



Senate District 54 DFL Newsletter

January 2010
Vol. 18 No. 4

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

What's News in SD54

Associate Chair Ivor Matz

The 2010 election season is upon us. Political pundits are telling us that Democrats aren't as energized this year as we were in 2008, which will affect the outcome of the coming elections. In SD54, we intend to prove them wrong. Besides returning State Representatives Mindy Greiling and Bev Scalze to the Minnesota House for another session, Minnesota DFLers will endorse a Democratic candidate for governor and return U.S. Representatives Betty McCollum and Keith Ellison to the U.S. House. In short, we've got a full plate for 2010 and we'll need help from everyone who is able to contribute enthusiasm, time, energy, and money. Please note the enclosed caucus and convention information [pp.6-7] and the calendar for information on caucuses and conventions for SD54.

Precinct Caucus Convener Training

Our efforts begin in earnest with precinct caucus convener training on Saturday, January 30, 2010, at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut Street, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. After the training, we are planning a field trip for caucus conveners to visit the new caucus locations and room assignments, which will be at two different locations this year. If you would like to be a precinct caucus convener, please contact Sue Rengstorf at (651) 483-8538, or email srengstorf@comcast.net.

Precinct Caucuses

The 2010 precinct caucuses will be held Tuesday, February 2, 2010. Doors will be open at 6:00 p.m. for registration and the caucuses will be called to order at 7:00 p.m. In addition to electing delegates to the SD54 Convention, there will be a non-binding preference poll, or "straw" poll, for gubernatorial candidates. While this straw poll will not have the effect of binding delegates to candidates for the forthcoming DFL State Convention, it will indicate the grassroots preferences among candidates for governor in 2010. If you have a candidate that you want to support, the preference poll on caucus night is your first opportunity. And if you intend to support your candidate through to the

state convention, you'll want to get yourself elected a delegate at the SD54 convention. If you wish to submit a resolution on caucus night, the required form will be posted on the SD54 website, <http://sd54dfl.org>. There also will be copies available at the precinct caucus locations.

Caucus Locators

To find out in which legislative district you reside or to find out where your caucus will be held (based on your residence), you can either look it up online at www.gis.leg.mn/hsemapdata.htm, contact your city hall, or go to the state DFL website at www.dfl.org.

In addition, the Minnesota Secretary of State is planning to again launch the **Caucus Finder**, a free online service to assist Minnesotans in locating their caucus meetings. The Caucus Finder should be available in late January. Visit the website at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=1> and click on the 'Elections & Voting' tab. Or you can find out in which legislative district you reside by visiting the Secretary of State's poll finder at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> and then show up at the appropriate location as listed on page 6.

SD54 will be sending out a postcard mass mailing in mid-January to notify previous caucus and convention attendees of the caucus date, time, and locations. Interested parties not eligible to vote at the caucuses are welcome to attend the caucuses to observe.

Conventions

As in 2008, the SD54 Convention will be held at Roseville Area High School (RAHS) on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Call to order will be at 10:00 a.m. Look for further details elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter, or visit the SD54 website. CD4 and CD5 Conventions and the DFL State Convention are listed in the January calendar.

SD54 Holiday Party

On November 19, SD54 held its annual holiday party in a new location at the Roseville Oval Skating Center. We

had a festive time with about 60 people attending and a wide range of great selections of hot dishes and desserts, in keeping with our Minnesota-themed “Hot Dish and Desserts” cook-off contest. Congratulations to the winners in the two categories (see the winning recipes in this issue) and special thanks to Hallie Finucane, Sarah Lehman, and

everyone else who contributed time and energy to make the event a success. In addition to socializing with like-minded DFLers, we also raised \$105 in cash and collected 60 pounds of food for local food shelves, which were donated to Keystone Community Services.

Plastics: From here to eternity

Peter Berglund

Considering how long various types of plastic last, we might as well think of them as eternal.

Click on the link below and look at page 5. This shows how long various plastic products stick around. Included in the list are plastic bags, bottles, six-pack can holders, cigarette butts, mylar balloons, fishing line, and other products—even aluminum cans.

If you are not too squeamish, please be sure to look through the whole slide-show in this link.

