



May 2010, Vol.18, No. 6

Senate District 54 DFL Newsletter

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

What's News in SD54

Chair Charlie Quick

Hi! I am Charlie Quick, your newly-elected chair of Senate District 54. I would like to thank the outgoing officers for their great work—keeping this an active and very dynamic senate district. As chair for four years, Michelle Courneya has made an extraordinary contribution, especially with our huge turnout for the presidential caucuses in 2008. Ivor Matz, associate chair for the past two years has, among many other contributions, improved our connection with St. Anthony, part of which is in CD (Congressional District) 5. And thanks to Kami Miller, our affirmative action officer for the past two years. Andi Moffit has been secretary, VAN (Voter Access Network) driver, volunteer coordinator, and I don't know what else! But we will still have Andi as the VAN driver.

I extend a hearty welcome to our newly-elected officers. Bob Ventors, our treasurer—past, present, and future—is our only returning officer. He will bring us the continuity our new team of officers will need. Ruth Ellen Luehr is our new associate chair. Ruth Ellen has been very active in the senate district, serving previously in several other capacities. P.J. (Pamela J.) Olander is our new secretary. P.J. has also been very active and involved in the campaigns of our senate district. James Sanigular is our new affirmative action officer. Join me in welcoming these new officers and let's make their transition as smooth as possible.

As we move into the new year, Senate District 54 has found itself in the midst of a complicated election race. We had the honor of our own senator, John Marty, being one of several DFL candidates running for governor. John planned to follow, and abide by, the State DFL endorsing process for governor, so he requested a delay in SD54's senatorial endorsement process until after the State Convention. Reconvening the SD54

Convention is now necessary so we can endorse a candidate for state senator. John has asked to be placed in nomination at the convention. Any other interested candidates for this position should contact Charlie Quick as soon as possible for nomination at the SD54 Reconvene Convention. He can be reached at at (651) 483-3623.

SD54 Convention delegates should have received their notice of the SD54 Reconvene Convention, which will be held at Brimhall School, Roseville, on May 20 at 7:00 p.m., with registration opening at 6:30 p.m. (*See details on page 10*). Thanks for being involved at the precinct caucuses and convention, and I expect to see you all at the reconvened convention.

We can look forward to parades and picnics during the summer and fall months, the upcoming state-wide elections in August and November, and victory parties after that! SD54 couldn't have accomplished what it has without the volunteers like you who keep all the meetings, activities and events happening.

Thank you all for your support. I look forward to the next two years.

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—New rules for absentee balloting—

Karen Schaffer

Coming to a location near you in 2010: The Absentee Ballot Board. During the Franken and Coleman senatorial election contest, Minnesotans were treated to a worm's-eye view of the absentee ballot process. They did not like what they saw. Minnesota Laws 2010, Chapter 194, attempts to remedy some of the problems.

No longer on election day will hurried election law judges pore over the absentee ballot envelopes for their precincts to decide whether they should be accepted or rejected. Now, due to the recently enacted changes, Absentee Ballot Boards will be organized by those government jurisdictions which conduct elections (municipalities, school boards, etc.). These boards will make decisions about the appropriateness of absentee ballots before election day. In the future, up to five days before election day, some of the absentee voters who submitted a defective ballot envelope will have a chance to submit a new absentee ballot. Also, the back of the absentee ballot envelope has changed, and on it will be listed the five permitted reasons for requesting an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot envelopes may be opened, and ballots opened (but not tabulated), as early as the fourth day before election day. More details will follow in the next issue of this newsletter!

New rules affect Primary Election. In addition to fishing, biking, swimming, camping, walking, and going to the State Fair this summer, Minnesotans will be voting in the State Primary Election on August 10, 2010.

A new Minnesota law establishes a 46-day absentee voting period (instead of the previous 30-day period) and moves the state primary to the second Tuesday in August (instead of the second Tuesday in September). These changes were made to bring Minnesota in line with the federal *Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment (MOVE)* Act, which requires states to allow at least 45 days for military and overseas voters to receive their absentee ballots in all federal elections. While the focus has been on making sure that military personnel stationed overseas have enough time to vote by absentee ballot, these changes also affect other U.S. citizens who live abroad and who are entitled to vote. For 2010, absentee balloting for the state primary begins on June 25.

Secretary of State Mark Ritchie has pointed out that in the last election, more than 500 overseas ballots arrived too late to be counted. With the longer absentee voting period, this number should shrink dramatically.

