

connection

Wherever you go, go as a leader - Thank you to those who did

Elizabeth Lukanen, 81st President
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Over the past eleven months, I have used this forum to highlight aspects of leadership that I think are important. I wanted to close the year with one of the most important aspects of leadership: giving credit where credit is due.

The Saint Paul Jaycees have had an amazing year. We have organized and executed 149 events! That means there were 149 opportunities for project chairs to develop professional skills and for volunteers to network and gain new experiences. I wish I could take the credit for our success, but I can't. It was achieved through the leadership of the 2007 Board of Directors and the dedication of our members.

The Individual Development team worked diligently to offer events designed to enhance our personal and professional profile including six new social/recreation events and two professional seminars. They also energized our Third Thursday Socials by featuring dynamic speakers.

The Management Development team initiated two new fundraisers (that were not related to beer pouring!), which has led to wonderful new partnerships. This diversifies our fundraising base and keeps us financially viable.

The Community Development team kicked off the year with an amazing 50th Anniversary Les Farrington Best 100 Juried Art Exhibition and will close the year by hosting the 50th annual Children's holiday celebration. In total, they organized 41 remarkable events including 12 new events and events that were re-designed to better meet the needs of our members and the community. Despite some personal hardships this year, they worked as a cohesive team and supported each other.

The dedication of the 2007 Board of Directors

lead to exciting programming, which helped bolster the Membership team, leading to more than 60 new members and retention rates over 80%.

The Executive team comprised of our Legal Council and Treasurer kept us in the black and out of trouble and the Administrative team including our Secretary, Webmaster, and Connection editor and the invaluable Administrative Vice President worked quietly in the "back office" to keep us on track and informed.

None of the accomplishments described above could have been achieved without the hard-working, kind and generous members of the Saint Paul Jaycees. The selfless gift of your time and talents helps us improve the community that we all love.

On a more personal note, I am deeply grateful to the 2006 Presidential Selection Committee for having chosen me to lead at this time in our long and distinguished history. I also would like to thank my senior advisor, Tim Simplot, for all his advice. Finally, I would like to thank my husband, Tom Lukanen, for his partnership with me in this endeavor. Any success that I have enjoyed this year was possible because of his support and good counsel.

There is no doubt in my mind that the 82nd President and my good friend, Spencer Sokoly, will continue to build a vibrant and strong chapter. He has already assembled a remarkable and talented Board of Directors and under his leadership I know they will do great things.

I thought it fitting to close with the words of a great leader and local businessman. I read the Carlson Credo for the first time several years ago and was inspired. It has guided my growth as a leader and was the motivation behind my

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Why Are We Talking About White Elephants?

Angel Scott, Individual Development Vice President
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Rather than having a guest speaker, the December 2007 Third Thursday Social will feature a White Elephant Gift Exchange. The White Elephant Gift Exchange has become a staple of the December monthly social. Our December social falls in the middle of the holiday season, so this twist on the traditional gift exchange is a timely and fitting year end event.

The premise of the game is as follows: Each attendee contributes one gift to the game. Each player (determined by a random drawing) gets to either choose and unwrap a gift from the pile or "steal" previously opened gifts. The more participants there are the more fun the game becomes as gifts are opened. Ultimately everyone goes home with a different gift.

The term "white elephant" originates from a Burmese cultural reference to the value of an albino elephant, which is considered sacred by the Burmese people. They believe that the animal must be taken care of, despite the financial burden that it may bring to its owner. In this spirit, the gifts exchanged may be large, delicate and/or utterly pointless for the recipient. Typically, white elephant gifts are not purchased; they are brought from one's home as this gives you an opportunity to pass along something you regard as odd, outdated, funny, useless, or just plain weird.

If you plan to attend the December Third Thursday, please come with a wrapped White Elephant contribution with no To/From tags. We will make sure to have a few extra gifts in case you forget!

Individual Development Success

The Individual Development team had one broad goal in mind when it made plans for 2007: Develop Chapter members by providing unique experiences and growth opportunities. As I reflect upon the events we held, I'd argue that this goal was more than met. From January through December we have offered 18 social/recreation event opportunities, 12 monthly socials with a variety of guest speakers, two professional seminars, and a dozen informal Meet & Greets. We

had wonderful project chairs throughout the year, and we had people step outside their comfort zones by participating in the State-level ID competitions. These members were so successful that we have competitors in all areas of Individual Development at the Minnesota Jaycee Annual Convention in January 2008: 3 Debate teams, 2 people in Masters Speak-Up, 2 Speak-Up competitors, 2 in Write-Up, and 1 for Jaycee Jeopardy. We may well have Brownfield, Armbruster, and Mungenast candidates.

