



Senate District 54 DFL Newsletter

November 2009 Vol. 18 No. 3

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

What's News in SD54

Michele Courneya, SD54 Chair

Congratulations Mindy! Our progressive, hardworking, delightful, and deserving SD54A state representative, Mindy Greiling, received the Bruce Vento Public Service award from 4CD at the Vento Dinner on October 4. The Distinguished Service Award went to Abe Rosenthal. Thanks to the many SD54 members who attended this event and heard Walter Mondale's thoughtful and rousing speech reminding us all of the work left to be done. A total of 450 people attended this event and raised \$20,000 for 4CD Get Out the Vote activities.

SD54 Needs You! Precinct caucuses are Tuesday, February 2, 2010. We will need at least 50 volunteers to act as conveners, precinct locators, registrars, crisis managers, and general happy helpers to caucus attendees from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. that night. Unlike previous years, SD54's 2010 caucuses will not be held at Roseville Area High School (RAHS). Because of our large attendance in the past, there was not another school in the district that could accommodate all 24 precincts, so we are split into two locations. The precincts located in 54A, Mindy's district, will have their caucuses at Parkview Center School, 701 County Road B West, in Roseville. These include precincts in St. Anthony (1 and 2), Lauderdale, and Roseville (1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10). Precincts located in 54B, Bev Scalze's district, will have their caucuses at Roseville Area Middle School (RAMS), 15 County Road B-2 East, in Little Canada. These include precincts in Roseville (3 and 4), Vadnais Heights (1, 2, 3, and 4), Little Canada (1, 2, and 3), Shoreview (1, 2, and 3), and Gem Lake. We are working with 4CD to send postcards out to past caucus attendees with the date, time, location, and room number where their specific precinct caucus will be held. These should arrive 7-10 days before the caucuses. We are planning to train the caucus

conveners and other volunteers in January in the buildings where their caucuses will be held. We will keep posted on training as we get closer. Keep checking the website, www.sd54dfll.org, for updates and additional information. If you can help us out, please contact Andi Moffatt at andiandtom@live.com or (651) 917-3579, or me at mcourneya@starfieldsmith.com or (651) 484-3717.

Want to help pick the next governor? Start planning now if you want to be a delegate to the SD54, 4CD, or State DFL conventions and help select our DFL candidate for governor and the candidates for other statewide offices. SD54's convention is on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at RAHS, 1240 County Road B-2 West, Roseville. To be a delegate you must attend your precinct caucus and be elected. The 4CD's convention is on Saturday, April 17, 2010, and is also at RAHS. To be a delegate to the 4CD's convention you must be a delegate to the SD54 convention and be elected a state convention delegate from 4CD. The State convention has been rescheduled to April 23-25, 2010, and is at the Duluth Convention Center.

Find out about the DFL governor candidates. To give you an opportunity to see and hear from as many governor candidates as possible at one time, Senate Districts in 4CD are participating in one Gubernatorial Forum on Monday, December 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Macalester Chapel, 1600 Grand Ave, St. Paul. This event will be moderated by Minnesota DFL Party Chair Brian Melendez. The format is still in development, but will likely involve each candidate answering the same question, which will come from the moderator. There will be a time limit on answers, and timers will be present to enforce this.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! Because of our dedicated donut booth volunteers, SD54 raised \$12,500 that will help fund the caucuses, convention, and our candidates. A special thank you to those people who answered the call to come

help when we needed last minute volunteers. Next year we hope to get at least one weekend day, so it should be even better.

Come have some fun! Join us for the Pre-Holiday Party on Thursday, November 19, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Fireside room of the Roseville Oval, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, near Roseville City Hall. There is a parking lot in the back with an entrance to the banquet facility. We will have signs pointing the way to the Fireside Room.

This year, there's a twist! We are having a hotdish and bars cook-off! Bring your favorite hotdish or bars (or both!) and get entered into our cook-off. Each person at the Holiday Pre-Holiday Party will get to vote for their favorite hotdish AND their favorite bars. Be as creative as you want. The only rule for the cook-off is that the hotdish or bars must be homemade. Prizes will be given in each category. Of course, you can bring other foods to the potluck if you do not wish to participate in the hotdish or bars cook-off.

