



Inside this issue

President's Article	1
Upcoming Programs	1
Our Mission, Vision, Values.....	2
Editor's Thoughts	2
Our Website.....	2
Our Board of Directors	3
Quotes To Reflect On	3
Our <u>Voices of Optimism</u> Book	3
Leadership Lessons Learned Seminars	4
Our Book Discussion Groups	4
Our Civic Education & Engagement Committee.....	5
Our Character Education & Development Committee	5
Membership.....	6
My Why.....	6
Welcome New Members	6
A Tribute to Don Craighead	8
Succession Planning	9
The Optimist Creed	10
Reflections on the Creed.....	10

Roseville Area Optimist Club

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Change

The one constant thing in our lives is change. Our world, our nation, our state, and our communities are all changing. Our Optimist Club is changing as well.

To ensure our continued effectiveness and success as a strong community organization, the selection of our changing leadership team is of vital importance.

Our nominating committee made up of Don Salverda, Zola Burns and I have hosted two information and succession planning meetings to address our group's sustainability through leadership changes, member opportunities to serve our club, and service to our community. We have reviewed the major functions and tasks of leading our Optimist Club.

Immediate changes include expanding our Board of Directors. This change will strengthen our Club, expand our outreach, and increase leadership opportunities for our members. We are happy to announce that member Jim Collins is our new Treasurer replacing Zola Burns who served in this capacity since the club's charter in 2017. Curt Stockford is our new Newsletter Editor replacing Don Salverda who launched our club's newsletter and served in that role for the last year. Matt Christenson, GEEK with a personality, replaces Scott Plum as our website manager. We plan to announce a new President in December.

As an Optimist, I see change and transition as exciting new opportunities. Thank you again for being part of our Optimist group and welcome to the challenge and opportunities our future offers.

Yours in optimism, *Terry*



Terry Gorman, President

Upcoming Programs

October 8 Dr. Lyman (Manny) Steil

Dr. Steil is CEO and Chairman of the International Listening Leadership Institute and CEO and Chairman of Communication Development, Inc. He is internationally known as "The Ambassador of Listening." Dr. Steil is the former Chairman of the Speech Communication Division, Department of Rhetoric, University of Minnesota. He has authored five books, numerous articles, and was the architect of the award-winning Sperry Listen Project.

Theme: "Understanding Forces That Drive People"

November 12 Floyd Carlson

Floyd is a 13 year U.S. Army Veteran Ranger who served as Commander of two companies of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" Division. Floyd has been leading teams for over 27 years in both the military and private sector. He is an author and frequent speaker. He has run 22 marathons.

Theme: "Conscious Leadership in Action"

December 10 Tom Guetzke

Tom is CHO (Chief Happiness Officer) of his company Live Happy, Inc. He left a successful business career to focus on the subject of happiness. His mission is to change minds, hearts, and lives by helping others to discover how they can create greater happiness.

Theme: "Live Happy: 5 Secrets to a Healthier, Happy You"

Our Mission

To bring out the best in our youth, our community, and ourselves by providing hope and positive vision.

Our Vision

Optimists will be recognized as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps develop their full potential. Our vision also includes to grow in size, service and stature.

Our Values Statement

Optimism

We believe in the power of optimism and positive thinking, the purposes of Optimists International and the Optimist Creed.

Youth

We believe that the future of our communities and our society are in the hands of today's youth.

Community

We believe in community service and the positive impact that civic and volunteer organizations bring to our community.

Personal and Leadership Development

We believe in lifelong learning and are each challenged to continue to increase our knowledge and skills and to foster positive attitudes.

Every Member is Important

We believe that each and every member is important to our organization and that one person can make a significant difference.

Professional Relationships

We believe in the value and impact of developing positive professional relationships and the positive synergy and results that come from positive thinking people meeting with other positive thinking people.

Excellence and Quality in the Delivery Our Programs and Services

We believe that service is the reason for our being and strive to deliver quality programs and services in a highly professional manner.

Fiscal Responsibility

We believe that fiscal responsibility and the prudent stewardship of our financial resources is key to our credibility and stability.

