



Senate District 54 DFL Newsletter

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

Legislative Session 2010 – A serious disappointment

Representative Mindy Greiling SD54A

The 2010 legislative session ranks among the most disappointing of my legislative career. We knew at the start of the session that Minnesota faced considerable challenges: high unemployment, a population of sick Minnesotans for whom time was running out on a basic health care program vetoed by the governor; and another budget deficit of just under \$1 billion without factoring in inflation.

At the beginning of the session, we passed a jobs-targeted bonding bill that will put 20,000 Minnesotans to work, even though Governor Pawlenty vetoed one third of the projects directed mostly toward valuable higher education and environmental projects.

With just eight days to go before the end of the session, efforts to balance the state budget received a jolt when the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled the governor's last year unallotment actions were illegal. While gratifying, the ruling also meant the budget deficit swelled to nearly \$3 billion, again, not counting for inflation. This time, the governor had to work with the legislature towards a solution. Negotiations were frustrating though, because the governor and House Republicans were determined to say no to every reasonable budget offer.

With Republican opposition to just about everything—including a budget bill that the governor immediately vetoed that would have slightly increased tax fairness by asking the state's highest income earners to pay a fairer share in income taxes—we were left with an unsatisfactory budget solution that I could not support.

The budget was ultimately balanced without cuts to nursing homes. Undoing a few of the governor's last-year's unallotments prevented some of his worst cuts to child care, people with disabilities, and mental health services. But in doing so, this budget uses shifts and one-time fixes to a greater degree than any previous budget, severely limiting options to deal with next year's deficit, which is projected to reach as high as \$8 billion.

It's disappointing that the governor forced a budget that relies so heavily on borrowing from schools by paying them late, and that we ended the session without an education bill. As chair of the House K-12 Finance Division, I authored a bill that contained a stop-gap measure that would have helped school districts maintain some financial stability. It would have allowed, with local school board approval, the renewal of existing levies until the state was able to resume proper funding. The bill also contained a number of reforms that would have saved school districts thousands—in some cases, millions—of dollars.

That bill was ready in early April, but legislative leadership in both the House and the Senate held the bill back until late in the session. A last minute attempt to resurrect a scaled-back education bill without the levy renewal failed when House Republicans refused to take it up.

It's equally disappointing that we could not get the governor's agreement for a budget that raised revenue fairly. For too long, low and middle income Minnesotans have been squeezed to protect the wealthiest Minnesotans. We have reached the end of the line with "No New Taxes." I look forward to next year, when I can work with a new governor and my fellow lawmakers on a balanced budget that includes reforms and fair, new taxes—a responsible budget that reflects Minnesota values and protects our quality of life for generations to come.

—In this issue—

Page	
1	Greiling - Legislative Session 2010
2	Scalze - Campaign Trail
3.	Marty - Senate Campaign
3.-4.	New Absentee Voting rules
4.	John Madden obituary
5.	Recession and the trades DFL Endorsed Candidates Phone Bank Campaign Donut Booth Sign-up
6.	Redistribution of Wealth Congratulations, Julianne
7.	SD54 Calendar
8.	TheGreenScene Annual Potluck Picnic

On the Campaign Trail—2010

Representative Bev Scalze, 54B “You legislators never do anything until the last three days,” was the remark I heard from a constituent in my district as I was out door-knocking last week. I slowly and carefully told him about the committee meetings that were held in early February and throughout March to make the cuts to balance the budget. I explained how the Environment & Natural Resources Finance Committee met with leaders of the DNR, PCA, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to work through their budgets to assure positive outcomes. He seemed satisfied, and said “thanks for doing such a good job.”

“I wish I lived in Minnesota and could vote for you,” was the remark from a lady who was walking her dog, after I introduced myself. She said she lived in North Carolina, and it was not a great progressive state like Minnesota where legislators were out walking and campaigning on the street. She was visiting her cousin in Shoreview and loved our school system and what she knew about our state government. She said that she was going to try to retire in Minnesota. I told her she should visit during a trial winter first, because most folks retire to the south instead.

One man stopped me at a front door in Vadnais Heights. I began with a smile, “Hi, I’m Bev Scalze, and I’m your state representative.” He frowned and said, “That’s a shame.” He was obviously a member of the other party. So I simply said “have a nice day,” and walked away. Out of 100 homes, I guess one clinker isn’t too bad.