Since we did so well at our picnic in July, we are planning another food drive at the Pre-Holiday Party for Keystone Community Services food shelf in Roseville. Donations are tax deductible. According to the Steering Committee of the Twin Cities Hunger Initiative, of those visiting food shelves:

- * 50 percent are children
- * 11 percent are children that skip meals regularly due to a lack of food
- * 43 percent are parents skipping meals due to a lack of enough food
- * 20 percent are senior citizens
- * 43 percent have jobs, but need to choose between paying for food and paying other bills like rent, utilities, or medications

Here are some of the most needed items at the Keystone food shelf:

Food Items: canned meat products (stew, chili, tuna, etc.), boxed dinners (Hamburger Helper, etc.), macaroni and cheese, canned pasta

(ravioli, etc.), hearty canned soups, pasta, dried beans, rice, cooking oil, sugar, and baking mixes.

Personal Care Items: bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, paper products, toothbrushes, and diapers.

Money donations will also be accepted at the Pre-Holiday Party. Donations of cash are especially appreciated since they allow Keystone to purchase items most needed by clients at reduced costs. Checks should be made payable to "Keystone Community Services" with a notation in the check memo line of "Basic Needs Program."

We hope to see you there! If you have any questions about the potluck or food drive, please contact Hallie Finucane (651) 638-9535 or Sarah Lehman (651) 209-2252.

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**Are you fired up? Are you ready to go?
My day as a White House volunteer.**

Andi Moffatt, SD54 Secretary

The answer was “no.” I was not fired up or ready to go when the State DFL called to see if I would like to volunteer for President Obama’s health care rally on Saturday. I was still weary from a grueling election season last year, just coming off of getting donut booth volunteers, and slogging my way through the daily grind of work. Fired up? I think not. However, I said yes, my husband and I could help out, figuring we’d be doing some menial volunteer tasks or stuck outside herding people for blocks and blocks.

My view started to change when we showed up for volunteer training on Friday night, after the Secret Service ran background checks on us. I recognized a few other folks from various political events as we waited for our instructions. When Ethan, our “instructor,” came out and introduced himself, I knew this would be a different sort of volunteer experience. Ethan was not from the local DFL, a union, or even Minnesota. Ethan was from the White House and he started out by handing us our “White House Volunteer” credentials with the Presidential Seal on it and said in a measured tone, “Tomorrow, you will be representing the Office of the President of the United States.” Wow – that sounds much more impressive than getting donut grease on you at the donut booth!

We were briefed on where your volunteer badge would get you during the event – and it pretty much could get you anywhere in the Target Center except where the Secret Service was located. We were put into teams that would be in charge of different parts of the event. While we were getting excited that we might actually get a chance to get close to the president or shake his hand, we had a lot of work to do for the event.

The team we were assigned to was “Special Projects.” Basically, this was the “other duties as assigned by Ethan” group. Whenever some need came up (like maybe getting pizza for the president?!?!?) we would be called into action. And called into action, we were. First up was

covering for someone who had forgotten to get coffee for the 150-plus VIPs. After 10 minutes of negotiating with Target Center vendors, mission accomplished. Second was making the VIPs on the floor feel welcome when they got there. By then, people were starting to fill up the Target Center, so we were called for crowd control in various strategic locations. As the place filled with people who had been waiting in line, we pasted our best White House smiles on our faces, calmed angry folks, and made sure all were having a positive experience.

We had many assignments that day and ran up and down the Target Center stairs many times. But probably my best assignment was one that I ran into by accident. At one point, I was assigned to crowd control as they were seating sections. As I entered Section 124, I met Aaron and his girlfriend. These two were very excited to be there to see President Obama! However, there was one problem – they could not be seated together, and since they had come there on a date, it was important that they sat together. I looked around and realized that seating them together was not going to be an easy task, especially as hordes of people filed by them, pushing them and preventing them from getting around.

You see, Aaron and his girlfriend are handicapped and in motorized wheelchairs. Aaron communicates (amazingly well and with great humor, I might add) through typing on a computer. And his computer is connected to his girlfriend’s computer – a pretty cool piece of technology! As I figured out that Section 124 was not going to be a great place for them, Aaron and I made a plan to get them all the way back across the Target Center, through the mobs of people, and up a level where there was still handicapped seating available. After 45 minutes of my parting the seas of people like Moses, Aaron and his girlfriend were happily seated next to each other on the second level. While I truly have no idea what daily life is like for these two wonderful and gracious folks, I was humbled and honored that I was able to help them make their way through the crowds a bit more easily.

