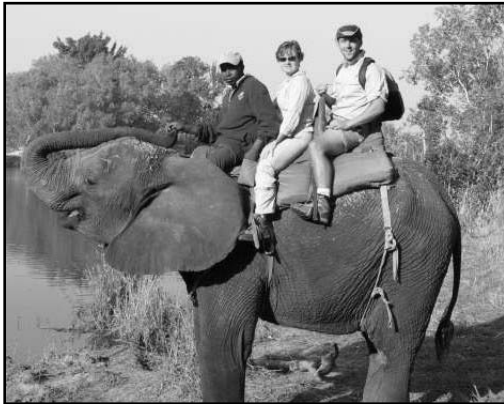


connection

St. Paul Jaycees Donate \$10,000 to Sister Chapter in New Bussa, Nigeria



President Elizabeth and First Gentleman Tom visit sister chapter in New Bussa, Nigeria

I recently received an email from Solfo Prila. Solfo is the first ever female president-elect of the New Bussa Jaycees of New Bussa, Nigeria. New Bussa is located in western Nigeria near the border of Benin. The New Bussa Jaycees have a long and storied past. However, they have come upon some hard times. Their membership is down, they have lost their meeting house, and have no direct way to contact current/potential members.

Nigeria is very oil rich and Solfo has an uncle who made quite a bit of money in the oil trade. Unfortunately, her uncle died recently of scurvy and to complicate matters, his estate is tied up in governmental red tape. Solfo personally sent me an email asking for the assistance of the St. Paul Jaycees. I almost didn't get it as it was accidentally sent to my junk email box. Solfo asked that we adopt the New Bussa Jaycees as a sister chapter. At first the assistance would be purely financial, but this would lead to idea exchanges, pen pal programs, and the like once her chapter is up and running again.

Solfo is in need of \$10,000 to assist in the release of her late uncle's fortune. Once this fortune is released, she would repay any donors with a portion of her uncle's large estate. Having done research on the many JC chapters in the US she decided to approach us because of our similar long and storied history.

Solfo has offered the St. Paul Jaycees \$100,000 in exchange for an initial investment of \$10,000. While I do know this sounds like a lot of money, I did talk to an attorney in Nigeria who Solfo recommended. This attorney assured me that the deal is legitimate.

As time was of the essence, I withdrew \$10,000 from the Foundation account on March 5th and wired it to her. Solfo acknowledged that she received it and has promised to keep me updated on the legal process in Nigeria. I haven't heard from her yet, but when I do, I will let the chapter know.

You're probably asking yourself, why did I do this. I did it for several reasons:

1. The thought of helping out a sister chapter in a country like Nigeria seemed to impossible to turn down.
2. The \$90,000 financial gain seemed to good to be true. As we are looking for additional resources since the closure of the tunnel, I thought this would be a good way to help make up for that loss.
3. Lastly, I wanted to see just how gullible you are. April Fools! (by the way, Solfo Prila is an anagram for April Fools.)

Thank you Tim Simplot and Tom Voigt for writing this article!

You Only Road Run Twice

--Gena Johnston, State Delegate

March was kicked off with State Bowling in Blaine where the elite bowlers from Saint Paul took Stars and Strikes by storm and placed 11th out of 24 teams. Thank you to those who took park on the team and spread the lore of Saint Paul to the Blaine Chapter and the Jaycee Chapters in the Northern Suburbs.

So what are the 007 Jaycees' mission for April? We have two featured Road Runs: Minnesota vs. Wisconsin Chili Cook Off and the Mankato Walk-About.

We are pleased to have our own Amy Zajack and President Elizabeth as competitors in the MN vs. WI Chili Battle that will take place at the American Legion in Somerset, WI on April 15th. The "judging" begins at 1:00, the cost is \$5. and all proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. If you thought Bond had to battle some serious enemies in the Bond flicks, that's nothing compared to the chili rivalry between Minnesota and Wisconsin! Come support Amy and Pres. Elizabeth as they execute their 007 mission to uphold the name of Minnesota against those dastardly Wisconsin Jaycees!

Our second Road Run is a long time favorite trip to Mankato's "Walk About" on April 21st. We will be participating in Bar Golf! Nine Holes of Mini Golf, Nine Bars, and Nine glasses of beer. The cost of this event is \$15. Since this is a trek, if you would like to spend the night in Mankato, the suggested hotel is the Holiday Inn, Down Town.