Then there was the time Bob was door-knocking with me. He stepped out of the car at the curb. From the wood chips around the landscaping, a bird fluffed up her feathers and screamed at him. He thought maybe he had stepped on her, but she was just protecting her nest in the wood chips and trying to scare him away. It worked. That small bird made him retreat quickly and head for the first door to ring the doorbell.

“Can you get the brush mowed in this ditch?” was a question I got at one townhome a while ago. It took quite a while to determine who the resident should contact in her townhome association and in Ramsey County Public Works to get the job done. She was happy that I stopped at her door.

“This campaign season is too long,” one man said to me. I told him I sympathized with him because this year will be a very long campaign for many people—candidates for governor, senator, representative, and city council – he will be bugged all summer.

But nothing tops the story told by our friend, Dave, who was passing out literature for me one beautiful summer day. A lady on a lawn mower in Little Canada said, “This is what I think of campaign literature.” She started up the lawn mower and ran over my literature. He was speechless.

We all have lots of great campaign stories. We enjoy talking to people at their doors about their ideas and concerns, getting a real insight into human behavior as we enjoy looking at their wonderful gardens.

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

Norman 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 Willems**

Layout editor: Antona Richardson

Senator John Marty

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

Representative 54A, Mindy Greiling

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

Representative 54B, Bev Scalze

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

Senate District 54 DFL

www.sd54df.org\

Chair Charlie Quick

(651) 483-3623 charlierquick@comcast.net

Associate Chair Ruth Ellen Luehr

(651) 489-8769 ruthellen@markfausner.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

The Marty Senate Campaign Needs You

Senator John Marty

I want to start by saying thanks to District 54 DFLers for your kindness in holding off on the Senate endorsement until after the state convention. And a big thank you to those who showed up for my endorsing convention on May 20. I am pleased and honored to have your support, and pledge to continue doing my best to serve the people of our communities.

Our campaign is now well underway and we need your support! Among the ways you can help:

- **Join me going door-to-door.** I will be door-knocking regularly until November, and hope to have one or two volunteers with me during each two-hour shift so we can cover as many homes as possible. If you are available weekday afternoons or evenings or on Saturdays, I'd really appreciate the chance to door-knock with you.
- **Literature drop or door-knock** on your own when it is convenient for you.
- **Condo or apartment dwellers** can help us by distributing literature in their own buildings.

- **Walk with us in parades or volunteer at events.** There are several parades remaining this summer, and we need volunteers to walk with us.
- **Call for lawn sign locations.** We will supply lists of supporters who had Marty lawn signs in the past. We need people to call those on the lists, asking if they will take a sign again this fall.
- **Help put up lawn signs.** We will need volunteers beginning early in the fall to help put up lawn signs.
- **Data entry.** We need volunteers who are good with data entry.
- **Contribute.** We need your financial support. Every contribution helps, whether it is \$20 or \$200. You can contribute online at johnmarty.org, or mail your contribution to Marty Volunteer Committee, 2478 Lydia Ave. W., Roseville 55113

If you are willing to help in these or any other ways, please let us know! Contact us at: info@johnmarty.org or leave a message at my home, (651) 633-8934, or with our campaign manager, Rebecca Bormann, (651) 631-3354.

Editor's note: To help in Greiling's campaign, mindygreiling@aol.com. For Scalze, Call (651) 483-1055.

New Regulations Govern Absentee Voting: Be absent—but vote

Georgiana Sobola (in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary of State)

THE NEW LAW

- Establishes strict guidelines for accepting or rejecting absentee ballots.
- Mandates absentee ballot boards which are prepared with uniform training, resulting in consistent expertise in accepting or rejecting absentee ballots.
- Keeps a complete audit trail on the state registration system for each ballot.
- Provides that voters whose ballots could not be counted on Election Day are notified, given the reason or reasons, and the name of a person to contact for further explanation if needed.

YOUR APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE VOTING

You need to fill out an application which you can request from your city hall in person or by telephone, or by email from the Office of the Secretary of State. In addition to your name and date of birth, the application asks for an *Identification number*: This can be any one of the following:

- MN state drivers license number, or
- MN state identification number, or
- The last four digits of your Social Security number, or
- Your statement that you do not have any of these. In this case, your signature on your application and on your ballot return envelope will be compared for similarity.

(This information may not be made available to the public for inspection.)

