

Sparks



November
2011



Official Newsletter of the Superior Optimist Club

Letter from the President



Greetings fellow Optimists,

The dock is in, the pontoon is out of the water, the garden is pulled and the trees are bare once again. I love the season of Fall, despite the impending Winter. Perhaps it's because of the crispness of the air, and, of course, the colors! I want to say "thank you" to Hugo Salmi and Jenni Wolfe's students from Northern Lights Elementary School, who helped pull up the Community Garden.

I presided over my first Board of Directors meeting yesterday, and just want you to know how much I appreciated the support of all those who were there. I'm in the learning process, but learning is what makes life exciting to me.

We have almost completed our committee assignments for the 2011-2012 Optimist year. We are still looking for another person for the Club Growth and Personal Growth Committees.

The speakers last month were very interesting and unique, thanks to Anita King, October's Speaker Chair. We heard about the Enger Tower Project and its Norwegian connection from Crystal Taylor, S.P.A.C.E.S. (Superior Public Art Creating Community Environments) from Karen Monson-Thompson, and WITC's upcoming Centennial Celebration from Anita King, Adam Brisk and Dianne Mencil. We have some equally interesting programs for November to look forward to, thanks to Dave Minor, the November Speaker Chair. One that I am especially excited about is the Update on Superior Schools by Janna Stevens on November 2nd.

We had fun getting to know our Youth Optimists for October, Brian Glonek and Keeley McCall, who joined us for lunch four times. I can't wait to meet Lindsay Sommer and Cameron Gray, our Youth Optimists for November!

Get your salesperson hats on! We are in the process of setting up our Raffle Ticket fundraiser. It will be your chance to bring in more revenue for our Service Projects, and also your chance to win some money for yourself! The drawings will start in January.

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

Yours in Optimism,
Bonnie Baker



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Board Meeting
November 30th
11:00 AM @ The Shack

PROGRAMS for November

November 2nd

Janna Stevens

Superior School District Administrator
Update on Superior Schools

November 9th

Matt Rosendahl

WITC

Today's Newest Technologies

November 16th

Danna Livingston

Mission Trip

November 23rd

Thomas G. Giblet

History of Thanksgiving

November 30th

Jon Garver

UWS

Sports new website & email programs

Happy Birthday!

to everyone
who has a
November
birthday!



Keep in your Thoughts/Prayers

Karry Johnson
& Don Berg



Optimist Anniversaries

Jan Amys - 2 years

Superior Optimist Club Board of Directors Meeting - DRAFT

October 26, 2011

Attended by: Bonnie, Jan J, Dave L, Dave C, Gene C, Charlie P, Kim P, Chris J,
Roger B, Danna L.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05

First Order of business was to approve Jan J as secretary. The position was held by Dave L. He also holds the position of Treasurer. Dave chose to give up his position as Secretary. The Board approved his decision, and Jan was given the position of Secretary.

(thank you)

1. Approval of September's Meeting Minutes: Before approval, Gene asked if minutes of a meeting could be put into the monthly newsletter before Board approval. A solution was presented to put them in as *drafts*, Minutes were then approved on a motion by Dave L, seconded by Dave C.

2. Old Business

A. The Jim Susens Fund: Gary Dunning has been looking into the possibility of donating this money to a field built in Billings Park. Information was given to the Board that the City has not committed to building this field. Gary was given 60 days to present the Board with more options.

B. Unpaid Dues: Only two people have yet to pay or make arrangements to pay.

C. Raffle Fundraiser: Request for a raffle license was submitted by Dave L and should arrive within a week. The potential income from the raffle is approximately \$2400, depending on cash prize amounts. It was agreed to keep the same prizes as the Duluth club.

D. Senior Grad Photos: The Club has paid for 5 students to date.

E. Club By-laws: No action was taken for any changes. Approved as is.

F. Committee Update: Two committees are still in need of volunteers. They are the Personal Growth Committee and Club Growth Committee.

3. New Business

A. Mark Thompson attended the meeting and asked that the Board consider a discount for members based on their number of years in the club. He explained how much it has cost him over the years and that now he and other members are on fixed incomes, yet our membership fees have increased. The Board will take this into consideration.

B. President Bonnie Baker showed the Board the revised application form for Youth Optimists. "Junior" Optimist has now been changed to "Youth" Optimist. It was also brought up that scholarship forms should be available as soon as November 1.

