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Roseville Area Optimist Club

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Roseville, MN 55113-4015
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On The Road

As a 47-year Optimist member, it is an honor to serve as President of the Roseville Area Optimist Club. It is also an honor to serve as Vice President of the Great Plains Region, one of the eight Regions of Optimist International. The Region is made up of five Districts and 312 Optimist Clubs.

The last several weekends have found me 'On the Road' meeting with and speaking to the leaders of each of the five Districts.

I learn a lot from these meetings picking up ideas that can benefit our club. I in turn share with other clubs the activities and programs our club has underway: our speakers, book discussion groups, our Civic Education and Engagement Committee, our Character Education and Development initiative, and our other service projects.

At every meeting I speak highly of our club.

I leave every meeting being proud of the opportunity to be part of the Optimist International organization and inspired to expand our outreach in our communities, states, and nation.

Yours in optimism, *Terry*



Terry Gorman, President

Upcoming Programs

June 11 Mark LeBlanc

For over thirty years Mark has been a small businessman and success story. He is a professional speaker, author, entrepreneur, philanthropist, publisher, and pilgrim. He has been a member of the National Speakers Association for 37 years and has served as state and national President of the group.

Theme:

"Never Be the Same: The Quest for your Personal Best"

July 9 Ronn Lehmann

Founder of his own company, Cool Learning Stuff, Ronn is a speaker, consultant, skilled writer focusing on human factors that create culture and determine success. He has contributed to several books by noted authors including Ken Melrose, Larry Wilson, and David McNally.

Theme: ***"Positive Attitude and Avoiding Complacency"***

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

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.



Leadership, Attitude, and Optimism

Leadership, attitude, and optimism are strongly linked together.

Little positive change happens in behavior or results without effective leadership.

Likewise, little change happens in behavior or results without having a positive attitude – being optimistic.

Charles Swindoll in his book Living Above the Level of Mediocrity says “the greatest waste of our natural resources is the number of people who never achieve their potential.” He also is widely quoted as saying “I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it, and so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.”

Our Optimist membership is made up of leaders who have positive attitudes.

Our mission of service to youth, community, and self is noble. Our challenge is to unleash the power of our potential.

Understanding that we're each 'a work in progress' – we are further challenged to continue to study, learn, and practice effective leadership, the power of positive attitude, and optimism.

Hopefully, our members combined efforts will make a significant positive impact in our community and with our youth. In addition, as a member, we can grow and enjoy the process.

Don

Don Salverda
Past President
Newsletter Editor

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!

Quotes To Reflect On

"Attitude is a habit of thought. Attitude is everything."

Paul J. Meyer
Founder of Success Motivation Institute
Author – [Unlocking Your Legacy](#)

"Positive leaders lead with optimism, positivity, and belief."

Jon Gordon
Author – [The Power of Positive Leadership](#)

"Attitude is a choice – the most important one you'll ever make."

Hal Urban
Author – [Life's Greatest Lessons](#)

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind."

William James
Psychologist and Author

"A simple belief about ourselves guides a large part of our lives."

Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D.
Author – [Mindset, The New Psychology of Success](#)

"With the right attitude, human beings can move mountains. With the wrong attitude, they can be crushed by the smallest grain of sand."

Jim Rohn
Author – [The Five Major Pieces to the Life Puzzle](#)

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so shall he be."

James Allen
Author – [As A Man Thinketh](#)

"A positive attitude enables a person to endure suffering and disappointment as well as enhance enjoyment and satisfaction. A negative attitude intensifies pain and deepens disappointment; it undermines and diminishes pleasure, happiness, and satisfaction; it may even lead to depression or physical illness."

Viktor E. Frankl
Author – [Man's Search For Meaning](#)

"Attitude is a tool to lead by."

John Wooden
Legendary Basketball Coach
Author – [The Essential Wooden](#)

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It's from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped."

