

Sparks

Official Newsletter of the Superior Optimist Club



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



October 2017

PRESIDENT - Carolyn Nelson-Kavajecz

Hello fellow Optimists, welcome to October! Taking on the role of president of the Superior Optimist Club this year is an honor, and a humbling experience. Each time that I have attended a meeting since becoming a member in 2012, I have found myself surrounded by individuals that I admire and appreciate for their kindness, sincerity, professionalism, and of course their optimism. I am sincerely excited to take on this role, but I have to admit, I am a bit apprehensive as well.

It is kind of a funny story. Three years ago, I was a board member for this organization, and at one of the meetings, someone asked if I would consider taking on the role of president. At that time, I was in my second year of intense coursework of a doctorate program, and I provided a half-serious, half-joking response to the request, that the club could “hit me up” in 2017, and I would fill the role if I was still needed. I figured that by 2017, I would be close to completing my dissertation, my kids would be a little bit older, I would know exactly what my next steps were going to be, and I would have a lot more free time to take on this important responsibility... Alternatively, thinking that the folks at the meeting that day would simply forget about my proposal. Either way, 2017 seemed a far and safe distance into the future.

If we fast-forward from 2014 to 2017... I am done with that intense coursework, but I am in the middle of dissertation research, which I am finding is no less intense than the coursework. In addition, at 44, I still am trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up. Why is it that I just assumed that by now I would know what my next steps would be? Then of course, there are the kids. I did think that once my four children, (who were 9, 7, 5, & 5 at the time) got older, life would get easier. In my defense, no one ever told me that raising young teens was just as challenging, if not more challenging than raising toddlers. Well, maybe my mom told me once or twice, but that was when I was sitting cross-legged on the floor with a twin propped in each leg balancing their bottles with my chin, braiding my 2-year-old daughter's hair and watching my 4-year-old paint himself with pudding. I think she said something like, “Oh boy, you are in trouble” but I was not really paying attention... Plus, she was laughing so I couldn't really understand what she was saying.

All joking aside, I do have a fantastic support system. On October 4, (the day of the installation meeting), I will be celebrating 14 years of marriage to Trev Kavajecz. We dated for about 10 years before we got married... just to make sure it was right! I have owned Sterling Silver Studio since 1991, and ever since then, my family has been right by my side supporting this venture. My sister Carrie, and my mom Judy, have been a driving force behind this business and have helped me keep this labor-of-love alive. I also founded and own another small business called “The Ultimate Talent Connection”. This organization has been alive since 1997. Ironically enough, I recruited some of my biggest competitors to help me run this organization, and we have been in business for 20 years.

I could quickly sum up all of the other civic organizations that I am involved in, and the other volunteer positions that I hold in 6 paragraphs or less, but I will save those conversations for future newsletters. I believe that I have 11 more of these things to write. I mention all of these things not to earn kudos or sympathy, as I know that all of the Optimists that I have met have several balls in the air, and work to juggle family, careers, and civic duties. I mention these things because I might need to ask for help from time to time this year, and when I do, it will be with good reason. I will do my absolute best to make sure that this year is a successful one.

Thank you for believing in me and for allowing me the opportunity to lead this organization into 2018.
~ Carolyn Nelson-Kavajecz

P.S. As you might have guessed by now, I am a fan of dry, and sometimes not-so-humorous humor... so clearly I am a closet fan of Dick Keskinen; but I will leave the live stand-up to him each week.

SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB BOARD MEETING - September 13, 2017 Drafted by Jan Jago

Attended by: Kim, Dave, Scott, Danna, Carolyn, Colleen, Marge, Kaye, Jan

Motion to approve minutes: Motion to approve August minutes by Danna, seconded by Marge.

