



Greetings and best wishes to all of you as we begin the month of December, a month of celebrating and remembering. We celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa and we remember Pearl Harbor. The Superior Optimist club celebrates by Bell ringing, singing at our Wednesday meeting and sharing hopes and reflections for 2017. I encourage members and guests to join us on Wednesday at the Vintage Pizza as Kaye Tenerelli, speaker chair, has a great variety of activities for the month. Your presence is important to you and to the club.

A special thanks to the club bell ringers who will be out in their stands on November 28 to December 2 at East End Super One. Thanks to Jan Jago for getting it all organized.

The Board of Directors is looking into projects that everyone can support and get involved. Our stated priorities are youth related poverty, chemical dependency and hunger. So, if you have any suggestions let us know. They don't have to be big projects, even small projects can be very helpful to the community and actually more in line with our club work force capacity. Share your thoughts with any board members or bring to a weekly meeting. **Board members** for 2017 are Margaret Ciccone, Danna Livingston-Matherly, Kaye Tenerelli, Joel Certa Werner, Scott Sommer, Thomas Strewler. Officers for the year are Dave Cochrane, Carolyn Nelson Kavajecz, Collee Tuura Wicklund and Past President Kim Pearson.

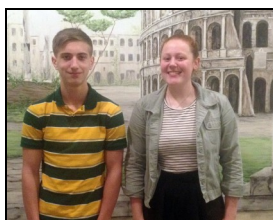
You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. -- C.S. Lewis

Age is just a number. Success is based on the will to achieve and persist through struggles. Although new ideas are typically associated with the young, innovation isn't restricted by age. C.S. Lewis didn't publish his classic Chronicles of Narnia until 1950 -- he was more than 50 years old at the time. Authored by Zach Cutler, CEO of a high tech PR agency. Colonel Sanders started his first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise at the age of 62. In 2015 there were almost 20,000 locations world-wide.

Dave

November Jr. Optimists

Annika Bergstrom & James Kirchoff



Annika Bergstrom and James Kirchoff were the Youth Optimists for the month of November. Both are Juniors at SHS.

James is involved in track and wrestling at SHS. He is also involved in the school's Chamber Orchestra. His parents are Chris and Amy Kirchoff. James has a brother, Nick, and a sister, Stacie. James plans to join the National Guard and attend North Dakota University.

Annika is involved in the girl's swim team, track, Youth Leadership, the Forensics team and Jazz Group. Her parents are Bill and Shelly Bergstrom. She has a brother, Brock, and a sister, Britta. Annika plans to go to college but is presently undecided about a career choice.

Both have a chance to win the Optimist Scholarship and Service Award.

Dec. Optimist Anniversaries

Richard Keskinen, 36 years
Mark Hubbard, 34 years
David Minor, 19 years

Prize winners:

November 2 - Gary Dunning
November 9 - Dave Cochrane
November 16 - Kelly Thimm
November 23, - Kim Pearson
November 30 Joel Certa-Werner

Attendance Prize Winners

11/2 - Dave Cochrane
11/9 - Gary Dunning
11/16 -
11/23 - Kim Pearson
11/30 -

Keep in your Thoughts/Prayers



Mark & Bruce Thompson, on the loss of their mother.

All of our members during this holiday season.

PROGRAMS FOR December

December 7

Dr. Amber Tenerelli,
Physical Therapy Today

December 14

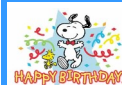
Stephanie King, WI Department of Transportation Project Design Engineer, update on Belknap Construction Project

December 21

Gary Banker, Annual Christmas sing

December 28

Members Reflections on past year and hopes for 2017



Margaret Ciccone 12/1

Jan Amys 12/28

SPEAKER CHAIR
Kaye Tenerelli

PRIZE SPONSOR
Colleen Tuura Wicklund

SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB - Board of Director Meeting - November 16, 2016 Draft