If you have made a few road runs of your own, please let me know. I track all the chapter and individual road runs our chapter does for the state. Please e-mail me (gmj@coolestvolunteer.com) the date and the event that you attended! -Agent G

The Les Farrington Best 100 Celebrates Its 50th Year

--Joy Goodwin, Community Development VP



Saint Paul Jaycees volunteers, Josh Ackerman, Debbie Ackerman, project chair Tiny Kelly, Deb Most, Greta Utvik, Lisa Simplot and Justin Edel helped at the Best 100 Judging day, where 3 jurors narrowed down hundreds of submission to the best 100.

Since 1957 the Saint Paul Jaycees, interested in a showcase for the community's talented young artists, have sponsored an annual art exhibition, open to all high school students in St. Paul and its surrounding communities. This juried exhibition encourages and awards the endeavors of these creative youth. Over the years, while recognition for high school scholarship and athletics have prevailed, the Best 100 has provided a valuable opportunity for local art students to experience the jury process and to see their work in a gallery setting.

This year's gala opened with much success. More than 250 students, parents and teachers throughout the St. Paul area celebrated the 100 pieces of art that were chosen for the 50th annual show. In honor of the 50th anniversary, the Saint Paul Jaycees awarded more than \$4000.00 in scholarships.

Long Range Planning Committee Formed

--Kathy Harvey, Immediate Past President

If you don't know where you're going...you will go nowhere.

If you don't know what you want to be...you will be nothing.

If you don't know how you're going to get there ... you will still be here.

And if your people don't know ... you will be alone.

--Author Unknown

Each year, approximately 25 individuals have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by serving on the Saint Paul Jaycees Board of Directors. While our members benefit from the variety of styles that each Board of Directors brings to the chapter, the one year term can limit our activities and the ways our organization impacts the community.

As a means for establishing strategic mid (1-2 year) and long (3-4 year) term goals, the 2006 Board of Directors approved a by-law change creating a Long Range Planning Committee. Working with the current and future chapter leaders, the Long Range Planning Committee will benefit the chapter in the following ways:

- Providing continuity when administration changes annually
- Researching and facilitating signature projects that take more than one year to develop, plan, and execute
- Assisting with the development of strategic community and corporate relationships

The committee will be co-chaired by the two most recent past presidents, primarily led by the most recent past president. Additionally, five members at large will serve two year terms. One member at large will focus on each of the Junior Chamber International Areas of Opportunity: Business, Individual, Community, and International. The fifth member will focus on administrative functions.

Qualified members must have been an active member of the Saint Paul Jaycees for more than two years and must have served at least one term on the Board of Directors. The committee will have its first meeting in May. If you would like more information or are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Immediate Past President Kathy Harvey at kathy-h@comcast.net, or 612-709-6661

Take Advantage of Your Jaycee Membership

--Chris Hartman, Membership VP



The Saint Paul Jaycees promoted "leadership development through community service" at the HandsOn Twin Cities Volunteer Expo at the Mall of America. This event highlighted more than 100 of the who's who of Minnesota Nonprofits and hosted nearly 50,000 potential volunteers.

Are you tired of the same routine - go to work and then go home just so you can go to work again... day in and day out?

If you want to do more, experience more and accomplish more every day, then you're a member of the right chapter! If you want to access your full member benefits, we encourage you to get involved today! Consider attending an area committee meeting or relaxing at a Friday Meet & Greet. Come to the very popular 3rd Thursday Socials to hear wonderful speakers and find out about upcoming events. Most professional organizations charge \$20 to \$25 on top of their membership dues to hear speakers like the Mayor or Mark Stutrud, as a Saint Paul Jaycee you can see these speakers at the Third Thursday Social free of charge.

Participating either as a project chair or as a much-needed volunteer can help break up the monotony of your regular routine while you give back to the community. And it's a great opportunity to build a network of professional contacts while building your leadership skills.

Consider breaking up your daily routine by making the most of your Saint Paul Jaycee membership! Get involved today!!

2006 3rd Quarter and End of Year Awards -- Congratulations Saint Paul Jaycees!



Tara Broker, Elyssa Weber and Matt Dougherty take their award for 2nd place in Debate at the recent state convention

2006 National Jaycees Year End Awards

Chapter Division 7, 3rd Place: Saint Paul
 Special Partner Award: Erin McComb
 Outstanding State Project, 3rd place: TOYM/OYF
 (program manager Laura Chesney)
 75 Member Recruiter: Erin McComb
 6 Member Recruiter: Kathy Harvey

2006 Minnesota Jaycees Year End Awards

Individual Awards

Junior Chamber International Senator: Erin McComb
 Silver State Program Manager (TOYM/OYF) Key:
 Laura Chesney
 2006 Wavemaker Award for Chapter Presidents:
 Kathy Harvey
 Gold Public Relations VP: Joy Goodwin
 Silver Individual Development VP: Gena Johnston
 Silver Community Development VP: Matt Dougherty
 Silver Management Development VP: Marty Pleasant
 Bronze Secretary: Ericka Pokorski
 Most Individual Road Run Miles: Gena Johnston

