

**DFL SD52**

**Central Committee Meeting**

**February 2026**

**Senate District Chair:** Curtis Johnson

**Secretary:** Nina Esther

**Attendance:** Curtis Johnson, James Elwell, Dennis Callinan, Beth Fahey, Hugh Gitlin, Lisa Rogers, Maureen Gitlin, Meier Campaign, Lynn Carlson, Ron Goldser, Kaela Berg, Katherine Wickiser, Dean Schlegel, Johanna Fierst, Sameer Aidoor, Doug Degrote, Anne Strasser, David Loiseaux, Janet Thomas, Sheryl Casey, Nina Esther, Micki, Daniel Borgertpoepping, Tee McClenty, Sasha Williams, David Loiseaux, Jonathan Ehrlich, Nancy, Sher Hakes, Jesse Unglesbee, Christos Jensen, Chris Whitfield, Linda Bosma, Sheila Riggs, Cynthia Callais, Janine Hudson, Karl Forsberg, Joan Bindner, Vijayesh Roy, Jesse Unglesbee, Joan Bindner, Reece, Laura Meier, Delores Henderson, Pattijo Nwokeuku, Adam Thompson, Brian Raney, Matt Little, Senator Matt Klein, Melissa Jacobsen

**MOTION:** Hugh Gitlin moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Anne Strasser and after a vote it was approved.

**Secretary's Report – Nina Esther**

Nina couldn't attend the last meeting, but the notes should be posted.

Contact Nina for any notes related questions or corrections at: [jaderiver64@gmail.com](mailto:jaderiver64@gmail.com)

**MOTION:** Sheila Riggs motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Johnathan Ehrlich, and after a vote the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Cynthia Callais**

Cynthia presented her report, we had total contributions of \$555 with \$320 in sustaining contributions and our current cash on hand is around \$7,640. We gained around \$1500 from caucus, and LiUNA made a generous donation.

Get in touch with Cynthia for information on PCR forms for donations at:

[callaiscynthia@gmail.com](mailto:callaiscynthia@gmail.com)

Link to donate: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/senate-district-52-dfl-1>

Ron Goldser asked about SD52 donating to candidates. Curtis said we must wait for endorsements this year to donate.

**MOTION:** Tee McClenty motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Joan Bindner seconded the motion, and it was approved after a vote.

### **Communications Report – Chris Whitfield**

Chris discussed some future events he's promoting on our Facebook page and Instagram. He noted people have been tagging us in posts, and he encouraged people to keep doing that to continue to keep boosting our group. Ron noted he has been making a lot of posts for our group lately and let Chris know he's doing a great job!

Contact Chris to help promote events and share materials to our social media at:  
[chriswhitfield1584@gmail.com](mailto:chriswhitfield1584@gmail.com)

### **Outreach and Inclusion Report – David Loiseaux**

David Loiseaux is taking a leave of absence.

Contact David for more information at: [loisead@yahoo.com](mailto:loisead@yahoo.com)

### **Vice-Chair Report – Tee McClenty**

Tee gave a warm welcome and appreciation to all the new folks attending the meeting this month. She thanked everyone for participating and volunteering on the committees and encouraged folks to continue to join us for future events.

Tee discussed our last Coffee and Conversation with Chief Omar. She said we discussed current events, and Chief Omar also encouraged the community to reach out to him if we have concerns or questions.

Contact Tee at: [tmccclenty22@gmail.com](mailto:tmccclenty22@gmail.com)

### **Chair Report – Curtis Johnson**

#### Precinct Caucuses

Over 800 people showed up to SD52's precinct caucuses this month. We elected close to 500 delegates for the Senate District Convention. We also raised around \$1,500, which is not yet included in our financial reporting.

I want to thank all of the convenors, the volunteers, and the data entry team for all the work they put in. If you have any questions about the results on caucus night, please feel free to shoot me an email. In general, if you submitted a non-attendee form, you were elected a delegate. The only exception is Eagan Precinct 3, which had some over-allocation issues we are still sorting out.

