

# connection

August 2007 . Volume 20 . Issue Eight

## Introducing the Next Leader of the Saint Paul Jaycees!

- Spencer Sokoly, 82nd President, Saint Paul Jaycees

I joined the Jaycees in 2002 for the sole purpose of meeting people. I accomplished that goal with great fervor. I was the small town guy in the big city who knew almost no one. Throughout the last five years I have met people from across the city, state, and nation with the help of the Jaycees. I have developed friendships that will last the remainder of my life, and for that, I am grateful. But I have accomplished many other things. The purpose of the Jaycees is leadership development through community service. Chairing projects and serving on the board helped me to improve numerous skills.

The first event that I participated in was the Jaycee Tunnel of Terror. Many Jaycees have fond memories of that damp, dark cave. The Jaycees spooked thousands of local youths and adults, and I loved every minute of it. I saw firsthand the power of the Jaycees. I can remember one young kid that followed me through the tunnel. He was crying, demanding to get out, and if I remember right left bruises on my arm because he needed to hold onto something. At the very end of the tour, this young kid and one of his friends, with tears streaming down his face, turned to another kid and said "That (sniff) was (deep breath) awesome!" At that moment I realized why I was a Jaycee.

My goals for next year will focus on Growth. The first part of growth is obviously in membership.



*Spencer Sokoly proudly accepts his new position!*

The chapter must continue to grow to survive. The Jaycees must continue to grow to survive. In addition, I hope to grow the chapter in not only members but also in visibility. The work that you do as Jaycees should be known by the community that you help. The more the community is aware of what we do, the growth opportunities that we offer, both professional and individual, and the people that we help will increase our membership opportunities and our partnership opportunities.

I will continue to focus on opportunities for our members to grow both professionally and personally. The Saint Paul Jaycees have afforded thousands of members throughout the last 78 years the opportunities in both leadership development and personal development, and that will continue.

Over the next few months I will be developing my Board of Directors. If there is a particular position you might be interested in or want to be involved but are not sure what that position is, we can talk.

The growth, development, and community opportunities that the Jaycees have afforded me have been invaluable in both my personal and professional life. That is why I am proud to be a Jaycee, and why I am proud to be the 82nd President of the Saint Paul Jaycees.

## Were You Too Busy Volunteering to Hear the News?

**People in the Twin Cities are more likely to volunteer than people in any other metro area!!**

**--Elizabeth Lukanen, President: [elizlukanen@hotmail.com](mailto:elizlukanen@hotmail.com)**

A new study by the Corporation for National and Community Service found that 41% of Twin Cities adults volunteer (compared with a national urban volunteer rate of 24%).

For most of the year I have focused on the leadership opportunities that can be gained through the Jaycees. This finding presented the perfect opportunity to highlight the importance of volunteering. According to the study, the high volunteerism in the Twin Cities is not because we

are kinder, but because we have the right circumstances for volunteering. In addition to socio-economic characteristics, the study indicates that we volunteer because we feel connected to our communities and have more opportunities to give back. Does this sound familiar? In my opinion, the Saint Paul Jaycees can take some credit for this! Our work

with local community organizations, festivals, and high-need populations creates lasting connections between our members and their community. In addition, the infrastructure of the Saint Paul Jaycees provides our members with a myriad of volunteer opportunities every month.

Now for the best part....that "feeling" you get when you volunteer is no longer "fuzzy". Researchers have established a strong relationship between volunteering and well-being. On average, volunteers live longer, have greater functional ability and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer. According to the study, "Volunteering is an essential component of the attitude, spirit, and

willingness of American to help others and a key indicator of what is called a community's 'social capital.'" The study goes on to link high levels of "social capital" to stronger local economies, less crime, and lower incidence of illnesses. Improve your attitude, health and the strength of your community and volunteer! Check out the Saint Paul Jaycees website for many volunteer opportunities: [www.stpauljaycees.org](http://www.stpauljaycees.org).

Speaking of great volunteers - I want to thank

the Board of Directors and our members for volunteering during our busy summer fundraising push! Despite huge manpower needs we were able to run successful fundraisers while maintaining strong support for our community and individual development projects. Finally, I want to thank the Presidential Selection Committee for their hard work and fine

choice in selecting Spencer Sokoly as the 82nd President of the Saint Paul Jaycees. Spencer is one of the hardest working volunteers I know and has the leadership skills to bring this organization to great heights. Congratulations Spencer!

