



Sparks

Official Newsletter of the Superior Optimist Club

Letter from the President



FEBRUARY 2012



Greetings fellow Optimists,

LOVE IS IN THE AIR as candy, flowers and gifts will be exchanged between loved ones on Valentine's Day. President's Day will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices and patriotism of our past leaders. Punxsutawney Phil will do his "shadow thing" on February 2nd. February will be buzzing with activity.

Our Superior Optimist Club has been buzzing too, as January brought us speakers who talked about community theater, autism, the future of the public library and the state of the city. Not all the activity took place at the "Shack," though, as we reached out into the community by funding some great causes. We sent \$375 over to WITC for one student scholarship. We're providing \$200 for a Kids Welcome Party at the Optimist International Convention, which will be held in Milwaukee this year. Also, we're donating \$150 to help out the Northland Youth Music Program, which provides high quality extracurricular music opportunities for music students at an affordable price (www.nymp.net).

Our Growth Committee, headed by Dave Cochrane, used the information from last month's survey results to determine that we need some Strategic Planning for our club to grow. This will take place next month on March 24th.

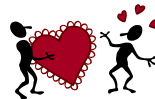
The Raffle has begun! The weekly \$25 prizes were won by Sharon Johnson, Carrie Gallagher, Bruce Thompson and Tom Renier. Congratulations to those four people. It turns out that 62% of our membership participated in selling raffle tickets. Our meatball supper is in the planning stages thanks to Kim Pearson, Chair for this fundraising event. **Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 10th for the meatball supper!**

Thanks go out to Alison Wainionpaa and Dane Sislo, our January Youth Optimists, for sitting through all of our humorous (and not so humorous) jokes. We enjoyed seeing their ever-smiling faces, and wish them the best of luck.

I hope to see you all at our luncheon meetings at the *Shack*, every Wednesday at noon. **Don't forget to bring a friend to a meeting.**

Yours in Optimism,

Bonnie Baker



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 10-11

WINUN 2nd qtr. Conference
in Fond du Lac, WI

February 22

Monthly Board Meeting
at the Shack – 11:00 a.m.

March 24

Strategic Planning for
Superior Optimist Club – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(at the Challenge Center Conf. Rm.)

March 28

Quarterly Raffle Ticket Drawing for \$100
during noon meeting at the Shack

April 10

Meatball Supper
4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (at Cathedral)

PROGRAMS for February

February 1st

Nicole Manion

Senior Project Presentation

February 8th

Kristina O'Brien

Senior Project Presentation

February 15th

Bonnie Johnson

Superior Police Department

February 22nd

Mike McCoshen

Hallett Dock Company

February 29th

Kelsey Hansen

Senior Project Presentation

Winners/Losers for January 2011

1/04 **JACKPOT:** Roger Bare, *Won* (\$45)

1/11 **JACKPOT:** Margaret Ciccone, *Won*(\$5)

1/18 **JACKPOT:** Charlie Place, *Lost*(\$5)

1/25 **JACKPOT:** Gene Chuzles, *Won* (\$10)

ATTENDANCE: Jan Jago, *Won*

ATTENDANCE: Mark Thompson, *Won*

ATTENDANCE: Roger Bare, *Won*

ATTENDANCE: Roger Bare, *Won*

(given to Gary Dunning)

Superior Optimist Club Board of Directors Meeting - **DRAFT**

January 25, 2012

Attended by: Bonnie, Jan J, Gene C, Gary D, Dave L., Kim P., Jan A, Dave C.

Meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.

Approval of December's Minutes: Motion to approve: Gary, Seconded: Kim.

Old Business

- A. We had budgeted \$350 for WITC scholarship funding, but a motion was made by Gene and seconded by Bonnie to send a check to WITC for \$375 for one student scholarship.

New Business

A. Two requests for funding.

1. Motion made to approve sponsorship of the Welcome Party for Optimist International Convention (\$200) By Kim, Seconded by Dave L.
2. Request by Northland Youth Music Program. Motion by Kim to approve \$150 donation, seconded by Dave L

B. Club Structure

Focus is to make sure members know which committee they are on.

C. Finance

Tabled until next meeting.

D. Audit Task Force

Tabled until next meeting.