Diversity

We believe in the positive value of diversity within our membership.

Adapting to Change

We believe that our organization must continually adapt to the changing needs and wants of our members – but not to compromise our mission, purposes, vision, and values.

Our WEBSITE – A valuable resource!

Thanks to Scott Plum for creating and maintaining our group's website:

RosevilleAreaOptimistClub.com

We have over 30 presentations of previous speakers. Each presentation provides great information and is Inspirational!



5 + 5

Fellow Optimists:

The end of 2021 completes the first five years of our Optimist Club. We've had a great five years: starting our group, developing our Mission and Values Statement and Vision, growing in size, service, and stature.

Reflecting on Our First Five Years, five achievements stand out we can be proud of:

1) **Our High Quality Membership**

Our group started with 29 Charter Members on January 13, 2017, and has grown to close to 150 members. Our membership includes CEOs, entrepreneurs, public sector managers, educators, and retirees. The common denominator being a belief in optimism, our mission and values, and a personal growth mindset.

2) **Our High Quality Speakers**

Our Club has established a reputation of featuring high quality speakers at our monthly meetings. Speakers with positive, relevant, and inspiring messages – many of whom are high profile personalities.

3) **Our Voices of Optimism Book**

The publication of this book has been a huge success. Thanks to Sue Filbin who proposed the idea for the book and ensuring the book became a reality. The book includes stories of wisdom, experiences and lessons learned of 69 of our members and several guest speakers. The stories are informative and inspiring.

4) **Our Website**

Thanks to Scott Plum who created our website (www.rosevilleareaoptimistclub.com) to make available the viewing of our speakers and a wealth of information about our Club and to Loren Swanson who records most of our speaker presentations.

5) **Our Leadership Development Offerings**

Our three Leadership Book Discussion Groups and our Leadership Lessons Learned Seminars for our members by our members, are a major service fulfilling one leg of the Optimist Mission "to bring out the best in ourselves."

Thoughts For Our Next Five Years

Our next five years can take our Optimist group to a higher level as we fine tune our effectiveness and 'raise the bar' for our outreach. Five challenges and opportunities include:

1) **To Continue to Attract New Members**

To ensure our club's continued growth, it's important to place strong emphasis on attracting new members who identify with optimism and our group's purpose, mission, vision, and values. One person can make a difference.

2) **To Continue to Feature High Quality Speakers**

Speakers are key to meeting attendance. We must continue to feature highly skilled speakers with relevant and inspiring messages.

3) **To Follow Through With High Impact Program Initiatives**

Best examples are our Character Education and Development Initiative and our Civic Education and Engagement Initiative. These initiatives address youth and community needs in addition to challenging and stretching our members leadership skills.

4) **To Enhance Our Website**

Our website provides valuable and needed information about our Club, current activities, and our speaker presentations. Our challenge is to continue to utilize and maximize technology and the use of this medium and information resource.

5) **To Provide Effective Succession Planning**

To ensure that our Club provides strong and effective leadership to fulfill our mission and keep momentum, we must continually be building and strengthening our 'bench.'

In summary, our Optimist Club has a noble cause, a clear set of values, a high quality membership, increasing capabilities, and a strong and positive brand. By keeping 'the main thing the main thing' our continued growth and success is inevitable.

Thank you again for being part of our exciting group and the opportunity to serve as our Founding President and Newsletter Editor.

Don

Don Salverda

Quotes To Reflect On

"Leaders are like eagles...they don't flock. You find them one at a time."

"With the right Whos in place, your vision and purpose will expand dramatically."

Dan Sullivan, Executive Coach
Author – **Who Not How**

"It's not the how or the what but the who. Surround yourself with the best. Your quest going forward is to consider everyone around you with fresh eyes, to tirelessly search for and diligently nurture potential, and to enthusiastically direct those whom you've surrounded yourself toward collective greatness This is the surest path toward personal and professional fulfillment and prosperity."

Claudio Fernandez-Araoz
Global Expert on Hiring
Author – **It's Not the How or the What but the Who**

"Leadership, true leadership is not the bastion of those who sit on the top. It is the responsibility of anyone who belongs to the group."

