

November 2017

PRESIDENT -

Carolyn Nelson

Letter from the President:

As we enter the month of November and the Thanksgiving holiday approaches each year, I tend to give extra thought to those things that I am most thankful for. The thing at the top of my list is always family. I come from a very tight-knit family. As a matter of fact, my family is the number one reason why I came back to Superior to raise my children and the main reason why I stay in this region and apply myself to civic organizations and other groups that work to make Superior a better place to live.

I feel very fortunate that when my kids have a school concert they have an audience of about 20 relatives there specifically to see them. If I host an event for Sterling Silver or put together a fund-raiser for another organization, you can guarantee the first 20 names on the volunteer list are my brothers, sister, mom, dad, kids, cousins, aunts, uncles, and in-laws. It is a pretty amazing group to be a part of. Not only is this group committed to the family unit, but they are deeply rooted in tradition.

Every year for Thanksgiving since about 1982, I have went to my Godparents' house for dinner along with the rest of my family. I have never missed a year... until this year that is. Last year, I was watching the McDonald's Chicagoland Thanksgiving Day Parade on television with my daughter while we were getting ready to go to dinner. My daughter Rokko said to me, "Mom, we should do this parade next year". I knew that getting in was a long-shot, but I also knew that Sterling Silver had over 25 years of parade corps experience under our belts, so I thought, why not try? The next day, I began the application process. We sent in photos, videos, testimonials... you name it, we submitted it. 10 months later, we received an email telling us that Sterling Silver Studio had been accepted, and that we were going to be representing Northern Wisconsin on national television this Thanksgiving. WOW!

As excited as I was, I have to admit that I was more than a little nervous to let my family know that I was going to be breaking a 35-year Thanksgiving tradition. When I first told my family that we had been accepted into the parade, they were thrilled for us, but I could hear the disappointment in their voices when they told us that they would miss us on Thanksgiving. Then, one by one, they started asking questions about the trip, and before I knew it, my entire family that has spent the last 35 Thanksgivings at my Godparents' house, had reserved a seat on the coach bus and were making plans to come to Chicago with me.

So, this Thanksgiving, I will have 20 plus family members cheering on Sterling Silver in person in the McDonald's Chicagoland Thanksgiving Day Parade. Immediately following, we are going to have Thanksgiving dinner the Hard Rock Café in Downtown Chicago. It will be fun to try something new, and I am so very thankful that I will have my entire family to share it with me. My family is far from perfect, but I am so fortunate and thankful that they are mine.



Member Spotlight by Jan Jago

When Brian Hakanson agreed to be Vice President this year, I realized I did not know that much about him, so he is the subject of the Member Spotlight for November. I asked him to answer the following questions;

1. Please tell us a little about yourself.
2. How did you become a member?
3. Was the Optimist Club what you expected?
4. What made you decide to become Vice President this year?
5. How can the Optimist Club impact your life?

Here is Brian's story--

My parents moved from Osseo, MN to Hinckley when I was 5 years old and I lived there from 1980 until I graduated from high school in 1993. I attended the University of Wisconsin – Superior where I bounced around between majors until I finally decided to earn my degree in Health Education. While in college, I was a member of the University Track and Field Team and earned All Conference five times. I graduated from UWS in 1999 and travelled to Tallahassee, Florida to become certified in Personal Fitness Training, Nutrition, and Sports Exercise. After I earned my certifications I worked at Arrowhead Tennis and Athletic Center in Duluth as a Personal Fitness Trainer as well as the Sports Trainer for the Amsoil Snocross Racing Team for two years. I left the area in 2002 and worked a few different short-term jobs before meeting my wife and moving back to the Twin Ports. I married Carissa in 2002 and we bought our first house in her hometown of Proctor where we remained for about six years. In that time my wife earned her Nursing License and started her career as a RN at St. Luke's Hospital. I worked for Clear Channel Radio for about four of those years selling advertising. We started our family in 2004 with our son, Edward (13), and then our daughter, Sophia (10,) in 2007, which is also the year I started with Wells Fargo Bank in West Duluth as a Personal Banker. After being a Personal Banker for a little over a year, I moved into my current role in Business Banking. We moved our family to Foxboro, WI in 2009. We absolutely love the woods and the outdoors so I feel like we have found our perfect home.

