

**PRESIDENT - Carolyn Nelson-Kavajecz****PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

There are several legends as to how "Valentine's Day" traditions have evolved into modern culture. The legend of Valentine's Day and its Patron Saint are quite mysterious, and romantic.

One legend states that during the third century in Rome, Emperor Claudius II declared that single men make better soldiers than men who were married with wives and children at home. With this in mind, Claudius II outlawed marriage. According to legend, Saint Valentine, married young soldiers and their loves in private ceremonies.

Another legend suggests that Saint Valentine was imprisoned for helping people escape from harsh Roman prisons. Valentine apparently fell in love with a young lady who visited him during his confinement, and it was he himself who sent the first Valentine to his young love, signing it, "From Your Valentine".

I have heard rumors that Valentine's Day is a holiday that was made up by greeting card companies to boost sales. Although this could be true, I like to believe otherwise. I figure it is more fun to believe in romance and legends, and find ways to celebrate the ones we love. Whatever the truth may be, there is no denying that our culture recognizes the Month of February, and Valentine's Day as the most romantic of all holidays.

Romantic Dinner for SIX???

Once my husband and I had children, we decided that we were going to include them in all of our celebrations and create traditions for them to hold onto. Our Valentine's Day tradition is creating a "Romantic Dinner". Each year, we cover our table with a red and pink table cloth and bring out our fanciest dishes. Truth be told, our fanciest dishes are just regular glass plates; but, to a family with four kids, using something other than plastic plates with built in dividers and cartoon characters all over them, is fancy! The kids help me prepare the romantic dinner, which usually ends up being enchiladas, and we even get to have a dessert that night, which is typically a DQ ice cream cake. We dim the lights in our dining room, light candles, listen to romantic albums like Air Supply or Barry Manilow on our record player, and drink sparkling grape juice out of the wine glasses from our wedding. After dinner, we pass out Valentines to one another. I try to stick to homemade Valentines, so it is always fun to see what everyone created.

Last year when we were having our romantic dinner, I remember looking around the dining room table at my family and thinking about how special this day was to me. My love for this day has nothing to do with flowers, or candy, or presents, but everything to do with spending time with my husband and my kids, and watching them enjoy each other and family traditions. As they get older, I cannot help but wonder which year will be the last year with just the six of us around the romantic dinner table. I know that the time will come soon enough when a romantic dinner with mom and dad will seem silly to them. For now, I will cherish the fact that I have a romantic dinner for six coming up this month. Even though I have taught every Wednesday night for the past 27 years, this year, I will take Wednesday, February 14th off of work, and celebrate the ones I love. I hope you all have the opportunity to celebrate someone you love this month as well.

Superior Optimist Club Meeting - January 24, 2018 - Drafted by Jan M Jago

Attended by: Carolyn, Rick, Gary, Marge, Kaye, Scott, Jan

I. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. ON Dec. 31, \$ 7942 in account
- B. After paying dues to Optimist International there is \$4800 in account

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Much discussion in this meeting was about club growth and member retention.
- B. Engaging present members was also discussed.
- C. After the last meeting, Gary Dunning was asked to be on the Board to remind us of our past accomplishments and help steer us onto new ventures.
 - 1. Getting members to sign up for projects is a problem. As of 1/24 six of the 12 months did not have a Speaker Chairperson. Carolyn and Brian have taken it upon themselves to cover speakers for February and March.
 - 2. The Oratorical Contest for this year has been passed onto the Duluth Club. A member from our club is needed for next year.
 - 3. A member from our Club is needed to run the Essay Contest. This year may be too late, but next year is open.
 - 4. It was suggested that after the sign-up sheet for Speaker Chair has been passed around and there are still vacancies, the names of unsigned members be put in a basket and names drawn to fill the voids.
 - 5. Each member needs to feel important. Each member needs to take pride in the Club and its work. Achieving this will be discussed at a Monthly Business meeting.
- D. It is important to show new, potential members that the present members are engaged in the Club.
 - 1. Following up with guest speakers as potential new members.
 - 2. Bringing friends or co-workers to lunch.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Kiwanis will be joining us for lunch on 2/14, 4/18, and 6/6.
- B. The Duluth Optimist Club will be joining us on 3/7.
 - 1. Carolyn has reached out to them to talk about events that they have planned, how they retain their members, and how do they get new members.

IV. CALENDAR FOR 2018

- 1. Easter Baskets for Boys and Girls Club
 - A. Jan will get the supplies for the Easter bags, 1 Wednesday in March will be set aside to stuff them.
 - B. Meatball Dinner—May 8, 2018, Kim Pearson- Chairperson
 - C. Pancake Breakfast- Saturday, August 26, 2018, Jan Jago-Chairperson
Rotary has confirmed that this event is taking place. We have committed to doing the breakfast at this event. The realization being we may never may as much money at this event as other years. The Rotary Club is also working on the success of this event.
 - D. Spooktacular- October 2018 - This event is not yet confirmed. If it is, we have the option of being involved.