I. Correspondence

- a. Request for funds for a private park in Iron River. Motion to deny by Marge, seconded by Danna, motion carried

II. Finance

- a. Presently the account has \$6,600
- b. Colleen will mail out the membership dues invoices.
- c. Dues are still \$110, the \$10 is to offset the cost of Youth lunches.
- d. Colleen made a motion to keep track of the \$10 in a separate column; seconded by Scott, motion carried

III. Committees

- a. Membership Drive: Members are asked to bring a guest to lunch for the month of September
- b. Pancake Breakfast for 2018 - Rotary was having a meeting to discuss the successes and failures of this year's Dragon Boat Festival. The Optimist Club made approximately \$850-\$900. (Jan and Colleen need to go over everything.) The Board feels that the Breakfast needs to continue, even if the profit margin is not going to be what it used to be.
- c. Meatball Dinner: Date set for May 8. Paul Kurtz brought 3 kinds of meatballs for members to test to replace his home made meatballs used at the Meatball Dinner. The members preferred the large meatball. Dave made a motion to approve the large meatball, seconded by Scott, motion carried.

IV. Installation Banquet

- a. A date is still being looked at for the Installation Banquet
- b. New Board members will begin their term on October 1.
- c. Carolyn would like some "training" to run a meeting. Dave has agreed to meet with Carolyn.

V. By-laws

- a. Dave has changed the By-Laws to include the membership fee of \$110.
- b. Motion to approve the by-laws as they are by Marge; seconded by Kaye, motion carried

VI. Survey results

- a. Dave feels his survey would be a good backdrop for upcoming events that we might be involved in in the future year.
- b. Dave feels that we should layout which projects that Optimist International lays out for us.
- c. Carolyn is interested in starting a Junior Optimist Club. Bringing in Junior Optimists might engage parents. She is interested in checking into the possibility of starting it at Cathedral and bringing Cathedral teachers into the leadership role.
- d. Kaye reminded us of past Junior Optimist Clubs. Hugo and Linda Berg used to be in charge of this. We no longer do other Youth events such as the Golf Tournament because of lack of youth participation.
- e. Jake has made an offer to combine the Optimists with some events with the Leadership Program

VII. Spooktacular

- a. October 21st on Banks Ave. Parade starts at 11. Set up will be between 9:30 and 10.
- b. Juice boxes and sausages (sausage roll-ups) will be part of the menu.

VIII. Youth Optimist Award

- a. The winner of the 2017 Youth Optimist Award was Skylar Rogge.
- b. October 25, will be the date that she will receive her award and present it to Kathy Hinders. Kathy is the director of Special Education at the Superior School District. Skylar has asked that her service award go to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. Kathy will also speak that day about her job.

Membership Volunteers

- a. Kaye would like a change in how members volunteer.
- b. It was suggested to make a yearly calendar of our events to pass around at the weekly meetings. Members can then fill in availability for the upcoming year. (Or as much as they know at the time)
- c. When a new event comes up- it has been requested that exact times and jobs be available so volunteering can be made easier.

Next meeting will be called by the new President: Carolyn

Meeting adjourned.

SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB BOARD MEETING - AUGUST 9, 2017 DRAFT

Attended by: Dave C., Scott, Jan, Carolyn

Changes in minutes: Dave was approached by the District not the Kiwanis. Hosting is missing a t

Jan made a motion to change the price back to \$5

I. Correspondence:

A thank you card was sent by Kearra Thimm for her Youth Optimist Award

II. Youth Optimist Award

At this time there are 6 entries, the cutoff is August 15th. Scott made a motion to approve the committee who will approve the winner. Seconded by Carolyn. Motion carried. The committee is Jan, Kim, and Liz.

III. No finance report available.

IV. The District has asked us to host a NOW event. Dave is looking for someone to chair this event. The NOW event would explain the different categories of membership: 1) friends membership 2) teacher's membership 3) under-30 membership 4) lifetime membership etc. Carolyn has suggested we bring this up at a regular business meeting at a Wednesday lunch. We need to make sure that club members bring 1 guest. Dave has agreed to bring it up at the August 15th meeting. Carolyn has suggested we have a focus as to what we do in order to inform potential members.

V. Pancake Breakfast

a. Tickets are made, some were given out.

b. A suggestion made to deliver pancakes to the parents of the Sterling Silver performers. Carolyn is willing to provide some "waitresses." She will ask them to come to lunch on August 16th and this will be discussed in more detail.

VII. Officers for the upcoming year.

President—Carolyn, Vice President—Brian or Scott, Secretary—Jan, Treasurer—Brian or Scott
Board Members---- ? This will be discussed at the August 16th meeting.