Eligibility: For your ballot to be approved you must check a reason you are eligible to vote absentee. Acceptable reasons are: Absence from the precinct on election day; Illness; Disability; conflict with a religious holiday; and service in another precinct (This applies to poll workers)

Oath: The printed oath states that the information is accurate and you are signing on your own behalf under penalty of perjury.

Signature: Your oath must be signed.

SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION

Your application can be submitted to your city clerk by mail, in person, by email, FAX, or by another person. When it is received, a clerk trained in the use of the voter registration system will enter the date of receipt and its manner of transmission. *Note:* Most voters who go to their city hall in person will be able to fill out their application and ballot package at the same time. Under the new law the area will be staffed by election judges trained as a ballot board.

THE STATE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Envelopes used for transmitting absentee ballots to and from the voter will now include a bar code for ease in entering

the information into the system. Everything that happens to an absentee ballot will be recorded: when it was sent, when returned, if it was accepted or rejected, the reason for the rejection, when a new ballot was sent and returned, and any other challenges.

YOUR BALLOT PACKAGE

You will receive a ballot, a ballot envelope, a return envelope, a voter registration card (if the ballot board finds you are not registered), a certificate of eligibility printed on the return envelope, which contains the same information as is on the application, and a statement—which you must sign—stating that you meet all the requirements established by law for voting by absentee ballot. If you do not complete your ballot package at your city hall you will need another registered voter to administer the oath, and state that

- The ballot was displayed to the registered voter *before* it was marked; and
- The ballot was marked without showing the registered voter how it was marked, or, if the absentee voter was physically unable to mark the ballot, that the registered voter was asked for help.

BALLOT BOARDS

Establishment. Boards must be established by ordinance or resolution. (Boards have long been established in every city in Senate District 54.) The members must be trained in handling absentee ballots and the board must include a sufficient number of members of different major political parties. The board may include city staff members of the jurisdiction and if so, these are exempt from the party requirement.

Duties. After the ballots are returned, they go to the ballot board and are recorded on the state registration system. Judges compare information on the ballot envelope with information on the application to determine if the information is the same as to the voter’s name and address, and that the

- eligibility affidavit is signed;
- ID number is the same;
- voter is registered and eligible to vote in the precinct, or has included a properly completed voter registration card; and
- the voter has not already voted in person or by absentee ballot.

The reasons listed above are the only ones required for an absentee ballot to be accepted. If the judges are satisfied that all these requirements are met, the return envelope is marked “Accepted.” If the voter failed to meet one or more of the requirements, the judges mark the envelope “Rejected” and list the reason (or reasons) for rejection.

REJECTED BALLOTS

When a return envelope is rejected five days or more before election day, the ballot board provides the voter with a replacement absentee ballot and return envelope. If it is rejected

within five days of the election, there must be an attempt to reach the voter by telephone or email. All such attempts are documented on the state voter registration system.

COUNTING ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Previously, absentee ballot envelopes were taken to the polling places after the last mail delivery on election day and there were marked on the voter rosters. After the polls were closed, the ballots were taken out of their envelopes and put through the voting machines. Under the new rules, all envelopes received will be kept in a location separate from the precincts. On the evening before the voter rosters are delivered to the precincts, judges will mark those voters for whom an absentee ballot has been received. On election day, a supplemental list will be provided to the precincts with the names, if any, of those whose absentee ballots were received on election day. After the polls have closed, absentee ballots will be counted at the separate location. The resulting separate totals will be added to the appropriate precinct totals.

LATE BALLOTS

If an absentee ballot arrives after the voting deadline on election day, or if the ballot board has not been able to contact a voter about his rejected ballot, the ballot board must mail the voter a written notice within six to eight weeks to inform him about the reason for the rejection and provide the name of a person to whom he can direct questions.

JOHN MADDEN

Long time DFL activist and community volunteer, retired professional engineer and avid Twins fan, John Madden passed away recently in St. Anthony Village. In addition to his faithful dedication to DFL activities, John Madden volunteered for several years prior to his death at the Armed Forces Service Center at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport.

One of my many fine memories of my association with John Madden was several years ago when I was chair of SD54. On the day before the biennial endorsing convention, I received a call from him, apologizing for not being able to attend the convention the next day. He was an elected delegate to that event, he said, but was in a local hospital recovering from his major surgery of the day or two before. He didn’t think that “they would let me out to attend the convention.” I was amazed but not at all surprised by John’s phone call. He will be truly missed.

