



# Sparks



October  
2011

Happy Halloween

Official Newsletter of the Superior Optimist Club

## Letter from the President



Greetings fellow Optimists,

The weather is beautiful this week, so I'm trying to stop and "smell the flowers" (or look at the leaves), instead of thinking about the cold weather ahead!!

I'm your new President, so I thought I would start by telling you something about myself. I've been a member of the Superior Optimist Club for only sixteen months, having been recruited by Anita King from the Superior-Douglas County Leadership Class of 2010. I'm a retired Speech/Language Pathologist from the School District of Superior, having taught there for 35 years. I certainly would not have been able to be an Optimist member while teaching, as I only had 45 minutes for lunch! So, since retiring in 2006, I have become involved in things that I was never able to before. I've been on the Superior School Board since November 2008. I also became intricately involved with the Superior Public Library, serving on the *Friends of the Library* Board since 2007. I sing with two singing groups now, instead of just one, the *Superior Singers* and the *Downbeats*. After retiring, I started tap dancing, and we are now called *The Top Hats*. I'm on the planning board for *Port Cities Woman of the Year* luncheon.

I don't want to bore you with any more details about how I've been spending my retirement, so I'll tell you about my family. My husband and I live in Superior with our two cats, Doberman, twelve chickens and four guinea fowl. Yes...right in the city limits (we have understanding neighbors). Between the two of us, we have three grown children and five grandchildren.

I am looking forward to being your President, as I continuously try to find ways to be involved in this community. What better way, than to help the youth of our area? We will have two new Youth Optimists joining us each month, starting with Brian Glonek and Keeley McCall for the month of October. Michelle Baddin, Counselor at Superior High School makes all the arrangements. Thanks, Michelle! We have some exciting speakers lined up for October, thanks to Anita King.

I hope to see you all at our luncheon meetings at the *Shack*, every Wednesday at noon. Have a pleasant October.

Yours in Optimism,  
Bonnie Baker



## PROGRAMS for October

### October 5

Crystal Taylor  
Enger Tower Project

### October 12

Koralee Sanford  
Ray of Hope



### October 19

Karen Thompson and Erika Mock  
S.P.A.C.E.S.

### October 26

WITC 100-Year Committee  
WITC's Centennial Celebration

## 2011-2012

### Board Officers & Directors



**President:** Bonnie Baker  
**Vice President:** Jan Amys  
**Vice President:** Dave Cochrane  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Dave Lemaster

### Directors:

Chris Jarman 2011-2012  
Gary Dunning 2010-2012  
Gene Chuzles 2010-2012  
Charlie Place 2011-2013  
Karry Johnson 2011-2013  
Danna Livingston 2011-2013  
Roger Bare 2011-2013



## Optimist Anniversaries



Toby Marcovich - 51 years  
Roger Bare - 12 years  
Scott Bruce - 8 years  
Troy Lambert - 6 years  
Charlie Place - 5 years

**SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - Minutes of September 21, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Pearson at 11:05 a.m. at The Shack. Members present: Kim Pearson, Karry Johnson, Jan Amys, Gary Dunning, Chris Jarman, Bonnie Baker, Hugo Salmi, Gene Chuzles, and Dave Lemaster.

**Review and Approval of April Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of August 24, 2011 were approved on a **MOTION** made by Gene and seconded by Jan.

**Old Business:**

**Audit Committee:** Kaye was not present to report on the status of members to serve on this committee. Kim will contact her to find out where things are at.

**New Business:**

**Funding Request – Superior Douglas County Leadership:** Approved funding of \$100 on a **MOTION** made by Gene and seconded by Bonnie. Approved this to be considered an admin expense as opposed to a traditional donation since it is more advertising in nature than youth related on a **MOTION** made by Dave L. and seconded by Bonnie.

**Division 1 – Club Structure:**

**Finance:**

**Review and Approval of Finance Report:** Dave Lemaster presented the following: \$7,813.61 Checking and \$2,501.54 Jim Susens CD for a total of \$10,315.15. Dave also shared the expense summary for the month and the profit/loss summary for the year-to-date. **MOTION** by Jan, seconded by Bonnie and carried to accept finance report.

