

**DFL State Central Committee  
Regular Meeting- Draft Minutes  
Saturday August 12, 2023  
Call to Order: 10:30 AM  
Location: Zoom Online**

**I. Opening Business**

**A. Call to Order**

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Martin at 10:33 AM.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. The meeting norms were presented.
4. Co-Chairs of the meeting were appointed by Chair Ken Martin: Ann Friedrich, Jeffrey Strand
5. Parliamentarian: Dan Thomas-Commins
6. Tellers: Meredith Bain and Sonja Johnson

**B. Adoption of Agenda**

1. Motion to adopt the agenda, seconded with no objection, and the motion passed.

**C. Reading of the Affirmative Action Statement**

1. Outreach and Inclusion Officer Bahea Manasra read the Affirmative Action Statement.

**D. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

1. The minutes from the April 29, 2023 regular meeting of the State Central Committee were presented and read. Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, and the motion passed. The minutes stand approved.
2. The minutes from the May 30, 2023 special/emergency meeting of the State Central Committee were presented and read. Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, and the motion passed. The minutes stand approved.

**E. State Central Committee Voting**

1. Party Affairs and Training Director Sonja Johnson provided updates on registration, voting via ElectionBuddy, and the process that will follow today.
2. A practice vote on ElectionBuddy was completed.

**II. Officer Reports**

**A. Chair**

1. Chair Ken Martin provided an update on what the DFL has been doing to prepare for the 2024 election. Recently he spent time in Ohio to help them ahead of their ballot question vote. He also highlighted ways that Minnesota is leading by talking about legislative wins this past session. The DFL still needs volunteers for the state fair and asks that interested individuals sign up on the party's website. The Wellstone Academy is about halfway through their program and is training 30 people in organizing skills and strategies.

**B. First Vice Chair**

1. First Vice Chair Marge Hoffa has been traveling across the state with the Vantastic to help out at events and parades. The reception has been good and asks that people remember to invite the officers to their events.

#### C. Second Vice Chair

1. Second Vice Chair Shivanthi Sathanandan provided an update on her work with the caucuses to get their reporting and recertifications completed. She encouraged local units to reach out to the caucuses to build relationships with them about community events. She thanked people for the invites to events.

#### D. Outreach Officer

1. Outreach and Inclusion Officer Bahea Manasra provided a brief update on her work. She has been volunteering at a lot of different events, such as FarmFest and county fairs. She has been busy with her Outreach and Inclusion Committee. They granted 6/10 grant applications from local units and will continue to help the ones that didn't get funds. A new grant period is coming up. She is continuing with her weekly office hours. More information will be in the Outreach and Inclusion Committee's report.

#### E. Secretary

1. Secretary Ceri Everett provided a reminder for DFLers to pass along information about those who have passed away so that she can get those individuals into the In Memoriam presentation next year. A request was made to invite officers to DFL events.

#### F. Treasurer

1. Treasurer Leah Midgarden thanked the Budget Committee for their work. She noted that the party's fiscal health was strong and that while things will be tight for the next several months as fundraising kicks up, the party is able to meet all of its obligations.

### III. Standing Committee Reports

#### A. Outreach and Inclusion Committee

1. The Outreach and Inclusion Committee completed another round of Outreach & Inclusion reimbursement grants, with the recent application window on July 9th. The grant review committee consists of Party Affairs staff - Sonja Johnson & Laurie Aho and co-chairs Bahea Manasra and Eric Won. The committee received ten total applications, in which they awarded six party units funding to carry out outreach activities in their districts and communities. This reimbursement grant allows the DFL to further its goals of educating our communities about what the DFL is doing, bringing in new DFLers and creating future leaders, etc.. For those who did not get awarded funding, Outreach Officer Bahia Manasra and the committee has been reaching out to them to provide additional support in their outreach efforts.
2. The next submission cycle for the grant is on October 1st, which is the last deadline for this calendar year. If you would like to apply, the link is <https://dfl.org/to-do/outreach-inclusion-reimbursement-grant/> .