Where ever you go, go as a leader.

#### Sources:

*The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research, which can be downloaded at [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org). Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Policy Development. Volunteering in America: 2007 City Trends and Rankings, Washington, DC 2007.*



*A group of great volunteers! The Saint Paul Jaycees Board of Directors held a mid-year retreat in late June. The Board celebrated six months of success, reflected on the Chapter's strengths and weaknesses and planned for the future. Consider joining the 2008 Board of Directors for a truly rewarding volunteer opportunity.*

## Summer Changes for Social Events

**Angel Scott, Individual Development VP: [angel0321\\_us@hotmail.com](mailto:angel0321_us@hotmail.com)**

We complain all the time that our summers are too short. In order to enjoy as much of the outdoors as possible, we're making some changes to the monthly Meet & Greet and Third Thursday Social locations for August.

The Meet & Greet scheduled for Friday, August 3 will have a twist. Instead of holding the event

indoors at a local establishment, we're going to host the monthly Meet & Greet at Peavey Plaza in Minneapolis.

Why? The Minnesota Orchestra is hosting its 27th annual Sommerfest, and as part of their production, they offer free music before

each concert and on weekends. On this evening, the Mandrágora Tango Quartet will play from 5:30-7:45pm and 9:45-11:45pm. We'll be able to enjoy their music, which is described as vibrant tango, living somewhere between classical, jazz, and world beat, while socializing and relaxing on a summer's night in the city. Vendors will sell food and beverages in and around the plaza, but you are also welcome to bring your own dinner picnic. As the event draws closer, we'll publish in the "What's Happening?" that explains who or what to look for in the Peavey Plaza crowd so that you and your guests can find the group easily. Someone will hold or wear something noticeable so that you and your guests can find the group easily on this evening.

Our Third Thursday Social on August 16 will also have an outdoor setting: Central Park's FOR Parks Shelter in Roseville. Last year's Individual Development team had such a successful inaugural Iron Chef Challenge that we're

bringing it back! The Iron Chef Challenge is a hands-on cooking event, during which several 'guest chefs' and their assistant 'sous chefs' prepare 3-5 dishes using a secret ingredient that is unveiled that night. The chefs are selected in advance, so if you are interested, please contact Brennan Whalen at [brennan-whalen@gmail.com](mailto:brennan-whalen@gmail.com). For \$5, all other attendees to the event have

an opportunity to sample the creations and judge them on appearance, display, and taste. The price goes toward covering the cost of the ingredients. Since we do need an accurate head-count of those who will be partaking in the tasting, please RSVP in advance on the website calendar; we'll collect your money that

night. We will provide soda, water, and some adult beverages for consumption during the evening. Attendees are also welcome to bring their own picnic dinners and / or items to grill or share. We may even be hosting this event as a regional social, which will make the competition more fun for all! This event will also act as a region social with chefs and guests from across the greater metro area. Come cheer on Saint Paul, make new friends and watch our Iron Chefs in action!!



*Making the best of summer. More than 20 Saint Paul Jaycees made our annual trek to the drive-in.*

## Entertainment 2008 Is Here!



Only \$30.00 – Save \$5 off the \$35.00 retail price when you buy from Saint Paul Jaycees!

Hurry! Start Saving Today!

Contact

Stacy Godfrey - 651 582-4097

## Jaycees at the State Fair

--*Spencer Sokoly, Management Development VP: [sjsokoly@hotmail.com](mailto:sjsokoly@hotmail.com)*

The professionalism and work ethic of the Saint Paul Jaycees afford us some incredible fundraising opportunities. Organizations look to us to supply volunteers and are willing to pay us due to our reputation. Our reputation pays off in another opportunity, this time to work at the State Fair. We will be doing something that does not involve pouring beer (I can hear the cheers in the background)! We will be working with The Preferred Pickle selling pickles in the Food Building at the State Fair. The Saint Paul Jaycees will be working the first Saturday, Aug. 25 and Sunday, Aug 26 of the State Fair, and then the evening of Thursday, Aug. 30. Working a shift will not only support the Jaycees, but it will also get you free entry into the State Fair.



