



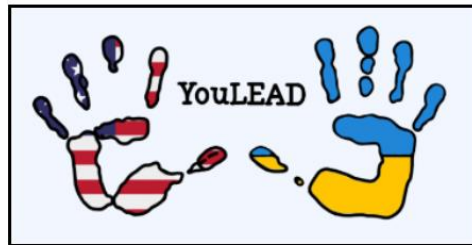
Welcome to the Roseville Area Optimist Club Newsletter  
September/October 2024

<>>> BE THE FIRST TO KNOW <>>>

Our Mission - By providing hope and positive vision,  
Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.

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### UPCOMING SPEAKERS



**Friday, September 13th - the Luncheon Meeting Speaker  
Irina Fursman**

*Theme - The Ukrainian Student 2024 Recap*

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You will meet the YouLEAD students and learn about their remarkable stories of strength, knowledge, and dedication to rebuilding their community. After the luncheon stay and join the graduation celebration!

RSVP for the Graduation Ceremony to [Karenschaub@msn.com](mailto:Karenschaub@msn.com)

*Registration Closed*

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**Friday, October 11th Luncheon Meeting Speakers  
Dr. Jenny Loeck and Niceta Thomas  
Roseville Area Schools  
including a few students will join us.**

*Theme – “Roseville Schools and Education Today”*

Roseville Area Schools is an anti-racist district, one that welcomes all students to be their authentic selves. In today’s diverse educational landscape, addressing the unique needs of students requires more than a one-size-fits-all approach. This presentation delves into the intersectionality of race, gender identity, and educational ability among other topics, and explores how these factors collectively influence student experiences and outcomes.

**Dr. Jenny Loeck** assumed the role of superintendent of Roseville Area Schools in July 2021. For more than 27 years, Dr. Loeck has worked in public education in various roles with increasing responsibility, including as a physical education and health teacher, associate principal and activities director, principal, and assistant superintendent.

Dr. Loeck was instrumental in initiating the AVID program in Roseville Area Schools, which supports students who have the potential of becoming first-generation college students, and is committed to advancing policies and practices that support equity and remove barriers for students of color, English learners, and students receiving special education services.

Dr. Loeck is a longtime resident and member of the Roseville community where she resides with her family, including an elementary student who attends Roseville Area Schools.

**Niceta Thomas** is a lifelong Educational Strategist who has a demonstrated history of working in the education management industry, by prioritizing students-first in all decision-making, while dedicating her career to eliminating inequities. In July of 2024 Niceta became the Executive Director of Student Services for the district. She has spent 20+ years in the field of special education.

Niceta currently resides in Woodbury, MN with her husband and 3 children, one of whom attends Roseville Area Schools.

[Register Here](#)

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### **Updates on our Initiatives**

**Character Development Initiative: Inclusive Caring Community (CDI)**  
by Bill Farmer and Monte Johnson

Much of our CDI community work has been in collaboration with the Roseville school district. Barb Bergseth is our point person for working with the schools and has met with Superintendent and Optimist Jenny Loeck and new RAHS principal, Jen Wilson for initial planning of support for this school year.

The board has been interested in holding a *Roseville Day of Caring*. The school district has a “Caring Week” in February, and we will look into possibly coordinating around this pre-existing event.

We are looking to expand our capacity and invite anyone interested in joining the team to please contact Monte Johnson at [msjconsulting@msn.com](mailto:msjconsulting@msn.com)

### **Roseville Area Optimist Foundation (RAOF)**

Our local foundation has recently been reaching out to funding foundations and applying for financial support. While the RAOF covers the broad area of activities of our Optimist club, this round of grant applications has been aimed at funding for the Character Development Initiative. Three applications have been submitted, to the Templeton Foundation, the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation, and the Bigelow Foundation.

The Grant Committee of the RAOF will be sponsoring a social event involving an online ‘Digital Scavenger Hunt’ in early November. Adult and NA beverages will be available along with appetizers. Curious? More details at the October luncheon!

The RAOF board is always looking for new members, with a special eye to candidates who will add both competence and diversity to our board. Interested parties should contact Bill Farmer at [farmerbill@comcast.net](mailto:farmerbill@comcast.net)

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**RAOC - Getting Involved in the Community**

***Gathering of Champions***

Bill Farmer and Barb Bergseth volunteered on behalf of the Optimists this summer. This annual student recognition includes school officials in grades K–12 and providers of academic enrichment programs offered statewide who are invited to name their top students as Minnesota's Academic All-Stars. Find more info at [www.synergyexchange.org](http://www.synergyexchange.org).

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***3rd Annual Don Salverda Golf & Social Raises \$1,200 for Students***

*On a beautiful sunny afternoon, 13 golfers, 7 lunch & minglers, and 8 sponsors helped raise over \$1,200 for the YouLEAD program. Congratulations to Team “Green With Envy” who took home the winning trophy.*

*Team Members – Barb, Mike, Terry, Tom, and Grant*

*Thank you to our sponsors and their generosity: Lynne Megan @ TSE Inc., Mike Gregory Consultant, Bill Farmer, Robert Wahlstedt, Dr. Johnathan Hoistad @ Natalis Outcomes, Chuck Gitzen, Maria Caram @ Minuteman Press, and Gary Havir @ Horace Mann*



*Team Azul – Tom, Jerry, Lynne, and Kevin*



*Team Orange Crush – Jim, Bobbie, Dennis, and Jon*





**Join an Optimist Book Club**

Enjoy some fun, meet other members, and share the love of books! Each Club meets one week after the Friday Luncheon Meeting at 7:30pm at the Roseville Professional Center.

*Wednesday Club* - Contact Don Salverda at 651.484.1335

*Thursday Club* - Contact Dennis Stolp at drstolp@comcast.net

*Friday Club* - Contact Dave Bartholomay at dave.bartholomay@gmail.com

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**Friday, Sept. 13th RAO Luncheon with Ukrainian Students from YouLEAD**



**Friday, October 11th RAO Luncheon with Dr. Jenny Loeck, and Niceta Thomas of Roseville Area Schools**



**Tuesday, September 24th at 4:30pm - Social Event at Stout's @ 1611 Larpenter Avenue**

