

U.S. Rep. Lee Terry listened a lot and said a little during a "Coffee with Lee" date Saturday at a Hy-Vee in south Omaha.

Terry, an Omaha Republican, sat down in the grocery store cafeteria with two eggs, hash browns, toast and coffee. More than a dozen people sat around him. Some told him their troubles.

"Coffee with Lee" will be a monthly event this year. Terry will go to a pre-arranged restaurant or store to have coffee and listen to constituents' concerns, said an aide, Lisa Ellis.

"How are you doing?" Terry asked Craig Niedbalski. "Terrible," said Niedbalski, who then told Terry about problems he was having with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Terry's aide wrote down some details.

Jean Jenkins told Terry about a problem with her Social Security check. Don Kiviniemi expressed concern about changes in military health insurance. Gloria Gard said she couldn't believe Harley-Davidson hoped to get federal funds under a bank bailout program. "I want a new kitchen, but I can't get a new kitchen because I don't have the money," Gard told Terry. "When I heard that Harley wanted a bailout, I said, 'Enough's enough.' " "That's a good point," Terry said.

Terry's next coffee will be at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 21 at Billy's Café, 5015 Grover St.



