



Senate District 54 DFL Newsletter

November 2007
Vol. 16, No. 3

Gem Lake . Lauderdale . Little Canada . Roseville . Shoreview . St. Anthony . Vadnais Heights

What's News in SD54

Julianne Johnston and Norm Hanson

Election Year 2008 begins

The 2008 caucuses are just around the corner, having been moved to February 5 from the first Tuesday in March as called for by law. The major political parties in Minnesota opted for the earlier caucus date so that the Gopher State could be a player in helping determine the national party standard bearers for the 2008 election. While many states will be conducting caucuses or primaries on February 5, some of the traditionally "early states" have moved their caucus and/or election dates up as well. Iowa, for example, has moved its selection date to January 3, 2008 and New Hampshire is reportedly considering moving its primary date up to late December 2007.

Precinct caucuses

All 24 precinct caucuses for SD54 will be held at the Roseville Area High School on Tuesday, February 4, 2008, beginning at 7 p.m. A presidential ballot, binding on our delegates to the National Convention, will be a part of the caucus agenda. Of course we anticipate that folks will arrive well in advance. To prepare for this event where we expect more than one thousand attendees including your friends and neighbors, much training and work must be done to be well prepared for this large group. SD54 will conduct caucus training for all precinct conveners, all SD54 executive committee members and officers, and anyone else interested in attending, on January 26, 2008 at the Fairview Community Center beginning at 10 a.m. We will need 24 conveners, one for each precinct, and as many more individuals trained in the process as we can get—current estimate is about 70 folks ready to assist in any way possible. Hopefully we will have sufficient resources to help folks identify their correct precincts on the night of the caucuses, but you can also go online at the SD54 website (www.sd54dfl.org) or call your city hall and request that information before you arrive. We will also need volunteers to assist in making copies and assembling precinct caucus packets on a weekend before the training. If you can help in any way, contact Andi Moffatt at telephone (651) 917-3579 or at andiandtom@comcast.net

Conventions

See the calendar for dates and places for the SD54 Convention, CD4 Convention, State Convention and National Convention. The first planning meeting for the SD54 Convention will be on February 9, 2008, the first Saturday after the precinct caucuses. Sign up for a committee assignment at the precinct caucus and get involved in planning the all important SD Convention to endorse for the Minnesota House of Representatives.

4CD Bruce Vento Spaghetti Dinner

The annual Vento Dinner sponsored by the 4th Congressional District DFL was held on Sunday, October 7, featuring the refugee from Lake Wobegon, Garrison Kellior, as the keynote speaker. The event was a great success and well attended by SD54ers who reserved four tables for the event. In all, 600 plus DFLers attended this major 4CD fundraiser which included a silent and live auction. See Georgiana Sobola's article, page 2, for more information regarding this very special event. We are already in planning mode for the next Vento party, so mark your calendar for next year's date—October 5, 2008.

Pre-Holiday Party for SD54 friends and families

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual November Pre-Holiday Party on Thursday, November 15, at Cedarholm Golf Course in Roseville. This has always been and promises to be once again a great fun-filled evening, full of food, door prizes, camaraderie, and recognition for all of us. We also have a short, informal program each year, and this year will be no exception. SD 54 will provide beverages and tableware, and we ask everyone attending to bring a dish to share in Minnesota's potluck tradition.

SD54 Central Committee Meeting – January 17, 2008

This meeting has been set aside for all interested candidates to tell us about themselves. We will have specific questions for each to consider. Responses will have a time limit to allow all of the candidates to tell us about themselves. This will be the time for you to hear what each candidate stands for and to firm up your votes for the coming elections. Plan to be there.

Word from Lake Wobegon and Other Dignitaries

Geogiana Sobola
Garrison Keillor, keynote speaker at the Bruce Vento Spaghetti Dinner on October 7, gave direction to the main theme of the evening—taking back a veto-proof majority in Congress. He described Democrats as a party with problems, lacking a coherent message. “It isn’t enough to just beat the Present Occupant,” he assured us.

Then he addressed his views on improving the image and message of the DFL to the 600 people in attendance.

We must face the fact that the war in Iraq will be left to a Democratic president and the end may be painful.

We are considered “weak” on security. We need to address questions of national security.

We need to be clear that we believe in the importance of soldiers and all the rest of our armed forces.

There is nothing wrong with invoking God now and then. After all, God has also spoken on the subject of the poor.

Building a wall is not the solution to illegal immigration. Illegal immigrants are a part of the community. They are a problem to Washington D.C., not to the police or the community.