After the speech, we were able to get up to the rope line as President Obama was shaking hands. (I told you that Presidential Volunteer credentials

get you everywhere!) I was very excited as the president was about two feet away from us and we had our hands reached out to shake his. Just as I almost had my chance, I was elbowed away by another excited Democrat, but I still got a picture. And as exciting as this was, as I reflected on my experience as a White House volunteer for a day, my best experience was helping Aaron out that day. The hour I spent with him was nothing compared to what he experiences every day trying to get around

crowds – it really made me stop and think. This experience with Aaron and crowds can be seen as a metaphor for the problems we all have trying to navigate health care coverage. THIS is why we are fighting for health care for everyone – to help those that need a little extra help. THIS is what we stand for. And while I started out a little weary and tired that day, I AM fired up. I AM ready to go. Are you?

The Paralysis of Fear

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!” Everyone is familiar with this famous quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) in his first inaugural address on March 4, 1933. The country was in the depths of The Great Depression following the crash of the stock market in October 1929. From the same speech, “The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization.” Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? Nearly a quarter of the workforce was unemployed; soup lines provided a meal to the hungry; the Great Plains had turned to dust, unable to produce crops of any significance, let alone hold the soil; and a sense of hopelessness was the order of the day for the many, many fearful Americans who wondered if they were going to survive.

FDR was right, of course, in recognizing the paralyzing effect that fear can have on people. Fear is a basic but very powerful human emotion that has been noted by writers of the Old Testament as well as by famous playwrights including Shakespeare; composers including Watts; political observers including Edmund Burke; and by authors including Henry David Thoreau, William Wordsworth, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Mark Twain, and of course, by Stephen King. You always read King’s books with the lights on in your house, right? The use of fear as a mechanism of persuasion is well understood and is often successfully used as a powerful tool by individuals, groups, and organizations. Understanding this reality, Edward R. Murrow noted the following on March 7, 1954 during his “See It Now” television show report on the behavior and actions of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy: “We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason if we...remember that we are not descended from fearful men, not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend causes which were for the moment unpopular.”

And yet here we are, some fifty-five years later and fear is being used to rally citizens against the health care reform efforts now underway in Congress and the White House. Fear mongering by opponents to any change in the current system claim that health care reform will lead to death panels charged with the elimination of elderly citizens; that the government will be telling its citizens when, where, and if they can receive medically necessary health care, including which doctor if any, they can see for their health care needs; that the government will take total control of the health care system as we know it today, eliminating all private health care coverage; and of course, that health care reform will mean the loss of the health care coverage now held by many citizens. Such fear mongering, sometimes referred to as the politics of fear (especially since the events of 9-11), has had a chilling effect on the important public policy debate on changes that have been proposed to the current health care system. This approach of using fear as the primary vehicle of persuasion “...plays on an assumption that people cannot bear the uncertainties associated with them. Politics then becomes a question of who can better deliver an illusion of control.” Ex-vicar Mark Vernon, quoted in “God. Who Knows?” on BBC News, December 4, 2006.

The movie *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* (1999) presents two different perspectives regarding fear. Darth Maul observes that, "Fear. Fear attracts the fearful. The strong. The weak. The innocent. The corrupt. Fear. Fear is my ally." In the same film, Yoda notes that, "Fear is the path to the Dark Side. Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, and hate leads to suffering." Author Arnold H. Glasgow noted that, "Fear is the lengthened shadow of ignorance." So, FDR and many others were right in recognizing and acknowledging the overwhelming effect and impact that fear can have on people and how effective the use of fear can be in debate on important public policy issues of the day, including the current debate over health care reform.

Norm Hanson and Julianne Johnston

Healthcare: The Six C's to my Discovery

Patricia Orcutt-Baker

<i>Competition</i>	<i>Compete</i>	<i>Commerce</i>
<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Competent</i>	<i>Compassion</i>

When did our lives and well being become something to compete over? Are we commodities for profit? Health care has been a hot topic in the political arena for the last few months. Our politicians finally got it out of committee just before I left for my two-week trip. When I returned home, I turned on the television and what did I hear: "We are a capitalist country," and "We are taking away the rights of insurance companies to compete if we have a public option."

