

Minutes to the DFL Senior Caucus Board Meeting
Thursday, December 5th, DFL Headquarters

DFL Senior Caucus Vice Chair Karla Sand (4th District) called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Karla welcomed the Officers and Directors in attendance. Attending were:

- Treasurer John Larva (2nd District) and Secretary Jim Reed (3rd District);
- Directors Earl Bower (2nd District), Norm Hanson (4th District), Kay Hendrikson (4th District), Julianne Johnston (4th District), Bonnie Lokenvitz (8th District), Georgiana Ruzich (3rd District), Tony Scallon (5th District), Don Slaten (2nd District), Sandy Trudeau (6th District), and Gary Westorff (8th District).

Chair Don Bye, Membership Director Josey Warren, and Directors Roger Gehrke, Jackie Lindblom, Joe Mullery, and Russ Warren asked to be excused.

Vice Chair Karla Sand 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. DFL Executive Committee;
 6. Membership;
 7. Chapter Reports;
3. Committee Reports:
 1. Education;
 2. Political Involvement;
 3. Newsletter;
 4. Technology;
 5. Events;
4. Old/New Business:
 1. Business Cards;
 2. Community Reports;
5. Announcements and Adjourn.

Agenda:

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

Executive Reports:

Chair:

Not present.

Vice Chair:

Vice Chair Karla Sand noted that she was continuing work on senior issues in Maplewood and St. Paul.

Secretary:

MSC – Director Earl Bower moved to accept the minutes from the October 24th Board meeting. Director Don Slaten seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer:

MSC – Vice Chair Karla Sand requested that the treasurer's report for November/December 2019 from Treasurer John Larva be filed without objection.

DFL Executive Committee:

Executive Committee representative Kay Hendrikson suggested that others from the Senior Caucus also attend Executive Committee meetings. The meetings are open.

Membership:

Vice Chair Karla Sand announced that a St. Paul chapter may form. Perhaps the DFL State District organizations in St. Paul might help in chapter formation.

Secretary Jim Reed felt that the caucus needs more members. The membership count, though stable, is simply not enough to make the caucus as relevant as it should be. Director Don Slaten suggested the caucus ask labor unions for financial support. Most unions have retiree groups that have members who would donate and are active across the state. Director Bonnie Lokenvitz suggested that the caucus advertise its events and membership benefits through the DFL Daily Digest.

Chapter Reports:

North Metro: Director Norm Hanson that chapter listened to Kelly Moller, Representative for SD42A.

South Metro: Director Don Slaten reported that the South Metro chapter listened to a speaker from the St. Paul Credit Union on the subject of financial scams against seniors.

Tri-County: Director Sandy Trudeau reported that the chapter discussed drug and alcohol abuse and rehabilitation.

East Metro: Director Kay Hendrikson reported that the chapter listened to the director for the Minnesota census.

Anoka: Secretary Jim Reed reported that the chapter listened to Madison Grove of the Amy Klobuchar for President campaign.

Minneapolis: Director Tony Scallon reported that the chapter is working on resolutions to the Minneapolis City Council to address council actions that could hurt seniors.

Committee Reports:**Education:**

Secretary Jim Reed announced that the book club will review a biography of Miles Lord: "Miles Lord, the Maverick Who Brought Corporate America to Justice". The book author may attend.

Political Involvement:

Vice Chair Karla Sand announced that the Political Involvement Committee (PIC) was ready with endorsement plans and resolution recommendations. For endorsement, the PIC will offer recommended endorsements to the SC Board for approval. The Board will not otherwise be involved. Director Tony Scallon added that the PIC will use the SC chapters to identify candidates for endorsement and make recommendations to the PIC. For areas without chapters, the PIC will review candidates directly. Director Georgiana Ruzich suggested that chapters work together where their borders and communities overlap. Tony added that candidates be allowed to submit written responses to endorsement questions to the chapters or PIC.

Vice Chair Karla Sand announced the following twelve (12) resolutions for review:

- * "Pharmacy Drive-Through" - a resolution calling for opposition to governmental action closing drive-through accessible pharmacy service in cities and communities;
- * "Specialized Transportation Volunteers" - a resolution calling for governmental action to clarify regulation of volunteer drivers to ensure the availability, accessibility, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of transportation services;
- * "Specialized Transportation" - a resolution calling for governmental action supporting and funding specialized transportation services and establishing pilot projects to coordinate

transportation services state-wide;

- * "Lifelong Learning" - a resolution calling for legislative and Department of Education action to promote and fund the education of Minnesotans throughout their lives;
- * "Prevent Pharmaceutical Price Gouging" - a resolution supporting and promoting legislation to prevent and punish unjustifiable increases in drug prices;
- * "Insulin Pricing" - a resolution supporting and promoting legislation to ensure insulin-dependent Minnesotans can obtain insulin at affordable prices and when needed in an emergency;
- * "Elder Abuse" - a resolution calling for legislative action to carry forward remedies for prevention of elder abuse including increases in staff reimbursement, adequate facility staffing, regulatory oversight of facilities, and protection of elder resident rights;
- * "Medicare Support" - a resolution calling for congressional action to support, fund, and maintain the Medicare system, cap out-of-pocket drug costs, and add hearing, vision, and dental benefits;
- * "Broadband Accessibility and Affordability" - a resolution calling for legislative action to fund and extend broadband communication services (e.g., Internet) across greater Minnesota and make them affordable for seniors;
- * "Student Debt Reduction" - a resolution calling for legislative action to reduce student debt from college education for Minnesotans including debt covered by seniors;
- * "Universal Health Care" - a resolution calling for legislative action to support and fund accessible and affordable health care in the US;
- * "End of Life" - a resolution calling for legislative action to allow mentally capable, terminally-ill adults a full range of end-of-life options including medically assisted dying.

MSC – Director Don Slaten moved to accept the twelve (12) resolution topics for Senior Caucus Board review. Director Georgiana Ruzich seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Newsletter:

Director Norm Hanson announced that the January newsletter edition will cover an interview with SC Chair Don Bye, the upcoming census, endorsement, drug pricing, and general SC events and meetings.

Documents:

Vice Chair Karla Sand asked that documents review focus on those documents most distributed to the greater community.

Technology:

Director Earl Bower requested that the SC website have the SC documents and chapter agendas and meeting minutes.

Events:

Vice Chair Karla Sand felt the “Day on the Hill” planning must progress soon.

Old/New Business:

Business Cards:

No progress yet.

Community Reports:

Director Dwayne King noted new legislative efforts on Minnesota Care.

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.)

- Wednesday luncheons - 4th Wednesday of each month at the Egg and I;

- 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 Bonnie Lokenvitz;
- Minneapolis Chapter meeting – contact Tony Scallon;
- Storytelling on the 4th Wednesday of the month – contact John Martin.

Adjournment:

MSC – Director Dwayne King moved to adjourn. Director Tony Scallon seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 23rd at 11:00 a.m. at the DFL Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed, DFL Senior Caucus Secretary.