



Official Newsletter of the Superior Optimist Club

PRESIDENT - Dave Cochrane



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!

March 2017

President's Message

This mild weather is causing this winter to pass by all too quickly and keeping me confused about the calendar.

What's up for the coming month: March winds bring April showers, daylight savings time begins, St. Patrick's Day, joint meeting with the Kiwanis, Optimist Board meeting, all add to the excitement of the coming month.

I would like to comment on the article in the "OPTIMIST" (Winter 2017) monthly magazine that wrote about club membership and talked about having that elevator speech ready when we are asked about the Optimist club and what we do. The article said that the elevator speech should include not only the "What" and "How" but also the "Why". The authors tell that the first two questions take care of the mental reasons but the "Why" is what speaks to the heart and what keeps members coming and staying in the club.

For me, the most personal reason for staying with the club is the focus on the positive and to be associated with a group of men and women that share a value and a goal for positive thinking. Reciting the Optimist Creed at the end of our meetings in a public forum sends a reminder to the subconscious to stay on the sunny side of the street and take the high road in all our affairs.

Dave Cochrane



Appreciation and Attendance

Our member attendance average for 2017 at weekly meeting has increased to 12 not counting students, speakers and guests.

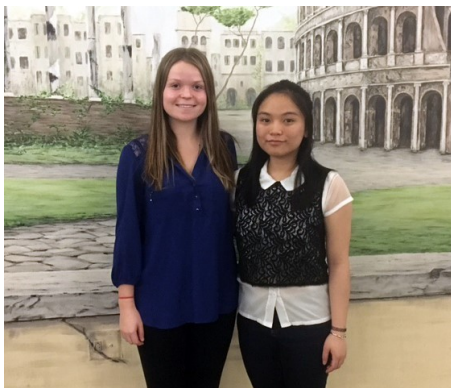
Thanks to Danna Livingston for the February speakers, Gary Dunning for attendance prizes, and Rick Rockwood for Reflections.



New Members- (Be sure to welcome them)

Jon Garver - UWS Sports information Manager
(sponsor Dave Minor)

Sharon Thompson - House manager at Harbor Houses
(sponsor Barb Certa Werner)

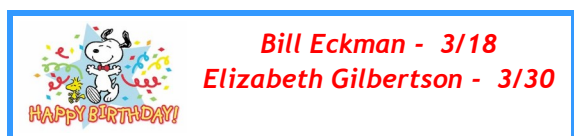


February Jr. Optimists
Skylar Rogge & Elizabeth Tran

The Youth Optimists for February were Skylar Rogge and Elizabeth Tran. Both are Juniors at SHS.

Skylar is involved in Swim Team, Soccer, Dance Team, Interact Club and Band (she plays trumpet). She is the daughter of Lindsay Rogge. She has two siblings, Elijah and Lucas. She plans to attend college and get a degree in Engineering.

Elizabeth is involved in Mock Trial, FCCLA and GSA. She is the daughter of Phuc Tran and Hieu Le. She has two younger brothers and a younger sister. She would like to get a degree in the Medical Field and make enough money for the family to live off of.



Bill Eckman - 3/18
Elizabeth Gilbertson - 3/30



Feb. Optimist Anniversaries

Mark Thompson, 40 years
Bill Downs III, 36 years

Attendance Prize Winners

2/1 – Rick Rockwood
 2/8 – Dave Minor
 2/15 – Barb Certá-Werner
 2/22 – Hugo Salmi



SPEAKER CHAIR
Kim Pearson

PRIZE SPONSOR
Scott Sommer

PROGRAMS FOR March

March 1st

Wendy Nelson, SHS Counselor
 Impact of alcohol/drug abuse, poverty and depression on SHS students and the school district

March 8th

Janna Stevens, District Administrator
 What's happening within Superior School District

March 15th

Club Business Meeting

March 22nd

Jim Paine and Mike Herrick
 Recommendations/insights for Superior

March 29th

Kalee Hermanson and Brent Fennessy
 Recommendations/insights for Superior



CALENDAR EVENTS

MARCH 8TH

Joint meeting with Kiwanis @ Noon
 Board meeting @ 1:00 PM

MAY 9TH

Meatball Dinner



Reflections: by Jan Jago

I broke one of my “personal codes of conduct” recently and the result wasn’t good. First, let me explain the code and why I have it. I vowed a long time ago, if I saw or knew about someone cheating, lying, stealing, I would say something. I’ve have broken up a few relationships along the way, actually, no I didn’t. I just gave them the information and what they chose to do with it was up to them. At least they wouldn’t be unknowing and look foolish. You see, MANY years ago, I dated someone for 10 years. I will call him, Jeff. (Not his real name, honest). During those 10 years, there were other girls (women, whatever) that seemed to be involved in our relationship. Some I knew about, some I didn’t. Sometimes I knew the whole truth, sometimes not. I finally got my act together and got out of it and married my husband. I maintained a friendship with Jeff, for a while. Ten years is hard to walk away from.

Anyway, one morning, I got a phone call from one of the “girls” from the past. She actually asked me to talk to Jeff about acknowledging and seeing his son! Yes, she had his baby! Surprise! I pretended I knew all about it and told her I would most certainly talk to him about it! But the real slap in the face came when I went to work. I worked with some great women at the old Library Restaurant. We all got along so well and were a huge part of each other’s lives. But when I told them about the phone call, and that she had had Jeff’s baby- they said “He’s not a baby anymore, he’s has to be 6 years old.’

So they knew, they always knew. They had decided not to tell me because they didn’t want me upset and mad at him because they liked us together. They had decided for me. So I hope you see where my code of conduct comes from now.

You probably saw in the paper that the Shack Liquor Store was robbed, and it was an ex employee. What it didn’t tell you was what a good person he is, but he got mixed up with drugs. His mother has worked there for years, and she asked if he could have a job last November. He had worked there before and was a great worker, so there was no hesitation. As the days went by and I did the bookkeeping every day, I knew there were shortages here and there. And the last night he worked, there was a large shortage. He did not show up for his next shift, so I knew that he really had stolen that money. I talked my boss into not telling his mom. I just wanted her to think he was fired because he didn’t show up, not because he stole. So she agreed.

The morning of the robbery, I was the first one there. I came in to an alarm going off and a back door wide open. It could’ve been so much worse. Someone could’ve come along and taken everything from the warehouse. But only some money was missing. No we don’t leave all of the money out, but there is access to change and the next day’s start- up money. I knew before I even saw the video tape that it was him. I knew it in my gut. Learning that his mother’s keys were missing and seeing the video only confirmed it. I told the police I knew it was him. Again, I did not tell his mother. Instead she had to learn when the police went to her house with a search warrant. They told her all of it. Then I had to face her the next day and explain why I didn’t want to tell her before, but there was no excuse for it. She was embarrassed , humiliated , angry, sad, all at the same time. I should’ve told her.

Her son, like so many, do things they would never have done, if it wasn’t for the drugs they are addicted to. His behavior wasn’t really who he is, but it could so easily become who he is if he can’t stop.. Right now he is sober and off drugs, sitting in jail, obviously extremely sorry and sad. Not sure what his sentence will be, or if he will get any jail time, but I just pray he has the strength that it will take when he gets out.

And next time, I hope I am stronger as well.

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

Superior Optimist Club
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