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdf/Marine%20debris%20in%20GOM.pdf>

Articles and TV news stories have been aired about floating masses of plastics in the Pacific Ocean, but we’ve got a mess right in our own corner of the world. The link above shows what is going on in the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River and many other rivers in the central U.S. flow to the Gulf of Mexico. When we say we “throw

something away” there really is no “away.” Wastes thrown into the streets will end up in our storm sewer systems which then flow into our ponds, lakes, and rivers.

Sure, there are better ways to reduce the amount of plastic wastes, such as not generating them in the first place. We can, of course, take reusable bags to the grocery store. But trying to be realistic here, we all know that we will use plastics in many ways: in products, in containers and bottles, and in packaging. The point is that we have to manage the waste plastics better than we have so far.

We should all try alternatives such as using cloth grocery bags and reusing bags and containers as often as is possible. We can get double and triple duty out of the plastics by rinsing them out and reusing or recycling them according to our city’s recycling program. Most cities have curbside recycling programs. Sorting requirements have become simpler over the years. For plastic products, containers, and packaging that cannot be avoided or recycled, be sure to put them in the trash. While not completely “away,” it is better to throw something in the trash can than to throw it on the ground where it might end up in the storm sewer.

For more information, check out:

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/plastic.html>

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

Norm Hanson, chair (651) 484-8926
Julianne Johnston, co-chair (651) 486-7120

Charlet Allen **Beth Lareau**
Peter Berglund **Mary Jo Rourke**
Joan Cooper **Charlie Quick**
Grace Dyrud **Karen Schaffer**
Keith Dyrud **Georgiana Sobola**
Sandy Hanson **Gwen Williams**

Copy editor: Anne Frenchick
Layout editor: Antona Richardson

Senate District 54 DFL
www.sd54df.org

Chair **Michele Courneya**
(651) 484-3717 mcourneya@starfieldsmith.com
Associate Chair **Ivor Matz**
(612) 789-0296 ivorm@metrommp.com

4th Congressional District DFL
Chair **J.P. Barone**
(651) 426-1836 var630@aol.com

Minnesota State DFL Party
(651) 293-1200 www.dfl.org

—Getting Involved in Our Community—

Gwen Willems

A recent report by the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at Augsburg College found that Minnesota claims to be the most civically engaged state. Our activity level contradicts the conclusions of Robert Putnam, who in his book, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, popularized the idea that United States citizens are increasingly isolated and uninvolved. We Minnesotans might have dropped out of our local bowling leagues, but we're engaged, not only in our local communities, but also in larger communities and electronic communities. The good news is that in 2008 we were:

- The top state in voter turnout, with 77.8 percent of those eligible voting
- Third nationally in charitable giving, with 60.2 percent of us donating at least \$25
- Fourth in statewide volunteering, with 60.5 percent donating their time and energy

Before we sit back on our laurels, let's look at why civic engagement is so important and ways to do it. Ultimately, choosing to be an active citizen is in our own self-interest. Some of the FOX channel's political pundits encourage a divisive us-versus-them perspective, but after all, *we are our society*, so every bit of volunteering, voting, and donating that we do improves society in the direction we believe in. Who would have thought that Star Trek's Vulcans and John Adams had thinking in common? The Vulcan Imperative states, "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few." John Adams' take was more nuanced: "There must be a positive passion for the public good, the public interest . . . established in the minds of the people, or there can be no republican government, nor any real liberty; and this public passion must be superior to all private passions." (Letter to Mercy Warren, April 16, 1776)

The positive benefits of our activities for the public good are almost endless: we make a significant mark on the world, strengthen our communities, get to know our neighbors and other like-minded folks, have fun, learn, and get satisfaction out of making a difference. In a continuing cycle, taking on this responsibility can make us more knowledgeable and competent citizens who then make better decisions in voting booths and increasingly effective societal contributions.

Where to start? The opportunities for involvement are as endless as the benefits.

Engage with electoral politics and the DFL Party

- Volunteer to help organize caucuses or conventions.
- Participate in your neighborhood caucus on Tuesday, February 2.
- Run as a delegate to SD54 (March 13), 4CD (April 17), and state convention (April 23-25).
- Serve as an officer or executive committee member of SD54 or 4CD.
- Get to know the candidates for office and study the issues.
- Vote.
- Cook donuts at the State Fair while you schmooze with elected officials and fellow DFLers.
- Help with a SD54 activity such as the summer picnic or holiday party.
- If you are interested in specific topics, join others to promote affirmative action, labor rights, seniors' issues, policy discussions, or a variety of other subjects organized within the DFL Party.

