



# Official Newsletter of the Superior Optimist Club



February 2017



PRESIDENT - Dave Cochrane

Greetings. My Appreciation to Mother Nature for the spring thaw the last couple of weeks. I was able to chip through the ice on the sidewalks with the help of the sun and the above freezing temperatures. Spring begins in 48 days from February 1. On January 19, I saw a robin in my yard. I am not sure if it knew something that I didn't or this bird never migrated. In any case, I see it as a sign of better weather to come. If you love winter activities there is still a chance for colder weather and more snow with February in front of us.

We had a successful meeting with the Kiwanis in January and we filled the back room at Vintage with about 25 people. The two clubs agreed to have a joint meeting every other month on the second Wednesday. We had about an equal number of members from each club in attendance. Our next joint meeting will be March 8, 2016.

At our last board meeting we funded a project at cathedral to sponsor school lunches for low income students. In December we raised \$705.75 with the bell ringing project, our thanks to all the Optimist club members and their families who braved the cold weather to solicit the funds. WTG everyone.

For the month of February, as part of the club growth committee, I am asking that we bring a guest to the meeting. We will have a brochure and application ready for each visitor. Each current member who brings a guest will have their name entered in a special drawing at the end of the February. I will donate a \$25 gift certificate for the drawing. Reviewing the Anniversaries for February, I am noticing that we have quite a few members who joined in February in other years. The number one reason people don't join an organization is that they weren't asked.

Dave



**Kim Pearson - 2/9**  
**Thomas Strewler - 2/19**



### Attendance Prize Winners

- 1/4 – Dave Cochrane
- 1/11 – Kim Pearson
- 1/18 – Carolyn Nelson Kavajecz
- 1/25 – Charlie Place

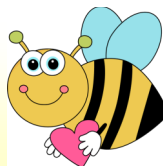
### Feb. Optimist Anniversaries

- Bill Eckman, 38 years
- Rick Rockwood, 37 years
- Dan Wicklund, 37 years
- Tim Gallagher, 25 years
- Karry Johnson, 8 years
- Danna Livingston-Matherly, 7 years
- Chris Jarman, 6 years



**SPEAKER CHAIR**  
**Danna Livingston-Matherly**

**PRIZE SPONSOR**  
**Gary Dunning**



### PROGRAMS FOR February

#### February 1st

Douglas County Sheriff Deputy, Joe Holmstrom  
Latest crime & arrest in Douglas County

#### February 8th

WITC student, Renee King  
American Corrections Associations/ACA Conference in Houston)

#### February 15th

Probation and Parole Agent, Sharla Ruffi  
Crime in Wisconsin and how it effects the children of criminals

#### February 22nd

Northwestern & Youth Leadership students, Lily Livingston & Rose Tokar  
Children's orphanage Jamaica

## SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB MEETING - January 18, 2017 DRAFT

Attended by: Dave C., Tom S., Scott S., Kim P., Colleen T.W., Jan J.

### I. Old Business

**A. November minutes** - Were read by Dave, approved by Board.

**B. Finance Report**-nothing has changed since last report

**C. Correspondence** - A thank you letter was given to us from Salvation Army for ringing bells

**D. Club Growth** - Dave is still chair person of Club Growth. He is looking for new ideas to encourage growth. He feels the best way is for members to encourage friends to come to a meeting.

### II. New Business

#### A. Request for Donations

##### 1. Request from Just Kids Dental

Jan made the motion to decline the request. Kim seconded, motion carried. The Board feels that the program has many donors and funding is readily available to them. The Board also feels that the Program requests money for use in many other areas, not just Superior

##### 2. Cathedral School Free/Reduced lunch

This program sponsors children at Cathedral who need help purchasing a lunch. The amount for one child for one year is \$422.50. Cathedral has a sponsor who will match our donation. Scott made a motion to donate the \$422.50 to the program. Tom seconded, motion carried.

#### B. Meatball Dinner

We will again send out letters to businesses asking them to purchase "Angel Tickets."

#### C. Joint Meetings with Kiwanis

A decision was made at the regular meeting to have joint meetings with Kiwanis every other month, on the second Wednesday at VIP. The next joint meeting will be in March.