**Dues Update:** Dues invoices were sent out on 6/27/11 with a due date of 7/27/11. A reminder letter was sent on 7/27/11. A second reminder letter was sent 8/29/11. As of this meeting there are still 6 unpaid invoices of our membership of 42. A final notice letter will be sent out at the end of the month.

**Administrative Donations:** When the decision was made to collect additional donations with the dues invoices it wasn't decided whether those donations would be for this year or the next fiscal year. Dave L. **MOTIONED** to use it for this year since our goal is to have the raffle to help with admin expenses in the coming year. Jan seconded, motion passed.

**Review Annual Budget:** Dave L. presented a proposed budget for the board to look over before the finance committee puts the finishing touches on it. Discussion ensued and all agreed it looked good. The budget was based on the current year profit & loss summary along with our goals for the coming year. This will be approved at the next board meeting.

**2011-2012 Board:** The officer's and directors were again mentioned for the coming year.

**Division 3 – Fundraising:**

**Pancake Breakfast:** Dave L. presented final report with a net profit of \$1,909.71. This is down about \$600 from last year.

**Possible Raffle Fundraiser:** Dave L. presented his findings on the possibility of our club doing a raffle to help offset administrative expenses in the coming year. He submitted the application for the raffle and it is supposed to take 4-6 weeks for approval. Questions were raised and answered. Dave to look into some of the questions that came up. It was decided to sell the tickets for \$10 a piece, cap the ticket sales at 300 tickets and run the raffle on a normal calendar year to start in January. Everyone was in favor of moving forward with the raffle assuming our application is approved. More to come on this.

**Other Business:**

**Chris Jarman as Director:** Theresa Roberts decided not to renew her membership and therefore Chris Jarman will fill the remaining year on her board term.

**Jim Susens Memorial Project:** Questions were raised about this project. It was stated that this money could be better used now to fund a project as opposed to letting it be put off a long time in the future. It was decided that Gary would follow up with Dave Minor to find out where we stand on this project. Gary to report back to the board his findings.

**Senior Grad Photo Project Rollover:** It was discussed about the possibility to roll over the unused funds from this project to next year if we don't get 10 students to take advantage of it. Currently we have had three students (or \$300) take advantage of this opportunity. It was decided to not roll this money over to next year.

**Correspondence:** None

**Next Meeting:** October 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at The Shack

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m. on a motion by Gene and seconded by Gary.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Lemaster

## Skinny Dipping

An elderly man in Florida had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back, fixed up nice; picnic tables, horse-shoe courts, and some apple and peach trees. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming when it was built.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, 'We're not coming out until you leave!' The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked.' Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the alligator.'

Moral: Old men can still think fast.

## When Grandma Goes To Court

Lawyers should never ask a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?' She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.'

The defense attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, 'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.'

### Halloween Humor

How do witches keep their hair in place while flying?  
*With scare spray...*



Do zombies eat popcorn with their fingers?  
*No, they eat the fingers separately...*

What do you call someone who puts poison in a person's corn flakes?  
*A cereal killer...*

Why do mummies have trouble keeping friends?  
*They're so wrapped up in themselves...*



What kind of streets do zombies like the best?  
*Dead ends...*

What is a vampire's favorite mode of transportation?  
*A blood vessel...*

What do birds give out on Halloween night?  
*Tweets...*



Why do vampires need mouthwash?  
*They have bat breath...*

Why did the Vampire subscribe to the Wall Street Journal?  
*He heard it had great circulation...*

Speaker chair - Anita King

Prize sponsor - Frank Germann



### Winners/Losers for September 2011

9/7

**JACKPOT:** Mark Thompson, *Lost*  
**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Eckman, *Won*

9/14

**JACKPOT:** Bonnie Baker, *Won (\$70!)*  
**ATTENDANCE:** Chris Jarman, *Won*

9/21

**JACKPOT:** Dave Cochrane, *Lost*  
**ATTENDANCE:** Chris Jarman, *Won*

9/28

**JACKPOT:** Rick Rockwood, *Lost*  
**ATTENDANCE:** Jan Jago, *Won*

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the Downs-LeSage Funeral Home

Assistant Editor - Judy Carlson

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

# 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.



**HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN**



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