Engage with candidates for office. Write and drop literature. Place ads. March in parades. Make phone calls. Install lawn signs. Write letters to the editor.

Engage with local institutions that interest you. Organize after-school activities for youth. Run for city council. Join a city commission that focuses on human rights, planning, parks and recreation, or public works. Go green; organize recycling efforts. Deliver meals. Join a church group. Organize a block party. Donate to a good cause. Write an article for your neighborhood newspaper. Document history as you explore your roots through an ethnic group. Organize team sports. Volunteer at the local elderly care facility. Be a friend of the library.

Civic engagement can be habit forming. Take another step as an involved citizen, and with each step it will get easier and more rewarding. With apologies to Pogo—We have met the involved citizen and she is us!

—SD54 Legislators Report—

The Courage of Our Convictions

Senator John Marty

If 21st Century Progressives led the 19th Century Abolition Movement, we'd still have slavery, but we'd have limited it to 40-hour work weeks, and we'd be so proud of the progress we'd made.

In earlier eras of U.S. history, progressives believed they could fight injustice and move society forward, and they did so. Today however, many progressives have lost faith in their ability to affect significant change. Many are content simply to tinker with problems, whether the issue is getting living wages for work, ending poverty, or removing toxins from our food supply.

For example, consider universal health care. All progressives claim to support this, but many aren't willing to fight for it—not because they believe it's bad policy, but because they believe it is “politically unrealistic.” When our proposed Minnesota Health Plan is offered as a way to deliver universal health care, some dismiss it as legislation that can't happen for decades. They *talk* about universal health care but offer and support proposals that are mere band-aids.

It is instructive to look back to the past. Despite the reality that men were the only ones who held office and the only ones who could vote, suffragettes fought and won the seemingly impossible goal of gaining the right to vote. In the 1960s, civil rights activists believed they could get rid of segregation laws and get equal rights under the law. When told they were expecting change to occur too rapidly, Martin Luther King wrote a book explaining, “*Why We Can't Wait.*”

Senator John Marty

328 State Capitol, St. Paul, 55155, (651) 296-5645
jmarty@senate.mn www.senate.mn/senatormarty

Representative Mindy Greiling

381 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, 55155, (651) 296-5387
rep.mindy.greiling@house.mn www.mindygreiling.org

Representative Bev Scalze

357 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, 55155
(651) 296-7153 or (651) 483-1055 (home)
rep.bev.scalze@house.mn

Today, however, regardless of the speed of other changes in society, many progressives have lost hope. For them, such a book would now be titled, “*Why We Need to be Pragmatic and Accept Token Change.*”

This timidity can be explained by decades of defeat at the hands of right wing politicians like Newt Gingrich and Karl Rove, which caused many progressives to retreat from a “Politics of Principle” to a supposed “Politics of Pragmatism” that is not only lacking in courage, but also has been highly ineffective.

Under the politics of principle, the progressive movement would fight for the goal, using pragmatic politics only to figure out how to promote the message.

But with the current politics of misguided pragmatism, some progressives calculate what is politically acceptable, and *then* determine what they will stand for. For example, using this “pragmatism,” President Obama decided to push for health *insurance for more* instead of health *care for all*.

One cannot totally fault the president for failing to push for comprehensive reform. He shied away from principle-based reform because he knows that members of Congress working on health reform take big campaign contributions from the health insurance lobby and other powerful interests. He knows that they are afraid of nasty campaign attacks and believe they need the big money to win reelection.

“Pragmatically,” Democrats in Washington are pushing for “universal” health care that isn't universal. They are pushing for reforms that cost more, not less, and policies that focus more on their *sense* of pragmatism than on real public health and prevention.

It's time for progressives to have the courage of our convictions. If we claim to believe in universal health care, we need to fight for it. The MN Health Plan—which covers everyone for all their medical needs and costs less than we are spending now—is on the table. Those who are not willing to take on the powerful insurance lobby ought to be honest and admit that reelection and other priorities matter more.

Refusing to fight for it because it is “not politically realistic” becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Likewise,

dismissing it as something that will take decades to pass means leaving the problem to the next generation.

Whether the issue is living wages for workers, environmental protection, or sexual preference, many progressives have lost courage. They fight to raise the minimum wage by fifty cents for every dollar that inflation takes away. Even in victory, we accomplish little.

It is time to move beyond fear and stand up for the principles we say we believe in. Minnesotans deserve nothing less.