Project/Chapter Awards

Community Development Project Of the Year: Les Farrington Best 100 Juried Art Exhibition
 Overall Individual Development Project: Memorable Leadership
 Overall International Project: Feed My Starving Children
 Most Chapter Road Run Miles: Saint Paul

Gold

Professional Development Memorable Leadership Seminar
 Government & Civic Involvement: Afton State Park Clean-up

Children & Youth: Naomi Center Bowling
 International: Feed My Starving Children
 Website: www.stpauljaycees.org
 Newsletter: Connection
 Business Opportunities: Speaker from The Current
 Strategic Planning: Elections at November
 General Membership Meeting

Silver

Membership Retention and Growth: New Member
 Event Planning Committee
 Community Area of Opportunity: Children's Holiday
 Celebration
 Community Fundraising: Animal Ark Walk for the
 Animals
 International JCI Involvement: Rondo Library
 Children's Event and School Supply Drive
 Financial Management: Labor Payne 5K

Bronze

Personal Development: Iron Chef Challenge
 Community Service: Special Olympics Holiday
 Party

2006 3rd Quarter Chapter/Project Awards:

Gold State Program Manager (TOYM/OYF):
 Laura Chesney

Gold

Community Development VP: Matt Dougherty
 Individual Development VP: Gena Johnston
 Public Relations VP: Joy Goodwin
 Management Development VP: Marty Pleasant
 Secretary: Ericka Pokorski
 Newsletter: The Connection
 Website: www.stpauljaycees.org
 Community Development Project: Les Farrington
 Children's Holiday Celebration

Silver

Chapter of the Quarter
 President: Kathy Harvey
 Membership VP: Elyssa Weber
 State Delegate: Anneke Schultz
 Director: Amy Zajack

Bronze

Treasurer: Tricia Czerniak
 Jaycee: Kerri Booher
 New Jaycee: Richard Payne

Opportunities at the State Level for Individual Development

--Angel Scott, Individual Development Vice President

Are you looking for an occasion to strengthen your public speaking skills? What about showcasing your ability to hold your own in an argument? Or maybe you have a penchant for the written word? Twice a year, at the Spring All-State and Fall All-State Conventions, Individual Development Competitions are held. These programs are designed to promote the skills of Jaycees in the areas of speaking, writing, and debate.

The Write-Up and Speak-Up competitions utilize the same topics, which must be present within the body of your work or speech. While the Write-Up submission is limited to 500 words, Speak-Up is a 5-7 minute prepared speech. For the upcoming convention in Alexandria, the topics are:

- * Pride in Others
- * We Said Hello
- * The Lion's Roar

Write-Up submissions are due by April 15 to the Chapter Service Center in Burnsville. Please note that this deadline is not a postmark date. Contact information was provided in the February/March 2007 issue of The Gopher, but Gena Johnston or Angel Scott can help you to ensure that your entry and associated paperwork is submitted on a timely basis.

Debate consists of three-person teams, where two members are speakers and one is the coach. Topics will be selected at random, and in the past they've ranged from the light-hearted to Jaycee-relevant topics to current events. Teams are given time to prepare their arguments, after pro and con sides have been determined by the toss of a coin. The number of rounds of debate is determined by how many teams are registered for the event.

If none of these competitions are up your alley, but you have an interest in Jaycee history and current events, then Jaycee Jeopardy might be something you'd like to try. For this event only, participants do not need to register in advance. With this competition, as with the others, the top two participants or teams at each convention wins the right to compete in the ONTO round at Annual Convention. We'll write more about this later in the year.

If you're interested in participating in any of these events, please let Gena Johnston or Angel Scott know right away, so they can provide all the rules and make sure you're ready to compete in Alexandria. Having both been past competitors, Gena and Angel believe strongly in this program, and they'd love to see Saint Paul continue to have a strong showing at each convention.

New Members

Welcome!

Joe Boeser

David McGarry

Aili Jensen

New Jaycee of the Month

Stephanie McMahon

Despite her busy work and school schedule, Stephanie took the time to spearhead a wonderful new event for the chapter. She organized and executed a ski trip to Lutsen, which earned rave reviews and no broken bones!

Thank you Stephanie!

Jaycee of the Month

Sarah Voigt

Sarah arranged a fascinating cultural foray to Russia (well not really Russia...) by arranging a museum tour at the new Russian museum of art, followed by dinner at Moscow on the Hill. This new event was wildly popular and very successful.

Thank you Sarah!