I would be remiss, however, if I didn't take this opportunity to extend a heart-felt "Thank You" to the terrific members of the ID team, without whom none of the events or the success would have been possible. To Mark Priore, ID Director: Thank you for organizing the monthly socials and the professional seminars, bringing outstanding speakers to our events. To Geoff Urbanz, Social & Recreation Chair: Thank you for ensuring that we had a great mix of new activities along with the traditional favorites, as well as for mentoring new chairpeople. To Eric Scott: Thank you for taking us to new locations and treating us to some "Presidential favorites" for the monthly Meet & Greets. Thank you all for your dedication to the ID programming!



The Individual Development team organized a variety of events this year. Some events stimulated our mind, some promoted relationship building and some brought out our goofy side. Pictured here - Tom Lukanen and Eric Scott were so inspired by "A Day in Pompeii" at the Science Museum that they decided to do some role playing.

Community Development Recap

Joy Goodwin, Community Development Vice President
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It's been quite the year for the Community Development team. We ran more than 30 events in the Community Involvement and Youth Activities commissions. Whether these events were tried and true, or brand new programs, I made it my personal goal to do events based on membership and community needs, not just because we had always done them. This resulted in new events, new community partners, expanded relationships with existing partners and we said goodbye to some long time events.

New events included: Fraser Fall Carnival, Merrick Community Services Spring Planting and Fall Clean-up, Harding High School's Ballroom Magic, Irish Music and Dance Festival, and Stillwater's Early Childhood Development Festival.

Events that got facelifts included: The Les Farrington Triple Play, we partnered with the Naomi Center instead of a local school and the Marion Center Halloween Decorating replaced the Marion Center Gift Wrapping.

Some of our successes this year include: the 50th Les Farrington Best 100 Juried Art Exhibition had more schools participate than ever before; we helped raise more than \$2000 for the Fraser Academy Charter School; we had one of the largest Punt Pass and Kick events in the state; and we expanded our relationships with the Naomi Center and Merrick Community Services.

As always, we want to see strong participation at our community events. We struggled at times to recruit volunteers. We want to make sure that the programming not only meets the needs of the community, but of our members. To assure this, we need to hear from you. Please let the 2008 team know what events you want to participate in, or what organizations we should partner with.

This year I have had the pleasure of working with the most amazing directors. Tara Broker and Great Utvik have given countless hours to make sure that the events ran smoothly. I am humbled by their abilities to multi-task. Thank you for everything you have done. And finally, thank you to everyone who chaired a project in the Community Development area this year, I appreciate your willingness to try new things and take a leadership role in the chapter.



Two of our largest community and youth events need volunteers:

The Les Farrington Children's Holiday Celebration and The Special Olympics Holiday Party.

Make a difference this holiday season and volunteer. See the website for details.

Thank you ... continued from page 1

theme "wherever you go, go as a leader". Thanks again to everyone that has supported the Saint Paul Jaycees this year.

Whatever you do, do with integrity.

Wherever you go, go as a leader.

Whomever you serve, serve with caring.

Whenever you dream, dream with your all.

And never, ever give up.

— Curtis L. Carlson, Founder Carlson Companies

Saint Paul Jaycees Annual Gala

Come celebrate our achievements in 2007
and toast to our future!
Saturday, January 5, 2008
Black Tie Invited

Formal invitations will be mailed.
Please RSVP by December 21.



Come relax at our
monthly happy hour!

December Meet &
Greet

Date: Friday,
December 7
Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Sakura
Address: 350 St. Peter, St Paul MN
www.sakurastpaul.com

New Members

We encourage all new members to attend our Membership Forum to learn more about our organization and programming. Welcome to the following new members.

Andrew Njuguna
Masakazu "Masa" Horie
Curtis Batulis
Julia Washenberger
Chad D'arcy

Jaycee of the Month

Deb Most joined the Saint Paul Jaycees in the spring of 2006 and immediately became a positive force in the organization. In October alone, Deb chaired two projects and helped us guide our charitable mission. Earlier in the year, Deb planned the Les Farrington Triple Play #3, which was cancelled due to a scheduling issue with our partner organization. Deb didn't get discouraged, but instead agreed to plan the new event in October to take the kids from the Naomi Center to the Jackson Roundhouse museum. The event was a huge success! Days later, Deb organized a stimulating outing to the "A Day in Pompeii" exhibition at the Science Museum. Again, just days after that, Deb attended a Charitable Foundation meeting and gave insight on our charitable mission. Thanks for your support Deb!

Thank you to everyone who chaired or helped organize a project this year. Your enthusiasm, creativity and skill help us make a huge impact on the citizens of Saint Paul and on each other!

Across the river and across the globe, chapter piles on the miles

Gena Johnston (aka Agent G), State Delegate
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The Saint Paul Jaycees had an amazing year packed with more car rides, martinis and dark strangers than a James bond movie! As a chapter we went on more than 35 individual and chapter road runs, logging more than 6,000 miles!

