

**Blue Earth County Convention
March 29,2008**

Welcome!! Thank you for being here!! And isn't it a great time to be a Democrat!!! Of course, anytime is a great time to be a Democrat, but there is something about these days, these times that call on the truth of basic Democratic values.

Democrats are the party of the people. We're about people and their needs, people and their hopes and dreams. We're about coming together in times of need to support one another, to share what we have, to build community so that together we can do what none of us can accomplish alone. And that's what we've been working toward at the capitol this past biennium. Of course, we've had our obstacles (I won't mention names); but, we've continued to move forward and work toward the common good. We set out this February to address the incomplete work of last year. And, as all of you are well aware, our first move was an incredibly strong start thanks to persistence, planning, patience and leadership willing to take the risk of reaching out. WE PASSED THE TRANSPORTATION BILL AND OVVVERRODE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO!!!! Of course there are many people to thank for that success; but, I want to mention two today: 1) Representative Terry Morrow for his efforts as a member of the transportation Committee to continually work and focus on the bipartisan nature of the bill. 2) And Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelleher for her willingness to speak and listen to all stakeholders, succeeding in achieving a late compromise that earned the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce endorsement for the final bill.

Many other things are happening and still need to happen in St Paul. We are continually working to protect the vulnerable; to honor our commitment to students, seniors and the disabled as we work to address the deficit. We are working hard to protect the environment, to address energy needs, to take steps toward a sustainable society and to build a green economy But to continue this

**work WE NEED MORE DEMOCRATS BOTH IN St Paul and in Washington!!
And it's through *your* work and commitment that we will succeed in making that
happens!! I know that many of you will be helping the Walz campaign today with
their first door knock of the season. Thank you!! We will need ALL of you over the
next many months to help ALL of us, state AND national candidates, to move the
democratic vision forward and achieve our common goals. Fellow Democrats
together we can do it!!**