Norm Hanson

Recession and the Construction Trades

Charlie Quick, SD54 Chair

As a construction electrician, a highly skilled trades profession, I have seen and felt the effects of the current recession directly. In good times we would have 50 to 100 electricians on the “out of work list.” Time on that list would be fairly short (2-4 weeks). Our number of “out of work” electricians has steadily increased from a manageable 200 plus in 2007 to over 600 in 2009. The numbers have remained at just over 600 electricians “out of work” since.

What this means for many of us (even those with years of experience) is spending months instead of weeks “out of work.” Many electricians are forced to look at other options, such as working out of town or finding a new line of work. I chose to work out of town and took a six- to eight-week job in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, after the 2008 floods. I worked a total of eleven months, from June 2008 to May 2009. Because of my work schedule, I was able to travel home only five or six times during this entire period of time. I worked with electricians from all over the Midwest, many with young children and even newborn babies back home. It is hard enough to maintain a second residence with its added travel and living expenses, but to be separated from family for weeks at a time is really a hardship not only for the workers, but also their spouses who must deal with everything back home. We have electricians working all over the country, from Washington State to Nevada and also to North Dakota. We have electricians leaving the trade to find a new line of work. For the younger electricians, it has become very difficult to plan for the future and figure out how to support self and family. There is no way of knowing what the long term prospects will be. Many have two wage earners in the family. I am fortunate to be one of those lucky electricians, with my wife continually employed at 3M Company for the last 30+ years. Many have had to adjust to living off one income. And there are those who have had the misfortune of having both wage earners out of work.

Add children in college or family members with serious health issues and you compound the problems. Health care premiums in tough times become unaffordable. It is very difficult to do without health insurance especially when providing coverage for their families as well as themselves. We also have our share of members losing their homes and being forced into bankruptcy.

Recruitment and training of new electricians is adversely affected by the recession. How do you attract them when so many are out of work or working out of town? It’s difficult to match recruitment with demand in good times but in bad times it’s impossible. What do we do with the apprentices already in the program but not working steadily? When and if this recession ends we want to be ready with a well trained work force. All the construction trades are dealing with these same problems

The recession is affecting a large number of workers and their families. Jobs and health care are a major priority. What will it take to get us out of this recession? *Maybe a new political direction for our state in the upcoming elections which emphasizes jobs and health care would be a step in the right direction.*

Vote for DFL Endorsed Candidates for SD54

Ramsey County

U.S. CD4 Representative - Betty McCollum
Governor - Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Lieutenant Governor - John Gunyou
Secretary of State – Mark Ritchie
Auditor – Rebecca Otto
Attorney General – Lori Swanson
SD54 Senator - John Marty
SD54A Representative - Mindy Greiling
SD54B Representative - Bev Scalze
Ramsey County Attorney – John Choi
Ramsey County Sheriff – John Bostrom

Hennepin County

US CD 5 Representative - Keith Ellison

The Coordinated Campaign is in full swing— and needs your help.

The DFL Coordinated Campaign which supports DFL endorsed candidates at all levels in the state has weekly phone banks on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at 2233 University Ave., St. Paul. *Special SD54 Phonebanking events* are scheduled for Wednesday, June 30 and July 7, at IBEW Local 160, 2909 Anthony Lane, St. Anthony Village. Please join in this critical means of getting people out to vote, especially now, with the change in the primary date to August 10 this year. For other dates and locations, contact Coordinator Jason Teiken, at 717-480-0798, or email him at jteiken@df.org. Thanks for all you do to elect our DFL endorsed candidates!!

It’s State Fair Donut Booth Sign-up Time!

This is the major fund raiser for our district, which allows us to support SD54 endorsed candidates and run SD54 business for the coming year. We really need you to volunteer. SD54 days are Saturday, August 28, Tuesday, August 31, and Saturday, September 4. Shifts are six hours long, from 7:00 a.m. to midnight (sometimes earlier).

It is a great time to get to know your fellow democrats. Contact April Aalfuth now and let her know your preferences and availability. April can be reached at (651) 482-0338 or aalfuth@mac.com.

