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DFL SENIOR CAUCUS MONTHLY MESSAGE

Greetings Minnesota Senior Caucus member!

This informational message needs a name. We are currently calling this the “Senior Caucus Monthly Message.” We are seeking ideas from you for some fun suggestions! Please send us any ideas you have for a name. (Sorry, there is no prize – you will be recognized in a future issue.) Send your suggestions to:

dflseniors@gmail.com Thanks!



Senior Caucus Legislative Priorities

(Update for April 26, 2023)

Caregiver Work Force Shortage

The Human Services Omnibus bill (now SF2934, author Noor) passed the Senate 4/18/23 and was then passed on the House floor with some amendments on 4/25/23. It then went back to the Senate and was not accepted.

The Senate and House versions have a number of important differences and a conference committee to work out those differences has been requested.

SF2934 includes significant funding for increasing payments for direct care workers, in-home services, and critical access nursing homes including temporary grants for nursing homes, staff retention bonuses related to the SEIU Collective Bargaining Agreement, along with Home and Community Based Workforce incentive grants, New American Long Term Care grants, Underserved and Rural Community Provider Capacity grants and other grant programs.

Details of the current SF2934 as passed by the House on Tuesday are found at the links below.

Amendments: <https://www.house.mn.gov/cc/journals/2023-24/J0425056.htm#7013>

Bill Language

4/21/23: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF2934&version=1&session=ls93&session_year=2023&session_number=0&type=ue

Increases for Senior Nutrition

The senior nutrition bill (formerly HF2523/SF2244) was included in the Human Services Omnibus bill, SF2934, but now includes only \$4.5 million for senior nutrition for one year only to be available only until June 30, 2025. This is a significant decrease from the original SF2244, which provided nearly \$16 million per year for two years. Authors of the original Senate bill are hopeful that more of the proposed increases are restored in the upcoming conference committee.

Legislative Task Force on Aging

SF1022, establishing a Legislative Task Force on Aging

was referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on 3/2/23 but it is not clear whether it was heard in that committee. HF0979, the companion bill was and referred to the State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee on 1/30/23.

CHAPTER NOTABLES



Remember: Any member can attend any Chapter any time.

East Metro - Featured speaker was Eileen Weber, who talked about the keeping nurses at the bedside act, end of life options, and the Sanford takeover of M Health Fairview.

North Metro –met April 5 The speaker was John Doan Vice President of Operations and Equity at Trellis an umbrella organization for several programs for seniors and a recently elected city council person in Shoreview

The South East Minnesota discussed the senior caucus legislative priorities. We were made aware of the lack of sufficient funding for training for seniors who have experienced vision loss that would allow them to remain in their homes

Minneapolis Much of their effort this month has been concentrated on two items: Creating a weekly Legislative Report and tracking our success with the Minneapolis City Council candidates that we endorsed.

The South Metro –met on April 12. Elections were held and Ann Bailey, President of DARTS, "Creating Connections That Enrich Aging" in Dakota County spoke

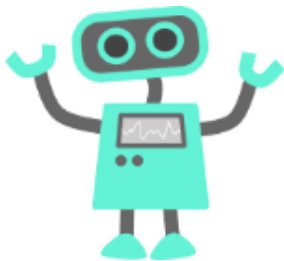
Anoka - met April 12. Speaker was Dr. Kate Schaefer – Director of Life Long Learning at the University of Minnesota



SENIOR CAUCUS MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Sandy Sandoval

Chair of the South Metro Senior Caucus Chapter, MaryAnn Vandevusse, says that Sandy Sandoval never says "no" if she is on your team. She has been on DFL teams since I met her in 2009. For the Senior Caucus she has orchestrated and decorated the *Blue Gala* before and after the pandemic. The *Day on the Hill* would have been donut-less and fruit-less but for Sandy; she and her partner would not get the Annual meeting done without her finesse. Sandy always thinks of everyone. Sandy always includes everyone. Sandy gets it done!



TECHNICAL TIP OF THE MONTH

A computer is not a bicycle. We've all heard the phrase, "You never forget how to ride a bike." Not so with a computer! They are more like a foreign language—immersion is the fastest way to develop proficiency, and skills atrophy when they

are not used. Youngsters don't use computers because they are good at them; they are good at computers because they use them!

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn"
(Benjamin Franklin).

Sometimes, seniors set aside their computer until they can find some basic training they believe will make the computer easier to use. The better way is to try to complete a task that is useful to you, and then phone a friend when you get stuck. I know it can feel embarrassing, but that's what the experts do! Nobody knows everything about computers. And when you learn something useful, use it regularly to maintain your skill.