We have become the party of the compliant and are perceived as people who hate America.

We need candidates who are passionate and articulate. We need to speak from the heart.

We have taken the wrong road in education by turning it into a bureaucracy. There is nothing wrong with the accountability factor in No Child Left Behind. We must accept this or we will be left behind.

We are guilty of elitist attitudes about suburbs. There is a national desire to live with others who are like us. Suburbanites are not Republicans. We need to campaign in the suburbs.

We need to make clear our opposition to what this administration is willing to tolerate in the area of business.

Of course the Present Occupant and his administration did not go unscathed. Keillor described the white elephant in Republican rooms as the most incompetent and arrogant presidency in history, with an amazing record of investigations into it. They are keeping us reassured of our safety with massive airport security which keeps us safe from elderly wives of soybean farmers. In the matter of the shoe bomber, “We all take off our shoes in his honor.” And soon we may be facing underwear-sniffing dogs.

In a rousing speech, Senator Amy Klobuchar stressed the need to replace Representatives John Kline and Michele Bachmann in the House. “The most important race is here in Minnesota,” she contended. “Replacing Senator Norm Coleman will help the Democrats take back the country.” She was outraged by the president’s veto of SCHIP and will be working to override it. Look for future legislation regarding climate change.

4th District Representative Betty McCollum was pleased to announce passage of a bill to ban asbestos in America, after a six year campaign by Sue Vento, Bruce Vento’s widow. She cited Democratic bills passed which will make a difference in people’s lives, such as raising the minimum wage, a hate crimes bill, and the Paul Wellstone mental health bill. “The current administration has 15 more months to attack the Constitution and freedom,” Betty reminded us, “time enough to add to the current list which includes torture and detention without a trial, spying on Americans and engaging in a unilateral war. Now it is engaged in veto obstructionism.” She joined Klobuchar in stressing the importance of picking up the seats now held by Kline and Bachmann to add to the 15 more votes needed for a veto-proof majority.

All three speakers honored the memory of Bruce Vento. Garrison Keillor called him an ordinary man who did extraordinary things. In Congress he did amazing work, most notably the establishment of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Amy Klobuchar honored him by helping to pass the Ban Asbestos bill. Betty McCollum noted that this bill provides for research on asbestos-related illnesses, which should serve

(Continued on page 3)

The Senate District 54 *Newsletter* is published six times a year to inform and educate interested parties of the happenings within SD54 DFL. The *Newsletter* provides opportunities for readers to submit articles for publication on various subjects of interest to this audience. The Newsletter Committee reserves the right to edit articles as appropriate to meet these goals and space restrictions.

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Asking the Tough Questions

State Children's Health Program (SCHIP)

The recent theater of the absurd regarding the State Children's Health Program (SCHIP) gives us an indication of just how difficult it will be for this country to provide access to affordable health care for all Americans. This federal health insurance program was enacted in 1977 to cover children whose parents were too poor to buy private health insurance but not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. It was wildly successful, bringing health insurance to about six-million uninsured children. It expires this year.

The president unleashed his virtually unused veto pen to turn back a bipartisan bill to expand coverage to an additional four-million uninsured children. He prefers a bill that would reduce the number of currently enrolled children.

The debate over the bill has been surreal—not the debate in Congress over the terms of the bill, but the ideological pandering engaged in by the bill's opponents.

The president contends that the bill is an incremental step to a government-run health system. But SCHIP is not government-run. Instead, the government subsidizes the premiums, and SCHIP families go to the same clinics as everyone else, paying premiums and co-pays along the way. The president contends that the bill would reach far into the middle class and draw people away from private insurance into SCHIP. Research shows that the draw away from private insurance would be less than 10%. The president contends that states have used SCHIP funds to enroll adults rather than children. States (like Minnesota) that take this family-friendly approach have received

(Continued from page 2)

to decrease the number of people dying of this cause each year from the current 10,000.

Two hard-working Democrats were honored for their service to the DFL. The Bruce Vento Public Service Award went to Victoria Reinhardt for her long list of accomplishments as Ramsey County Commissioner. The Distinguished Party Service Award went to Theresa O'Neill for her work at the Fourth Congressional District (4CD) level.