Redistribution of Wealth

Grace Dyrud, Ph.D.*

We have been involuntary participants in the largest (we hope) money transfer in our life time. You know how Americans are often chastised for not saving enough? So how has saving worked for you? Because the Fed has fixed near zero interest rates, according to David Stockman (remember him from the Reagan administration?) the savers of America have supplied the banks with free deposit money so savers lose "\$250 billion annually in lost interest income." These days a savings account yields only pennies in interest.

OK, so how about investments? Wall Street CEO Lloyd C. Blankfein of Goldman-Sachs minimized the effect of the loss of trillions of investors' money (including union, police, teachers, and other pensions) by suggesting that the losers were just some "professional investors." Phil Angelides, chairman of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, countered that those investors were represented by the "savings of teachers and police officers." Banks had sold mortgages which were then fractionated into packages (derivatives) at profitable interest rates which were marketed as secure investments. Peter Morici, Professor of International Banking at the University of Maryland, stated that bankers "taxed retirees by paying low interest for CDs and then paying themselves," or as he put it, "Essentially, treasury and chiefs Timothy Geitner and Ben Bernanke are taxing grandma to subsidize Goldman-Sachs and finance huge paydays for bankers who hatched the greatest financial calamity in 80 years."

The Glass-Steagall Act, enacted after the Great Depression, kept investment banking separate from commercial banking. This regulation was repealed in 1999 under Clinton and the "New Democrat" philosophy, the outcome of the continual chipping away of banking regulations by Republicans. Investment banking was then not regulated by banking regulations. Investment banking could also take advantage of people's trust in banks which had developed with regulations and deposit insurance after the bank failures of the Great Depression.

So, many of these packaged investments sold around the world were insured by AIG, so why worry, until it appeared that AIG would not be able to cover the failures in the mortgage market. Some "investment" firms went under, but Goldman -Sachs, who's former CEO was then U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, was saved by the taxpayer bailout, as was AIG, which insured not only Goldman-Sachs, but many homes and life insurance policies around the world. So AIG could not be allowed to fail and got the bailout so Goldman-Sachs and others could be saved. The executives got slapped with regulations from Geitner and Bernanke, right? No, the executives were rewarded with inflated salaries and big bonuses for hatching schemes and making decisions that nearly brought down the financial world.

But today the financial folks have seen the consequences of their acts and see the need for change, right? A heading in the *Star Tribune* of January 11, 2010, reads, "Banks lending more to hedge funds, private equity funds," as they say it is more lucrative and safer than lending to businesses and consumers, which cannot be sold as quickly in a downturn. Lending also generates revenue in trading commissions. The financial sector has been the main growing U.S. sector as it benefits from their global financial decisions. They appear not to be raising capital for production (a social justification), but simply trading, accounting for 76% of Goldman-Sachs revenue last year. Investment banking was 11%, making Goldman-Sachs practically a hedge fund itself, according to Roger Lowenstein, who has written the book, *The End of Wall Street*."

Why change, why ask for a new deal when you hold four aces? Much of the financial sector is lobbying against even re-establishing mild regulations and enforcement in what several authors have called a casino with games of chance. A transfer tax on financial trading has been suggested in Britain and the United States to stabilize currency markets. Simon Johnson, former chief economist for the International Monetary Fund, has stated that if we continue on the current course without changes, we face a repeat of the last financial crisis with even worse consequences for the United States and the rest of the world. He also has stated that counting on the same people who caused the crisis (such as Geitner and Summers) to then fix the problems is unrealistic, but that is exactly what President Obama seems to be doing.

So where do we go from here? A headline in the *Star Tribune* of June 9, 2010, states, "\$85B is not enough to bail out AIG. Losses at the insurer have ballooned since 2008, and critics suggest the government didn't understand the risks." The article also states that government auditors projected that "bail outs" will still cost taxpayers as much as \$47 billion. Many people would rather chip in with taxpayer money for health, education, and environment causes. Can we get our Congress to represent the rest of us as well as financiers?

Congratulations, Julianne!

At its recent annual meeting in St. Paul, the Minnesota State DFL Senior Caucus elected our own Julianne Johnston to the position of membership director. As such, Julianne will be one of the principal officers of the caucus on its board of directors. The Senior Caucus has 500 plus active members throughout the state. Julianne will bring the same significant management skills and instincts to this important Senior Caucus leadership position that she has provided and continues to provide to SD54.

Norm Hanson



SD54 Calendar—July-September 2010

Note: Mark your calendars now!!!