Simon Sinek
Author – **Leaders Eat Last**

"Level 5 leadership is an essential factor for taking a company from good to great, but it's not the only one. We expected that good to great leaders would start with the vision and strategy. Instead, they attended to people first, strategy second. They got the right people on the bus."

Jim Collins
Author - **Good To Great**

Regarding leaders who are highly inspirational –"First they readily accept their role as leader. They recognize they are a role model, like it or not. They are perceived as championing change and being out front in taking initiative."

John Zenger and Joseph Folkman
Authors – **The Extraordinary Leader**

"Look to the hidden virtues. One of the most overlooked strengths in America today can be expressed in one word: Resilience."

George Anders
Author – **The Rare Find: How Great Talent Stands Out**

"Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of the self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming."

John Wooden
Author – **Life Wisdom Quotes From Coach John Wooden**

I am only one
By Edward Everett Hale

*I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something;
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do something I can do.*

Our Board of Directors

President	Terry Gorman	651-955-7072 Gorman1745@gmail.com
Past President	Don Salverda	651-484-1335 donsalverda@hotmail.com
Secretary (Acting)	Craig Waldron	612-961-7443 waldronco@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Collins	651-955-6598 jimcollins@comcast.net
Directors:	Kevin Keenan	651-470-4489 Kevinkeenano0@gmail.com
	Lynne Megan	651-489-2595 lmegan@TSE-Inc.org
	Karen Schaub	651-604-3502 Karen.schaub@isd623.org
	Dave Bartholomay	612-868-7203 theleadershipgrowthgroup@gmail.com
	Patty Sagert	651-270-8618 pattysagert@yahoo.com
	David McKnight	612-990-6604 mcknightgroup@yahoo.com
Honorary Director	Mary Jo McGuire	651-331-1366 maryjo.mcguire@ramsey.mn.us

Our Voices of Optimism Book

In this book 69 members and guest speakers from our club contribute a story from their life experiences. Each story is relevant to readers of all ages to uplift and inspire.

The book makes an inspirational and valuable special holiday gift.

One of our members provided 75 copies, one for each of his employees.

To obtain copies, go to our website at
rosevilleareaoptimistclub.com
The price is \$15, includes mailing costs.

Leadership Lessons Learned Seminars

Many of our Optimist members have exceptional backgrounds in leadership. A number have authored books and regularly provide speeches, seminars, and workshops to a variety of clients and audiences. Recognizing the experiences, talents, and wisdom within our membership, the Roseville Area Optimist Club provides *for our members from our members – a series of **Leadership Lessons Learned Seminars***. The sessions provide excellent opportunities to learn and challenge each other, to become better acquainted, and to make valuable connections. The sessions are held from 2:00 – 3:30 PM the same day as our Optimist meetings. We are currently doing virtual (ZOOM) meetings.

Upcoming Leadership Lessons Learned Sessions:

- October 8 **Dr. Jenny Loeck**
 Dr. Loeck is the new Superintendent of the Roseville Area School District. She began her career as a Physical Education and Health teacher and served in a number of roles including Associate Principal, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent. She received her Bachelor's Degree at Bemidji State University, an Education Specialist degree in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis; Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at St. Mary's University, and her Ph.D. at St. Cloud University.
Theme: "Leadership Beliefs and Lessons Learned Through A Career as a Teacher, Administrator, and Leader"
- November 12 **Jim Collins**
 Jim is an entrepreneur. He owns Strategic Marketing and Sales Solutions and is Chief Client Officer of Computer Solutions Ltd. His background includes a degree in Industrial Engineering and a MBA. He is also our Optimist Club's new Treasurer.
Theme: "The Importance of Recognizing Opportunity and Other Leadership Lessons Learned"
- December 10 **Patrick Antonen**
 Patrick is the City Administrator of the City of Circle Pines. His background includes Serving as the City Administrator of Centerville, Iowa, Adjunct Instructor for the University of South Dakota and Des Moines Community College, and a Doctoral Fellowship at the South Dakota Governor's Office.
Theme: "The Importance of Showing Up and Other Leadership Lessons Learned"