Preparing for the 2010 Legislative Session

Representative Bev Scalze, 54B

This month before the legislative session begins is a very exciting time. Legislators are preparing bills to introduce and meeting with constituents in our districts. We are also beginning work in the committee process as we address the \$1.2 billion shortfall in revenues for 2009 and prepare for the \$5.4 billion deficit in the next biennium (not counting inflation). According to State Economist Tom Stinson, Minnesota won't see normal economic growth again until 2015. Minnesota has lost more than 130,000 jobs since this time last year in the midst of a national economic downturn that began in 2006-07.

As a member of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee, I will be meeting to help construct our recommendations for the Capital Investment Committee. That means that we will be holding two days of meetings with the Department of Natural Resources and other state departments that have capital requests for the Capital Investment Committee to evaluate. We will then craft the final requests for bonding.

As a member (vice chair) of the Capital Investment Committee, I will be working with that body as we appraise the requests of all state departments regarding bonding projects. Dr. Stinson has estimated that another \$1 billion jobs-focused bonding bill could put 10,000 more Minnesotans back to work. Connecting Minnesotans with employment will get people spending again, give Minnesota businesses a needed boost, and help push our economy back in the right direction.

I have been fortunate to have been appointed by the speaker to the bipartisan Jobs Task Force. We will be formulating direction for job creation to the House of Representatives. I am also a member of the Small Business Caucus. Our group has been holding listening sessions, discussing the challenges and opportunities facing small business owners in Minnesota. Close to 1,000 small business owners have weighed in on a survey that

will help identify the business community's most pressing concerns in this severe national economic downturn.

There will be many meetings in January as the local school boards prepare their school year and invite their local legislators to hear the concerns of the elected officials. Our city and county officials will also hold meetings with local legislators and provide their input into the legislative process. We need to hear from as many local elected officials as possible to represent our districts well. To that end, many of us are now preparing questionnaires to be mailed to residents of our districts. This will provide a chance for people to send their concerns and questions.

Please send your comments to me at rep.bev.scalze@house.mn, or call me at (651) 296-7153. I answer all my e-mails and phone calls and value your opinions. Thanks so much for the opportunity to represent you in the Minnesota House.

New Years Resolutions

- Write letters to the editors in support of health care or financial regulation reform.
- Participate in SD54 DFL activities for the next two years.
- Participate in at least one SD54 special event in 2010.
- Volunteer to work on an SD54 committee.
- Work a shift in the donut booth at the Minnesota State Fair.
- Work a shift at the State DFL Minnesota State Fair booth.
- Actively work to help the DFL regain the governor's office.
- Help Mindy Greiling and Bev Scalze return to the legislature in 2011.
- Help decorate and ride on the SD54 float in the annual Roseville July 4th week celebration.
- Read the SD54 newsletter.
- Write an article for the SD54 newsletter.
- Ask Joan Cooper why she has attended every DFL caucus since 1950.

SD54 2010 Precinct Caucuses

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 Training: all precinct conveners must attend
Saturday, January 30, 9:00 a.m.-noon at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut Street**

PRECINCT CAUCUS INFORMATION

All Precinct Caucuses will be held on February 2, 2010. **PLEASE NOTE:**

54A Caucus will be at Parkview Center School – 701 County Road B West, Roseville.

54A precincts include St. Anthony precincts 1 and 2, all of Lauderdale, and Roseville precincts 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

54B Caucus will be at Roseville Area Middle School – 15 County Road B2 East, Little Canada.

54B precincts include Roseville precincts 3 and 4; Vadnais Heights precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4; Little Canada precincts 1, 2 and 3; Shoreview precincts 1, 2 and 3; and all of Gem Lake.

Caucus registration begins at 6:00 p.m. The straw poll begins at 6:30 p.m. and closes at 8:00 p.m. 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 Secretary of State Office and request that information. You will be asked to sign in with your name, address, and any other contact information you wish to provide. We will be using 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.**

You must be 18 years old and qualified to vote by Election Day, November 2, 2010 to run as an SD54 convention delegate or alternate or to vote in the gubernatorial poll. You can request to be considered a candidate for election as delegate or alternate to the SD54 convention by providing a written request to the caucus chair the night of the caucus. You should ask a fellow precinct attendee to bring this written request to the chair of the precinct caucus on the night of the caucus *before* the election of delegates or alternates to the SD54 convention.

