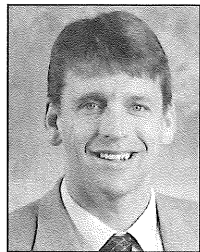


Solution seeker

An avid outdoorsman, Moe comes inside for session

BY RUTH DUNN

The best Friday night stress buster is a moonlit ride on a dog sled over snowy trails through the woods, according to Rep. Frank Moe (DFL-Bemidji).



Rep. Frank Moe

It's also the time he puts the challenges of the week behind him and reminds himself why he's serving in the Legislature and what he's working to accomplish in St. Paul.

Running for office was not an item on his "to do" list for life. He lived for sports and, growing up, dreamed of playing professional football.

College friends would jokingly introduce him by saying, "This is Frank Moe and he's running for president in 2020," only because he was so social.

While studying at Carleton College, Moe had

a professor named Paul Wellstone who had a big influence on his life. "We didn't always agree on issues, but I was inspired by him," says Moe.

Moe was motivated to run for the House two years ago after hearing a speech by then-Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji). "He was not fighting for the things I thought were important, like education, health care and the environment," said Moe. "I wanted to become more a part of the solution." Last November he defeated Fuller by 7.1 percent.

To win the seat, he pulled together a coalition of supporters that included college students, American Indians and "others who wanted change." Moe says he won because turnout was 3,500 voters greater than the previous presidential election and those new voters were his supporters.

Moe teaches physical education at Bemidji State University, including outdoor education, first responder training and environmental studies.

DISTRICT 4A

2002 population: 36,727

Largest city: Bemidji

Counties: Beltrami, Cass, Itasca

Top concern: Education

"We all have different ideas and priorities, but it's important we come to consensus on how to accomplish things. We were elected to do the job."

— Rep. Frank Moe

Besides being an avid dog sled musher, Moe is a triathlete, rock climber, fishing guide and camper.

Moe has family roots in southern Minnesota, graduated from high school in Bloomington and now lives in northern Minnesota with his wife, Sherri, and their nine dogs.

Moe said his faith helps him see that all legislators share a commitment to public service. "If they didn't have that commitment, they would not be here away from their families, working long hours for peanuts."