The Preferred Pickle started in 1998 by a group of friends. The idea of a deep fried pickle came from down south. The group decided to make these pickles for social gatherings with friends using their own recipes. The deep-fried pickles soon became a hit. It was at that point that they realized they had something great. The Preferred Pickle was born. The Preferred Pickle was seen at events such as Lumberjack Days and the Washington County Fair, and finally the Minnesota State Fair where they have been ever since. The Preferred Pickle menu has a myriad of choices from the original Preferred Pickle (Deep-Fried with a Ranch style dipping sauce) to the Gourmet Pickle (Deep-Fried with Cream Cheese in the middle) to the Naked Pickle (large non-fried Dill pickle). Check out the website at [www.thepreferredpickle.com](http://www.thepreferredpickle.com) for more information.

## Membership Update

--*Chris Hartman, Membership VP: [chrishartman@comcast.net](mailto:chrishartman@comcast.net)*

Membership is having a great year! Statistically speaking, we have retained 70% of our existing members and have added 32 new members in the first six months of 2007!

In 2008 we've officially rolled out the Pay Pal option for people to pay membership dues online via credit card. As you can imagine, PayPal makes paying your bills as easy as sending an email. Some have found PayPal easier and less time-consuming than writing and mailing paper checks. Unlike checks, which can take days to clear, PayPal transactions clear instantly. Many new members have found this a convenient way to pay membership dues and get involved more quickly!

## COFFEE TALK



Looking for an informal way to find out more about the Jaycees? The membership team is kicking-off "Coffee Talk" meetings so members can share thoughts on everything from their favorite drive-in movie to their next new project idea. We will frequent local St. Paul coffee shops in August so watch the website calendars for information on dates and locations.

# St. Paul Jaycees Blood Donor Club

### Step one:

**Make an appointment.**

Call 1.800.GIVE.LIFE (1-800-448-3543)  
or go to: [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Appt. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Appt. time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step two:

**Make every effort to be on time.**

**Two Locations:**

**St. Paul:** Monday, Tuesday 12:00-6:00 PM

Wednesday, Friday 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Thursday 1:00-7:00 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 8:00-12:00 Noon

**Minneapolis:** Third Floor

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-7:00 PM

Friday, 7:00 AM -1:00 PM

### Step three:

Turn in this card when you check-in to make your donation. It will be used to track the number of donations for the St. Paul Jaycees Blood Donor Club.



### Welcome To Our Newest Member

**Magnus Skoog!!**

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### New Jaycee of the Month

#### **Justin Lashley**

Justin has definitely demonstrated outstanding service to the chapter. He has chaired our monthly blood drives and participated in many events including road runs. In June he chaired one of our largest manpower events, City Pages Beer Festival.

Thanks Justin!

### Jaycee of the Month

#### **Marty Pleasant**

Marty is one of this chapter's greatest assets. This year alone she has provided significant management help to several events, provided TIPS training for our beer pouring volunteers, acted as our "expert" speaker at a resume building event and chaired the popular drive-in movie.

Thank you Marty!

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**A special thanks and congratulations to those who earned a Saint Paul Jaycee Key award:**

#### **Bronze Key Award Winners**

Justin Edel, Rebecca Henders, Justin Lashley, Deb Most, Richard Payne, Marty Pleasant, and Elyssa Weber

#### **Silver Key Award Winners**

Tina Kelly, Geoff Urbanz and Eric Scott

#### **Gold Key Award Winners**

Nikki Posey and Amy Bicek

### 007 - "The Caucus is not Enough"... held August 25th!

--Agent G (Gena Johnston), State Delegate: [gmj@coolestvolunteer.com](mailto:gmj@coolestvolunteer.com)

It's that time of year again where we begin the process for selecting a new President for the Minnesota Jaycees!!

Choosing the next state leader is an exciting and open process where YOU have the opportunity to get to know the candidates who are vying for the state offices.

The Minnesota Jaycees hold area caucus meetings each year, approximately one month prior to our annual meeting held at fall convention. A caucus meeting gives local members the opportunity to meet candidates for state office, prior to the elections.