#### D. Speakers

Carolyn made a suggestion that the speaker chairperson for March, ask a few of the candidates running for Mayor. Kim is willing to do that.

#### E. Spooktacular

Carolyn has informed us that Spooktacular is ON for 2017. We need to decide what we will do for that event.

The next meeting will be March 8, 2017 at VIP at 1pm.



### *January Jr. Optimists* *Lexi Jensen & Elise Hintzman*



Lexi Jensen and Elise Hintzman are the Youth Optimists for January. Both are Juniors at SHS and they will have the opportunity to apply for the Youth Optimist Scholarship and Service Award.

Lexi is involved in cross country, basketball, track, FBLA, DECA, Interact Club, Youth Leadership, and Pledgemakers. She is the daughter of Kasey Jensen and Kelly Legore. She hopes to go to college and get a degree in Education. She would also like to study abroad.

Elise is involved in Student Council, Youth Leadership, Girl Scouts, Soccer, Cross Country, FBLA, Interact Club, Pledgemakers. She is the daughter of Michael and Crystal Hintzman. She has a younger brother in 9th grade. She would like to attend college in Duluth to get a degree in Education with a minor in Voice. She also hopes to travel.

## Reflections: by Rick "Rocko" Rockwood

Fellow Optimists,

Over the years, I have authored a few "Reflections", and I have to tell you, it never gets old when you stop and look within. I have spoken of heart surgeries and knocking on heaven's Gate, the word "attitude" and how it applies to Optimism, and to all the influences that Merrill Thompson, the Supreme Optimist, bestowed upon me over the years. Just to reiterate, Merrill had written in Reflections back in 1998:

"Optimism is not only an anticipation of the future but also a reflection of pleasant memories of the past. It is so easy to bemoan a day's experience where everything went wrong or, 'It just wasn't my day!'. How much better to reflect on a day, where everything went right and to savor the thoughts of everything just falling into place."

Amazingly after Merrill had passed to a greater place, his Wife Maxine took over many of his Optimistic endeavors. She was a caregiver to many and a very kind, considerate, and loving person. She came into my world several times with messages of hope and prayer, so that I would have a healthy recovery from the trials that seemed to follow me around. Maxine should have been in our Optimist Club, by all definitions of the group. I just don't think she could put up with the jokes, so maybe it was better that she worked her magic from the outside. Maxine was very important in my life, and she will be sorely missed. She always had invited me to play music with her, but now it will just have to wait until we meet again. It was very important to include Maxine and Merrill in this reflection for some pretty obvious reasons.

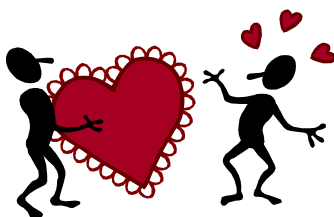
I have thought a lot about our club. Today's "clubs" in general are struggling for active members. But, the comradery that we have as a group is over the top. It never ceases to amaze me how we all turn out for the events when needed, even though our overall numbers have been smaller. This is characteristic of several of the organizations that I work with, Optimists being my #1.

Now, we have Dave Cochrane as our President, I believe for his second time around. What a great guy and a TRUE Optimist. All I ask is that we all get behind Dave, and support him as best we can. As Merrill said, "Savor the thoughts of everything just falling into place."

From me to **YOU**:

***"Never speak from a place of hate, jealousy, anger, or insecurity. Evaluate your words before you let them leave your lips. Sometimes it's best to be quiet."***

Rocko



Assistant Editor Judy Carlson

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

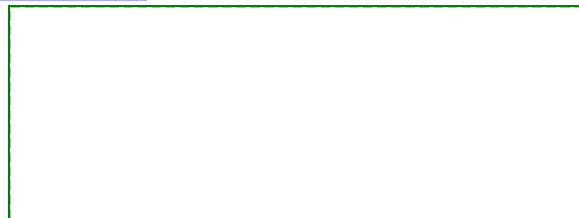
# Optimist Creed

## 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.

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

**Superior Optimist Club**  
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