Additionally, on the news they talked about a baby who was denied coverage because he was too fat; with the pressure of publicity, though, he did get coverage. Now a toddler has been denied coverage for being too thin.

I called my cousin to tell her I was back from my trip and found her daughter had just returned home from the hospital again – another 11-day stay. Soon her parents' insurance will no longer cover her. She had to stop attending college last year because of her illness, and is no longer eligible for coverage under her parents' plan. Where does she fit in for getting coverage?

Out of curiosity, I took out my Webster dictionary to see if competition in business still

had the same meaning. As one word led to the next, these six words "C" words seemed to sum up the issue:

- 1) **Competition** - the act of competing.
- 2) **Compete** - to take part in a contest or rival for something (goods, services, etc.).
- 3) **Commerce** - the buying and selling of goods, especially when done on a large scale between cities, states or countries; services, equipment, supplies, cost of workforce. AND
- 4) **Commodity** - anything bought or sold, articles of commerce.

When did health care become part of the U.S. Commerce Department? I thought it was the role of the Department of Health and Human Services to protect our basic needs. This is the national agency that should have protection of citizens as its primary purpose.

The remaining two "C"s:

- 5) **Competent** - the ability to do what is needed, to be a capable person.
- 6) **Compassion** - feeling for others, wanting to help others.

There are plenty of areas to compete in health care: service, cost of supplies, equipment, etc., without the loss of quality or integrity as a nation. All of us have basic rights as citizens to be seen as people, not commodities, when it is about health, education, or welfare.

National Health Care? It's the Money!!

Having trouble following the various proposals for health care reform? Think of them as proposals that have nothing to do with *health care* but are all about preserving the *profits* of the health care industry. Our "system" is a for-profit corporate model where the basic principle is to collect as much money as possible while providing as little service as possible and pocketing the difference.

Viewed through the for-profit lens, the behavior of insurance companies and health care providers is explainable. If the object is to make money, then it makes sense to deny care for "pre-existing" conditions. It's why, when you go to the emergency room, the first thing they ask for is your insurance card and you are required to guarantee payment. It accounts for the endless requests for "more information." It explains the cap on benefits. It also traps people in whatever job they have because if you change jobs for whatever reason, the insurance re-sets to zero and the insurance companies can exclude *any* pre-existing conditions from coverage. This converts a potentially high-cost worker into a low-risk source of premium income. And it also accounts for wage stagnation because the ever-increasing insurance premiums soak up all the available cash that might have gone for a wage increase. Not to mention the competitive disadvantage this creates for American manufacturers in the world marketplace.

The current proposals for health care reform are confusing because they all treat high-risk people as hot potatoes. The elderly have been shifted out of the general insurance pool into the special, government funded, Medicare. This socializes the costs while privatizing the profits.

The debate has shifted from one about universal health *care* to one of national health *insurance*. The idea is to require everyone to have health insurance and for those who cannot afford it there will be a government subsidy. In effect, the government will not provide health care to people but will guarantee even more premiums to the same old insurance industry. So far, all the plans will be a windfall to the insurance industry.

We are currently in the midst of the worst financial crisis in seventy-five years, yet the health insurance industry, the health care providers, and pharmacy companies are all recording record profits. It's only the emergency care hospitals that are in financial trouble because they are the dumping ground of last resort. The Congressional Budget Office has done an analysis of the various proposals before Congress and has determined that they all will make the situation worse. The only plan they did not evaluate was the single-payer option which would be Medicare for everybody. When advocates of this plan interrupted the hearings of the Senate Finance Committee, its chairman, Max Baucus, (Democrat, Montana) had them removed from the hearing room and when later questioned about the omission of single-payer from the committee's deliberations, Baucus looked at his shoes and remained silent.

There is an appearance of the fix being in on health care because of the massive amounts of money being donated to influential members of Congress and committee chairmen. Also, during the presidential campaign the two most prominent advocates of universal health coverage, Ralph Nader and Dennis Kucinich, were systematically excluded from the presidential debates. Either of these two men can describe his plan for universal coverage in one sentence. Had they been allowed to participate, we would all have a clearer idea of a rational universal health care system. As it is, no one can explain what's being proposed in the 1,600 page document currently being debated.

