



# Senate District 54 DFL Newsletter

January 2008  
Vol. 16, No. 4

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

## What's News in SD54

Charlie Quick, SD54 Associate Chair *Election Year 2008 begins* was the first sentence in the last newsletter. When you receive this issue, we will be in the 2008 election year. We have been slowly building momentum in the last couple of elections. This could be an election of elections with the stage set for a real landslide. Don't sit back and watch it happen, jump into the process and make sure we get the results we want.

### Precinct caucuses

Caucus Convener Training will be Saturday, January 26 at 10:00 a.m. Note the change of location to the Roseville Building Maintenance Center, 2006 Civic Center Drive, off County Road C, north of Roseville City Hall. Everyone interested may attend: the training is required for anyone who plans to volunteer to lead a caucus. Please make every effort to attend.

### SD54 Central Committee Meeting—January 17, 2008.

The Senate Candidate Debate has been canceled due to candidate scheduling conflicts, but one or more may still attend to address the Senate District. We will have our own debate and discussion on the candidates.

### DFL State Central Committee Meeting

The State Central Committee meeting was held Saturday, November 10, 2007 at noon. Senate District 54 was again well represented with six delegates.

We had several guest speakers address the body: Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson; congressional candidates or their representatives; State Senator Ellen Anderson on the opposition of Governor Pawlenty to energy initiatives; Bill Davis on behalf of Barack Obama for president; Jackie Stevenson on behalf of Hillary Clinton for president; Matt Entenza for Minnesota 20/20 Think Tank; former U.S. Senator Bob Kerry; and candidates for U.S. Senate Mike Ciresi, Al Franken and Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer.

We heard the State DFL officers' reports. Chair Brian Melendez explained the current budget situation. A field

organizing expense of \$175,000 was not part of the 2005 budget. Associate Chair Donna Cassutt reported on the November 3rd "house parties." Treasurer Bill Davis reported he expects the year to close out with a zero balance.

A motion was made on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Commission to delete language calling for a preference ballot for the U.S. Senate race. The motion passed after some debate.

Dr. Josie Johnson was the only nominee for the vacant director position. She was elected by unanimous ballot, replacing Keesha Gaskins who last month was elected Associate Chair for the CD5 DFL.

The Platform and Issues Committee proposed a resolution regarding sexual abuse. The important part of this resolution was "extending the statute of limitation for civil claims to protect the victims of childhood sexual abuse based upon the concept of delayed discovery." There was discussion for and against the resolution before it passed by a slim margin.

### U.S. Senate candidate debate

Senate candidates present were Mike Ciresi, Al Franken, Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer and Jim Cohen. The candidates each had five minutes to introduce themselves and present their issues. Questions asked by the moderator are followed by a summary of the candidates' responses.

### Will you abide by the endorsement?

All four candidates agreed to abide by the endorsement. Jack explained why abiding by the endorsement is essential: "We need to concentrate all of our efforts to defeat Norm Coleman."

### How do we get to Universal Health Care?

Jim and Jack were in support of a National Single Payer system. Al also supported this system but said it would have to be established by individual states. Mike talked about a National Health Care Board.

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## What's News...

*(Continued from page 1)*

### ***What would you do with the "No Child Left Behind" directive?***

Mike stated that if a school has trouble, it needs more money, not less. Jack said we should not be funding education with property taxes. Jim stated the directive might work if it were fully funded. Al identified that student progress rather than total ability needs to be measured. He also mentioned we must invest in early childhood education. The overall consensus of the candidates was that the directive should be eliminated.

### ***Do you support the establishment of a Department of Peace?***

Jack supported peace, however, if the State Department did its job we wouldn't need another department specifically for peace. Jim also supported peace with reservations; he didn't think it could be brought to the proper level of purism. Instead we should stop the politics of fear. Al and Mike were for peace but each stated he was against a Department of Peace. Al asked us to picture how a Department of Peace would function in the present administration. "Don't use military solutions where they can't resolve the situation," added Jack.