4CD chair J. P. Barone, the amiable master of ceremonies, was pleased to introduce all the dignitaries, office holders, and candidates present, and to announce results of the silent and live auctions. These main fund-raising events for the 4CD brought in \$7812. SD54 contributed two baskets of items from Norway, courtesy of Jane Lanctot. Additional baskets and contributions came from Sue Rengstorf, April Alfuth and Kent Bergh. The live auction was enlivened by Al Franken's spirited bidding for Mike Ciresi's basket and Mike Ciresi's bids for Al Franken's basket.

federal permission, some from the current administration. The president contends that the bill is too expensive. Compared with Medicare, Medicaid, and the war in Iraq, the bill is peanuts.

SCHIP is no different than Medicare Part D: the government subsidizes insurers and Medicare enrollees so that the latter can afford to pay Part D premiums to private insurers and buy their prescription drugs. There are two important differences: Medicare Part D serves voting adults and SCHIP serves nonvoting children; SCHIP costs nothing compared to the gargantuan Part D.

If the wealthiest nation in the world cannot afford to provide health insurance for its own children, one must wonder what its priorities really are.

If it is too difficult to insure children, from where will the political will come to address the larger fiscal challenges posed by Medicare and Medicaid: the problem of the millions of adults frozen out of the private insurance market either by cost or pre-existing medical conditions, and the spiraling costs of delivering less than world-class health care.

Hopefully, waiting for health care system reform will not be like "Waiting for Godot," a play in which a man is expected to arrive by others who feel they are unable to do anything until he comes, and he never does.

Karen Schaffer

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Please contact your representatives with questions and opinions on this and other issues.

—SD54 Legislators report—

John Marty, Senator, SD54

Cleaning up Campaigns: In recent years, voters have been subjected to some truly nasty mudslinging in campaign advertisements. Attack ads were run by the political parties, campaigns, and outside interest groups. Candidates were portrayed as dishonest, greedy, incompetent — practically everything short of being child molesters. Many of these ads twist and distort a candidate’s record beyond recognition, providing intentionally misleading information to voters.

In 2006, here in our own district, the Republican Party and a Republican-related PAC mailed out a number of smears attacking Representative Bev Scalze. They twisted her words and used clever language to suggest that she lies, hates veterans, and destroys the environment. Then they had the chutzpah to send out a mailing accusing *her* of running a negative campaign! They would use Bev’s vote against an Omnibus budget bill, put together by the Republican leadership of the House back in 2005 —a bill that contained thousands of budget items —as proof that Bev opposed a handful of specific provisions in the bill. In reality, in every Omnibus budget bill, there are provisions that a legislator would support and provisions they would oppose.

And of course, most of the Republican attacks against Bev came in the last days of the campaign when there was no time for her to respond.

The democratic process needs a vigorous debate on issues between candidates, and criticism of candidates is necessary as part of that debate. However, flooding the public with distorted and inaccurate information does not foster debate; it drowns out the ability of candidates and others to present accurate information on issues, visions, and priorities.

These attacks undermine public confidence in the democratic process and political candidates, leaving many citizens so disgusted that they do not bother to vote. Unfortunately, campaigns use these smear tactics because they are often successful; many voters assume that a campaign wouldn’t be allowed to run the ads if there wasn’t some truth in them.

The first amendment appropriately gives wide latitude to candidates and campaigns to express their point of view. You simply could not outlaw smear attacks. Consequently, any solution must be voluntary and rely on social sanctions, not legal sanctions.

The Republicans run many more of these nasty ads — in part because the attacks make the public more cynical about politics and government. The Republican Party has been following the lead of people like Karl Rove and Grover Norquist who said it is his goal to cut government “down to the size where we can

drown it in the bathtub.” A party that wants government and politics to be seen as dysfunctional, harmful, and something to “drown,” gets that message across whenever nasty political ads are used.

Even though our party and candidates run far fewer of these attacks than the Republicans do, it is *never* acceptable to run smear campaigns.

This is an issue that every American needs to care about. Columnist William Fisher pointed out the impact of these outrageous ads: “They reduce honest differences to contests between good and evil. They stifle real debate on real issues. They play to what divides us, not what we agree on. They pander to our basest fears and prejudices. And they make it even more difficult for voters to make rational, informed decisions....But their impact goes far beyond this campaign or that. They say to our society that it’s OK to lie, to twist and distort the truth.”

We need to support efforts to clean up and restore fairness to political campaigns. Campaigners can and should argue, debate, and contend, but they can do it with dignity. For the future of our democracy, that is a necessity.

Mindy Greiling, Representative, SD54A

Nearly one-third of Minnesota’s school districts are fielding levy referenda this fall to properly fund student education. Clearly state funding has come up short.