We traveled as near as Minneapolis and as far as Antalya, Turkey. We made wonderful business and personal connections and compared notes with members from some of the most successful chapters in the world.

By reaching out to chapters across the state, nation and the world we raise the profile of the Saint Paul Jaycees. We also have the opportunity to discuss “best practices” and to expand our social and professional network.

A wonderful example of this can be demonstrated by the experiences of Saint Paul Jaycees, Amy Zajack and Amy Bicek who just returned from Antalya, Turkey where they attended the Junior Chamber International (JCI) World Congress. Amy B. had the following reflections upon her return: “World Congress was the experience of a lifetime. Amy and I were fortunate to network with over 3,000 JCI members from around the world! I am not aware of any other organization that can make that claim.” Amy went on to say that, “World Congress opens your eyes to a world full of global leaders. I have so many business cards from community leaders, business leaders, doctors, attorneys, project managers, trainers, and NEW FRIENDS. World Congress is an amazing networking opportunity!”

Thank you to everyone who acted as a delegate of Saint Paul by visiting another chapter. Thanks also to our friends from other chapters who showed up to support Saint Paul. In particular, we want to thank the Hopkins Jaycees, Heather Heim, Minnesota Vice Presidents Tony Wencil, Travis Ahlquist, and Ketti Green, our wonderful District Director Brenda Sadowski, Regional Director Josh Ackerman and of course Minnesota Jaycees President Laura Heise.

There is still time to go on a few more road runs, check the website for details!



Word Congress:
The Experience of a Lifetime.
This annual convention brings together Junior Chamber organizations from across the world. Shown, here, Saint Paul Jaycee Amy Bicek, the 2007 Fundraising Director, poses with Junior Chamber delegates from Korea.

Wrapping up another successful year of fundraising

Spencer Sokoly, Management Development Vice President

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The fundraising efforts of Saint Paul Jaycee chapter members raised an excess of \$18,000 for the chapter's day to day activities. Fundraising is a continual need that requires large amounts of manpower. The chapter ran numerous fundraising events that involved more than 50 members at any one time. We poured thousands and thousands of gallons of beer and soda. (It really was a tremendous amount of beer) and battered hundreds of pounds of pickles. But our fundraising efforts are not over. We are still selling Happenings Coupon Books and Men of the Jaycee Calendars. Get yours today. See the website, www.stpauljaycees.org, for details.

The Saint Paul Jaycees have completed another year of tremendous professionalism. Our business partners were ecstatic with our work ethic and professional behavior. I personally would like to thank all of our members for representing the Saint Paul Jaycees with the utmost dignity. I would like to thank Amy Bicek, the Management Development Director, for all of her hard work. Many of you saw Amy running around making sure things were running smoothly, volunteers were warm (Winter Carnival) or hydrated (BasillicaBlock Party), or making sure we had enough batter (Preferred Pickle). Amy's hard work made all of our fundraising efforts possible and successful. As the calendar year turns, so does the fundraising efforts for the Saint Paul Jaycees. See you at Winter Carnival!



Beer wasn't the only thing pouring at this year's City Pages Beer Festival. Angel Scott, Spencer Sokoly and Jamie Schindeldecker smile when the rain finally stops.

Rain or shine the Management Development team made sure our chapter fostered business partnerships, acted professionally and raised much needed funds for our chapter.



DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Selected Road Run opportunities are indicated in *italics*.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Junior Chamber Leadership Academy Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Les Farrington Children's Holiday
9	10 Board Meeting	11	12	13	14 Special Olympics Cookie Baking	15 Special Olympics Holiday Party Celebration
16	17 <i>Regional Meeting</i>	18	19	20 Third Thursday	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Save The Date: Annual Gala, January 5, 2008 Minnesota Jaycees Annual Convention, January 18 - 20, St. Paul, MN				

JAYCEE CREED

We Believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Anchor Bank
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- Gander Mountain
- Travelers
- University Bank
- Wilkerson, Guthmann & Johnson, Ltd.

THANK YOU

Angela Marckel for arranging our rock climbing adventure at Vertical Endeavors!

Tom Lukanen for running the November new member orientation.

Justin Lashley for chairing the November Joseph C. Uchytel Blood Drive.

Deb Most for hosting a tour of "A Day in Pompeii".

Mark Priore for sharing Estate Planning Tips & Techniques with us.

Anneke and **Eric Schultz** for organizing the Merrick Fall Leaf Raking event.

To our wonderful election tellers, **Gena Johnston**, **Amy Bicek** and **Greta Utvik**.

Amy Bicek and **Amy Zajack** for representing us at World Congress!