V. FUNDRAISING

- 1. Carolyn has suggested that we join with other organizations or be present at events held by other organizations. It was mentioned that other service organizations do not have as many events as we do. Perhaps we make our few events bigger.
- 2. One option is to have a spaghetti dinner
- 3. A discussion on fundraising will be held at a Monthly Business Meeting with the Club.




Meeting adjourned 2:20 PM.

Speaker Chair - Carolyn Nelson-Kavajecz / Prize Sponsor - Gary Dunning

PROGRAMS FOR February

- February 7**
23rd Veteran & Cathedral School 5th Grade
- February 14**
Crescent Moon
- February 21**
Sharon Thompson, Workaway
- February 28**
Born Too Late




 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Kim Pearson
 2/9
Tom Strewler
 2/19

Optimist Anniversaries

- Bill Eckman - 39 years**
- Rick Rockwood - 38 years**
- Tim Gallagher - 26 years**
- Karry Johnson - 9 years**
- Danna Livingston - 8 years**
- Chris Jarman - 7 years**
- Sharon Thompson - 1 year**
- Jon Garver - 1 year**

Happy Anniversary

REFLECTIONS - By Joel Certa-Warner

I learned to drive manual transmissions on my sister's Chevy Vega. My family thought, well, if Joel messes up the Vega, it won't be much of a loss! I tortured that poor car with my clumsy coordination of working the clutch while trying to shift gears. My sister was riding shotgun when I tried to shift from third gear (an up position) to fourth (a down position), but, somehow caught reverse (also a down position). The car bucked, hopped, howled, swung around, and reversed into the ditch. After the dust cleared, my sister looked at me, bright eyed, and said, Wow. I don't think James Garner could do a better stunt!

Life can get messy. We're all going to face obstacles and meet challenges. Sometimes we're going to overcome gloriously, other times - not so much. The key is our perspective. In fear, we can refrain from engaging in a lot that life has to offer, or we can dare to take it on, knowing that greatness never came without risk. A hero for many of us native to North Dakota is Teddy Roosevelt. His experience there transformed him from a frail and snobbish New York dude to a rough and tough rancher and cowboy. He stopped stampedes, participated in month long roundups, arrested thieves, punched out a drunken gunslinger in a bar, and helped to organize the region's first stockmen's association. His North Dakota adventure helped prepare him to take on the wild political arena as the 26th President of The United States.

I treasure a speech he made in Paris, where he said: It is not the critic who counts; not the [one] who points out how the strong [one] stumbles ... The credit belongs to the [one] who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who is spent in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst ... at least fails while daring greatly, so that [one's] place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

I find this ideal behind our philosophy as Optimists. It is easy to not engage in our community, to sit on the sidelines and scoff at people's actions, to deride decisions made by our leaders, and to wring hands over the future of the youth. I, however, am grateful for the privilege of gathering with others who stand ready to engage with those in leadership of our community; to be informed about upcoming decisions that colleagues are wrestling through; to strive to address the real needs of our youth; to cheer on bold, new initiatives; and even to groan at a bit of dry humor. I am glad for Optimists, who strive to embrace a positive, up-building, encouraging, daring perspective in every arena of life, so that even when a great fail like a wild car maneuver that ends in the ditch, a young boy can be encouraged to sense the greatness of James Garner!



YOUTH OPTIMISTS - Chloe Kintop & Marcia Mogensen

Chloe Kintop and Marcia Mogensen were the Youth Optimists for January. They were invited to join the Superior Optimist Club every Wednesday for lunch at VIP.

Chloe is involved in cross country, basketball and soccer. She also participates in DECA and FBLA and is on the Student Council Board. She is the daughter of Thom and Chris Kintop. She has 3 older sisters, McKenzie, Natalie and Sophia. After High School, she plans on furthering her education at St. Thomas University in St. Paul and major in Biology, with a minor in chemistry. She would like to become a chiropractor like her parents.

Marcia is involved in track & field, forensics, speech and Interact Club. She has also been involved in mission trips with her church, Pilgrim Lutheran. She is the daughter of Cecily Evans and Jerad Mogensen. She has 3 siblings, Clara, Tyree and Ava. After High School she plans on attending a 4 year university to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. Her plans are to eventually continuing her education to become a Nurse Practitioner. She is hoping to attend Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

Both have an opportunity to apply for the Youth Optimist Scholarship and Service Award.



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

Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

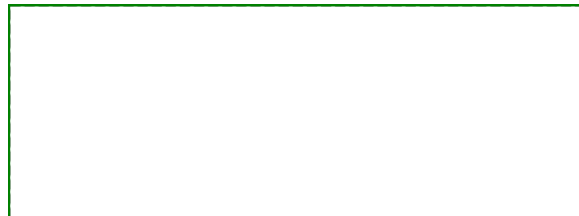
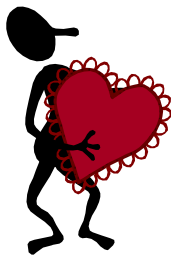
- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, 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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Our website: www.superiortimist.org

CHECK US OUT



positive thoughts
generate
positive feelings
and attract
positive life
experiences



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

Mission Statement

**Superior Optimist Club
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