VIII. Harbor House Request

Harbor House is starting a new campaign. They would like to build a 5 unit house for homeless families. Their cost will be approximately \$125,000. Colleen has mentioned to Dave that we have the finances to donate to this. Jan has made a motion to donate the \$1250 (1% of money needed) Seconded by Carolyn. Motion carried.

IX. By-Laws

A motion was needed to change our by-laws to change our Membership dues from \$100 to \$110. Carolyn made the motion. Scott seconded. Motion carried. Dave recommends that we stick with our by-laws. Our programs, fundraisers and decisions should be in conjunction with our by-laws. The option of modifying the by-laws is always a possibility. Dave has recommended that we follow the Youth programs set by OI. Youth Program Ideas can be brought to the Board, but that person should be responsible to take the Leadership in this idea. Communication should go through the President. - Communication should be sent by email or US mail. Text messages should be eliminated as a choice for communication. Scott recommends a new App for communicating among new Board Meeting.

X. On-line Survey

a. Survey will be completed by the end of August.

b. The last luncheon meeting of the month will be set aside for planning our strategies and fundraising programs for next year.

Next meeting will be Sept. 13



Brian Hakanson - 10/7
Dana Livingston - 10/26
Bruce Thompson - 10/28

Attendance Prize Winners
9/6 – Carolyn Kavajecz
9/13 – Kim Pearson
9/20– Brian Hakanson
9/27 – Cari Matheson

SPEAKER CHAIR
Jake Siproth

PROGRAMS FOR October
Oct. 4th
New Officers
Oct. 11th
Lindsey Jacobson, Superior BID
Oct. 18th
Jasen Elcombe - Salvation Army
Oct. 25th
Kathy Hinders

Optimist Anniversaries
Toby Marcovich, 57 years
Troy Lambert, 12 years
Charlie Place, 11 years

Assistant Editor Judy Carlson

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

REFLECTIONS - By Jan Jago (New member spotlight - Jake Siptroth)

Liz suggested that one of our Reflections be used as a "new member spotlight" so I asked our newest member, Jake Siptroth, if he was interested in doing that. He agreed, but requested that I put it in a question and answer form. My questions were based on what I would like to know about him. I tried not to get too personal! ~ Jan Jago

Can you give us a little background of yourself?

-My name is Jake Siptroth and I am the Chamber Foundation Education Director at the Superior Douglas County Area Chamber of Commerce. I have been in this role for over a year now and enjoy every minute of it. A little bit about me: I am a 2016 graduate of the Business Management Program from WITC-Superior. I currently just got nominated/voted on the Board of Directors for the WITC-Superior Alumni Association, and I am always looking for ways to be more active in the Superior Community. In my free time, I enjoy downhill skiing, working out, traveling, and hanging out with family and friends.

How did you hear about the Optimist Club?

-I heard about the Club from my old boss, Dave Minor.

How is the Optimist Club different or the same from what you heard?

-The Optimist Club is the same from what I heard about it. Dave told me that joining this club is a great ways to be more involved in the community and gain a lot of networking connections. Not only that, but it also works with the youth within the community as well: which in my line of work, I work with the youth a lot.

How can the Club affect your life?

I believe that the club can make an impact on how I see the Superior Community and what opportunities it has to offer. I want to get the Youth Leadership Program more involved with volunteering in the community and give back as much as time allows for myself and the students. I believe the Optimist Club is a great way for me to build new connections with business organizations to collaborate on ideas on how I can be more involved with the great community I work in.

What are your plans/goals for your future?

This is a great question...When it comes to my plans and goals, I hope for many things to fall in place. My goals and plans revolve around my personal and professional life, and they end up being the same for each. I wake up every morning to have a great day, learn more about myself as an individual, keep growing professionally in the workforce, and strive to make a positive impact in the lives of the people I meet.

Welcome to the Optimist Club Jake!!!

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CHECK US OUT
Our website: www.superioroptimist.org
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Mission Statement
The Superior Optimist Club fosters positive fellowship and community and support youth.
awareness to inspire

Superior Optimist Club
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