Our Book Discussion Groups

Charlie "Tremendous" Jones – a strong supporter of reading books – is quoted by saying ***"You are today what you'll be five years from now except for the people you meet and the books you read."***

Our Optimist Club currently has three **Leadership and Personal Development Book Discussion Groups**. Each meets once a month on the week following our regular Optimist meeting – from 7:30 – 9:00 AM

- Group I** meets on Fridays - led by Dave Bartholomay
Group II meets on Thursdays – led by Dennis Stolp and Kyle Bartholomay
Group III meets on Wednesdays – led by Kent Peterson

If interested, contact Don Salverda at 651-484-1335 or donsalverda@hotmail.com.

Recent Books that have been reviewed and discussed:

- 1) **Atomic Habits (Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results)** by James Clear
- 2) **Made To Stick (Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die)** by Chip and Dan Heath
- 3) **The Leadership Handbook (26 Critical Lessons Every Leader Needs)** by John Maxwell
- 4) **As A Man Thinketh** by James Allen

Our Civic Education & Engagement Committee

1) The Recognized Need

One of our country's greatest challenges is that of providing civic education and engagement to our communities.

"I've long advocated for more intensive civic education from grade school through college that would reclaim the original purpose of public education, which was the responsibility of citizenship."

Dave Durenberger, Former U.S. Senator

"We put fifty dollars per student per year into STEM classes. We put five cents per student into civic education."

Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice U.S. Supreme Court on Civics and Civics Education
in the book The American Experiment by author David M. Rubenstein

"Make civics a priority in Minnesota schools."

Editorial from the Minneapolis Star/Tribune

"Everywhere you turn, there is increasing evidence that Americans don't know much about history or government or politics, subjects that comprise the critical realm of civics."

Randall Reid and Emma Humphries in an article Push For Civic Education (July 2016 Public Management Magazine)

2) Our Optimist Club Initiatives

Our Optimist Club has formed a special interest committee to raise awareness of the need, to brainstorm potential projects and programs for our community and to take action on priority initiatives.

3) Leadership of the Committee

Mike Ericson, charter member of our Optimist group, a retired City Administrator and former President of the MN City/County Administrators is our Chair.

Serving with Mike are Assistant Chairs:

Craig Waldron, former City Administrator and former President of the MN City/County Administrators
Dave Bartholomay, President of the Leadership Growth Group and Mayor of the City of Circle Pines
Patrick Antonen, City Administrator of the City of Circle Pines

4) Quick Committee Update

- Our committee is producing a video series of interviews of selected professionals in local and state government on the topic of Civic Education and Engagement. The videos are on our website (www.rosevilleareaoptimist.com) and are provided for community members, social studies teachers, students, parents, and others for information and discussion.
- State Representative Dean Urdahl has spoken at two of our meetings discussing progress being made on civic education legislation.
- Our committee encourages a number of recommended readings:
 - (1) Educating For American Democracy (available at no charge at www.eda.civics.org)
 - (2) Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century Report (available at: www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose)
 - (3) The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service Report – March 2020 (available at: www.inspired2serve.gov)

Our group meets monthly the first Friday of the month, from 8:00 – 9:30 AM. Our meetings are currently virtual (ZOOM sessions). If interested contact Mike Ericson at 651-704-0397 or mikeericson@yahoo.com.

Our Character Education & Development Committee

1) The Recognized Need

One of our country's major challenges is the development of character in our youth and to model character by our adults. Honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, morals, and other virtues of character are the 'Bed Rocks' of our country, healthy communities and our future.

- (1) Former President Theodore Roosevelt said, ***"To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."***
- (2) Dr. Thomas Lickona, a national leader in the character education movement in his book Character Matters says ***"For most of our nation's history, character education was at the center of the school's mission."***

The topic presents a challenging opportunity to spark action leading to advancing character education in the community and our schools.

2) Phase I – Creating the Character Education and Development Committee

To address this need and opportunity, our Optimist Group has formed a Character Education and Development Committee. We have held several committee meetings with 20 or more members attending each session. Don Salverda, Past President of our Optimist Club, has convened and facilitated the committee's initial meetings.

