

# Civic Caucus Annual Report for 2011

**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. During 2011 policy issues addressed included possible new ways to finance transportation, redistricting of legislative and congressional boundaries, the economy of the state and the Twin Cities metro area, budgeting for outcomes, child protection, educational innovations, human services redesign, ranked choice voting, reducing energy expense in public budgets, long term care, early childhood learning, local government aid, state budget strategies, and health care.

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 57 different speakers participated in 44 presentations to the Caucus. Each of these presentations was summarized and emailed to approximately 2,800 individual participants. Readers were invited to respond to questions with every email. Their responses were then summarized and shared with participants through regular email correspondence and also are permanently posted on the Civic Caucus website. See <http://bit.ly/AplqiA> for a complete list of 2011 speakers, their interview summaries and reader responses.

In March 2011 the Civic Caucus issued a statement to the Governor and Legislature on strategies for continuous improvement and continuous innovation in the public sector. Some 150 Civic Caucus participants signed on in support of the statement. See <http://bit.ly/epbNE2> for the complete statement and list of supporters.

**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 2011 with a cash balance of \$44,251. During the year the Caucus had income from donations of \$58,775 and expenses of \$73,634, producing a cash balance at December 31, 2011 of \$29,392. Because the Civic Caucus owns no property and pays no rent for space, all of its expenses are program-related.

**Board of Directors:** During 2011 members of the Board of Directors were Verne C. Johnson, chair; Dan Loritz, vice chair; Janis Clay, secretary-treasurer; James L. Hetland, Jr., John Mooty, Dwight Johnson, Bruce Mooty, and Audrey Clay.

**Contact:** Verne Johnson, Chair; Paul Gilje, Coordinator  
Email: [civiccaucus@comcast.net](mailto:civiccaucus@comcast.net)  
U.S. Mail: 8301 Creekside Circle, #920, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437