Representative John Conyers (Democrat, Michigan), has introduced HR 676, which is Medicare for everybody. It is not being discussed. Meanwhile, our elected representatives are holding health care town meetings which are being disrupted by advocates of the status quo or those whose objective is to defeat the president in the next election. Is it possible that President Obama's plan all along has been to let the Congress knock itself out on health care and then to step in with Medicare for everybody? One can only hope.

Bob McNattin

—SD54 Legislators Report—

Turning to Jail for a Better Life

SD54 Senator John Marty

A July newspaper headline said it all: "Homeless man decides jail's better than the streets." A 61-year-old homeless man in Rochester decided that the only way he could get food and a roof over his head was to go to jail. So he broke some windows at an auto dealer, turned himself in at the police department, and asked that they put him in jail.

He told police that if they would not arrest him, he would go back and break some more windows.

He realized that the only way he could get a fair shake was by going to prison. Unfortunately, he is not alone in his struggle and despair. If you talk to the volunteers and staff working at homeless shelters around Minnesota, you will hear that many shelter residents go to work during the day but return to the shelter each night, seeking a cot to sleep on because they cannot afford housing.

There are many hard-working people who earn too little to pay for life's necessities. Many face great mental and physical challenges which make their chance of success slim. This was a reality for many people prior to the recession. Now it is a reality for even more.

Health care is another struggle. Melissa Matthews, a 20-year-old inmate in Washington State rejected parole, choosing to stay in prison because she had no health insurance and couldn't afford treatment for her cervical cancer. According to columnist Nicholas Kristof, Melissa said if they release her, "I'm going to die from this cancer." In prison, she had a right to health care; outside of prison, she had nothing.

Again, Ms. Matthews is not alone in her desperation to find health care. Eighteen thousand Americans die every year simply

because they cannot afford the health care they need.

Some Americans – prison inmates – have a constitutional right to health care and other necessities of life. Don't the rest of the people deserve as much as prisoners do?

These stories merit outrage. And we need to turn that outrage into action – action to ensure that our neighbors are treated with the dignity they deserve.

The Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020 issued its report early this year, but since then Minnesota has gone backwards. Some of the backsliding was due to the recession, but some was due to government decision making.

Perhaps the biggest step backwards was Governor Pawlenty's veto and unallotment of funds for the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program. His own administration acknowledged that it would hurt the poorest and sickest people in the state.

These men and women will be unable to get health care until they are sick enough to need costly emergency room care. They will get better care if they break the law and go to prison. That's really sad.

The "Common Foundation" document that spurred creation of the Poverty Commission called on everyone – the business community, non-profits, the faith community, government – all of us – to respond. The challenge was straightforward: We are to ensure that "all people are provided those things that protect human dignity and make for healthy life, adequate food and shelter, meaningful work, safe communities, healthcare, and education."

These aren't unrealistic expectations. For example, we could start by delivering health

care for all. Truly universal health care, like our proposed Minnesota Health Plan, actually saves money.

We need to challenge political and business leaders when they ignore these issues. When a corporate executive pulls in millions of dollars in stock options, earning a ratio of 350 to 1 to that of a manufacturing worker (compared to a ratio of less than 30 to 1 in western European countries), ask him whether more pay for his workers would bring about a more just society.

Or, when Governor Pawlenty travels the country hyping his leadership, ask if he is proud that many of his constituents would get better healthcare and housing if they commit crimes than they can get as law-abiding people.

The public recognizes this is wrong. Let's work together, build the vision, and change it.

In the Interim

SD54A Representative Mindy Greiling

Before I provide a brief update on educational issues in the interim, I want to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful senate district for nominating me for the Bruce Vento Award, The award means a lot to me, and Bruce was right on all the important issues, including education. Thank you!!!

Although I hoped this would be the year the legislature enacted the New Minnesota Miracle

(properly and fairly funded education finance reform legislation that I chief authored), I felt ultimately funding it would require a different governor. So that is where I am putting effort at present, and I suspect many readers are, too. Also, as always during the less hectic interim, I am enjoying many opportunities to refresh and be informed by meeting with people and groups on a variety of topics.