These changes also triggered the need to move back the date for filing for office, "not more than 84 days nor less than 70 days," before the state primary (instead of 70 and 56 days). For 2010, this means that candidates may file for office from May 18 through June 1.

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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2010 Convention Reports

—Minnesota State Senate District 54—

Julianne Johnston

On March 13, 2010, Chair Michele Courneya called the SD54 Convention to order in the Roseville Area High School cafeteria, filled with excited delegates who were looking forward to the events of the day. Julianne Johnston introduced the Roseville VFW Post 7555 color guard. Following reports from Michele Courneya, Associate Chair Ivor Matz, Secretary Andi Moffatt, and Treasurer Bob Venters, Beth Lareau was elected chair of the convention. Credential Committee Chair John Treadwell reported that the delegate count topped out at 261 delegates.

Committee reports included that of the Constitution Committee, which recommended a decrease in the time allowed for the preparation of the convention minutes and the approval of the minutes by the Executive Committee rather than by the convention at its following convening. The motion passed. The Resolutions Committee Chair explained the process used by the committee and the resolutions it passed on to the State DFL.

The Nominations Committee recommended a slate of officers for SD54, which was accepted. The new officers for the district include: Chair, Charlie Quick; Associate Chair, Ruth Ellen Luehr; Secretary, P.J. Olander; Associate Secretary, Ivor Matz; Treasurer, Bob Venters; Associate Treasurer, Anita Mayfield; Affirmative Action, James Sanigular. Directors were elected to conduct the business of the district for the next two years. Delegates to 4CD included April Alfuth, Arthur Allen, Reed Aronow, Peter Berglund, Hallie Finucane, Norm Hanson, Julianne Johnston, Beth Lareau, Sue Rengstorf, and George Sunseri. State Central Committee members elected were Peter Berglund, Norm Hanson, Julianne Johnston, Beth Lareau, and Ivor Matz as delegates. Susan Rengstorf, Reed Aronow, Arthur Allen, Valerie Swenson, and John Kayfes were elected as alternates. Charlie Quick and Ruth Ellen Luehr are automatically on both the 4CD and State Central Committees.

The Endorsement Committee recommended endorsements for incumbents Mindy Greiling (54A) and Bev Scalze (54B) for their seats in the Minnesota House of Representatives. They were endorsed without opposition. Due to the incumbent's run for governor, endorsement for state senator was postponed and will be decided when the convention reconvenes on May 20.

The convention then split into thirty plus walking caucuses and began the process of electing delegates for the State DFL Convention, the 4CD and 5CD conventions, and the Ramsey County Convention. Endorsements for governor, Ramsey County Sheriff, and County Attorney had the group clearly excited about the upcoming next levels of conventions. Reports on these conventions are included in this section of the newsletter.

“We Did the Party’s Work:” a speech to the SD54 Convention

Associate Chair Ivor Matz

Edited by Julianne Johnston and Norm Hanson

I want to use this opportunity to report on all the good work that your officers, directors, committees and volunteers in Senate District 54 have done over the last two years.

For starters, we were successful in our efforts to get Democrats re-elected to office. We helped support good people running for local offices, such as school boards, city councils, mayoral offices, county commissions, district attorney, and statewide administrative offices. We helped Representative Mindy Greiling and

Representative Bev Scalze in their campaigns for re-election to the Minnesota House. We helped Representative Betty McCollum and Representative Keith Ellison return to the U.S. House. We helped Senator Al Franken in his unlikely bid to unseat a powerful, well-funded and experienced politician, *former* Senator Norm Coleman. We helped to ensure that a lengthy, contentious, and highly politicized election recount and court challenge was conducted with transparency, due process, and decorum. And of course, we helped to elect a Democrat to the presidency of the United States. For all of you who gave your time, money, and effort to these endeavors, I want to convey my personal thanks.

So what else have we done? Well, *we did the party's work*. We held monthly Executive Committee and Central Committee meetings. Those of us you elected as your delegates in 2008 attended the CD4 and CD5 Central Committee meetings, the DFL State Central Committee meetings, and the DFL State Convention. We served on pre-convention committees, planning committees, and leadership committees. And we organized the events mandated by our state, congressional district, and county and senate district constitutions, including precinct caucuses and conventions.