3) Raise Awareness – The Six Pillars

Our first major project to raise awareness and initiate dialogue on the topic of character is to distribute wallet cards featuring The Six Pillars of Character developed by Michael Josephson, founder of The Josephson Institute for Ethics. An ethical person lives by The Six Pillars of Universal Values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The Pillars of Character are operating beliefs of the Character Counts Coalition, a major alliance of thousands of schools, government agencies, non-profit groups and businesses working together to reinforce millions of young lives with core ethical values.

4) Committee Members As Speakers

A number of our committee members are available as speakers to provide background information about our Character Education and Development Initiative. Distributing and discussing The Six Pillars wallet cards is one example of what parents, youth leaders, teachers, and students can do to raise awareness and begin discussing the importance of Character.

5) Phase II – Monte Johnson Named Chair of the Committee

Building on Phase I, having developed the mission and general structure of our initiative – the committee is progressing to Phase II. Monte Johnson, CEO of Cymbet, established community leader and strong advocate of Character Education and Development, is taking on the top leadership role of the committee. Bill Farmer, President of Farmer and Associates Consulting is working closely with Monte.

6) The Grant Application

Thanks to Monte, our Optimist Club has applied for a grant to fund most of the three years of the program with a plan to build community-based funding for long term success. Our Roseville Program will engage with City government, educational institutions of all levels, business leaders, youth organizations, minority and immigrant communities, faith communities, and community civic and volunteer organizations. We're cautiously optimistic about receiving the grant to expand our community outreach of this noble initiative.

7) For Additional Information

Contact: Monte Johnson
Bill Farmer

mjohnson@cymbet.com
farmerbill@comcast.net

612-803-3869
651-238-8003

Membership

Membership is the lifeblood of our Optimist group.
We welcome guests to learn about our Optimist Club.

Who we are and what we do:

- 1) We're **part of an international organization** whose mission is to provide hope and positive vision by bringing out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.
- 2) We hold **monthly meetings** that are informative, relevant, and inspiring, featuring **high quality speakers**.
- 3) We make **new connections** and develop **new friends** who share our optimism, positive thinking, mission, and values.
- 4) We provide the **opportunity to participate** in a variety of programs and projects that further our mission.
- 5) We **welcome guests** to attend our monthly meetings to learn about our group.

My Why

[Dan Stoltz](#) President and CEO, SPIRE Credit Union

"First off, I'm a proud member of the Roseville Area Optimist Club. I believe strongly in our mission of bringing out the best in our youth, community, and ourselves. I love our speakers and the inspiration they bring to our meetings. I am particularly excited about our commitment to help promote Character Education and Development in our schools, community, and businesses. We at SPIRE are incorporating The Six Pillars of Character in our entire organization."

[Monte Johnson](#) President and CEO, Cymbet Corporation

"I have served in leadership roles in a number of professional, community, and youth organizations throughout my career. I find our Optimist Club to be on par with the best of these organizations due to its membership and programs. Our Character Development Initiative is particularly exciting to me."

[Barbara Bergseth](#) Program Administrator,
Synergy & Leadership Exchange

"I have been working with Character Development in Minnesota for more than ten years. I'm excited about our Optimist club's initiative to enhance Character Education and Development in the Roseville community. I value the speakers featured at our meetings as well."

[Jon Heyer](#) Semi-Retired Religious Educator
and Part-time Musician

"I'm a charter member of our Optimist Club. I believe in our mission and values and I am very impressed with our speakers. The monthly dose of of positive people is a good thing in our lives. I enjoy serving on our group's Oratorical Committee for students."

Welcome New Members

[Tom Esch](#)

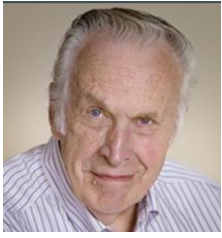
Tom is owner of Esch Consulting.
Improving Safety & productivity
through communication & awareness.

[Dayna Taylor](#)

Dayna is the Director of Development
for the Hand in Hand Christian
Montessori School.