Best 100, cont. from pg. 2

Although the show closed on March 31, it will continue to impact student participants for years to come. Here are some thoughts from former Best 100 participants:

“Although my parents sent me to art school when I was very young (St. Paul Gallery & School of Art) and I knew I would always paint, that show was the very first time my work was shown to others in a "real" museum. I was so proud and excited. I remember walking past my painting, very fast, the day of the event. I didn't want to look at it for some reason, and then I ran outside and started crying. I don't know why exactly I had that reaction, but I have been painting ever since. I am currently in three galleries here in the desert and was just in a show at the Palm Springs Art Museum. My thanks to (the Jaycees.) They inspired a child to continue to create. I continue to support art education for children and always will.”

Judy Nemer Sklar
Painter, Palm Desert, CA
Best 100 Participant, 1969

“I had just moved to Minnesota for my senior year of high school. I received the Mixed Media Award for a melancholy drawing about moving. It was great because the show was at Macalester College, where I went on to attend, graduating in 2000 with a BA in Studio Art. I am currently an MFA Painting candidate at Savannah College of Art and Design, expected to graduate this spring. I do not think I won many awards from '96 until recently. I'm still doing mixed media, though now it sometimes includes performance/video/conceptual stuff. I still list Les Farrington on my resume and it is the oldest bullet point, but one that has always encouraged me and been a source of pride.”

David Kurt
Mixed Media Artist, Savannah, GA
Best 100 Participant, 1996

“As I recall, participation in Best 100 show was urged by my Art Teacher at St. Paul Central High School, Mr. Petit (Thank you Mr Petit!). I entered and was selected. Inclusion in this exhibition was the first public validation of my interest in art and it helped me make art my focus in undergraduate school at Macalester and at the University of California, Berkeley for graduate work. I went on to teach at the high school and college level and continued to make and exhibit art for the next 40+ years. Art, while at the core of human experience, is at the fringe of the educational curriculum and the larger culture; the recognition of excellence in art provided by the "Best 100" exhibition helped center and spark those early efforts at art making. It was a pleasure to come full circle and jury the 50th exhibition... from what I saw from all the 700+ works submitted, there is great hope for the skill and vision of the next generation of artists.”

Wayne Potratz
Metalworker and Professor of Art, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Best 100 Participant, 1959, Best 100 Juror 2007



Saint Paul Jaycee President Elizabeth Lukanen helped award \$4000 in scholarships to St. Paul area art students at the Best 100. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Les Farrington Best 100 Juried Art Exhibition. To celebrate, the event was awarded a STAR grant, which helped to enhance the scholarship amounts and to hold the event at the prestigious AZ Gallery located in the heart of downtown St Paul's cultural district.

APRIL 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For specific detail on events, please go to: www.stpauljaycees.org. Road runs are shown in *italics*.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Community Development Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - 8 pm	3	4	5	6 Meet & Greet Half Time Rec 6 pm -- ?	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Les Farrington Triple Play #2 8:15 am - 1:00 pm
15 Chili Cookoff vs. Wisconsin 1 pm - 5 pm	16	7	18	19 Third Thursday Social 6 pm - 9:00 pm	20	21 Mankato Walkabout 4 pm - 9 pm
22	23	24	25 Individual Development Committee Meeting 6 pm - 8 pm	26	27	28
29	30					
		<p>The upcoming Third Thursday Socials will feature two of St. Paul's finest: Beer hero Mark Stutrud and St Paul Mayor Chris Coleman</p> <p>May 17: Mark Stutrud, owner and founder of Summit Brewery June 21: St Paul Mayor Chris Coleman</p>				

Mission of the Junior Chamber International (JCI)

To contribute to the advancement of the global community by providing the opportunity for young people to develop the leadership skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and fellowship necessary to create positive change.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Anchor Bank
- Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
- Gander Mountain
- Travelers
- University Bank
- Wilkerson Associates

THANK YOU

- **Stephanie McMahon** for chairing the Lutsen Skiing Trip
- **Thank you to Amy Zajack, Anneke Schultz, Eric Schultz** and guest **Mark Hughes** for representing Saint Paul at State Bowling! We rocked the house!
- Thank you to those who stopped by Lake Elmo Jaycee Social! We had a great time kicking off Saint Patrick's day at Half Time Rec with their chapter.
- Thank project chair Tina Kelly and committee members Rebecca Henders, Sara Voigt and Sara Martin for planning the 50th Anniversary Les Farrington Best 100 Juried Art Exhibition
- Project Chair Stacy Freeborg and committee members Adrienne LaPointe and Kelly Scott for organizing the first Les Farrington Triple Play
- Thank Justin Lashley for coordinating the first Saint Paul Jaycees blood drive of the year