These all-volunteer party activities require a great deal of effort: finding meeting places, sending out official calls and notices, exchanging emails, building consensus, agreeing on policy, planning budgets, finding volunteers, assigning tasks, taking minutes, notifying stake-holders, communicating decisions, writing reports, contracting for services, processing invoices, paying bills, keeping records and ledgers, maintaining databases, filing timely official financial reports and notifications to the Campaign Finance Board and—the list goes on and on. That's a lot of work, folks.

At the same time *we did the party's work* of supporting our candidates and their campaigns by attending fundraisers and contributing money, organizing volunteers, providing refreshments, working phone banks, dropping literature, marching in parades, hosting candidate meet-and-greets, attending candidate forums, pounding lawn-signs, writing letters to the editor, joining GOTV (Get Out the Vote) rallies, and talking to friends, neighbors and relatives to ask for their votes.

We wrote articles for the newsletter and helped to produce and distribute it. We submitted commentary and opinion pieces to local newspapers, forwarded articles and issue papers to our email distribution lists, conducted a fundraising drive, volunteered for the donut booth, held two food drives, maintained a website, volunteered for and sponsored tables at the Bruce Vento Memorial Dinners, and held holiday parties and summer picnics.

What else? As most of you probably already know, Beth Lareau was inducted as a DFL Woman of Distinction at the DFL Women's Summit. That is a prestigious honor. Julianne Johnston and Norm Hanson, co-chairs of the *SD54 Newsletter*, published its 100th issue. When you think about it, it's astonishing how much work that must have entailed over the years!

In 2009, we set a new fundraising record. using the Political Contribution Refund (PCR) program. And before the governor "un-allotted" that program, we were actually making real progress towards some very ambitious goals. Along that line, I want to thank personally everyone who volunteered for the fundraising drive and everyone who contributed to it.

So why am I telling you all this? Why have I asked you to undertake with me this broad circumambulation of the life of SD54? I have met a lot of people from other senate districts in my role as associate chair and when they ask where I'm from, I get complimentary feedback. Others in our district report similar experiences. So it seems we have a good reputation.

But then I ask myself...if this is the case, and I think it is, what can account for it? Well, certainly, a major component is you—the party faithful—who come out election cycle after election cycle to volunteer on

campaigns, to contribute money, and generally to do the work of supporting our party and our candidates. I know a bit about human organization and I can tell you that when it comes to collective effort among volunteers, individuals must work efficiently and with concerted action to achieve a desired outcome, or they will work at cross-purposes – even at loggerheads. In short, in collective efforts of the kind we engage in as a political party unit, the key element in whether a thing is done well or done poorly is simple: Who’s running the show?

We know the answer to that is your outgoing chair, Michele Courneya. So I think that for whatever reputation we may enjoy among some other senate districts, Michele deserves a lot of the credit.

Now, two years as your associate chair seems a longish time, at least to me. But people who are good at math tell me that four years is even longer. In fact, I’m told it’s twice as long. The reason I mention it is because that’s how long Michele has been at her post. And I think it’s only fair to say that we all owe her a big debt of gratitude. I’ve observed Michele in her role as chair to learn from her. I can tell you that she has been superb in her leadership and oversight of this senate district. She has guided and advised us in all of the party-building and candidate-support roles, tasks, efforts and activities I’ve just outlined. She’s spent hundreds of hours and untold dollars of her personal time and money in performing her role as chair. She has been tireless in making sure that every voice is heard, every concern addressed, every issue discussed, and every problem resolved. And she has dealt with all these matters with abundant grace, bountiful good humor and perfect equanimity.

We are leaving you a senate district that stands in very good shape for the future: we are strong financially; strong operationally; strong in tradition; and strong politically.

Thanks to all of you for all you do and, I know, will continue to do to effect the continued success for SD54

Fourth Congressional District and Ramsey County

Karen Schaffer

These two well-attended conventions—one fairly tame, one pretty rollicking—were held back-to-back on April 17, 2010, at Roseville Area High School.

At the 4CD Convention, the 275 delegates, seated alternates, and other attendees heard stump speeches from gubernatorial candidates Margaret Anderson-Kelliher, R.T. Rybak, and John Marty, and from Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, as well as remarks from State DFL Chair Brian Melendez and Vice-Chair Donna Cassutt.