Attended by: Dave C., Carolyn, Kim, Colleen, Dana, Joel, Scott and Jan

- I. **Review of Minutes**: Motion to approve by Kim, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.
- II. **Old Business**
 - A. **Pancake Breakfast Update** - A decision has been made to still go to the Dragon Boats and offer our pancake breakfast, but we would like to plan on doing one at the Spooktacular. Carolyn mentioned that certain projects are put on hold due to the Belknap project. Tower Avenue cannot be blocked off, so the Spooktacular may not happen in 2017.
 - B. **Thanksgiving Card** - Kim's concern was who would we send the card to. Do we send it to our previous speakers? It was decided we would send it to the speakers and organizations or people we have give money to. It will say: "During this holiday season, we would like to thank you for your contribution to our community."
 - C. **Spending Priorities** - Carolyn has contacted the 2nd grade class at Cathedral School. They are putting together a report and a request for a donation. Members are asked to encourage other organizations to do the same.
- III. **New Business**
 - A. **Finance** - Colleen has reported that we have \$4000 to donate.
 - B. **Bell Ringing** - The times have been booked and we will ring bells November 28 - December 2 at East End Super One from 4:00 - 6:00 PM.
 - C. **Committee Reports** - At this time, the committees are the same as during Kim's Presidency.
 - D. **Youth Optimists** - As previously discussed we would like to reach out to other kids, not just the SHS students. Joel would like to work on finding other Youth for the summer months.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: January 1, 2017 at VIP at 1 PM.

Reflections - By Colleen Tuura Wicklund

I'm probably not alone when I gasp at the fact that it is December already and I am wondering how it arrived without my knowledge! Is it the unseasonably warm weather that has thrown me off? Am I realizing the truth to the old cliché 'time flies as you get older'? Is my multitasking putting me in a time warp? My over scheduling? How could I have missed the fact the Christmas is coming when the store fronts were pushing Halloween candy off their shelves to make way for Santa and his elves back in October?

Wait, why does it matter, and why do I feel like I missed something? It doesn't matter, and I certainly did not miss a single second.

Take, for instance, composing this reflection; I wrote a sticky note the same day that I signed up for the month of December at our meeting months ago. I placed it on my computer and promptly looked at it every morning that I arrived at my desk. I even thought about tackling it early and surprising myself (and Kim) for getting it in with time to spare! Nope, didn't happen that way. And now as I scramble to write this, I am able to embrace those spend up moments since I first placed the sticky note reminder in my office so many moons ago.

I can truly reflect on the fact that I wake up at 4:30am every weekday with a smile (usually) on my face. I love ushering in the new day when it is quiet and I share it only with prayers, reading and coffee as the sun peaks up, but before the whole family arises. I hug and kiss each and every one of my household family members as they head out for their day and drive a short distance to work. I love my job. Even when things get as chaotic as they did today, I really enjoy my coworkers and my position. I get so many opportunities to do, see, learn, and experience things that would make other people jealous or stressed out. Whether it is greeting preschoolers with a smile, a simple a math problem with finance, hosting the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra in the church for a glorious concert, or trying to figure out why the boilers are not heating the church and school properly... I'm never bored! I then get to close up my office and return home to a comfortable house, in a great city, to a fabulous family that greets me with a smile (usually). I am blessed.

I start every day being thankful for it and go through the day trying to figure out how I can help others gain a warm embrace of life. Sometimes it requires a lot of energy, but often it is as simple as a warm greeting in the passing day. At this time of year, I hope you take that extra minute to count your blessings, and be thankful for what you have, recognizing that so many do not have. It's fun to rediscover the priceless things we already possess, instead of feeling the need to buy something new.