A non-binding gubernatorial straw 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.

***Special Note:* If you are interested in any SD54 officer, director, and/or committee member position for the State DFL or 4CD for the year 2010-11 which will be elected at the SD54 Convention on March 13, 2010, please contact Michele Courneya or Ivor Matz prior to the SD54 Convention on February 2 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 Courneya at (651) 484-3717 mcourneya@starfieldsmith.com or Ivor Matz at (612) 789-0296 ivorm@metrommp.com.**

—Please print pages 6 and 7 to use as a reminder for all these IMPORTANT events—

SD54 2010 Precinct Caucuses (*continued*)

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 March 13, 2010.
- Select volunteers for committee members for the SD54 Convention including arrangement, endorsement, constitution, and nominations committees.
- Gather and discuss 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 February 18, to determine which resolutions will be forwarded to the State DFL Convention. (Meeting place will be announced on the night of the precinct caucuses.) All DFLers are invited to attend this meeting to make the final decision.
- Conduct straw poll voting for governor. This is a non-binding poll.

Mark your calendar for the following events:

SD54 Convention Committee Planning Meeting, February 6, Fairview Community Center at 10:00 a.m. Individuals who volunteered to serve on the Arrangements, Nominations, Endorsements, Credentials, and Constitution Committees will gather together for the first time to receive their assignments and schedule subsequent meeting dates.

SD54 Resolutions Committee/Central Committee Meeting, February 18, 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 attend this lively decision-making meeting. This process will determine which resolutions will be forwarded from SD54 to the Resolution Committee for the State DFL Convention which will be held on April 23-25 in Duluth.

SD54 Convention, March 13, Roseville Area High School, registration at 9:30 a.m. Convention convenes at 10:00 a.m. for all delegates and alternates elected at the precinct caucuses. The business of the convention will include the election of the SD54 officers and directors and endorsement of candidates for state senator and state representative seats in 54A and B. The convention will also elect delegates and alternates to the State DFL Convention and the 4CD Convention. Those elected are encouraged to volunteer to assist in the planning committees for the 4CD convention.

4CD and Ramsey County DFL Conventions, April 17, Roseville Area High School at 9:30 a.m. Delegates and alternates elected at the SD54 Convention will attend these conventions, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. The business of the 4CD Convention includes election of 4CD officers and directors; election of members of the State Constitution, Platform, and Affirmative Action Committees; and election of delegates to the National Democratic Convention. The 4CD Convention will endorse a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. The Ramsey County Convention will consider endorsement of candidates for open Ramsey County commissioner seats, county attorney, and other open county positions.

State DFL Convention, April 23 - 25, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. The business of the State DFL Convention is to elect members of the State Executive Committee, consider changes to the DFL State Constitution, and add and delete planks for the ongoing DFL Platform and for the Action Agenda.

Tickle Your Taste Buds

Georgiana Sobola

This is only the second time in the nearly 18-year history of the newsletter that we have ever published recipes. Today we grant 15 minutes of fame to the winners of the bake-off and cook-off contests held at our holiday party on November 19. Each winner received a \$15 gift certificate to the Palomino restaurant in Minneapolis.

Sandy Hanson was the winner of the bake-off with her classic recipe for pumpkin bars. She received the recipe 25 years ago from a co-worker and has been making it ever since for holidays and family gatherings, especially at Thanksgiving as back-up for pumpkin pie. Her daughter, Jennifer, is carrying on the tradition.

PUMPKIN BARS

4 eggs
2 cups sugar
2 cups pumpkin
3/4 cups (1 and 1/2 sticks) butter or margarine, melted
2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Mix eggs, sugar, pumpkin, and melted butter together. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, and cinnamon together. Add to egg mixture and mix well. Stir in nuts. Pour into buttered and floured jelly roll pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Cool well before frosting.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

2 3-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
6 tbsp. (3/4 stick) butter or margarine, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tbsp. half and half
3 cups unsifted powdered sugar

Combine and beat until smooth. Spread over cooled bars.

TIP: These bars are easy to make and finger-friendly. To make them extra special, sprinkle the cup of chopped pecans or walnuts over the frosting instead of using in the batter.

Bob McNattin won the hot-dish cook-off with his recipe for macaroni and cheese. He is an old-fashioned cook, like Grandma. The recipe was dictated over the phone, away from his home and off the top of his head. Consider all of the ingredients as approximations. Tailor them to

accommodate the number of people that you expect to serve and your personal taste and experience.