There was an early skirmish over one of the amendments proposed to the rules of the convention. The Rules Committee recommended that the endorsement rules be amended to provide that for a nomination for Congress to be in order, it must be seconded in writing by 30 delegates or alternates. Following a vigorous debate, the proposal was approved by a two-to-one margin. The purpose of the new rule is to prevent stealth candidates who are not true DFLers from infiltrating the endorsement system.

Incumbent Representative Betty McCollum handily won endorsement for Congress over Diana Longrie, who stated her intent to run in the August primary.

J.P. Barone was re-elected 4CD Chair, and all other officer and director positions were filled as well.

The Ramsey County Convention convened promptly at noon—and ended over six hours later. Attendees had the pleasure of hearing from Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhart and State Auditor Rebecca Otto. A debate ensued, similar to that in the 4CD Convention, regarding the proposed rule requiring 30 written seconds for a nomination for Congress, with the same result: it was adopted.

Rod Halvorson was re-elected chair of the county unit. No one screened for treasurer, and so the position was declared vacant, and will be filled by the county unit central committee.

The convention unanimously consented to the endorsement of Carrie Wasley and Janelle Anderson for the Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation District.

As the convention veered toward taking up the endorsement for Ramsey County Sheriff, an old-fashioned credentials drama began to unfold. Speakers from the floor asserted that some alternates had been improperly upgraded to delegates. All senate district chairs were asked to report to the Credentials Committee, which, unfortunately, was short-staffed. One unseated alternate from SD 64 even tried to get Convention Chair Rod Halvorson to seat him: the convention upheld the chair's refusal.

Matt Bostrom and Laura Goodman were nominated for Ramsey County Sheriff and the first ballot was held. Both stated that they would honor the endorsement process and not run in the primary. The vote tally was announced: 168 for Bostrom and 136 for Goodman. Since 60 percent (183) was required, a second ballot was called. Before the results of that ballot were announced, the second ballot itself was challenged because of over-votes in some senate districts. The challenge was upheld, which automatically resulted in the first ballot's being challenged as well. Both challenges were sustained by the chair. The chair stated that the failed second ballot did not result in 60 percent for either candidate, regardless of how the over-votes were handled. Failed was a motion to suspend the rules to allow the candidates to be questioned regarding Women's Right to Chose and Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender (GLBT) issues.

And so the third ballot became the first ballot. It took the Credentials Committee a long time to finalize the list of seated delegates and alternates in those districts where the over-voting was occurring (not in SD 54, however—thank you Charlie Quick!) before delegates were permitted to actually cast their votes.

While the third, i.e. first, ballots were being counted, John Choi, Dave Pinto and David Schultz were nominated for Ramsey County Attorney. Choi and Pinto pledged not to run in the primary without endorsement. The first and only ballot for this office was held, resulting in a victory for John Choi by a two-to-one margin. Pinto graciously congratulated Choi.

The third, i.e. first, ballot for sheriff still did not yield an endorsement. Finally, the second, i.e. fourth, ballot resulted in a victory for Bostrom (172 to 101), who was graciously congratulated by Goodman.

The weary delegates and alternates hurried home for dinner some time after 6:00 p.m. and campaign staff scooped up the detritus of the day.

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

***An Invitation from
Mindy Greiling***

I extend my sincere thanks for endorsing me as District 54A candidate for re-election to the state legislature. I also want to invite you to our

Campaign Kick-off Party on June 10

between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
at the home of Tom and Mona Dougherty
3076 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville

Please mark your calendars.

Looking at the Facts: How the 2010 health care reform will affect Minnesotans

Julianne Johnston and Norm Hanson

Despite the Republican's "No," and the Tea Party's rhetoric, the U.S. Senate and House approved, and the president signed into law, two bills—the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* and the *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act*—which will begin the transformation of the health care system in the United States. Some critics believe that the U.S. should not provide for adequate health care for children, seniors, the unemployed, and other undeserving individuals who cannot "earn" the right to health care. Legislators' lives have been threatened and bricks have been thrown. Those that have voiced their disapproval have vowed to repeal the legislation when they elect "their" people during the next election. Are we willing to give up health care to the demands of these dissidents? *Let's look at the facts for Minnesota.*

The national Democratic Policy Committee reports that the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* and the *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act*, together, will ensure that all Minnesotans have access to quality, affordable health insurance. The Congressional Budget Office has determined that these two bills are fully paid for, will bend the health care cost curve, and will reduce the deficit by \$143 billion over the next ten years with further deficit reduction in the following decade. Together, the acts will reduce the cost of health care for the middle class, ensure health security to seniors, and provide tax credits to small businesses and individuals to further reduce the cost of health coverage.