So, what is the computer question you want to ask? If you like, you may submit a topic for this techie to answer in a future newsletter by [clicking here](#):

SENIOR CAUCUS BOOK CLUB

Next meeting: May 15, 11:00 – 1:00

zoom

Diesel Heart by Melvin Whitfield Carter

Jr

Melvin Whitfield Carter Jr., the father of St. Paul's current mayor, is a true son of Rondo, the city's storied African American neighborhood. He was born in



a city divided along racial lines and rich in cultural misunderstanding. Growing up in the 1950s and '60s, he witnessed the destruction of his neighborhood by the I-94 freeway—and he found his way to fighting and trouble. But Carter turned his life around. As a young man, he enlisted in the US Navy. He used his fighting ability to survive racist treatment, winning boxing matches and respect. As an affirmative action hire in the St. Paul Police Department, facing prejudice at every turn, this hardworking, talented, and highly principled officer fought to protect the people of the city he calls home. *Diesel Heart* is the story of a leader who created a powerful family legacy by standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity.

Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86446648933>

Next book club meeting: June 19
Trumpism: American Politics in the Age of Politainment by Dr David Schultz

Come with your comments and questions!
Request the link from dflseniors@gmail.com



IMPORTANT DATES OF THE MONTH

May 5th is <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/cinco-de-mayo>

May 17th is [International day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia, and Intersexphobia](#)

For the whole month, May is:

[Mental Health Awareness Month](#)

[Older Americans Month](#)

[Jewish American Heritage Month](#)

[Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month](#)

Let us know if cultural events are happening in your community.

Membership!

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Join us and become an active member of our DFL Senior Caucus to help us address the needs of seniors.

[Join/Renew here](#)

No dues are required! Because no dues are required, we would love it if you donate! [Donate Here](#)

We are still working out some technical issues and are working on our outreach and recruitment using East Metro Chapter to pilot. For more information or to suggest a next Chapter for recruitment email the Senior Caucus at: dflseniors@gmail.com

FUND RAISING

SENIOR CAUCUS FUNDRAISING FOR GOTV for 2024 will begin summer of 2023. Goal is \$4,500 for postage and printed postcards for 20,000 cards and other GOTV activities.

SAVE THE DATE - NEXT EVENTS FOR STATEWIDE SENIOR CAUCUS

- Annual Membership Meeting: June 28 zoom virtual only in the evening
 - National Speaker: TBD
 - State Fair tabling with the Senior Caucus and the DFL Party August 24 – Sept 4, 2023
 - Annual Gala: October 2023
-

LOCAL CHAPTERS SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- Anoka County Chapter

LOCAL CHAPTERS

- Second Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m.
Perkins Restaurant in Blaine
- **East Metro Chapter**
Second Thursday August through November at 11:00 a.m.
Jerry's Foods Woodbury
- **Mankato Area Chapter**
First Monday of every month at 11:30 a.m.
Happy Chef, 2100 Hwy 169, North Mankato
- **Minneapolis Area Chapter**
Second Saturday of every month
Zoom only
- **North East MN Chapter**
Third Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m.
Sara's Table Chester Creek Cafe (1902 E Eighth St. Duluth, MN)

Anoka County Chapter

Second Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m.

East Metro Chapter (eastern Ramsey, Washington counties)

Second Thursday of the month 11:00 a.m.

Mankato Area Chapter

First Monday of every month at 11:30 a.m.

Minneapolis Area Chapter

Second Saturday of every month

North East MN Chapter (Duluth)

Second Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m.

North Metro Chapter (northern Ramsey County)

First Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m.

Saint Paul Area Chapter

meetings tbd

South East MN

Chapter (Rochester)

Second Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m.

South Metro Chapter

Second Wednesday of every month at 12 noon

East Central MN Chapter

on hiatus

If you would like to participate in, or for more information about, any of these Senior Caucus activities, send an email to dfseniors@gmail.com. We welcome your input!

STATE-WIDE SENIOR CAUCUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact the Senior Caucus at dflseniors@gmail.com

Board Officers: Chair and SEC Liaison, Kay Hendrikson, Vice Chair Don Slaten, Treasurer, Nancy Stroessner, Secretary, Janet Conn and Membership Director, Mary Bliesmer

Technology Chair: Bill Middlecamp, Governance Chair: Mel Aanerud, Chapter Chair Coordinator, Mel Aanerud, Book Club Moderator and webmaster: Cindy Spellman; Facebook Admin Linda Hopkins

At Large Directors: Janet Conn, John Corcoran, Roger Gerhke, Linda Hopkins, Pat Kelly, Dwayne King, Linda Larson, Bill Middlecamp, Sue Moravec, Joe Mullery, Jim Reed, Sandy Sandoval, Tony Scallon, Ann Siefert, Cindy Spellman; **Past Chair:** Don Bye

[Donations are always welcome click here](#)

If you prefer make your check to DFL Senior Caucus and mail to Senior Caucus Treasurer - 1453 Hayes Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124

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EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Our mailing address is:

14253 Hayes Apple Valley MN 55124

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