

Civic Caucus Annual Report for 2010

Mission: The mission of the Civic Caucus remains the same as always: to provide a new model for reaching informed, non-partisan solutions to a broad scope of civic issues. To that end we strive to engage a wide spectrum of citizens to join in an efficient and constructive exchange of ideas.

Scope: While we welcome participation by interested citizens in all areas of the country, the geographic area primarily served by the Civic Caucus continues to be the state of Minnesota. Our topics of discussion are focused on Minnesota public policy issues, but we frequently find that many of these have national implications. We recognize that citizens from other states have much to contribute as they experience similar public policy challenges.

Program Activities: We continue striving to educate the public, our member-participants and ourselves about new ways of thinking about solutions to many of our state's most pressing problems. Over the past year, the Civic Caucus hosted 42 speakers on issues of public policy. Policy issues addressed this year have included: Minnesota's budget crisis solutions, tax reform, redesign of state services, innovations in funding of state services, redesign of local government services, financing local government, early childhood education, K-12 education innovation and reform, higher education, online learning, healthcare service and funding innovations, productive aging, long-term care, Minnesota business climate, campaign finance, economic development, public pension reform, nurturing a climate for innovation, and structural reform of large state social systems.

The Caucus works to find experts in many different fields who are in unique positions to shed light on the issues we try to address. In 2010, a total of 48 different speakers participated in 42 presentations to the Caucus. Each of these presentations was summarized and emailed to approximately 2,500 individual participants. Over the year, 1,453 participants responded with either survey answers or comments or both. These responses were then summarized and shared with all participants through regular email correspondence and also posted to our website.

As in the past, the Caucus issued press releases regarding its position on particular issues facing the Legislature and Governor. We were pleased when the Caucus's efforts were applauded in an article in the Star Tribune.

In December 2010, the Caucus prepared a Statement to the Governor and the Legislature on Continuous Improvement and Continuous Innovation, and elicited 145 signers supporting that statement.

Annual Financial Report: The Caucus continues to do its work with a view toward maximizing its outreach while minimizing administrative expenses. The Civic Caucus began 2010 with a cash balance of \$58,427. During the fiscal year 2010, the Caucus had income from donations of \$40,564 and expenses of \$54,589. It ended 2010 with a cash balance of \$44,402. Because the Civic Caucus owns no property and pays no rent for space, all expenses are program-related, not administration-related.

Board of Directors: During 2010 members of the Board of Directors were Verne C. Johnson, chair; Dan Loritz, vice chair; Janis Clay, secretary-treasurer; James L. Hetland, Jr., and John Mooty.

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