The new health care law will specifically benefit residents in the 4th Congressional District (4CD) by:

- **Improving coverage for 409,000 residents with health insurance.** The insurance reforms in the bill prohibit annual and lifetime limits, eliminate cancellation of coverage for individuals who become ill while insured, ban coverage denials for pre-existing conditions, and reduce the cost of preventive care.
- **Providing tax credits and other assistance to up to 141,000 families and 14,100 small businesses to help them afford coverage.** The bill caps annual out-of-pocket costs at \$6,200 for individuals and \$12,400 for families who purchase insurance through an insurance exchange or who are insured by small businesses. It also eliminates annual and lifetime limits on all insurance coverage. Small businesses with 25 employees or fewer and average wages of less than \$50,000 will qualify for tax credits of up to 50 percent of the costs of providing health insurance.
- **Improving Medicare for 86,000 beneficiaries, including closing the donut hole.** Under health care reform, Medicare beneficiaries will receive a \$250 rebate in 2010 for drugs in the donut hole and realize the 50 percent discounts on brand-name drugs beginning in 2011. The donut hole will completely close within a decade. A typical beneficiary who enters the donut hole will see savings of over \$700 in 2011 and over \$3,000 by 2020.
- **Extending coverage to 16,000 uninsured residents.** The legislation would extend coverage to ninety-four percent of all Americans. The 16,000 residents of 4CD who currently do not have health insurance will receive coverage.
- **Guaranteeing that 7,000 residents with pre-existing conditions can obtain coverage.** The health care legislation creates immediate options for people who can't get insurance today, protecting **nine-hundred** families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.
- **Allowing 50,000 young adults to obtain coverage on their parents' insurance plans.** The legislation allows young adults to remain on their parents' policies until they turn age 26.
- **Providing millions of dollars in new funding for 20 state community health centers.** Community health centers provide critical health care to Minnesotans, regardless of their ability to pay. Health reform makes an immediate and substantial investment to the 20 federally-funded health centers in 4CD.

- **Reduction of the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other health care providers by \$36 million annually.** In 2008, health care providers in the district provided uncompensated care to individuals who lacked insurance coverage and were unable to pay their bills. Under this legislation, the cost of uncompensated care will be reduced by \$36 million.

Note: The information specific to 4CD was provided by the congressional office of Betty McCollum; Minnesota statistics by the Democratic Policy Committee. Statistics for 5CD were not available but would be similar.

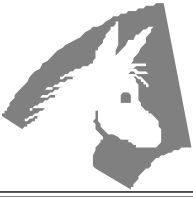
Lets look at the facts. Six percent of people in Minnesotans have diabetes, and 21 percent have high blood pressure—two conditions that insurance companies could use as a reason to deny health insurance coverage. Reform will establish a high-risk pool to enable people who cannot get insurance today to find an affordable health plan. Individuals with pre-existing conditions will no longer have to buy high-risk insurance and expensive health care in order to obtain health care coverage.

The legislation improves Medicare benefits by providing free preventive and wellness care, improving primary and coordinated care, and enhancing nursing home care. The 747,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Minnesota will be eligible for a free, annual wellness visit and will incur no cost-sharing for prevention services. The law will strengthen the Medicare Trust Fund, extending its solvency from 2017 to 2026.

It is estimated that 65 percent of those who are 65 years of age today will spend some time in need of long-term care services at home, which could cost \$18,000 or more per year. This means that 410,000 older residents of Minnesota who are aged 55 to 64 today will need home health services after they turn age 65—services that are not always covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or private health insurance. Health insurance reform will create a new voluntary long-term care services insurance program, which will provide a cash benefit to help seniors and people with disabilities obtain services and supports that will enable them to remain in their homes and communities. These programs could also help improve care for many of the 112,000 disabled Medicaid beneficiaries in Minnesota.

Health insurance reform will invest in innovations in primary care and will provide financial incentives to hospitals to better coordinate care at discharge to avoid preventable readmissions. Reduction in the cost of insurance coverage will allow businesses to decrease their costs and potentially hire more employees and provide them with full health care benefits. The legislation will increase work force supply and support training of health professionals through scholarships and loans. To assist in overall cost reduction, health care reform will establish a process for reviewing increases in health plan premiums and require such plans to justify increases. It will require states to report on trends in premium increases and recommend whether certain plans should be excluded from the exchange plans based on unjustified premium increases. Note that implementation dates vary for the different improvements in the law.