Bobby Kennedy
Speech to the young people of South Africa
on their Day of Affirmation 1996

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	Zola Burns	651-604-3145 zburns@gausman.com
Directors:	Kevin Keenan	651-470-4489 Kevinkeenan00@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	651-33-1366 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:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 11 | <p><u>Monte Johnson</u>
 Monte is the President of Cymbet Corporation. He has an impressive record of leadership experience in business and the community including serving as President of the St. Paul Jaycees, President of the Central Park Foundation, and several other organizations.
 <u>His Theme: “Lessons Learned From Leadership Roles in Business, Civic Organizations, and Serving as King Boreas of the St. Paul Winter Carnival”</u></p> |
| July 9 | <p><u>Dennis Stolp</u>
 Dennis is the Founder and CEO of Comprehensive Benefits, Inc. He has over 40 years experience in benefit planning, insurance, and securities. He has held leadership roles in his church, the Boy Scouts, and his profession.
 <u>His Theme: “Lessons Learned in a Career of Sales, Consulting and Leadership Roles”</u></p> |

Our Book Discussion Groups

Charlie “Tremendous” Jones – a strong supporter of reading books – is quoted by saying ***“You will be the same person in five years as you are today except for two things: 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 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) **Trusted Leader** (By David Horsager)
(8 Pillars That Drive Results)
- 2) **The Power of Positive Leadership** (By Jon Gordon)
(How and Why Positive Leaders Transform Teams and Organizations and Change the World)
- 3) **GRIT** (By Angela Duckworth)
(The Power of Passion and Perseverance)

Our Civic Education & Engagement Committee

One of the country's challenges is that of providing civic education and engagement to our communities. Former Senator Dave Durenberger has said:

"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."

Our Optimist Club has formed a special interest committee to raise awareness of the need and to brainstorm possible potential projects or programs for our community.

Mike Ericson, charter member of our group, a retired city administrator and former President of the MN City/County Administrators, is Chair of the committee. Serving with Mike are Assistant Chairs: Craig Waldron, also a former president of the City/County Administrators, Dave Bartholomay, Mayor of the City of Circle Pines and Patrick Antonen, City Administrator of the City of Circle Pines.

The group meets monthly. If interested, contact Mike at 651-704-0397 or maericson@yahoo.com

Quick Committee Update

- 1) Heard State Representative Dean Urdahl speak at a recent meeting on proposed civic education legislation.
- 2) Committee is producing a video to help spark increased interest in Civic Education and Engagement in schools and the community
- 3) Is studying reports and other related information raising awareness of need. Recommended reading: Educating For American Democracy (available at EDA@icivics.org)

Our Character Education & Development Committee

Another 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.

To address this need and opportunity, our Optimist Group has formed a Character Education & Development Committee. We have held five committee meetings with 20 or more members attending each session.

Quick Committee Update

- 1) Committee met with Dr. Arthur Schwartz, President of Character.org on April 7
- 2) Our first project is promoting The Six Pillars of Character developed by the Character Counts! Coalition. The Coalition was formed by Michael S. Josephson, Founder of The Josephson Institute of Ethics and is now part of Drake University.

If you are interested in the topic and possible participation in our committee, contact Don Salverda, Past President.

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

Chuck Gitzen

Former Anoka County Surveyor, recently retired

"My main interest is in youth activities including the Scouting Program. I'm impressed with the Optimist's focus on youth development. The networking with other Optimists provides me the opportunity to meet and volunteer with others of similar interests."

Dennis Stolp

Founder and President of Comprehensive Benefits, Inc.

"I became a member of our Optimist group in 2019. Since that time I have met many new friends that share similar values. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be part of the group and be part of my Leadership Book Discussion Group."

Joanne Biewald

Retired Stock Broker and Minister

"As a two year member of our Optimist Club I'm excited about my being part of our group. My life has changed dramatically since my retirement from my stock broker days and losing my husband. My new work as a minister working with prisoners and my being a member of our Optimist Club has opened up new doors, new friends, and new opportunities for me."

Mary Jo McGuire

Ramsey County Commissioner

"My role of serving as an elected County official requires effective leadership, a positive attitude, realism, and good judgment on decisions. At the local, state, and national levels I need the best ideas on leadership and optimism I can find. Being a member of our Roseville Area Optimist Club is a natural for me. The speakers are top rate, the members are first class, the book discussion group I participate in is inspiring. I'm proud to be a Charter Member of our group. It inspires and empowers me."

Dan Stolz

President and CEO of SPIRE

"First off, I'm a proud member of the Roseville Area Optimist Club. I believe strongly in our mission of bringing out the best of 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."

Welcome New Members

Phil Gerlach

Phil has a background in theology and business and is recently retired.

Kirk Possehl

Kirk is President of the Possehl Insurance Agency. He is a former University of Minnesota sports announcer.

Dave Foster

Dave started a new career with Polaris as a Program Leader in March 2021. He served in the U.S. Army for 22 years prior to his new opportunity.