There are several interim working groups studying issues and preparing recommendations for the second year of the biennium, beginning February 4. An interesting working group I appointed, as K-12 Education Finance chair, is working to develop legislation based on the Legislative Auditor's recommendations to update and improve integration revenue. Minnesota is the only state that offers this type of funding. When that funding stream was created, only urban core districts qualified. Now many districts all around the state meet the funding definition, and those that don't can volunteer to work with identified districts. Integration funding is sought after, especially since other budgets are frozen. However, there is not agreement on what the funds should be used for nor is there much oversight by the Department of Education for such agreement as there is. (It's focusing on testing, where it has recently tripled its staff, despite many cuts to its budget.)

In addition, there are education groups working on early childhood, shared services, and homeless students.

WE ARE DEMOCRATS

Democrats are the people you see in your community: at work, at worship, at the store, and at the ballpark. We come from all walks of life, but our shared beliefs and values help shape a strong state and nation where every citizen has the opportunity to succeed. We believe:

- In equal opportunity for all citizens.
- In rewarding honest, hard work with a living wage.
- In creating a tax system that is fair.
- In family values that are more than a political slogan.
- In quality education that gives all citizens the opportunity to reach their potential.
- In freedom from government interference in our private lives and personal decisions.
- In the benefit to our society of individual strengths from a diverse population.
- In security in our homes and safety on our streets. Criminals should face swift and certain punishment.

SD54 Calendar November 2009 Note: Mark your calendars now!!!

2009

- Nov 19 Thursday Senate District 54 will host our annual Pre-Holiday Party. **Note the new Location:** Fireside Room, Banquet Facility of the Roseville Oval, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville. 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 2 Wednesday Newsletter Planning Committee Meeting, Georgiana Sobola's home, 1961 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville, 7:00 p.m. Contact: Norm Hanson (651) 484-8926
- Dec 5 Saturday State DFL Central Committee, place and time to be announced.
- Dec 7 Monday Gubernatorial Forum, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., at Macalester Chapel, 1600 Grand Ave, St. Paul.

2010

- Jan 21 Thursday SD54 Executive Committee, Basswood Room of Roseville Fire Station #1, Roseville City Hall complex, 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Contact Michele Courneya (651) 484-3717. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE
- Feb 2 Tuesday Precinct Caucuses for election of delegates to SD54 convention and submission of resolutions. Mark your calendar and find out where your caucus convenes. See article What's News in SD54 for locations of this event.
- March 13 Saturday SD54 Convention, RAHS, 1240 County Road B-2 West, Roseville.
- April 17 Saturday 4CD and Ramsey County Convention, RAHS, 1240 County Road B-2 West, Roseville.
- April 23-25 State DFL Convention, Duluth.

Effective with the November 2009 issue, due to financial constraints, this SD54 Newsletter will be sent out by email. If we do not currently have your email address, please contact the district secretary Andi Moffatt by email at andiandtom@live.com as soon as possible.

The Newsletter Committee needs new members who are willing to learn how the newsletter is produced and to keep this valuable district asset going. We are looking for people in all positions. Contact Norm (651) 484-8926 or Julianne (651) 486-7120 to find out how you can become more involved. No experience necessary, just a willingness to be involved.

**SD54 Pre-Holiday Party Details – November 19, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.
Roseville Oval**

This year, there's a twist! We will be having a hotdish and bars cook-off! Bring your favorite hotdish or bars (or both!) and get entered into our cook-off. Each person at the Pre-Holiday Party will get to vote for their favorite hotdish AND their favorite bars. Be as creative as you want. The only rule for the cook-off is that the hotdish or bars must be homemade. Prizes will be given in each category. Of course, you can bring other foods to the potluck if you do not wish to participate in the hotdish or bars cook-off.

We are holding another food drive at the Pre-Holiday Party for Keystone Community Services food shelf in Roseville. See the information below regarding food donations that the Keystone food shelf needs.

The Fireside Room is on the second floor of the Roseville Oval facility. There is an elevator to the second floor. You can also access the Fireside Room by walking up the ramp on the south side by the skating rink and going down the hall at the top of the ramp, before entering into the ice rink. We will have signs pointing the way to the Fireside Room.

We hope to see you there! If you have any questions about the potluck or food drive, please contact Hallie Finucane (651) 638-9535 or Sarah Lehman (651) 209-2252.

**DEMOCRATIC
FARMER LABOR
PARTY**

**SENATE DISTRICT 54
1964 Fairview Ave. N.
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