So, tell us, why are the Republicans and Tea Party protesters so against these reforms which would appear to benefit so many, including many of them, themselves?



SD54 Calendar—May 2010

Note: Mark your calendars now!!!

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|--------------|-----------|---|
| May 8 | Saturday | H.H Humphry Day Dinner and Victory Reception, speaker U.S. Representative Barney Frank, Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tickets \$1000/couple (dinner tickets included). [Note: Frank has represented the Massachusetts 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House since 1981; chaired the House Financial Services Committee since 2007. This committee oversees the financial services industry, which includes the securities, insurance, banking, and housing industries.] |
| May 20 | Thursday | Reconvened SD54 Convention, Brimhall School Gymnasium, 1744 W. County Road B, Roseville. Registration, 6:30 p.m. Convention convenes at 7:00 p.m. All delegates and alternates to the SD54 Convention should attend to endorse a candidate for the state senate. The Central Committee meeting will follow the convention. |
| May 22 | Saturday | State DFL Central Committee Meeting, Bemidji, Purpose: orientation for committee members. Further details on the DFL website, DFL.org. Saturday, May, 2010. |
| May 26 | Wednesday | Social Luncheon for MN DFL Senior Caucus, Riverside Perkins Family Restaurant, I-94 & Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, 12:30-2:00 p.m. (No RSVP required). |
| July 15 | Thursday | SD54 ANNUAL PICNIC at the Foundation Shelter picnic shelter, 2496 Victoria St. N., in Roseville Central Park (just to the south and at the base of the hill from the Lion's shelter). <i>Note:</i> Change in location to this new site provides close access to the playground for families with children; its flat landing and picnic area is handicapped accessible. Starts at 6:00 p.m. |
| August 10 | Tuesday | Minnesota State Primary Election |
| August 21 | Saturday | State DFL Central Committee Meeting. Purpose: endorsements (if needed). Further details on DFL website, DFL.org |
| September 25 | Saturday | State DFL Central Committee Meeting, Metro area, further information TBA. Check www.sd54df.org for updates and changes. If you have questions, contact Chair Charlie Quick (charlierquick@comcast.net), or Associate Chair Ruth Ellen Luehr (ruthellen@markfausner.com) |

—Attention Readers—

The Newsletter Committee is accepting 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.

TheGreenScene

A Drip can turn into a water disaster

Please save water for health and safety for all of us.

Peter Berglund

There's as much water in the world today as there was thousands of years ago. Nearly 97 percent of the world's water is saltwater or brackish. Another two percent is locked in ice caps and glaciers, leaving just one percent for all of our needs—agriculture, manufacturing, and personal.

We may live in the land of 10,000 lakes, and we think that we have an abundance of water. But consider that we get most of our water from wells. As we cover over more of the landscape with concrete, blacktop and buildings, we have to wonder about the ability of the soil to filter enough clean water to our wells to continue to provide for all of our needs. Also, there is more runoff with the potential to contaminate streams and rivers, and less filtering back into the soils. And unfortunately, there are more contaminants showing up in our wells.

The population is growing; our clean water supply is not. Please go to www.drinktap.org, click on "Water."

- To prevent water loss from evaporation, don't water your lawn during the hottest part of the day or when it is windy.

- Run the dishwasher and clothes washer only when they are fully loaded.

- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of in running water.

- When washing dishes by hand, use one basin for washing and one for rinsing; don't let the water run.

- Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.

^a If you have a swimming pool, get a cover. You'll cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.

- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.

For more information

Click on <http://www.metrocouncil.org/water/index.htm> and www.nacwa.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SENATE DISTRICT 54 CONVENTION WILL RECONVENE ON May 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING A CANDIDATE FOR STATE SENATE

The convention will be held at Brimhall School Gymnasium, 1744 West County Road B, Roseville
(Brimhall is east of Fairview and west of Snelling on County Road B)

All delegates to the March 13, 2010, SD54 Convention
are expected to attend this reconvened convention.

Visitors are welcome.

Following the convention, the Central Committee and interested persons will meet to discuss the events and outcomes of the State DFL Convention held in Duluth on April 24, 2010, and also consider plans for the GOTV (Get Out the Vote) campaign, and support for local, county, state and national endorsed candidates.