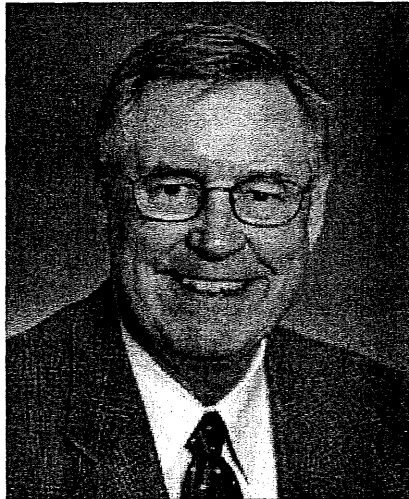


## [Updated] Newman claims he had no knowledge of email declining to meet with opponent's backers

by Briana Bierschbach

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Sen. Scott Newman

Rural DFL blogger **Sally Jo Sorensen** reported Tuesday morning that freshman Republican Sen. **Scott Newman** has refused to meet with the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) and any other group that supported his DFL opponent, **Hal Kimball**, during the election.

On her blog [Bluestem Prairie](#), Sorensen posted an email Newman's legislative aide sent to the MNA, which said the senator from Hutchinson would not meet any organizations that donated to or supported Kimball.

"After some careful checking, I discovered that the MNA had donated to Kimball's campaign," Newman aide **Kim Kelley** wrote. "Your association will be unable to schedule an appointment with Senator Newman."

In a statement, Newman said he did not personally send the email, nor was he "aware of it."

"An email sent from my office suggested that I will not meet with groups or organizations that supported my opponent in the past election," he wrote. "I want to be clear that it is not my policy to reject meeting requests on a political or partisan basis. I look forward to continuing to serve all constituents of Senate District 18 as the legislative session continues."

Kimball told Sorensen that while the MNA did endorse his candidacy, the group never donated to his campaign.

Newman beat Kimball in November with more than 56 percent of the vote, replacing retiring Republican Sen. **Steve Dille**. Newman previously served a term in the state House from 2004 to 2006. Check back at PIM for updates.

Complete URL: <http://politicsinminnesota.com/blog/2011/01/newman-reportedly-declines-meetings-with-opponents-backers/>