Youth Programs

1) The Optimist International Essay Contest

Theme: Reaching Your Dreams
By Choosing Optimism

2) The Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Theme: Healing the World with Optimism

Congratulations to Youssef Abdallah, our Club's winner of the 2021 Oratorical Contest. Youssef advanced on to the Dakotas, Manitoba, Minnesota Optimist District Contest where he placed 2nd and was awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship. Youssef will join us on our June 11th Zoom call to deliver his speech on "Healing the World with Optimism".

Thank You! to Karen Schaub, Club Communications Contests Chairperson, Jamie Johnson, and Jeri and Terry Gorman for helping Youssef polish his speech.

3) The Optimist International Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Theme: Healing the World with Optimism

For information

Contact Karen Schaub at:
Karen.schaub@isd623.org
Or call Karen at: 651-604-3502

Books Available by our members at Barnes & Noble

By Michael A. Gregory

The Collaboration Effect

By Mindy Greiling

Fix What You Can: Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker's Fight for Her Son

The Suburban Ramsey Emergency Coalition

The Suburban Ramsey Emergency Coalition continues to address the needs of those affected by the pandemic within our communities. Since our last Update, the Coalition has made several more grants. The total distribution amounts to \$158,670. For more on these grants please see:

<https://www.suburbanramseycoalition.org/grants-awarded>

Roseville Family Table Meals. A few volunteer opportunities remain through June 9. To volunteer go to our Signup Genius at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49afad2da4f4c43-meals>

Roseville Area Optimists have played a critical role during the Coalition's first year and will continue to be a foundational piece of our future. Thank you for all that you have been and will continue to be as we move forward together in common cause.

Review of the Book
The Servant Leader: Unleashing the Power of Your People
By Robert P. Neuschel
(Book review by Don Salverda)

This book, written in 1998 by Robert P. Neuschel, is one of the finest, most practical and powerful books on leadership I have read and reflected on. IT'S A GEM!!

The Author – Robert Neuschel

Retired as a Senior Partner after 30 years at McKinsey and Company, Inc., the international management consulting firm. After retiring from McKinsey he served as Professor of Corporate Government at the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. He served in World War II for five years in the Army and was active in the New Guinea and Philippines campaigns in the Pacific Theater. He retired as a Captain in the Army Air Corps. He received a MBA from Harvard University Business School. He served on a number of boards and in advisory roles over his 50-year career in leadership and management. His biography appeared in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World.

Introduction of the Book

Thomas Donahue, former President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said, "It is time to revitalize the concept of leadership in all of our institutions. Neuschel portrays the qualities of leadership in the most appealing terms, so that we can't help to want to search for and develop those qualities in ourselves. Neuschel believes that the most important responsibility of a leader is 'renewal.' The foundation of leadership is 'more judgment than knowledge, more art than science.'

Introductory Comments by Neuschel

"It is time to revitalize the concept of leadership in our society and confront a serious shortage of quality leaders in all our institutions." "My fervent desire is that in a small way the book will motivate our leaders to first serve that they may lead better. In this way the book will hopefully help our leaders unleash the power of their people as they mature into servant leaders. That is the simple and compelling motivation for this book." "The purpose of the book is to provoke, inform, and inspire those who desire their capacity to manage and lead. We learn to lead by leading." "We are faced with a nagging perennial problem. Technology outpaces our ability to manage it. Our future progress depends more on our ability to lead with better technology and not just create technology."

Content of the Book

Part of the book includes a number of succinct 'kernels of wisdom' on leadership called 'Neuschel's Nuggets.' Selected examples include:

- 1) "It is not the lot of the leader to be served but rather his/her privilege to serve."
- 2) "Leadership is a skill that requires capacity, dedication, and experience."
- 3) "The high performing, trusted, and respected leader will have an unswerving sense of character and moral decency."
- 4) "The mature leader has a keen sense of what really counts – an instinct for the essential."
- 5) "The successful leader energizes people as he/she leads them."
- 6) "Courage is among the most desired of leadership qualities."
- 7) "Virtues which we admire: consistency, determination, resoluteness, decisiveness, and above all, sheer grit."

In Addition

The book includes chapters on: The Foundation of Leadership, Character and Personality, The Importance of Self-Motivation by the Leader, Important Traits and Characteristics of the Manager/Leader, and the Role of Ethics and Value-Setting in Leadership. Neuschel goes on to say: "When we stop growing, we start to die. Growing is the quality that makes leaders exciting and inspiring to others." "By achieving personal growth, the leader sets the example for his/her followers." "We must never stop developing new leaders."