As students of history, I believe it’s important for us to understand where we started in order to understand where we ended. A look at events that led to passage of the 2007 education bill is useful to understand what schools gained, and the challenges that remain for Minnesota to produce world-class students and nation-leading schools.

Four years and two elections have come and gone since Governor Pawlenty and House Republicans decided to close a \$4.5 billion dollar budget deficit without raising state taxes. While the governor claimed to “hold schools harmless,” in truth, Minnesota’s schools suffered the first real budget cuts in recent Minnesota history. Early childhood programs were slashed, teachers laid off, class sizes and fees skyrocketed, and a record number of school districts were forced to raise property taxes to stem further damage, similar to this year. The decision to freeze special education funding, despite the growing demand for those services, was particularly damaging.

Two years later, after a special session in which DFL members of the house and senate fought to make amends to our state’s education system, a highly praised “4% and 4 %” increase in funding was passed. But since the governor persisted with his “no-new-tax” doctrine, getting the increase depended on a lesser-known element: an increase in local levy authority. An accounting shift that changed the funding distribution was also a part of the package. The result of those provisions meant several things—another wave of school levies to raise property taxes so schools could get the additional funding; and delayed payments

to districts that hampered their ability to meet immediate needs. In the midst of it all, special education costs continued to rise by nearly 5% per year, even as the special education funding freeze continued, creating a funding gap that forced districts to dip into general funds to cover those costs, as well as pay for ongoing operating expenses.

This year, the new house DFL majority and a stronger DFL majority in the senate aimed for additional progress for schools. The education bill I chief-authored in the house was widely heralded as the most balanced and comprehensive in over a decade. Despite expressing support for provisions contained in the bill, the governor refused to consider bringing new revenue to the table, even when legislative leaders relented to significant concessions.

The governor's unwillingness to compromise notwithstanding, the 2007 education bill we passed was remarkable on several fronts. Despite shrinking to little more than half of the ongoing funding contained in the original house bill, it was still the largest state investment in Minnesota public schools in years, providing nearly \$800 million in new state funding that doesn't rely on property tax increases. It made voluntary all-day kindergarten available to a few more children, significantly closed the special education funding gap, and made strategic use of one-time money for building maintenance and technology. It increased high-school rigor with advanced placement, International Baccalaureate (IB) and concurrent enrollment, and for the first time in nearly two decades, provided money for libraries. Contrary to the governor's assertions about the absence of innovation, several initiatives boost classroom rigor, reduce long-term special education costs, and provide additional opportunities for teacher development, including the governor's requests for Q-Comp and math and science teacher training academies. But well built as the bill was it still did not undo all of the damage inflicted in 2003. In fact, schools still have less funding available to meet needs than they had prior to the 2003 budget cuts. We took some good steps, but clearly have far to go if Minnesota is to lead the nation in creating a highly skilled workforce.

As Minnesotans take stock of the challenges still facing our schools—as evidenced by the mushrooming referenda, our collective sense of discontent and disappointment in a governor who uses visionary language but takes narrow action is clear. Until the governor's actions can match Minnesota's needs, our system of public education will be consigned to barely maintaining the status quo, or even losing ground. While “pretty good” may be enough for the governor and his allies, it's not good enough to help Minnesota create and maintain an economic competitive edge. Our ability to compete in a changing world demands bold leadership and political courage—not found in the current executive office.

So we are left for now, cheering on levy referenda and looking to the next elections.

Bev Scalze, Representative, SD 54B

The legislature is humming, and has been all summer and fall, with meetings of standing committees, sub-committees and working groups, in addition to constituent visits and appearances in our local communities.

The burning issue at the Capitol these days is how the leaders of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) managed to spend down its emergency reserves to a deficit of \$60 million. MNDOT has historically held a \$200 million reserve balance to ensure cash flow and to prepare for unexpected needs. Unfortunately, in the past few years, that reserve has disappeared, having been used largely to retire bonds from a transportation bond issue of four years ago. Now that there are no emergency funds available, the legislature is being asked to provide funds for the 35W bridge replacement until federal funds become available, if that bill is not vetoed by the president.

This is a difficult issue because the bridge contract has already been signed, and there is a lack of accountability in how these public funds are being used. Also, we know that the money has to come from somewhere, and delaying other road projects or raiding other state budgets doesn't seem to be a good answer for deficit spending problems. That is why the majority of senate and house members of the Transportation Contingent Appropriation Group (TCAG) has approved only \$60 million of the \$190 million requested to provide funds needed until the legislature reconvenes on February 12, 2008. At that time the legislature is expected to again debate a transportation funding package for the future.