E. Club Growth

Surveys were out and responses were tallied. A special meeting was held on Jan. 18, and it was discussed and recommended to conduct a planning session for our club. Linda Bruce has agreed to lead this meeting. March 24 is the recommended meeting date. She asked for a minimum of 8 people. Gene offered the Challenge Center as a meeting place. Recommended time is 9-2. Motion by Dave C. to approve to conduct a strategic planning session on March 24, seconded by Dave L.

F. Facebook

At present, there are 5 Administrators keeping things up to date.

Website

Has been updated by Kim Pearson.

- G. Publicity: Youth Optimists were in the Newspaper. Our name was mentioned for Operation Gift donations.

- H. Service Projects: no discussion.

I. Fundraising:

Raffle : budgeted \$1000 for our profit. Our actual profit is \$1115 to date. 26 members sold tickets (62%).
Meatball Dinner: The date is April 10. The new day is Tuesday, at Cathedral Church. The prices will change with increase in each age group. Children's tickets will be a different color and available on site.

Other Business

- A. Have been approached to do a coupon fundraiser.

- B. Correspondence: An email from one of our last week's guests said his co-worker will be contacting us to be a potential member.

Next meeting February 22, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55

Written by Jan Jago, Secretary

IT'S A SET UP!

We hear this line sometimes in movies where the criminals suddenly realize they have been led into a trap. Things are not as they seem and failure is imminent. I like to set people up every chance I get.

Like many of us, I wear many "different hats". I'm a husband, parent, neighbor, co- worker, sibling, child, manager, volunteer, and leader. Sometimes I get to call the shots, other times I get marching orders, but I rarely operate in a vacuum. What I do often has an impact on others. I get a real thrill out of setting people up- to succeed. I challenge you to take the time to teach a skill to somebody, to prepare someone to accomplish something difficult. If you're like me, their success will give new meaning to the words:

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

Consider the following story:

A group of frogs were traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit with all of their might. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, 'Did you not hear us?' The Frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

And the moral of this story?

1. There is power of life and death in the tongue. An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through the day.
2. A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to kill them. Be careful of what you say. Speak life to those who cross your path.

The power of words ... it is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times. Special is the individual who will take the time to encourage another. Be Special to others.

In Optimism,
Chris



Assistant Editor - Judy Carlson

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

January Youth Optimists

Dane Sislo & Alison Wainionpaa

Dane Sislo and Alison Wainionpaa, both juniors at Superior High School, were selected as the Superior Optimist Club Youth Optimists for the month of January.

Dane is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in SHS Student Council, Pledge-makers, baseball, and hockey. He is a member of Douglas County Youth Leadership and volunteered for the organization of the Autism Walk. Dane is interested in attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to pursue a career in dentistry. He is the son of Andy and Renee Sislo.

Alison is a member of the National Honor Society and Pledgemakers, and participates in SHS basketball, volleyball, softball, concert orchestra, and chamber orchestra for which she serves as treasurer. She is also a member of Superior/Douglas County Youth Leadership. Alison plans to attend college at the University of Minnesota with a major in chemistry or mathematics. She is the daughter of Stephanie Wainionpaa.

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.

Happy Birthday!

Kim Pearson 2/9



Speaker chair - Jan Jago

Prize sponsor - Gary Dunning

Optimist Anniversaries

Bill Eckman - 33 yrs

Tim Gallagher - 20 yrs

Rick Rockwood - 25 yrs

Dan Wicklund - 25 yrs

Karry Johnson - 3 yrs

Danna Livingston - 2 yrs

Chris Jarman - 1 yr



Keep in your Thoughts/Prayers

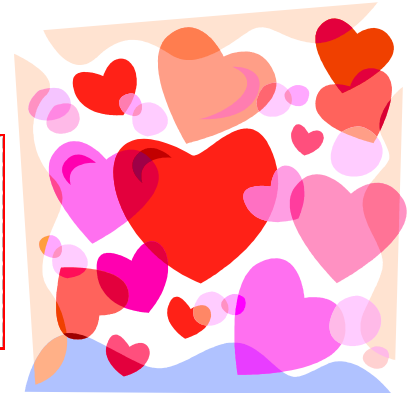
Gary Dunning

Printing Compliments of Bill Downs & the Downs-LeSage Funeral Home

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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