#### B. Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules

1. Co-chairs Ann Friedrich and Tim O'Brien thanked the committee for their time and hard work developing the draft proposals being discussed today. The CBRC has been busy completing the proposed 2024-2025 DFL Official Call, which will be presented to the SCC for approval today. The CBRC has also drafted new bylaws and bylaw amendments, which will be presented to the SCC for approval today as well. The CBRC has begun the process of drafting the 2024 State Convention Constitution report. Party officials are encouraged to contact their CD representative on the CBRC or the CBRC committee co-chairs with any recommendations for amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Rule Book. The CBRC has worked through many Challenges submitted to the State Party. And CBRC subcommittees have been hard at work. The Article VIII & IX subcommittee reviews submitted Community Outreach Organization and Community Caucus constitutions as well as Article IX (other electoral jurisdictions with approved constitutions) constitutions. The Model Rules and Constitutions subcommittee has been working on updates to unit convention model rules and unit constitutions; these updated model documents will be posted on dfl.org this fall. The State Law Review subcommittee has been reviewing updates to MN State Law and determining if and how these updates affect our DFL governing documents. The Remote Participation subcommittee has been working on updates to provisions in our governing documents related to remote participation.

#### C. Party Affairs and Coordinated Campaign

1. Co-chairs Phyllis Richerson and Jeffrey Strand presented the committee's report. They highlighted the work of their four active subcommittees. The Community Caucus/Outreach Organization subcommittee has led the review process of these organizations' biennial reports. The PACCC presents an amendment to existing Bylaws - today's agenda item IV. K - which reflects the completion of PACCC's review of the biennial reports of Community Caucuses and Community Outreach Organizations, sometimes called Article VIII organizations. In brief, of the 17 existing organizations, 16 returned reports; 15 of the 16 will have been recommended to be Community Caucuses (the exception being the re-invigorated Feminist Caucus which will be a Community Outreach Organization). PACCC is holding a facilitated focused conversation and listening session on August 23 with all CCs and COOs as guests. The session will afford them the opportunity to review and evaluate the biennial reporting process. PACCC intends to use lessons learned from the session in any proposed Constitutional or Bylaw amendments we offer regarding Article VIII.
2. PACCC has three other active subcommittees - with recent actions:
  - a. Party Affairs, Liaison and Survey (PALS) collaborated with DFL staff and the result is a lit piece about Legislative Achievements. Units can request a copy with the proper legal disclaimer for the unit at [partyaffairs@df.org](mailto:partyaffairs@df.org). PALS has launched a search for proven practices for precinct caucuses

and conventions. All SEC members: please submit recommended caucus and convention practices to PALS at [richerson52@comcast.net](mailto:richerson52@comcast.net)  
Reminders will be provided in the SCC google group.

- b. The Coordinated Campaign subcommittee has met with Chair Martin and reviewed his presentation on the Coordinated Campaign and discussed with him the PACCC responsibilities per the Constitution.
  - c. The Training subcommittee is reviewing subcommittee options, has met with Training and Party Affairs Director Sonja Johnson and is developing a plan of training review.
3. The next PACCC meeting will be September 22.
4. The PACCC submitted a prior report in March 2023 for action by the DFL State Central Committee at its meeting held April 29, 2023, which the SCC approved. The PACCC's Community Caucuses/Community Outreach Organization Subcommittee, with Jean Lee and Ken Wilson serving as the subcommittee co-chairs, has subsequently completed additional reviews and provided recommendations for approval of six (6) reports submitted after the initial deadline of 1/31/2023 for the 2023 Biennial Recertification process for Community Outreach Organizations and Community Caucuses. The full PACCC has in turn reviewed the recommendations from its subcommittee and has given its approval recommendations on May 16, 2023, June 20, 2023, and July 18, 2023. Five (5) organizations have been recommended for approval as Community Caucuses, while the sixth organization has been recommended for approval to remain a Community Outreach Organization. If the SCC grants approval of this report and the proposed Bylaws amendment, then reports for 16 of the 17 Community Outreach Organizations/Community Caucuses shall have been received and reviewed, with only one remaining organization that has failed to file the required biennial recertification report for this cycle, that being the Somali American Caucus, a Community Outreach Organization.
5. The PACCC co-chairs had earlier sent late reminder notices on February 17, 2023, to all organizations that failed to meet the first deadline. The PACCC co-chairs anticipate continued outreach work with DFL Party leaders and the organization toward completing the process not later than the final SCC meeting in 2023, in order for the remaining organization to file its recertification report to avoid further consequences as prescribed by the DFL State Constitution and Bylaws (Article VIII, Section 2). The PACCC Co-Chairs through this amended report are submitting complete information through the Training and Party Affairs Department Director Sonja Johnson by July 20, 2023, for possible inclusion of business items on the DFL State Central Committee and State Executive Committee meeting agendas for August 12, 2023, or for additional review and approval by CBRC. No additional reports were filed in time for review by the July 18, 2023, PACCC meeting, meaning that there is one organization that has failed to file a report in 2023 covering the 2021-2022 cycle. If that organization's report is submitted, reviewed and recommended by the PACCC subsequent to the August 12, 2023 SCC meeting, then the PACCC Co-Chairs will endeavor to bring

forward an action item request concerning the organization's report and/or status for the DFL State Chair and DFL State Central Committee and State Executive Committee for the planned December 2023 meetings.

