

Sparks

December 2011

Official Newsletter of the
Superior Optimist Club



Letter from the President



Greetings fellow Optimists,

The Thanksgiving holiday is over, but I will not forget about all the gifts I have to be thankful for. Our adult children and our grandkids were able to join us for dinner on Thanksgiving, at our home. What could be a more blessed gift than that? (A better gift next year would be if one of them offers to cook the dinner for us!)

We're having a **Christmas party!** The Duluth Optimist Club planned this joint party with us for **Friday, Dec. 16th**, right here at the "Shack." Festivities start at 6 p.m. We will be able to order off the menu and pay with separate tabs. Please *RSVP to Jessica Poskozim* at Jessica@superiorcathedral.org or 218-393-6298 *by Dec. 7th*. Speaking of Christmas, if you want to enjoy some live music for the holidays, check out the Superior Singers (www.superiorsingers.com) and the Downbeats (www.downbeats-mn.com).

The speakers last month were stimulating and full of information, thanks to Dave minor, November's Speaker Chair. We heard from Janna Stevens, Superior School District Administrator, from Matt Rosendahl of WITC, and Jon Garver from UWS. Danna Livingston, one of our own members, spoke about her mission trip to South Africa. Perhaps my favorite speaker of all was Thomas G. Giblet, who fed us lots of tidbits about the history of Thanksgiving (thanks, Dave M....but, where were your feathers?).

We enjoyed getting to know our *Youth Optimists for November, Lindsay Sommer and Cameron Gray*, who joined us for lunch four times. We're looking forward to meeting Erik Tunell and Nicole Mattson, who will be our Youth Optimists for December.

Keep those salesperson hats on! We are in the process of selling tickets and collecting money for our **Raffle Ticket fundraiser**. We only have 300 tickets to sell, which gives anyone who buys one a very good chance of winning something. Starting in January, we will draw names weekly, for a \$25 prize, and quarterly for a \$100 prize. If you would like tickets to sell, please let me know. We cannot mail you the tickets, but I will make sure that you get them. There are other members who are willing to deliver tickets to people also. You just need to let me know. The same goes for ticket proceeds, i.e. you cannot mail them to us. If you can't bring them to a December meeting, let me know, and we will make arrangements to pick up the money and ticket stubs from you. **The stubs and money must be in by Dec. 31st.** By the way, we do still have tickets available to sell.

I hope to see you all at our luncheon meetings at the *Shack*, every Wednesday at noon. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! **Don't forget to bring a friend to a meeting.**

Yours in Optimism,
Bonnie



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 16th

6:00 PM - The Shack

*Joint Christmas Party
w/Duluth Optimist Club*

December 28th

11:00 AM - The Shack

Board Meeting

December 31st

*Final date for raffle sales - return all
proceeds & ticket stubs to Bonnie*

PROGRAMS for December

December 7

*What is happening at Fairlawn
this Holiday Season*

Kaye Tenerelli (Board Member)

December 14

CASDA New Beginnings

Kelly Burger & Erika Leif,
CASDA Director & Assistant Director

December 21

Annual Optimist Sing Along

Gary Banker



December 28

Making 2012 Your Best Yet

Ted Schick, Schick Corporate Learning

Optimist Anniversaries



Tanuj Gulati - 4 yrs

Mark Hubbard - 29 yrs

Dick Keskinen - 31 yrs

Dave Minor - 14 yrs

**Keep in your
Thoughts/Prayers**



Don Berg

Superior Optimist Club Board of Directors Meeting - November 30, 2011—DRAFT

Attended by: Bonnie, Jan, Gary, Roger, Gene, Kim, Chris, Dana, Dave C., Dave L. and Charlie

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 am.