### ***Should we have a flat tuition rate for all four years of college and make those costs tax deductible?***

Jim supports free college. Al stated those that want to go to college should be able to go regardless of financial ability. Mike said no, we shouldn't dictate to colleges to keep their tuition flat. He also said there are other ways to assist with college expenses. Jack is in favor of public support of education from preschool through college.

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

#### **Newsletter Committee**

|                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Norm Hanson, chair</b>            | <b>(651)484-8926</b>    |
| <b>Julianne Johnston, vice-chair</b> | <b>(651)486-7120</b>    |
| <b>Joan Cooper</b>                   | <b>Grace Dyrud</b>      |
| <b>Keith Dyrud</b>                   | <b>Karen Hanson</b>     |
| <b>Sandy Hanson</b>                  | <b>Beth Lareau</b>      |
| <b>Mary JoRourke</b>                 | <b>Charlie Quick</b>    |
| <b>Karen Schaffer</b>                | <b>Georgiana Sobola</b> |
| <b>John Treadwell</b>                |                         |

**Copy editor: Anne Frenchick**  
**Layout editor: Antona Richardson**

### ***Do you support NASA funding?***

Al supports NASA funding and is concerned about the Bush Administration war on science. Mike supports funding but we need to look at the budget to determine the amount of funding available. Jack is in support but cautioned that we don't want to militarize space.

*Author's note—Writing down everything you hear or identifying the feeling you get for candidates as you listen to them is very difficult. I urge you to attend the debates or listen to recorded debates, if available, to form your own opinion on the candidates.*

## **Giving Thanks – SD54 Holiday Party**

Michele Courneya, SD54 Chair

The unofficial theme of this year's annual Holiday Party was giving thanks. In addition to the fine feast, great company, fabulous door prizes, and sharing of political news and views, there was plenty to be thankful for.

Mindy Greiling, SD54A and Bev Scalze SD54B, thanked all the SD54 volunteers who helped them with their campaigns and with keeping things running. They gave us an update on the highs and lows of the legislative session now that the DFL has control of both the State Senate and House of Representatives. While the DFL members were able to start shifting the focus back to core Minnesota values like education, healthcare and a sound transportation system, there remains one large obstacle to getting the state back on the right track—a Republican governor who habitually says one thing to the press and then does the opposite in practice.

For example, calling a press conference to announce

- A new educational program and then quietly sending a budget proposal to the legislature that provides no funding for that program
- That he signed a bill that will improve the environment as a law he has always supported, when as a member he organized opposition to the very same bill.

Unfortunately, this list is nearly endless, but these examples show the importance of electing a DFL governor in 2010. Even with this obstacle, Mindy and Bev believe we are starting to get back on the right track after the success of the 2006 election.

Norm Hanson and Julianne Johnston thanked three volunteers who work diligently behind the scenes on the newsletter. Copy Editor Anne Frenchick often works late

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# SD54 2008 Precinct Caucuses

(Please USE this insert as a reminder for all these IMPORTANT events)

Senate District 54 (SD54) includes the following precinct caucuses  
**Gem Lake – Lauderdale – Little Canada – Roseville – Shoreview 1-3**  
**St. Anthony Hennepin 1 & 2 – Vadnais Heights 1-4**

**Precinct Caucus Convener Training**  
**Required for all precinct conveners and executive committee members**  
**Open to all interested individuals**  
**January 26, 2008**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Roseville Building Maintenance Center, 2006 Civic Center Drive,**  
**(Off County Road C, across from Roseville City Hall)**  
**Everyone is welcome to attend to learn more about precinct caucuses.**

## PRECINCT CAUCUS INFORMATION

All Precinct Caucuses will be held on February 5, 2008, at the Roseville Area High School at 1240 W. County Road B-2, Roseville, MN. Use the administration entrance located on the southwest side of the building to the immediate right of the auditorium entrance. The Presidential Preference Poll begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m. The caucuses convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 8:00 p.m. or until all business is completed.

A precinct caucus will be busy even before it formally begins. If you do not remember or know what precinct you live in, please call your city hall or the Office of the Secretary of State and request that information or check the SD54 DFL website ([www.sd54df.org](http://www.sd54df.org)) for a link to the state precinct finder. Assistance will also be available at the caucus site, but having this information before you attend will make the process easier. The precinct caucuses will again have student guides available to direct you to your designated precinct room once you identify to which precinct you belong.