I became a Member of the Superior Optimist Club about four years ago. I was sponsored by my friend Steve Nelson who I had known from being involved with College Athletics. When Steve invited me to a meeting, I knew nothing of the Optimist Organization and was more or less not going to turn down an offer for a free lunch. I remember the speaker that day was from a local organization that had been the recipient of a monetary gift that had been given by Superior Optimists and was chosen by that year's Youth Optimist Winner. Let's say that I was moved, so I decided to join.

Although I work in Duluth, Superior is my community. I live here... I attend Church at Bayside Baptist in Billings Park... My children both go to school here, so I embraced the mission of Optimist and its focus on local youth and positivity. I have always enjoyed the weekly meetings and the members that I have gotten to know, however I have struggled with making meetings regularly and getting involved which really bothered me. I knew that I wasn't doing what I had intended on when I started with the club. When Dave approached me about becoming Treasurer or Vice President for the upcoming year I was at first startled by the thought but knew that this was probably the one thing that would get me back on track. I am looking forward to learning more about this great organization and each of our members and excited to be working with Carolyn, Jan, Scott and Rocko on club business.

YOUTH OPTIMISTS - Paige Lach & Rebecca Benvie



Paige Lach and Rebecca Benvie are the first Youth Optimists of the 2017-2018 school year. Both are Juniors at Superior High School.

Paige is involved in softball, hockey and cross country. She is also involved in FCCLA and is a Junior volunteer at St. Luke's. She is also employed as a CNA. Paige is the daughter of Lynn Lach and Jasin Lach. She has an older sister, Alayna, and an older brother, Evan. She also has a younger sister, Faith. After high school her plans are to attend the U of M and major in biochemistry. Then she would like to attend Medical School and specialize in Family Medicine.

Rebecca is involved in ASP-tutoring at Northern Lights every day after school. She is also involved in Harvard Model United Nations, and is currently busy fundraising for the Costa Rica Educational Trip. She is the daughter of Michelle Benvie. She has an older brother, James. She has not decided which college or university, but she too plans on attending Medical School and becoming a Pediatrician. Both girls will have the opportunity to win the Youth Optimist Scholarship and the Youth Optimist Service Award.

Skylar Rogge was the winner of the 2017 Youth Optimist Award. The Award consists of a scholarship for the student and a service award for a group or organization of the student's choice.

Applicants are asked to write a short paper about their time with the Optimist Club and how it will help them moving forward, and to write about the group or organization they chose to receive the service award.

Skylar chose to give the \$750 Service Award the Superior School District's Dept. of Special Education. More specifically, for the purchase of equipment to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Dept.



Accepting the Award was Dr. Kathy Hinders, director of the Dept of Special Education. Both Awards were presented on October 25 at the Optimist Club noon meeting.

PROGRAMS FOR November

Nov. 1st - Leslie Larsen,

Associate Dean Continuing Education & Yoga Instructor
Mindful Movement in the workplace & life

Nov. 8th - Charlie Glazman

Associate Dean Continuing Education & Rotarian
Customized Training at WITC and Dragon Boat Q&A

Nov. 15th - Crystal Schoeder

W-2 FEP/Case Manger
Workforce Resource Inc.

Nov. 29th - Todd Asanovich

WITC Automotive Instructor
New Automotive Academy

Optimist Anniversaries

Jan Amys,



Karry Johnson
11/7

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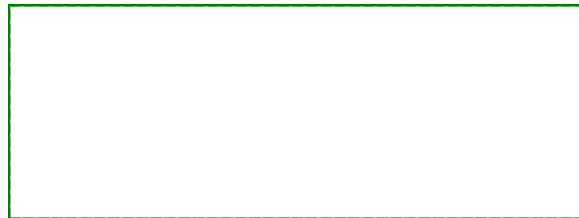
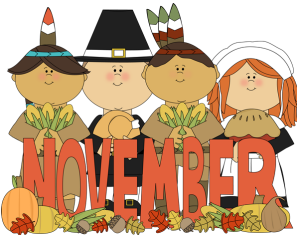
- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best,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

Mission Statement

**Superior Optimist Club
P.O. Box 1143
Superior, WI 54880**