In Summary

"The Ultimate purpose and test of leadership is to unleash the power of your people. The crux of this challenge is to build the team – to achieve more opportunities through team building." What we need in our global society are quality leaders – thousands, perhaps millions at every level of our society, throughout all our organizations."

Find a copy of the book

Since the book is 'out of print,' the best way to obtain a copy is to search through Amazon, eBay, second-hand book stores, or other sources.

Is An Optimist A Fool?

A column by Circle Pines Mayor Dave Bartholomay

Take a look around. There is a seemingly endless run of stories in the news about the bad shape of our world. The COVID Pandemic. Nasty partisan gridlock in St. Paul and in Washington, DC. Rich getting richer and poor getting poorer. Church attendance is down, anger and hate seem to be up, good jobs gone overseas, distrust of our institutions, and a loss of hope for too many of our citizens. And in the midst of all that and more bad news, I am an optimist. Does that make me a fool?

I know a woman from my church who is really struggling. She is fighting a nasty cancer that wants to take her away from her wonderful and loving husband and two teenage boys. Should she just give up? Is it a mistake for her to be optimistic and believe she can beat this disease?

I know a lot of teachers who are helping kids facing difficult life situations. These teachers and staff work very hard to help kids who in all likelihood are going to have a very tough time being 'successful' in modern day America. But they push on day by day, trying again and again to find ways to educate and inspire these kids to beat the odds, to be optimistic about their future. Are they really going to make a difference? Should they just give up and stop caring?

I know a big city Mayor, long retired, who was a fountain of hope and new ideas when he was in office. The other day he confided that, in his old age, as he has seen losses and setbacks, he has become more and more pessimistic about life. Given all he has seen, would he be a fool to be optimistic about the future?

No, absolutely not!

Being an 'optimist' with a positive attitude on life is not about being happy when things are going good and viewed as 'out of touch' when things are going rough. An optimist understands that there will be failures - we don't live in a fantasy land. But we learn from our failures and we believe that success will inevitably follow those failures.

As Jon Gordon in his great book Stay Positive says: "We are positive, not because life is easy. We are positive because life can be hard. It's not Pollyanna. It's about trusting in God, overcoming obstacles, finding a way forward, and believing the best is yet to come!"

That's why we are all members of the Roseville Area Optimists Club.

So why am I telling you all of this? Because I don't think being optimistic is foolish. In fact, I think it is the only way to a happy, successful and fulfilling life. I imagine a world where we see the positive in situations, where we have hope in resolving tough problems. Where our focus on maintaining a positive attitude shapes the way we see our world and thus increases the possibilities for improving our families and our communities. Where people treating people kindly and with care inspires our youth to take that lesson into a bright future.

I'll admit that I sometimes jokingly refer to our Optimists Club as a 'support group' for when I don't feel quite so positive about the future. But I'd also like to remind you to, as the old saying goes, 'count your blessings'. Just like me, you'll find there are many more than you think and with an optimistic approach to life you can find even more.

The 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.

“Reflections on the fourth promise of the Optimist Creed”

by Dave Bartholomay

Promise yourself to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To look at the sunny side of everything Hmm. I know I've sure been hearing a lot about the 'dark and cloudy future' caused by the Coronavirus. So you're telling me there's a sunny side? And, of course, optimists know that there is always a sunny side. Now, that doesn't mean we don't see the clouds - they are there! But it means that we know those clouds will pass, and that the sun will indeed come out tomorrow (just like in the song from the play 'Annie' - but don't worry, I'm not about to break out in song!)

Everyone here today knows people who right away fret and worry, and who always see the glass as 'half empty'. And their attitude becomes how they see life. Something is always lacking; a result is never satisfying; and they are never grateful for what they have - and instead - are sad and upset about what they don't have.

So here's the trick. We make our optimism come true by practicing it daily. When we hear about a dire situation, or when we see a calamity unfold right in front of our eyes; we quickly think to ourselves "OK, this is indeed bad, but based on all of my experiences and my strong sense of hope and optimism, I know this too shall pass." And then we go about looking for the silver lining, and we literally begin the work to 'make our optimism come true'.

Because when we look for the sunny side (and sometimes we need to look awfully hard to find it!), we are taking the first step in making our optimism come true. We see the bad stuff, we know this will pass, we remain grateful for what we have been given in our life, and we know that good things are coming around the corner if we intentionally look for them!!

So, when you see the nasty stories on TV, or when you see the struggles of life:

Promise yourself to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.