At your precinct caucus, you will be asked to sign in with your name, address, and any other contact information you wish to provide. We will be using new computer-generated sign-in sheets so if you have caucused before, you will find your name already registered and you need only confirm the information provided and sign your name. When you sign in, you are stating that you agree with the DFL party principles and that you intend to support Democratic candidates in the coming election. **You must reside in the precinct for which you sign in. You must not be an active member of any other political party and you must agree with the DFL principles as stated in the State DFL Constitution & Bylaws.**

To run as an SD54 convention delegate or alternate or to vote in the Presidential Preference Poll, you must be 18 years old and qualified to vote by Election Day, November 4, 2008. You can request to be elected a delegate or alternate to the SD54 convention by providing a written request to be considered as a candidate to be the caucus chair the night of the caucus.

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*The Presidential Preference Poll begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m.*

*You must vote in person. Proxy votes are not allowed. You must sign in at your precinct and may leave after participating in the poll, but we hope you will stay for the entire event.*

### **Business to be accomplished at the precinct caucuses**

- Elect precinct chairs and associate chairs.
- Elect delegates and alternates to the SD54 Convention which will be held on April 5, 2008.
- Select volunteers for the SD54 Convention Arrangements, Nominations, Endorsements, Credentials, and Constitution Committees.
- Consider resolutions to be considered for the DFL platform and legislative priorities. Bring your resolutions and issues to be discussed at the caucuses. Resolutions must be approved by the caucuses and written on or attached to the official resolution form. SD54 will discuss and rate every resolution passed by the precinct caucuses at a special meeting on March 20, 2008, to determine which resolutions will be forwarded to the State DFL Convention. All precinct attendees are invited to attend this meeting to make the final decision.
- Conduct Presidential preference voting and tabulate results.

### **Mark your calendar for the following events**

**SD54 Convention Committee Planning Committees Meeting February 9, 2008, Fairview Community Center at 10:00 a.m.** Individuals who volunteered to serve on the Arrangements, Nominations, Endorsements, Credentials, and Constitution Committees will meet for the first time to receive their assignments and schedule their subsequent meeting dates.

**Resolutions Committee/Central Committee Meeting March 20, 2008, Fairview Community Center at 7:00 p.m.** Anyone who has an interest in speaking for and evaluating the resolutions passed at the precinct caucuses is invited to participate in this lively decision-making meeting. This process will determine which resolutions will be forwarded to the State DFL Convention (June 6-8, 2008) from SD54.

**SD54 Convention April 5, 2008 - Registration at 9:30 a.m. - Convention convenes at 10:00 a.m.– for all delegates and alternates to the convention elected at the precinct caucuses.** The business of the convention will include the election of the SD54 officers and directors, endorsement of candidates for the House seats in 54 A and B, and election of delegates and alternates to the State and 4CD Conventions. Attendees who wish to volunteer to assist in the organizational structure of the 4CD will be determined.

**4CD and Ramsey County DFL Conventions April 19, 2008, Roseville Area High School at 9:30 a.m.** Delegates and alternates elected at the SD54 Convention will attend. The Ramsey County convention begins at 9:30 a.m. with endorsement of a County Commissioner first on the agenda. The 4CD convention follows and includes election of 4CD officers and directors, members of the DFL State Constitution, Platform and Affirmative Action Committees, and delegates to the National Democratic Convention. The 4CD Convention will endorse a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

**State DFL Convention June 6-8, 2008, Rochester, MN.** The business of the State DFL Convention is to elect members of the State Executive Committee, consider changes to the DFL State Constitution, add and delete planks for the ongoing DFL Platform and for the Action Agenda, endorse a candidate for the U.S. Senate, and elect delegates to the Democratic National Convention (August 25-28, 2008 in Denver, CO).

#### ***Special Note***

If you are interested in any of the 2008-2010 SD54 officer or director positions that will be elected at the SD54 Convention on April 5, 2008, please contact Michele Courneya or Charlie Quick prior to that convention so that your name can be forwarded to the Nominations Committee. Descriptions of the various officer, director, and delegate positions are available by contacting Michele and Charlie.