MACARONI AND CHEESE

macaroni, check box for amount needed
1 pkg. Johnsonville beer brats, number of brats needed variable
1 onion, chopped
8-oz. pkg. fresh mushrooms, sliced (canned is OK)
extra-sharp cheddar cheese for flavor, grated, amount variable
Velveeta cheese, for creaminess, cut into small chunks, amount variable
butter, about 1/4 pound
milk, pour amount needed from container

Cook macaroni in liberally-salted water to al dente stage. Drain and set aside. Brown brats in frying pan, slice them and set aside. In the same pan, sauté mushrooms and onion in brat juices. Mix macaroni, sliced brats, cheeses, and sautéed vegetables in large bowl and turn into a casserole dish. Pour in milk until you see it reach the top. Dot with butter. Bake in 350 degree oven for about a half hour or more until it bubbles in the middle. Let set for awhile before serving.

Note: Bob has already used his Palomino gift card. It was on the night of the demonstration against the Afghan war and he was in the vicinity of the restaurant.

Health Care by the Numbers:

—or why the U.S. needs health care reform

Karen Schaffer

Infant Mortality, 2005 – U.S. ranked 30th, behind Portugal, Greece, Czech Republic, Hungary, Cuba, and 24 others. (Source: CDC)

Percentage of Pre-Term Births Less Than 22 Weeks, 2004 – U.S. had 12.4%, more than Greece, Slovakia, Poland, Spain, Germany, and 15 others. (Source: CDC)

Mortality Amenable to Health Care, 2003 – U.S. last among 19 industrialized countries, including Spain, Italy, Greece, Iceland, and Portugal. (Source: The Commonwealth Fund)

Sick Adults' Rapid Access to Primary Care, 2007 – U.S. last among the seven countries surveyed: Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany, U.K., Australia, and Canada. (Source: The Commonwealth Fund)

SD54 Calendar—January 2010

Note: Mark your calendars now!!!

January 21	Thursday	SD54 Central Committee Forum, Basswood Room of Roseville Fire Station #1, Roseville City Hall complex, 6:30 p.m. Parking access is from Lexington Avenue. All are welcome. Contact Michele Courneya (651) 484-3717. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE.
January 30	Saturday	Precinct Training required for all precinct conveners. 9:00 a.m. - noon at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut Street.
February 2	Tuesday	Precinct Caucuses: PLEASE NOTE: 54A will be at Parkview Center School, 701 County Road B, Roseville. 54B will be at Roseville Area Middle School, 15 County Road B2, Little Canada. The caucuses convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 8:00 p.m. or until all business is completed.
February 3	Wednesday	Newsletter Planning Committee Meeting, Georgiana Sobola's home, 1961 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville, 7:00 p.m. Contact Norm Hanson (651) 484-8926.
February 6	Saturday	SD54 Convention Committee Planning Meeting, Fairview Community Center, 10:00 a.m.
February 18	Thursday	Central Committee Meeting to consider resolutions to be submitted to the state DFL, Fairview Community Center at 7:00 p.m.
March 13	Saturday	SD54 Convention, Roseville Area High School, 1240 County Road B2 West, Roseville. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., Convention begins at 10:00 a.m. for all delegates and alternates elected at the precinct caucuses.
March 27	Saturday	CD5 Convention, St Louis Park High School, 6425 W 33rd St, St Louis Park, 1:00-6:00 pm. http://cd5.dfl.org/events
April 17	Saturday	4CD and Ramsey County Convention, Roseville Area High School, 1240 County Road B2 West, Roseville. 9:30 a.m.
April 23-25	Friday/Sat.	State DFL Endorsing Convention, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), Duluth

—Attention Readers—

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 or Julianne to find out how you can become more involved. No experience necessary, just a willingness to be involved.

**DEMOCRATIC
FARMER LABOR
PARTY**

SENATE DISTRICT 54
1964 Fairview Ave. N.
ROSEVILLE, MN 55113



Dated Material—Please Rush

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

SD54 Central Committee Forum
*Precinct Caucus Preparation and
Leadership Transition in 2010*

January 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

Roseville Fire Station No. 1, on the Roseville City Hall Campus
2701 Lexington Avenue (Access from Lexington)

All are welcome to attend.

All City of Roseville buildings are handicapped accessible.