[Ann Marie Collins](#)

Ann Marie is the Executive VP of
Savills. An English Real Estate firm
establishing a local office in the Twin
Cities.



A Tribute to Don Craighead

Don Craighead's Passing

Don Craighead passed away peacefully on December 18, 2020, at his home in North Oaks. As a CEO of DHC Enterprises, Don was a consultant to industry and education with special emphasis on automation hardware sales. In 1964 he co-founded Power/Mation, a leading distributor of high-tech automation products. Don was known for his positive attitude and being a master networker. He was a proud member of our Optimist Club.

Don's Celebration of Life

Don's wife Sandy, family, and friends hosted a Celebration of Life for him on September 18th at the Horton Pavilion at Horton Park at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. A large number of former business colleagues, employees, customers, relatives, and friends attended the uplifting event. Several of our Optimist members attended.

Don's Many Achievements

Don received his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (BME) at the University of Minnesota in 1957. Don's list of activities and accomplishments were many. In addition to his entrepreneur and business successes, he was a very active volunteer serving on scores of advisory boards and committees including Robotics Alley, The Positive Coaching Alliance, Airspace Minnesota, STEM, The Minnesota Character Council, and the St. Paul Winter Carnival as a past West Wind Prince. He received many awards and honors including the 2019 J. Stanley and Doris Hill Legacy Award at Century College for lifelong community service, The St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year, and the State Department of Education Outstanding Contribution to Vo-Tech Education in Minnesota. He received numerous additional awards for leading sales, exceptional performance, outstanding achievement, and generous community support.

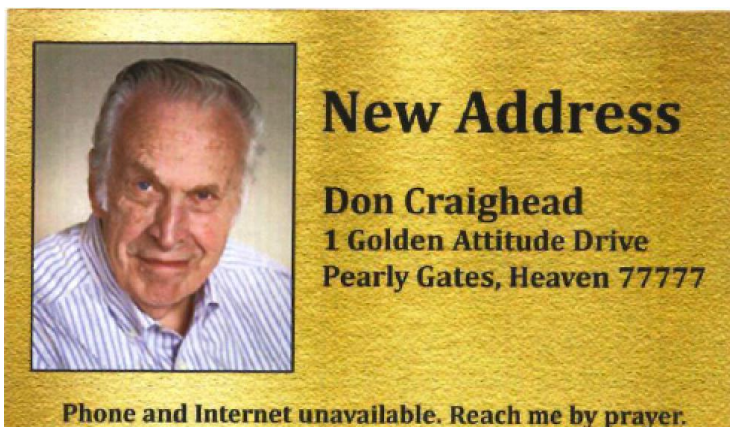
Don's Leadership Lessons Learned

Don was scheduled and preparing his Leadership Lessons Learned to present to our group on September 11, 2020. Due to illness he could not share his thoughts. Learning of the many positive contributions he made to so many people and knowing Don as a friend, I suspect that he would say something like the following:

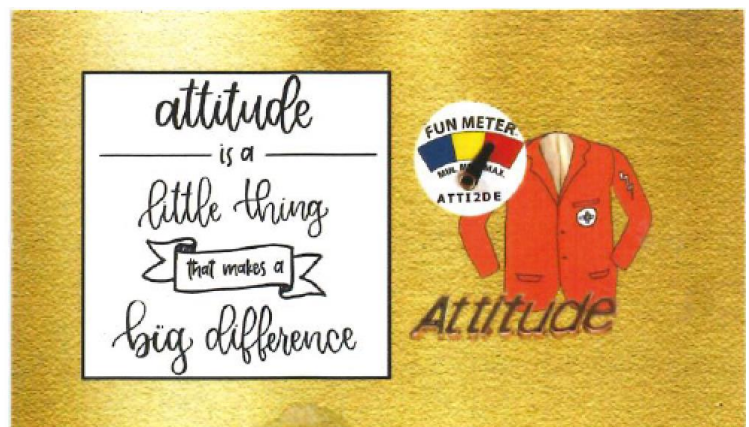
- 1) **The Importance of a Positive Attitude**
First and foremost, the importance of having a positive attitude and mindset. Don continually focused on Optimism and positive attitude. He said, "Attitude is a little thing but it makes a big difference." His license plates read "ATTI2DE"
- 2) **The Importance of Taking Action**
Don was a man of action – making things happen. Ideas are needed, but ideas without action are interesting but will never be realized without initiative and action.
- 3) **The Importance of Giving Back**
After retiring from Power/Mation Don's life was about giving back to the causes and organizations he believed in. Don was 'non-stop' serving on advisory boards and sharing and contributing his time, valued advice, and financial resources to a number of worthy causes. He was an example of the The Servant Leader.
- 4) **The Importance of Affirming Others**
Don was very supportive of his employees and friends and continually encouraged and affirmed them.
A key supporting comment "You Can Do It!"
- 5) **The Importance of Networking and Business Cards**
Don believed in networking – big time! He continually collected business cards and distributed his many business cards to others. He connected and referred his friends to others. He was a catalyst – bringing people together. After his passing he left one more business card for his friends. The cards were distributed at his celebration of life.