- June 24 Absentee balloting began for primary election on August 10.
- July 15 Thursday SD54 Annual Picnic at the Foundation shelter, 2495 Victoria St. N. in Roseville Central Park (just to the south and at the base of the hill from the Lion's shelter.) *Note: Change in location to this site provides close access to the playground for families with children; in flat landing and picnic area is handicapped accessible. Starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- July 19 Monday 4CD Central Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. – *Note change of location* – Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave. (just north of Sun Ray Shopping Center) St. Paul
- July 28 Wednesday Social Luncheon for MN DFL Senior Caucus, Riverside Perkins Family Restaurant, I- 94 & RiversidAve.Minneapolis, 12:30-2:00 p.m. (No RSVP required). Call Julianne at (6) 486-7120 for more information
- August 10 Tuesday Minnesota DFL Primary Election.** Check with Secretary of State's Office or your city hall for voting precinct locations.
- August 16 Monday 4CD Central Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. – *Note change of location* – Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave. (just north of Sun Ray Shopping Center) St. Paul
- August 19 Thursday SD54 Executive/Committee Meeting, Basswood Room, Fire Station No. 1 near the Roseville City Hall campus. 6:30 p.m.
- August 21 Saturday State DFL Central Committee meeting if necessary, following the August 10 primary. Place to be announced in he metro area.
- August 25 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). Call Julianne at (651) 486-7120 for minformatio
- August 28, Saturday August 31, Tuesday September 4, Saturday
State Fair Donut Booth day for SD54—three shifts - State Fair Grounds 7:00 a.m. to 10 :00 p.m.
Call April Alfuth at (651) 482-0338, to sign up for a shift.
- October 3 Sunday Bruce Vento Dinner

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

TheGreenScene

Save Gasoline

With oil spills increasing all over the planet, we need to save gasoline – now more than ever

Peter Berglund

With the Gulf of Mexico filling up with oil and natural gas, let's start really thinking about using as little gasoline as possible. Any trip not taken in the car is that many fewer miles logged on the car and less gas usage. And of course, will result in less wear-and-tear on your car. That means we will be able to put off that brake job and save even more money.

Not making a trip in the car should be the first step. Consider getting where you are going by foot, bicycle, bus, or car pool. Plan ahead and combine as many errands as possible into one trip. Go to the grocery store with a neighbor. Parents: team up to drive school children to their activities.

Do not "floor it" when the light turns green. One of the best ways to save is not to speed—ever. And remember that braking all the time causes even more gas wasted.

The website below reports that we will save 15% of fuel

usage by driving at 55 rather than 65 miles per hour. The Edmunds website reports a savings of 12-14% if we drive at the posted speed limit. That website doesn't mess around. It tells us not to drive like a maniac. Aggressive driving will cost you 31-37% more gas and increases risk of car accidents.

Some car insurance rates are lower if you drive fewer miles and gives special consideration for those who bus to work. Check it out with your insurance carrier.

For more complete information, look at these websites:
<http://www.epa.gov/oms/consumer/17-tips.pdf>
<http://www.edmunds.com/advice/fueleconomy/articles/106842/article.html>

If we follow these recommendations, we will also help minimize global warming and decrease climate change. Remember, there are no down-sides to saving energy. Even setting aside all of the common concerns of global warming, the oceans are suffering from significant acidification due to carbon waste from our fuel usage. (The CO₂ from our cars forms carbonic acid in water.)

If we drive as little as we can, and take it easy, our earth and our children and their children will thank us.

Annual Potluck Picnic — July 15, 2010

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Come One, Come All

Roseville Central Park on Victoria Street, south of County Road C at the Foundation Pavilion-(Just to the south and at the base of the hill from the Lion's shelter, where we have met before) on the east side of Bennett Lake.

It's time for our annual picnic! Welcome to all of the friends and families of SD54. It's our time to meet old friends and make new friends of the DFL. We will renew our efforts to elect Democrats to office and to prove once again that our SD54 is one of the best in the state. SD54 will provide a supply of brats and hotdogs and all the trimmings for everyone as well as plates, tableware and napkins.

Bring a dish to share. We will also be collecting non-perishable food donations for the food shelf.

Once again we have invited DFL endorsed and elected officials, DFL organizations, and our legislative representatives to the event. You will have a chance to meet with them and share your concerns and ideas.

We look forward to seeing you there!