## SD54 Calendar – 2008 *Mark your calendars now!!!*

*Note:* The U.S. Post Office may not deliver the newsletter in advance of the events scheduled. For more timely delivery, please contact us at (651) 484-8926 or (651) 486-7120 to receive your copy by email rather than postal delivery. Check the SD54 website at [www.sd54dfll.org](http://www.sd54dfll.org) for more information

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

January 26, Saturday, Caucus Convener Training, Birch Room, Roseville Building Maintenance Facility, across from Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Co. Road C, Roseville, 10:00 a.m.

**February 5, Tuesday, Precinct caucuses, Roseville Area High School, 1910 Co. Road B-2 West, 7:00 p.m.**

February 7, Thursday, SD54 Newsletter Planning, Sobola's home, 1961 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville, 7:00 p.m.

February 9, Saturday, First SD54 Convention Committee Planning Meeting for all SD54 convention committees, Fairview Community Center, 10:00 a.m.

February 21, Thursday, SD54 Executive Committee Meeting, Fairview Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

March 20, Thursday, SD54 Central Committee Meeting to select resolutions for State DFL, all welcome, Fairview Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

April 3, Thursday, SD54 Newsletter Planning, Sobola's home, 1961 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville, 7:00 p.m.

**April 5, Saturday, SD54 Convention, Roseville High School, Registration at 9:30 a.m., program begins at 10:00 a.m.**

April 17, Thursday, SD54 Executive Committee Meeting, Fairview Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

April 19, Saturday, 4CD and Ramsey County Conventions, Roseville Area High School, 9:30 a.m.

May 15, Thursday, SD54 Central Committee Meeting, Fairview Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

June 6-8, DFL State Convention, Rochester, Minnesota

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

### **Thanks...**

*(Continued from page 2)*  
at night on very short timelines to make sure the articles are crisp and correct; Layout Editor Tony Richardson makes sure it all looks good; and Tschida Printing's owner Kirk Thomas gets the ink on paper. Without volunteers like these, our newsletter would not be the best DFL newsletter in the state. While Tony was unable to attend, Kirk, Anne and her husband Ted Thompson joined us and received the thanks of all.

I was able to thank personally five volunteers I can always rely on for help, who have given endless hours to SD54 and the DFL: Julianne Johnston, for teaching me the nuts and bolts of running SD54 and her other sage advice; Norm Hanson, for his wisdom and efforts to steer me away from trouble; SD54 Secretary Georgianna Sobola, for endless hours getting locations for meetings and events, keeping

track of SD54 business, and graciously keeping me on track; Melissa Jamrock for keeping SD54 connected to the state and CD4 DFL and assisting with event planning and tracking, and for her enthusiasm; and Andi Moffatt, SD54 Volunteer Coordinator and VAN manager extraordinaire for endless energy and time spent finding volunteers for the donut booth and all our events, getting SD54 hooked up to the state DFL computer volunteer and voter tracking system (VAN) and for her cheerful nature. I also thanked several people who were unable to attend, among them Charlie Quick, associate chair, John Treadwell, treasurer, Todd Anderson, Karen Hanson, Beth Lareau, and Jane Lanctot who have been instrumental in keeping SD54 running smoothly.

Thanks to *all* SD54 DFL volunteers, none of this would be possible without you!

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**Dated Material—Please Rush**

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

*Election Time Considerations*

**Senatorial candidate reviews  
Precinct caucuses — Conventions**

Thursday, January 17, 2008  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Fairview Community Center

Our meeting will center on candidates for U.S. Senate who hope to replace Norm Coleman.

Bring your comments and concerns for discussion.

Candidates have been invited but most, unfortunately, cannot attend. Their staff and representatives are encouraged to speak on their behalf—and so are you.

We will also discuss the presidential candidates and consider the Presidential Preference Poll that will be conducted at the precinct caucuses.

Also to be highlighted will be plans for the precinct caucuses and the training for them.

*Fairview Community Center is handicapped accessible*