Don's Last Business Card

(front)



(back)



We can all learn from Don Craighead's example!!

Succession Planning



Background

Our Nominating Committee made up of Terry Gorman, Zola Burns, and Don Salverda, hosted two meetings to provide information and discuss our club's succession planning. The meetings were held on June 22nd and September 16th. The participants in the meetings were primarily members who represent the next generation of our Leadership Team.

The Need

One of the keys to effective and sustaining leadership for our organization is investing in information sharing, and discussion of leadership succession planning. Our Optimist Group has benefitted from highly committed leaders during the last five years. The planning of our next five years is crucial to continue to fulfill our mission, fine-tune our procedures, maintain our momentum and to name and develop our next leadership generation.

The Meetings

Discussions at the meetings included the big picture of our organization, our strengths, recommended improvements needed, our programs, the roles and tasks of our leadership team, and our future leaders. Both meetings were well received.

The Recommendations

After information was provided for the participating members, discussions followed. The Nominating Committee made a number of recommendations including expansion of our Board of Directors and potential candidates for our club's leadership team with a focus on 2022.

The Next Steps

A third meeting is scheduled for November 3rd to further discuss the topic. By December 1st we expect to have the new leadership team in place and our group will be ready for a highly successful 2022.

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself –

1. To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
2. To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
3. To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
4. To look at the sunny side of everything make your optimism come true.
5. To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
6. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
7. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
8. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
9. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
10. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

“Reflections on the sixth promise of The Optimist Creed”

by Dave Bartholomay

Promise yourself to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

I'd like you to think about that statement for a bit. "To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own."

I mean we can all feel good about achieving success, however you define that (often by a job title, or how good of kids you've raised, how much money you have or whatever). And we should celebrate our own successes!!! And we are glad to celebrate success when it happens with our children, and our friends. No problems there.

But to be just as enthusiastic for the success of others, especially when the 'others' are perhaps not friends and family.

I would suggest that the success of others is about the success of the whole community, the whole organization. It is about being able to look beyond yourself and your circle, and to celebrate the successes, large or small, of folks we may not know or really relate to. It isn't us versus them - Their success is truly our success.

I'd ask you to think about how important it is to celebrate others - perhaps even more than yourself. To move from a singular focus on yourself and your loved ones - and to be happy for the success of others. Even beyond that - to be 'enthusiastic'! Can you realize how important it is for the whole of the community to celebrate a neighbor who beats cancer - or a teenager who achieves the ranking of Eagle Scout? Can you imagine the power of enthusiastically cheering on others to success...when you don't really have a reason to do so. Do you know how much it means to someone to be appreciated - to be lifted up - to hear they have done good things?

So the promise in The Optimist Creed is To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own is not about downplaying your own accomplishments. Celebrate those! And also seek out opportunities to find others being successful - and intentionally reach out to celebrate their success. In a world where too many people attack others to try to divide us, we as Optimists are on the look for a chance to enthusiastically say 'Congratulations' to someone who may really need a lift!

So, Promise Yourself...

to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.