

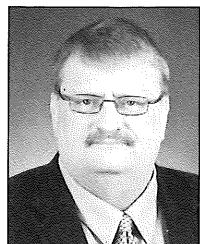
Taking part in another endeavor

Quam's varied background will help him make the hard decisions

By Mike Cook

Rep. Duane Quam (R-Byron) is a person who has to be involved.

For example, he's served on the Byron School Board; chaired the governing board of the Zumbro Education District that helps seven smaller school districts work together to deliver special education needs; he's chaired the Minnesota State Academics



Rep. Duane Quam

Science Standards writing committee; served on a committee of the Olmsted County United Way; was active with Cub Scouts; and he's coached youth sports.

"Right now is a dire time and people need to step up and do what they can to make a difference and improve things, fix things," he said. "I feel I have a good skill-set to try and help make things better."

Quam grew up on a farm and has many relatives, including his father, who still live off the land. His professional background is in physics and engineering, and that has allowed him to better understand high-tech businesses that want to expand in our state. His wife, Pat, is a first responder and he's gotten to know many doctors over the years — getting honest feedback about some issues.

A tenet of his campaign was innovative vision.

He cites an example where he had a project that needed to get completed, but company bureaucracy and lack of capital caused a delay in acquiring the needed tools to complete the task.

"I found a place where I could rent the diagnostic test equipment," he said. "That allowed me to maintain a schedule even though a roadblock was thrown ahead."

To Quam, it's always been about finding a way to get the job done.

DISTRICT 29A

Population (2009 est.): 42,313

Largest City: Rochester

Counties: Dodge, Olmsted

Top Concern: Getting the job done and making the hard decisions

"I have no problem coming up with creative ways within the framework and guidelines set to find a solution," he said.

His committee assignments are perfect for someone who likes to be involved. Quam serves on the House Education Finance Committee; House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance; House Government Operations and Elections and House Health and Human Services Reform committees.