Other committee work is continuing. As this is the bonding year of the biennium, the Capital Investment (bonding) Committee, of which I am vice-chair, has been traveling the state meeting with local and state officials regarding their bonding proposals. There were two three-day trips to northwestern and northeastern Minnesota, a two-day trip to southeastern Minnesota, and soon we leave for a three-day trip to southwestern Minnesota followed by a three-day trip to central Minnesota. Most metro projects will be visited in January. We are visiting many college projects, local government requests and some state bonding proposals such requests from Veterans' Home and other state buildings. We expect \$3-4 billion requests to be debated for funding from a possible \$1 billion bonding bill.

We have had meetings of the Environment & Natural Resources Finance Committee regarding legislation passed in 2007, investigating how and if state agencies (DNR and PCA) are following the intent of the legislation. We will not leave accountability to chance—we are assessing work plans and providing direction for following the laws that we passed.

Legislators are now busy preparing for 2008, which promises to be an active, compressed session, with healthy debate on the bonding bill, and other issues left unresolved in 2007.

John Madden, a Dedicated DFLer

Norm Hanson

John Madden is a retired structural engineer (University of Minnesota graduate) who lives in the St. Anthony area where he has lived for many years. *Note:* John did tell me at the start of our interview, however, that he "...did not build that bridge!" He is also a licensed structural engineer meaning that he can sign off on plans and specifications for bridges and other engineering projects. Although now completely retired as a result of a leg injury several years ago, John remains active in his profession by serving on the national structural engineering committee that develops and evaluates structural engineering exams around the country. The committee activities take him to six different states every year for meetings and exam evaluations. John also volunteers as a Meals on Wheels driver and at the Armed Forces Services Center at the Minneapolis St. Paul Airport. John was also appointed to the Hennepin County Library Board where he served for four years in the late 90's. It should be also noted that John actually lives in Hennepin County and in the 5CD. On the other hand, the two Hennepin County precincts, including the one that John lives in, are in SD54 while the lone Ramsey County precinct in St. Anthony is not.

John Madden became active in the DFL in 1968 after working for an aldermanic candidate in the city of Minneapolis where he grew up. He supported and worked for Hubert Humphrey that year when support for the Viet Nam war was waning and protests against it were mounting. He notes he still believes that Humphrey supported President Johnson too long on the War and may have won had he become "his own man" earlier in the campaign in the close 1968 election against Nixon. John was elected as a delegate to the state convention during his initial year in the DFL, to which he has been elected many times since. He noted that the state delegate selection process wasn't quite as open in 1968 as it is now, however. John tested the waters by running for city alderman in 1969, but finished third in the primary by just a few votes and decided to concentrate on other political activities from then on.

John was elected as a national convention delegate in 1980 (Carter, New York) and 1984 (Mondale, San Francisco), two experiences that he considers to be the highlights of his many years of political involvement. He remembers those conventions as exciting experiences and enjoyable noting that he was given a ticket to attend an expensive convention event with Jimmy Carter and about 250 others. It was a very memorable event according to John. He also served as the treasurer for Senate District 54 prior to John Treadwell, the current holder of that important senate district office. John has served as a precinct chair on several occasions, state central committee delegate and several other leadership positions within the local and area DFL.

John enjoys working on local campaigns having worked on those of Mary Jo McGuire for many years when she was in

the house. He is enthusiastic about John Marty and Mindy Greiling as his representatives in the state legislature for the work that they do for the district. In fact, John considers many of the local and area elected officials as some of the finest and most important people that he has worked with during his many years of involvement in politics.

John is passionately in favor of an amendment to ban handguns as he believes them to be a danger to owners and their families as shown by the statistics. He acknowledges the tremendous influence of the NRA on this issue, however, noting that this is in an uphill fight. But it is one issue that he willingly and enthusiastically supports. John also believes very strongly that a woman's right to choose is a basic freedom that should not be interfered with. Interestingly, John told me that he agreed with President Bush when the latter noted that the U.S. attorneys are political hires and, as such, can be dismissed for any reason as well. John did allow that this was the only thing on which he agrees with the president, however.

Thanks, John, for all of your contributions to SD54 and for all of the many more yet to be made.