6. The PACCC is recommending updates, as shown below, to Bylaws in the 2024 DFL State Constitution and Bylaws is hereby requested of the DFL Statewide Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee (CBRC). If this report's recommendations are adopted, the actions will reflect approval for recertification of fifteen(15) total Community Caucuses among the seventeen (17) Community Outreach Organizations:
  - a. NEW PROPOSED: Bylaw July 1, 2023 – 2025 Community Caucuses. The following Community Outreach Organizations have attained the status of Community Caucus for the 2023-2025 biennium: African American Caucus, Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus, Disability Caucus, Environmental Caucus, Hmong American Caucus, Movimiento, formerly known as the Latino Caucus, Minnesota Asian Indian Democratic Association, Minnesota Young DFL, Muslim Caucus, Native People's Caucus, Progressive Caucus, Rural Caucus, Senior Caucus, Stonewall DFL, and Veterans and Military Families Caucus.
  - b. EXISTING: Bylaw July 1, 2023 – 2025 Community Caucuses. The following Community Outreach Organizations have attained the status of Community Caucus for the 2023-2025 biennium: Disability Caucus, Environmental Caucus, Minnesota Young DFL, Muslim Caucus, Native People's Caucus, Progressive Caucus, Rural Caucus, Senior Caucus, Stonewall DFL, and Veterans and Military Families Caucus. Bylaw July 1, 2021 – 2023 Community Caucuses. The following Community Outreach Organizations have attained the status of Community Caucus for the 2021–2023 biennium: Disability Caucus, Environmental Caucus, Hmong American Caucus, Minnesota Asian Indian Democratic Association, Minnesota Young DFL, Muslim Caucus, Native Peoples Caucus, Rural Caucus, Senior Caucus, Stonewall DFL, and Veterans Caucus.

#### D. Platform and Issues

1. Co-chair Phil Adam presented the committee's report. It was reported that they are planning events and will be providing more details about these events via the SCC Google Group. No formal written report was submitted.

#### E. History

1. DFL Historian and History Committee Co-chair Megan Thomas presented a list of nominations for the DFL Hall of Fame. She detailed how the committee worked to increase the number of inductees due to having missed time during the COVID pandemic. The committee had worked to increase diversity in the nominations process. There was no objection and the nominations stand approved.

#### F. Code of Conduct

1. Co-chair Kate Peer presented the committee's report. She thanked former Del Jenkins for his time helping the committee and welcomed incoming member Jim Hepworth. The committee has been working to get through a large amount of cases and are asking for patience as they do this important work. A larger report will be provided at the December meeting with updated numbers and information about how the process is going. No formal written report was received.

#### G. Nominations and Search

1. Co-chair Buck Humphrey provided an update. There are openings that will be discussed today but there was not enough time to get a formal nominations and search process going due to time constraints. This will be pursued for future openings.

### IV. Special Orders

#### A. Approving the Official Call for 2024-2025

1. Motion to approve the Official Call for 2024-2025, seconded, discussion.
  - a. Motion to amend the date from "Annual Meetings for Community Outreach Orgs and Caucuses.... January 1- May 12" to "Annual Meetings for Community Outreach Orgs and Caucuses.... January 1- June 30, 2024", seconded, discussion.
    - i. A vote on ElectionBuddy was taken. The motion passed.
  - b. Motion to amend item 30 (pg. 17) COMMENT AND ADVOCACY to say: "There shall be a period of Comment and Advocacy on the items included in the platform report, for up to 90 minutes total, divided into 3 segments of up to 30 minutes each, with each segment only dealing with 1/3 of the proposed resolutions. Any delegate may speak once, for up to 45 seconds on one or more of the proposed resolutions covered in each 30 minute segment. No amendments may be considered during Comment and Advocacy. The convention chair may entertain these speeches as scheduled on the agenda and during convention delays. In the case of a convention that is conducted online, there shall be an online comment page upon which each delegate may post their personal comments, not to exceed 600 characters in all, for or against any item or items they choose. This page shall be open when the platform ballot is posted. However, voting will not commence until sufficient time has elapsed to allow delegates to post their comments and have them considered by their fellow delegates prior to the actual period of voting."
    - i. Motion to suspend the rules to allow continued debate on the motion, seconded. A vote was held on ElectionBuddy. The motion did not pass.
    - ii. A vote on the amendment was taken via ElectionBuddy. There were 93 yes votes and 103 no votes. The motion did not pass.
  - c. Motion to amend section 30 (pg. 17) COMMENT AND ADVOCACY to add language after the word "choose." and before "No amendment...":