Merry Christmas



Member Spotlight - Dave Minor

Background



Dave Minor, born in Superior, August 4th, 1958, Parents were Warren (Bud) & Jean Minor - I lost both of my parents when I was 19 years old. They both died of heart attacks 6 months apart. I have one sister, Gayle, five years older, but as the story goes I have three more brothers and 1 more sister that I grew up with. Two of the brothers and my other sister are cousins who came to live with us when I was in the 6th grade. My other brother was my best friend in high school that moved in for part of our junior and most of our senior year in high school. I have been with The Chamber for the past 24 years and the President/CEO for the past 22 years. For the 15 1/2 years prior to that, I worked for a hotel management company that had properties all across the US. I am married to my beautiful wife Jackie, who is the CEO at the Superior YMCA. She has been at the Y for 28 years. We have two children, Breanna Jane who graduated from UW Stevens Point with her Masters in Speech Therapy and now lives in La Crosse WI and works as a Speech Language Therapist, specializing with children with Autism. And our son Samuel, and his wife Emily, live in College

Station TX where he will graduate from Texas A&M in December with his masters in HR/Business. We have two dogs, Roman - a black lab - and Roo - a black Teddy Bear who thinks he is a black lab. Stop by most any day at The Chamber and you can meet Roman.

Optimist History

I think I have been a member for the past 22 years. I knew very little about the Optimist Club when I joined but a very good friend, Rick Rockwood, said it was a wonderful bunch of people who do some great things for our community. He was right and I haven't second guessed my decision all these years. I have been President Elect, President and Past President and served on several committees. I really enjoy that the club is laid back and you help where and when you can and that there is no pressure when you can't make something. My advice for other club members is to enjoy the club at the pace and level that you can today. That may increase or decrease over time and that's OK; people will accept that without judging.

What is most important to you?

Family - always First and Foremost. After my family and friends, I am most passionate about cooking, which usually involves my family and friends. I was raised where family and friends always gathered in the kitchen where my Mom and Dad were always cooking. I tease Jackie that the next house we build is going to have one room on the main floor - A KITCHEN - because our current kitchen isn't big enough and that is where everybody always seems to gather when they come over. No matter how bad a day you may have had, Good Food, Good Friends - Good Wine can always make it better. Yes I am Italian. Watching my children grow up to be two wonderful adults... All those years wondering as they grew up, did anything we say sink in at all? And now I stand back and say yes they were listening to us, and they turned out pretty dang good.

Something most members wouldn't know about you

I don't have a lot of secrets about myself, as my mother would tell others about me: What you see is who he is. Good or bad I wear it all on my sleeve. What would surprise most people is that I am not as outgoing and charismatic as they would think. It is something that I have worked on all my life and it has not come as easy as most people would think. After I retire, I'm looking forward to some quiet time where I can read more of what I enjoy instead of what I have to read each day and enjoying a great glass of Scotch each night. Maybe sneaking in a cigar from time to time.

Fun stuff: hobbies, dream vacation spot, guilty pleasure, heroes, etc.

The only hobby I really have is cooking with my best friend Fred Ciccone for family and friends. It doesn't matter if it's my house or his; it puts us both in a Happy Place to be able to do something we both love so much. My dream vacation spot is either at Walt Disney World or on Lake Superior sailing. Both bring me a lot of pleasure, just in different ways. My guilty pleasure is good food and a great glass of Scotch. After my parents, my two heroes/mentors would be Walt Disney and John Wayne. After a John Wayne or Disney movie my favorite would be the final episode of M*A*S*H. Favorite movie star would be John Wayne. There are three favorite sayings I have, 1) Walt Disney - I only hope that we don't lose sight of one thing - It was all started by a mouse. What is your mouse? 2) John Wayne - It doesn't matter how many times you get knocked down - but that you get up one more time. 3) Vince Lombardi - When you get to the end zone - act like you've been there before - Have some class. My favorite season is fall, pretty strange up here for a color blind guy.

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.

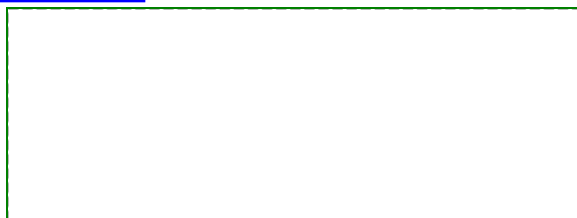
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Assistant Editor Judy Carlson
In Loving Memory of
Merrill Thompson & Bill Downs, Jr.



**Merry
Christmas**

The Superior Optimist Club fosters positive fellowship and community awareness to inspire and support youth.

Mission Statement

Superior Optimist Club
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