2007 State Fair Donut Booth Committee Report

Karen Schaffer

The board of directors of the Donut Booth Committee met on October 14 to review operations at the 2007 State Fair booth, the major fundraiser for SD54. Total receipts were down from 2006, reflecting the intense competition among vendors, variance in Fair attendance, and the reconfiguration of the fairgrounds that dramatically diverted grandstand post-show pedestrian traffic away from the Donut Booth. SD54 receipts, accordingly, are less than in 2006, a fact with which the SD54 budget committee will have to contend.

Also discussed were the continuing need to recruit capable supervisors and to repair, maintain and replace the doughnut-making equipment.

Measured by the 10 persons/shift standard, all participating senate districts fell short in one or more shifts. SD54 had fewer than 10 persons/shift for four shifts. However, as the shortages were across the board, the directors decided not to exact any financial penalties from the districts. Our thanks to all of you who volunteered and reported for your shift at the booth. Your interest and support is very important to this SD54 activity.

<p>Senate District 54, www.sd54dfl.org Chair: Michele Courneya, 651-484-3717, courneya05@comcast.net Associate Chair: CharlieQuick, 651-483-3623, charlierquick@comcast.net</p> <p>4th Congressional District DFL Chair: J.P. Barone, 651-426-1836, var630@aol.com Minnesota State DFL Party, www.dfl.org</p>

SD54 Calendar of Events 2007–2008

Mark your calendars now!!

Note: Due to circumstance beyond our control, the U.S. Post Office may not deliver the newsletter in advance of the events scheduled. For more timely delivery, contact us at (651) 484-8926 or (651) 486-7120 to receive your copy by email rather than postal delivery.

2007

November 11, Saturday, State Central Committee Meeting, Prior Lake, 10:00 a.m.

November 15, Thursday, SD54 Pre-Holiday Potluck Party, Cedarholm Golf Course Club House, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

December 5, Wednesday, Newsletter Planning Committee, Georgiana Sobola's 1961 Hamline Ave N., Roseville 7:00 p.m.

December 20, SD54 Executive Committee Meeting Fairview Community Center 7:00 p.m.

2008

January 17, Thursday, SD54 Central Committee Meeting/Candidates Forum, Fairview Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

January 26, Saturday, Caucus Convener Training, Fairview Community Center, 10:00 a.m.
Mandatory attendance for all officer and directors of SD54

February 5, Tuesday, Precinct Caucuses, Roseville High School, 7:00 p.m.

February 9, Saturday, SD54 Convention Planning—First Committee Meetings, Fairview Community Center, 10:00 a.m.

March 5, Wednesday, Newsletter Planning Committee, Georgiana Sobola's 1961 Hamline Ave N., Roseville 7:00 p.m.

March 20, Thursday, SD54 Central Committee Meeting, Fairview Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

April 5, Saturday, SD54 Convention, Roseville High School, 10:00 a.m.

April 19, Saturday 4CD Convention, Roseville High School

June 6-8, DFL State Convention, Rochester

August 25-28, Democratic National Convention, Denver, Colorado

Check the SD54 DFL website for additional information at www.sd54df.org

SD54 Book Group to resume meetings

The Book Group is getting organized after taking the summer off. On November 19 we will discuss *American Theocracy* by Kevin Phillips, meeting at Gunilla Montgomery's condo, #361 at 122 Demont Avenue, Little Canada. Contact her at 486-6980 or gunillamon@msn.com for directions.

On January 7, *The Argument: Billionaires, Bloggers, and the Battle to Remake Democratic Politics* by Matt Bai will

be the topic for the evening, at the home of Karen Schaffer, 2100 Fairview Ave. N., Roseville.

Our third selection is Madeleine Albright's *The Might and the Almighty*. This February 18 meeting will be at the home of Linda Hopkins, 449 South Owasso Blvd., Roseville.

All meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Newcomers are always welcome!

Any Questions? Contact Karen Hanson at karenjhanson@comcast.net.

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**Prepared and Distributed by the Minnesota DFL
State Central Committee**

Party Time!!!

Post-Election/Pre-Holiday Potluck Party Event

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2006

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Where: Roseville Cedarholm Golf Course Clubhouse
(located just north of Highway 36 on Hamline Avenue)

Beverages, plates, utensils, and napkins will be provided.
You bring the gourmet culinary repasts (also known as "food")

This annual event brings together DFL neighbors and relatives
to celebrate our many victories and to thank all DFL supporters in SD54.

There will be DOOR PRIZES and lots of fun political talk you won't want to miss.

Everyone is welcome. Bring your family and DFLfriends.