1. Approval of October's Meeting Minutes: Motion to Approve-Roger, Motion to Second- Dave C.
2. Old Business
 - A. Gary gave an update on the Jim Susen's Fund.. He spoke with Mike Susens who has spoken with Mary Morgan. The City will not commit to the Billings Park Project. Therefore, the money, previously intended for this project, is still in our possession. Approximately \$2500 is in the account.
 - B. Raffle fundraiser: tickets have been handed out to most members. Money collected to date has been \$350.
3. New Business
 - A. Funding Requests:
 1. Superior Days request for \$250
A Motion by Gary, seconded by Gene to give \$100 to the project
 2. Duluth Playhouse Education Outreach
A Motion by Kim, Seconded by Roger to request more information to about the program and how it will benefit Superior. The request was tabled for one month.
 - B. Dave Cochrane has compiled a survey of various club related questions that he will be emailing out to members.
 - C. The question was raised by Bonnie if the two committees of Personal Growth and Club Growth could be combined. It was decided that Personal Growth would be eliminated as a committee.
 - D. Bernadette Blakely spoke to the Board regarding the Operation Gift project. She was asked to submit a request for donation from the club ASAP and Kim agreed to be the drop off person for any personal donations made by any club member.
 - E. The Club's Website page needs to be updated and we are looking for a member interested in working on a Facebook Page..
3. Finance Report
Motion to approve last month Finance Report was made by Kim, seconded by Jan.
Dave L gave the Finance report : Total Liabilities and Assets: \$10,126.72, and he announced that he will be stepping down as Treasurer and possibly leaving the Club. The Club is looking for a new Treasurer.
3. Correspondence - There was no correspondence this month.
4. Next Meeting - December 28, 2011
5. Meeting Adjourned at 11:58.

November's Minutes have been written by Jan Jago, Secretary



Winners/Losers for November 2011

11/2 JACKPOT: Scott Bruce, <i>Won (\$35)</i>	ATTENDANCE: Roger Bare, <i>Won</i>
11/9 JACKPOT: Mark Hubbard, <i>Lost(\$5)</i>	ATTENDANCE: Kim Pearson, <i>Won</i>
11/16 JACKPOT: Tim Gallagher, <i>Lost(\$10)</i>	ATTENDANCE: Anita King, <i>Won</i>
11/23 JACKPOT: Danna Livingston, <i>Lost (\$15)</i>	ATTENDANCE: Hugo Salmi, <i>Won</i>
11/30 JACKPOT: Mark Hubbard, <i>Lost (\$20)</i>	ATTENDANCE: Gene Chuzles, <i>Won</i>

Speaker chair - Kaye Tenerelli
Prize sponsor - Tim Gallagher

Happy Birthday!

Margaret Ciccone 12/1
Jan Amys 12/28

BELATED: Karry Johnson 11/7



Glass of Milk



One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water! She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it so slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness." He said ... "Then I thank you from my heart." As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words ... "Paid in full with one glass of milk" (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands." There's a saying which goes something like this:

Bread cast on the water comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place - And, after all, isn't that what life is all about?

Dr. Howard Kelly. (1858 -1943) Dr. Kelley was a distinguished physician who was one of the four founding doctors of John's Hopkins Hospital, he finest medical research university in the U.S.

The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which -- To burn



November Youth Optimists
Lindsay Sommer & Cameron Gray



Lindsay Sommer and Cameron Gray, both juniors at Superior High School, were selected as the Superior Optimist Club Youth Optimists for the month of November.

Lindsay is a member of the National Honor Society. She participates in SHS Interact Club, tennis, track, and dance team, for which she serves as captain, and is the secretary of concert band. She is a member of Superior/Douglas County Youth Leadership and volunteers as a reading mentor and middle school tutor. She is interested in attending college after high school to pursue a career in the medical field; perhaps as a physician's assistant. She is the daughter of Beth and Scott Sommer.

Cameron is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in SHS soccer, swimming, and tennis. He plays in the concert band and volunteers as a reading mentor. Cameron would like to attend college to pursue a degree in an engineering field. He is the son of Collin and Erin Gray.

The students have been joining the Optimist Club for weekly luncheon meetings. They will have the opportunity next fall to apply for a \$1000 community service award sponsored by the club.

Assistant Editor - Judy Carlson

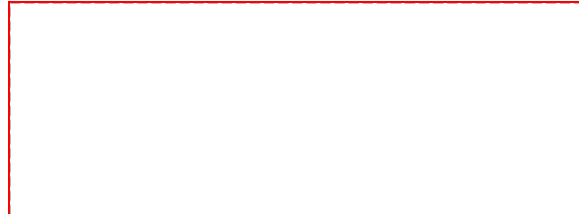
In Loving Memory of Merrill Thompson & Bill Downs, Jr.

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Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



Superior Optimist Club
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