

The Greiner Report

By Senator Sandra Greiner

Senate District 39

January 25, 2013

The Iowa Senate is a pretty “traditional” place. Many of the procedures we follow have been around for more than a hundred years. Other things, while not quite on the cutting edge, were definitely not in place when Iowa’s Capitol was first built. The original ink wells, built into the desks in each chamber have been converted to hold the electronic connections for computers and the red and green buttons we use to vote.

Some things simply do NOT change in the Iowa Senate. We begin each day with prayer, offered by the Pastor of the Day. Individual members invite their pastors to travel to Des Moines to offer a morning prayer. Immediately following the prayer, everyone present in the Senate Chamber says the Pledge of Allegiance.

The majority of the emails I received from the district this week were about the proposed Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Second Amendment rights. I was especially pleased to receive the Nutrient Strategy letters, because no two were alike. Each individual put their thoughts together and sent the message off to me. They weren’t lengthy messages, but really hit home, with their honesty and sincerity. I wish the people who have been sending me form letters could have read these letters.

Committee meetings began in earnest this week, with a litany of speakers addressing each committee. Most speakers were describing the function of their particular department.

The Ag and Natural Resources Appropriations Sub-committee listened to a walk-through of Governor Branstad’s budget as it related to our committee. I was relieved to see that the Governor is not recommending a cut to those agencies in his budget. As Iowa’s farmers work to reduce soil erosion, it would have been devastating to be faced with the supporting agency needing to deal with a funding cut.

I always enjoy receiving messages from the district. Please remember that our email addresses have been changed, and you can now contact me here using this address:
sandra.greiner@legis.iowa.gov.