapter. Included in the July newsletter are articles: Capitol Corner by Rep. Rick Hansen, DNC article by J.P.Barone (2016-2020), Elections Have Consequences by Julianne and Norm, Chair's commentary by Don Bye, COVID-19 update...the New Normal by Julianne-PHN retired, End-of-Life Options by Earl Bower, Membership report by Josey Warren, Technology report by Kay Hendrikson, Effective Communication with Legislators...suggestions for best chance of being heard, Featured Senior Caucus member Gary Westorff-chair of NE Minnesota chapter, Summary of the Senior Caucus Board of Directors meeting, Chapter Contact Information including the new St. Paul Chapter, and Calendar of Events.

Political Involvement Committee: Karla would like to discuss next 3 items and turn over to Joe. Tony asked if motion in minutes to approved supporting 2 bills: US Congress, 141 in the House and 521 in the Senate. They are stalled in the Senate.

MSP-to pass PIC Resolution of House bill 141 and Senate bill 521: Windfall Elimination Provision of Social Security (WEP) which is currently not supported. M-Joe Mullery, S-Tony Scallon. Members can find Joe's extensive email, dated June 24, 2020 explaining this issue to all board members.

*Resolution: The Minnesota DFL Senior Caucus requests Congress to change the unjustifiable discrimination against workers who are not paid a constant amount each year, often small businesspeople, even when they pay in a lot more FICA taxes. Congress needs to allow a social security recipient who is subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision to use extra income they received in any year, over the required "substantial earnings", for bringing up the computation of their earnings for any other year to equal the required substantial earnings for that other year, when calculating how many years the recipient is credited with toward the 30 year requirement. (Read more explanation in Joe's email).*

Melvin Aanerud reports committee has sent out 18 questionnaires and received 7 back. Only one passed. Joe Mullery has sent two more to Karla, waiting for action.

MSP-to approve the letter to Tina Liebling for all her work on healthcare. M-Julianne, S-Russ. Karla reports it was sent from Joe Klemmer and Audrey from the book club. The letter goes beyond thank you. Discussion: Kay feels the short thank you letter should be sent. Julianne makes motion we should approve it as a board first. Josey agrees that short letter is best. Joe think we should not display the attitude that we know everything about the subject matter just because we read the book, and should change 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph. All accept that we should change only letter to read only the first 2 paragraphs.

Tony reports issues in Minneapolis screenings for endorsements in 6<sup>th</sup> ward. Secondly, does the caucus want to get involved in defunding police issues? Tony will send information to Karla only.

Documents Committee: Russ Warren\_no report, but will set meeting time.

Technology Committee:

Kay reports talked to John Martin and willing to post endorsements on FB. Zoom practice sessions going well, and no more are scheduled. Tony suggests using the raising the hand to speak, and using participants button. Kay says they train it, but many do not use it. But chat can be used, as well as any other buttons you can try. Georgiana would like one more practice session, and Kay and Earl will set up one more. Karla questions about losing access, how to get back on. Dwayne ends up on hold because the notice who is in the waiting room, it is just technology that is slow. Or if the wrong name is on, it is a security issue to allow you in. The technical host needs to see who is in waiting room, and they need to know who you are. Tony urges to use hand notifications.

Kay reports about VAN information. Earl and Kay are working with the DFL to improve access to people over age 50 for recruitment purposes, and also to disseminate information to age 50-plus. About a million people in Minnesota age 50-plus in DFL and we are not getting access, so trying to get that.

Kay reports about the website to put information on it by September and use budget approved by the board, and it has been already improved look, but more to come. DFL is looking for better capability and technology for email blasts. There are glitches that unsubscribe people not wanting to be.

Karla asked question about OU that wants to endorse they can send out emails. Other question is about the VAN that each caucus brought forth concern about support. Other conversation ensued about greater Minnesota access.

Events and Executive Recommendations:

Don Bye recommends combining picnic and annual meeting. Dwayne says both picnic and annual meeting locations can be cancelled without loss. Roger still has Gala reservation for October 18, still not sent in any money. Karla concerned about bringing folks together, so Gala is not resolved because Executive Committee wanted to bring issue before whole board. John Larva said it is not good idea. Kay says use technology for these activities. Kay says have it by zoom. Don Slaten reported that the South Metro passed a motion that we do not hold the Gala this year. Karla says could do a virtual gala. Roger says we have to know is do we cancel that date on hold at Royal Cliff? South Metro will not host. Julianne says that time of year will be especially unhealthy because of flu combined with virus. Roger will release that date. Karla says would like Chair Roger and Events Committee to figure out how to hold these events virtually. Golden Valley will not host picnic, and Dwayne will cancel it.

Old business

- Julianne on Policies and Procedures: The board determines these procedures, then a leader is appointed to give direction to what is best. There seems to be about 13

categories now. She will write up a list of questions to send out people who have been involved in these subjects, selectively, and she will call them back by telephone for discussion. Then she will come back to the board with the reports of procedures or events that have been done before, for approval, and will put them into a written document to review annually. Karla mentions needs to know those motions that we have implemented. Julianne agrees.

- Karla asks where we are in St. Paul membership? Kay says board approved new chapter. Josie will go back to update that information and report to board.
- Julianne made contact with Lynn Burton for newsletter from St. Paul chapter. Josie will call Lynn and all the others involved there, and forward information.
- Tony reports he will meet in July with police department and thinks that most seniors do not approve. Meeting with park board, and it is controversial. He will send information to Karla.

New business:

Kay talks about a monthly flyer and thinks we should do that. A one-page with pictures and news because many are not meeting now. Somebody who is not swamped to take this on, useful to seniors, brief, through email blasts. Proposes 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month flyer. Kay can set it up, but cannot take time to write it and put it together. Don says it's an excellent idea to enhance our position especially through this time, can help our endorsements too.

Kay's DFL Executive Committee report is mostly about who is getting endorsed across the state and covid chatter.

**MSP**-to adjourn by M-Josie, S-Melvin.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Sandoval, temporary Secretary