Preamble

We, the members of Democratic Farmer Labor Party of Senate District 19, in Senate District Convention assembled, in order to organize and perpetuate a representative, effective, and responsible party organization in Senate District 19, affiliate with and advancement of the interests of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party in the State of Minnesota and the Democratic Party in the United States of America, to sustain and advance the principles of democracy, uphold civil rights and constitutional government, to promote social justice, economic equity and work for the achievement of world peace, do hereby establish and adopt this Constitution.

Article I  Name and membership

Section 1  Name. The name of this organization shall be the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor {DFL} Party.

Section 2  Membership. Membership in this organization shall be open to all Senate District 19 residents who profess to support the principles of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party of Minnesota and those set forth in the Preamble of this Constitution. No person may vote on any motion, resolution, nomination or election at any caucus, convention, meeting or conference of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party who is not a member of the Senate District 19 DFL Party or who is a member of any other party.

Section 3  Eligibility for Party Office. Pursuant to the principles of outreach and inclusion and affirmative action as stated in the DFL State Constitution, Bylaws and Call, persons who meet the membership requirements of Article I, Section 2, are eligible for election to any Party office.

Article II  Subordination:

This Constitution is subordinate to the pertinent parts of the Constitution and Bylaws and Official Call of the State DFL Party.

Article III  Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Convention

Section 1  Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party convention. A convention of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party precinct delegates elected throughout Senate District 19 shall be held within the Senate District each even number year. Only delegates (alternates) present may vote. No proxy votes will be allowed. A majority of the delegates, and the alternates serving as delegates, registered at the convention shall constitute a quorum. A convention shall be held in the even years or at a time when a Senate or House seat
needs endorsement due to vacancy of previously endorsed candidate.

Section 2  Business of Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party convention. The Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party convention shall elect Senate District officers, directors and State Democratic Farmer Labor Party Central Committee alternates in accordance with the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party Constitution. The convention may endorse candidates for the positions of: State Representative from House District 19A and House District 19B. The convention may endorse a candidate for Senator from Senate District 23. The Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party convention may also amend the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party constitution.

Section 3  Notice of Convention. The Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Chairperson, after consulting with the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Executive Committee, shall be responsible for arranging for appropriate facilities for the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party convention. The date, time, and place of the convention shall be announced at the precinct caucus and in addition, each delegate shall be notified by mail or email of the date, time and location and any other pertinent information by the Chairperson, at least ten days prior to the convention.

Section 4  Convention Committees. The Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Chairperson, after consultation with the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Executive Committee shall appoint the following pre-convention committees to be composed of at least five (5) delegate or alternates: Rules, Nominations, Constitution, Arrangements, and Endorsements, and any other committees deemed necessary.

Section 5  Contested Delegates. The names of the delegates and alternates appearing on the precinct caucus lists, throughout Senate District 19 shall constitute the official roll call unless contested. All contests for seats at the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party convention shall be finally decided, based on membership requirements pursuant with the membership requirements set forth by Article I, Section 2 of this constitution and the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Convention.

Section 6  Convention Officers. A chairperson, a secretary and such other officers as may be deemed necessary, including tellers, parliamentarian, sergeant-at-arms, house district chairs, shall be elected by the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Convention after the Convention has been convened by the temporary Chairperson.

Section 7  Convention Officers’ Duties. It shall be the responsibility of Convention Officers to perform those duties implied in their title.

It shall be the responsibility of the newly elected Senate District 19 DFL Chairperson to file with the State Party Office and other appropriate persons, the official results of the convention, including endorsements and elections to the State Central Committee, within (5) five days after adjournment of the Senate District Convention.

Article IV  Senate District Organization
Section 1   \textbf{Senate District Executive Committee.} The Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Executive Committee shall consist of either four (4) or five (5) Senate District officers, eleven (11) or more at-large directors, and two State Central Committee Alternates chosen by the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party Convention. The Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party officers shall consist of a Chairperson, an Associate Chair (or the alternative of a Senate District 19A chair and a Senate District 19B chair with the chair of alternate, first the opposite gender or second opposite district designated as the State Central Committee delegate), Secretary, Treasurer The At-Large Directors (not more than half of whom shall be the same gender) shall be distributed to insure geographic representation, and to insure the party officers reflect the composition of the DFL population of the Senate District. One-third of the membership of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2 Role of the Senate District Executive Committee. The Senate District 19 DFL Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management of party affairs between conventions, subject to the control of the convention. The committee duties shall include candidate search and facilitation of election for information.

Section 3 Duties of Senate District Officers
The central committee may dismiss a member elected at its governing convention, or her/his successor, for cause only on the grounds of clear malfeasance or non-feasance in office. For such dismissal a two-thirds majority of the vote of the members present and eligible to vote is required, but only after the member is given 30 days written notice specifying the cause and is granted a hearing.