4. Budget

Treasurer Dave Lemaster presented the Balance Sheet as of October 26, 2011

Total Current Liabilities & Equity: \$10,469.80

A question was asked how much is saved on postage by not mailing out the newsletters. Dave L answered it is approximately \$240 a year.

Budget was approved by the Board. Motion to approve was made by Gene C., seconded by Kim Pearson.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence this month

6. November Meeting

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the November meeting was rescheduled to November 30, 2011.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55

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



REFLECTIONS - Roger Bare

In the fall of 2010 at one of our Optimist meetings, Anita sent around the sign up sheet for the next years speaker chairs, door prizes or reflections. I signed up for the door prizes for March donating items I made from my shop. I also signed up to contribute a reflection item thinking, "That would be a piece of cake." Well, the items I created from my wood shop for the second year came to fruition. From the time I signed up for the reflection article I had a million thoughts go through my mind. Formulated, rejected, formulated rejected. I sat at the computer so many times beginning things, even completing items all to be rejected.

October was just around the corner and I needed to get a article written and submitted. Nothing. Writer's block was happening. Then I remembered. Not an excuse, but a real psychological event that has kept me from doing what I really would like to be able to do. Write inspirational articles. The past traumas come back to haunt.

When I was in third grade in a one room country school, Latham Park outside of Rockford, Illinois, we were tasked with writing a creative story. I immediately had an inspiration; I was 23 years old and was on an awesome adventure ala Indiana Jones. I was daring and dashing and a character whose derring-do saved humanity and the world. What a piece it was.

Time came to read the wonderful adventure to the class. With the teacher sitting at her desk beside me, the class in rapt anticipation before me, I began, "I'm Roger the Adventurer. "I'm 23 years old...", suddenly, the teacher and class erupted into uncontrolled laughter. The teacher, whose name escapes me, thankfully, said between guffaws, Roger you are a nine year old kid, you cannot be 23, go sit down. I never got to finish reading the rest of my creation, and was humiliated for the rest of the day.

To this day I have had difficulty writing anything that resembles a truly creative item of any kind. Perhaps this one of the underlying things that led me into teaching...

October Youth Optimists Brian Glonek & Keeley McCall

Brian Glonek and Keeley McCall, both juniors at Superior High School, were selected as the Superior Optimist Club Youth Optimists for the month of October.

Brian is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in SHS varsity track and field, B.F.S., Forensics, Drama Club, Skills USA, Pledge Makers, One-Act, and spring musical. He is involved with the Superior/Douglas County Youth Leadership program, Literacy Mentoring, and is a youth delegate for Superior Days. He is active with Cathedral Church as a server/reader and youth group committee member along with membership in Generations of faith and Bible study. Brian plans to attend college after high school, but at this time is considering many options and career paths. He is the son of William and LeAnne Glonek.

Keeley participates in SHS varsity tennis and soccer along with Pledge Makers and Mock Trial. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is involved with the Superior/Douglas County Youth Leadership program. Keeley, who is the daughter of Dean and Kate McCall, would like to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and possibly major in Spanish.

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 BELATED OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Roger Bare - 10/12
Danna Livingston - 10/26
Bruce Thompson - 10/28

Speaker
chair &
prizes
Dave Minor



Winners/Losers for October 2011

10/5
JACKPOT: Kaye Tenerelli, *Lost*
ATTENDANCE: Gene Chuzles, *Won*

10/12
JACKPOT: Bill Downs III, *Lost*
ATTENDANCE: Mark Thompson, *Won*

10/19
JACKPOT: Dick Keskinen, *Lost*
ATTENDANCE: Hugo Salmi, *Won*

10/26
JACKPOT: Margaret Ciccone, *Lost*
ATTENDANCE: Chris Jarman, *Won*

2011-2012 Board Officers & Directors



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

Past President: Kim Pearson

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

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the Downs-LeSage Funeral Home

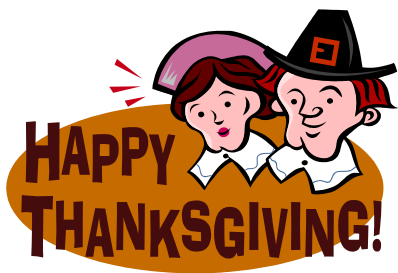
Assistant Editor - Judy Carlson

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.



Superior Optimist Club
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