#### Preconvention Committees

Preconvention committees met the weekend after caucuses and are off to a great start doing the work of organizing for convention. If you signed up to help with pre-convention committees and haven't heard anything, or you would like to help, please email me at [curtis.b.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:curtis.b.johnson@gmail.com).

### **Community Activity Reports**

### Open Door

Katherine said the Open Door have changed their registration process, so we don't register as a group anymore. We had around 40 families last month! As part of their new process, it's up to everyone to sign up and register individually for volunteering now. They always need brown paper bags; they go through around 2400/week. We volunteer the second Thursday of every month from 4:15 to 7 at the Open Door food pantry. Contact [katewick25@hotmail.com](mailto:katewick25@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

### Dakota Woodlands

They are without a chef again, unfortunately! We meet on the second Sunday of every month, our next opportunity to volunteer will be on Sunday, January 11 from 3:30 - 6:30. Folks can email Melissa at [melissa.jacobsen@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.jacobsen@gmail.com).

### Book Club

Ron discussed our last meeting where we discussed *Lawless: How the Supreme Court Runs on Conservative Grievance, Fringe Theories, and Bad Vibes* by Leah Litman. Book Club meets next week on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00, and we will be reading *The Nazi and the Psychiatrist* by Jack El-Hai. Email Dagny for more information: [dagny07@gmail.com](mailto:dagny07@gmail.com)

### Cinema Showcase

This past month we discussed Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight*. It received mixed to above average reviews, and the consensus was it didn't age particularly well. We will discuss *Fido*, Andrew Currie's 2006 zombie comedy film on Tuesday, February 24 on zoom. Email [curtis.b.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:curtis.b.johnson@gmail.com) for more information.

### Walking Club

Nina cannot make it next Thursday so she will send out an email soon to see if folks would like to meet without me or to pick another day. To join the email list, contact Nina at [jaderiver64@gmail.com](mailto:jaderiver64@gmail.com)

### SD52 Convention

The Senate District 52 DFL Convention will take place on April 11 in the Eagan High School cafeteria. We are hoping to start around 10:30 a.m. Dan Thomas Commins and Ann Friedrich have agreed to co-chair our convention. We will provide food at cost for attendees. If you have any questions about convention, visit our convention page at <https://www.dfl52.org/convention-2026.html>

Due to the number of delegates, the anticipated costs are higher than normal. Pre-convention committees cumulatively have requested around \$2,000. This will cover food, facility fees, office supplies, dining supplies, and free food and mileage reimbursements for our convention co-chairs, both of whom live outside the district.

**MOTION:** Sheila Riggs moved to allocate \$2,000 for food, facility fees, office supplies, dining supplies, and free food and mileage reimbursements for our convention co-chairs. The motion was seconded by Maureen Gitlin and passed after a vote.

## **Announcements**

Ron Goldser called attention to the next national No Kings Day (third of these events) which is on March 28<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to come out and bring someone out.

Kaela Berg spoke to the group about her election for Congress, her work, her platform, and current events.

Matt Little addressed the group and thanked everyone for all their hard work on caucus and his awe at the turnout for caucus. Matt also discussed his candidacy for Congress and dealing with ICE during current events.

Matt Klein spoke to everyone and gave an update on the new legislative session which just started and mentioned the memorial for Melissa Hortman.

Christos Jensen expressed his awe at the turnout for caucus. He also discussed his candidacy for 52A House Representative and his outreach work including the impact of ICE on our community.

Laura Meier discussed her election for 52A House Representative and some recent outreach events. She also discussed some issues that she is passionate about.

Janine Hudson also discussed her candidacy for 52A House Representative and local action for volunteerism in our community.

Lynn Carlson recommended that folks could stream Michell Obamas movie instead of the state of the union. She also reminded people to check the political donation check on your taxes.

Hugh Gitlin discussed some fundraisers he's doing on his bike.

Jesse Unglesbee, a new attendee, introduced himself to the group.

Seeing no other buisness, the meeting was adjourned.