A. The \textbf{Chairperson} duties shall be those customary for an executive of a political party. The chairperson shall perform those duties prescribed by the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, and this Constitution, whenever stipulated.

B. The \textbf{Associate Chairperson’s (s’) responsibilities} shall be those customary for an officer of similar title in a political party. The associate chairperson shall be responsible for outreach to underrepresented groups within the Senate District, and shall perform all other duties usually incident to the office of Outreach Officer in the DFL Party. During the temporary absence or disability of the Chairperson, s/he shall perform the required duties of the Chairperson. In the case of the vacancy of the Chair, the Associate Chairperson will succeed that person to office, and the executive committee shall elect a new Associate Chairperson.

B. The \textbf{Secretary} shall be in charge of all the files and records of the Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Party, and preparation of necessary documents. S/he shall preserve such files and open them for examination at convenient and appropriate times at the request of any duly elected Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Executive Committee member.

D. The \textbf{Treasurer} shall have custody of the funds of the Senate District Democratic Farmer Labor Party, and shall render written amounts of receipts and disbursements to each meeting of the Senate District Democratic Farmer Labor Executive Committee. S/he
and any other Senate District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Officer shall also be under sufficient bond, the amount to be determined by the District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Executive Committee. An audit of all financial records and transactions of the party shall be made as may be requested by the District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Executive Committee or Convention-at-Large. The treasurer shall also be responsible for all fiscal reporting as require by Minnesota law, or the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party Constitution.

**E. The At-Large Directors** of the District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Executive Committee shall include at least but not limited to eleven (11) members. They shall be working members of the District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Executive Committees in the areas of organization, finance, affirmative action, publicity, and any other areas deemed necessary by the District 19 Democratic Farmer Labor Executive Committee or the District 23 Democratic Farmer Labor Convention, as need requires.

F. The order of temporary succession of officers shall be: Chairperson, Associate Chairperson Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large Directors in the order of their ranking at the Senate District Convention.

G. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly. A Committee meeting may be called by the Chairperson or by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee with at least ten (10) days written notice buy or email.

H. Upon leaving office, a party officer shall turn over all party records, books, and property to his/her successor, or to the Convention or Executive Committee charged with naming her/his successor.

**Article V Vacancies in Party Office**

**Section 1** Filing vacancies. The Executive Committee is responsible for declaring and filling vacancies in its membership, elected at its governing convention. A vacancy occurs for the following reasons: resignation, death, change of residence to a jurisdiction other than Senate District 19, or a change of residence caused by reapportionment of district boundaries.

A majority vote at a properly called and conducted meeting is sufficient to declare and fill a vacancy. Vacancies shall be filled within sixty (60) days of occurrence.

**Article VI General Rules**

**Section 1** Alternates and visitors. At all conventions, alternates not seated as delegates, and visitors, must be clearly separated from officially accredited delegates.

**Section 2** No voting by proxy shall be permitted at any Convention or meeting of Senate District 19 (including at committee meetings, or other meetings of the Senate District 19 DFL).

**Section 3** At any Convention, balloting when called for, shall be open and not secret, unless a secret ballot is called for by the Chair, and then supported by one-third (1/3) of the voting body or is called for by a vote of fifty (50) percent plus one member.
Section 4 Each delegate shall vote independently, of all other members and shall not be instructed or bound, at all conventions and meetings of the Senate District 19 or its committees.

Section 5 Endorsements. Endorsement of a candidate for State Senator or State Representative requires a sixty (60) percent affirmative vote of those delegates present and voting (excluding blanks and abstentions) at a convention in which endorsements will be considered. In this process, every ballot shall be a test of quorum. No one may vote on an endorsement unless he/she is a resident of the area in which the election will occur. An endorsement given before the primary is valid after the primary only if the candidate’s name appears on the general election ballot.

Article VII Parliamentary Authority

All Senate District Convention and other meeting matters not governed by the State DFL Party Constitution, the official Call to the Convention, or the Convention rules or by laws shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, most recently revised.

Article VIII Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates at any regular delegate convention of the Senate District 19 DFL Party.

Article IX By-Laws

By-laws concerning matters not expressively governed by, nor in conflict with this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Senate District 19 Convention. By-laws may also be adopted or amended by the Senate District Executive Committee, provided such adoptions or amendments receive a sixty (60) percent vote of approval by the body considering the matter. A copy of any proposed change in the by-laws shall be included in the meeting notice,

Article X New Constitution

Section 1 This Constitution supercedes all other previous Constitutions of the Senate District 19 DFL Party.

Section 2 This Constitution shall be in full force and effect immediately after its adoption at the 2014 Senate District 19 Convention.

Submitted by: Richard Wheeler and Jim Fleming
Blue Earth County DFL Chair
May, 2014

Still current as of February 2017, per Jason Teiken, SD19 DFL chair.