Each year the Saint Paul Board of Directors also invite the candidates for the various state offices to a board meeting so they can voice to our chapter why they feel they are best qualified to fill these positions. Did you know that

members are more than welcome to join the B.O.D for board meetings? The invitation especially applies when we are hosting state guests. This is a great chance, especially for new members, to get to know the different functions of the Minnesota Jaycees.

will decide which candidates they feel will best serve the needs of the chapter and this decision will be presented at the elections held during Fall All State Convention.

At convention, our chapter is allotted a set amount of votes determined by our chapter's size. It is not only intriguing to go to convention, but it is your opportunity to stand at elections with fellow chapter members "on the election floor" and take an active role in selecting the next state leader.

This year, the 3 area caucus meetings will be combined into one meeting. This meeting will be held Saturday August 25 at 4pm (tentative) with a meal (buy your own) & "service auction" to follow. It will be held in the basement of the Bear Creek Tavern at 111 2nd St S in Sartell, MN (next to St. Cloud). I hope you will join us for this great road run!

Convention is coming up September 7th-9th! Let me know if you would like to join me as I am currently taking registrations for Fall All State. Feel free to contact me at [gmj@coolestvolunteer.com](mailto:gmj@coolestvolunteer.com)

-Agent G



*To thank the Hopkins Jaycees for their continued support, a group of Saint Paul Jaycees helped out at Hopkins Rasbery Fest. The event was a success with great weather, wonderful bands and a huge turn out. Congratulations Hopkins!*



Join the Saint Paul Jaycees and explore the great venues along the light rail line and then take in a Twins game! Event starts at 2pm at the light rail station in Bloomington. See the calendar of events for details!

# AUGUST 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For specific detail on events, please go to: [www.stpauljaycees.org](http://www.stpauljaycees.org). Road runs are shown in *italics*.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 <b>Light Rail Pub Crawl and Twins Game</b> MOA Light Rail Station 2 pm - ??
5	6 <b>Community Development Meeting</b> 6:30 - 8pm	7	8	9 <i>Huff and Puff Softball, August 9-12</i>	10 <b>Meet &amp; Greet</b> Sommerfest at Peavey Plaza 6:30 pm - ??	
12	13 <b>President's Walking/Running Group</b> 5:15 - 6:15 pm <b>Board Meeting</b> 6:30 - 8:30 pm	14	15	16 <b>New Member Orientation</b> 6:00 - 6:20 pm <b>Third Thursday - Iron Chef Social!</b> 6 pm - 9:00 pm	17	18
19	20 <i>Regional Meeting</i>	21	22 <b>Individual Development Committee Meeting</b> 6 pm - 8 pm	23	24	25 <b>Joseph C. Uchytel Blood Drive</b> 8:30am - 12pm <b>Preferred Pickle at the State Fair</b> 8am - 11pm
26 <b>Preferred Pickle at the State Fair</b> 8am - 11pm	27 <b>President's Walking/Running Group</b> 5:15 - 6:15 pm <b>Board Meeting</b> 6:30 - 8:30 pm	28	29	30 <b>Preferred Pickle at the State Fair</b> <i>Regional Awards</i>		
<p><b>COMING TO AUGUST'S THIRD THURSDAY SOCIAL:</b></p> <p>We're selling the Entertainment 2008 coupon books. Packed with money-saving coupons for dining out, travel, entertainment, shopping and much more. The Minnesota Entertainment book is only \$30 - you save \$5 off the \$35 retail price when you buy from the Saint Paul Jaycees. So spread the word to your family and friends - you'll save a lot of money with Entertainment and the Saint Paul Jaycees. This year's book includes MORE 50% off coupons, movie tickets for as low as \$5.50, and tickets from top tier online websites!</p> <p>To purchase Entertainment 2008 or for information on how to help sell the books, contact Stacey Godfrey at <a href="mailto:sgsgodfrey@yahoo.com">sgsgodfrey@yahoo.com</a></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**

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## **THANK YOU**

- **Dan Salzl** for chairing Beer Brewing at Vine Park
- **Barb Schiel** for chairing the Canoe Trip
- 80th President **Kathy Harvey** and the Presidential Selection Committee for organizing the Railroad Social
- **Matt Dougherty** for chairing the St Paul Saints' Tailgating and Game
- **Elyssa Weber** for chairing the Touch-A-Truck event
- **Kari Keller** for chairing Highland Fest