1. Motion to approve this proposed Personnel Committee Bylaw Amendment, no objections, and the motion passed.
- E. Consideration of bylaw addition clarifying Party Officers Running for Office
- Motion to amend to strike the last line of the proposed bylaw “Additionally if a party official is elected to public office, they need to resign from their party position.”.
    - a. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.
    - b. A vote was taken via ElectionBuddy. The motion to amend passed.
  - Motion to add this language to the proposed bylaw:”Bylaw Party officials, with the exception of State Party Chair and Vice Chairs, are allowed to run for public elected office as long as the party official has no direct involvement in the planning or execution of the relevant endorsing convention, except in the advisory role given any candidate. Under no circumstance could a party official who has direct responsibility for an endorsing convention run for the office in which that convention is endorsing.”
    - a. The motion received a second and there was discussion.
    - b. A vote via ElectionBuddy was held. The motion to amend passed.
  - Motion to call the question to end debate. 145 in favor of motion to call the question and 33 votes to end debate. The debate has ended.
  - A vote was taken via ElectionBuddy. There were 158 votes in favor and 21 votes against. The bylaw with amendments passed and it stands approved.
- F. Consideration of bylaw amendment requiring In-Person Only Precinct Caucuses
1. Motion to approve the bylaw amendment requiring In-Person Only Precinct Caucuses, seconded, discussion.
    - a. Motion to amend the proposed bylaw amendment to include “except in case of extreme emergency” after “...without remote emergency”; seconded, discussion.
      - i. The author tried to withdraw the amendment and was told via the meeting co-chairs and DFL parliamentarian that it was not possible at this moment.
      - ii. A friendly amendment was to insert “, except of a State DFL-declared emergency” instead and it was accepted by the original amendment author.
        1. Motion to call the question to end debate, seconded, discussion.
          - a. A vote was held via ElectionBuddy. The motion passed (147 in favor to 35 against). The question has been called.
        2. A vote via ElectionBuddy was held on the amendment to the amendment. There were 140 in favor and 38 against.
        3. A vote via ElectionBuddy was held on the amendment with approved amendments. There were 138 votes in favor and 32 against.



- iii. A vote on the proposed bylaw with approved amendments was held via ElectionBuddy. There were 126 votes in favor and 55 against. The bylaw with amendments stands approved and adopted.

#### G. Consideration of bylaw addition defining limits for Chairing Conventions with a Conflict of Interest

1. Motion to approve the proposed bylaw defining limits for Chairing Conventions with a Conflict of Interest, seconded, discussion.
  - a. Motion to amend the proposed bylaw by striking the word “member” and to insert “officer, director”. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.
    - i. Motion to call the question, end the debate, and go directly to a vote on the bylaw, seconded.
      1. A vote via ElectionBuddy was held. There were 73 votes in favor and 91 votes against. The motion did not pass.
      2. Discussion continued.
        - a. A motion to call the question and to end debate, seconded.
          - i. A vote was held on ElectionBuddy. There were 136 votes in favor and 13 votes against. The motion passed and the debate period has ended.
    - b. A vote on the proposed bylaw was held via ElectionBuddy. There were 123 votes in favor and 29 votes against. The proposed bylaw passed and stands approved.

#### H. Consideration of bylaw limiting Virtual Meetings

1. Motion to approve the proposed bylaw limiting Virtual Meetings, seconded, discussion.
  - a. Motion to call the question to end debate, seconded.
    - i. A vote was held via ElectionBuddy. There were 136 votes in favor and 23 votes against.
  - b. A vote on the proposed bylaw was held on ElectionBuddy. There were 124 votes in favor and 32 votes against. The motion passed and the bylaw stands approved.

#### I. Consideration of bylaw amendment changing language on SEC responding to Violent Acts

1. Motion to

#### J. Consideration of bylaw removing Sample Ballot Policy from the rule book

#### K. Consideration of bylaw amendment addressing Community Caucuses (PACCC)

### V. Closing Business

#### A. Announcements

1. Members of the State Central Committee provided information about upcoming events and initiatives that their local organizations are working on.

B. Adjournment

1. Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and the motion passed.
2. The meeting adjourned.