

CONNECTION

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Selecting the next president



Spencer Sokoly
Immediate Past President

Unlike any other chapter, the Saint Paul Jaycees have a unique process of selecting its next president. In other chapters, someone announces his/her candidacy and runs for election. In the Saint Paul Jaycees, we do things a little different.

Around April each year the Saint Paul Jaycees Board of Directors quietly

selects members to serve on what is known as the Presidential Selection Committee. The committee's purpose is to narrow the list of members who are eligible to be President and select the person they feel is most qualified. Throughout April, May, and June the committee meets to discuss the current state of the

chapter, the preferred characteristics of the next president, and the list of eligible candidates. To be eligible to serve as President of the Saint Paul Jaycees you must be a member in good standing (paid your dues) and have completed one full year as a member of the Board of Directors.

This secret committee narrows the list of eligible candidates to a final four or five people they see with the qualities the chapter needs to succeed. Then the committee continues its due diligence by talking with past chapter presidents to gain additional information and perspective. With this information, the committee narrows the candidates to their final choice.

The real fun begins when the committee prepares to approach the selected candidate. The first step is to talk to the candidate's significant other and employer. The purpose is to notify them of the honor that is about to be bestowed upon the selected person. It is also an opportunity to make them aware of the upcoming responsibilities of serving as chapter president. The chapter president must be prepared to field calls and emails at all hours of the day and will have tremendous time pressures to attend events and

meetings. It is no easy task, but many past presidents, including myself, will say it is an invaluable learning opportunity.

Once the significant other and employer are notified, it's time to notify the candidate. The committee surprises the candidate and begin what is known as the "railroad" process. (As in railroading the candidate into the position or presidency.) There is usually a feeling of surprise, awe, and fear from the selected candidate as they begin to realize the gravity and seriousness of the position. It takes a day or two for the candidate to begin to realize the true opportunity to grow and prosper they have in front of them.

Finally, at the July Membership and Networking Social a.k.a the "Railroad Social" the candidate is announced. This process has been used for many years and has brought us many great leaders to serve as President. It is a thorough and thoughtful process that has proved continually successful.

Join us at O'Gara's Bar and Grill, on July 16, for the "Railroad Social" to learn who is railroaded as the next President of the Saint Paul Jaycees. See the website for details.

What is your next step as a leader?

Debbie Ackerman
83rd President

While reflecting on the upcoming Railroad Social, where the 84th President of the Saint Paul Jaycees will be revealed, I thought back to where I was a year ago. I was nervously excited to take the next step and become president. There are threshold moments in life where we intentionally think about who we are and our dreams and goals. Making the decision to agree to serve as president in 2009 was a threshold moment, a large step in my leadership path. After making that decision, I spent the next six months planning, setting goals and a vision for the future of our organization.

I have learned that the path of a leader is not only about the decisions you make when you come to a threshold on your path, but it is about what you do with each day you are given. As a leader, each step you take towards your goals is important, but the most important thing to remember is to keep moving forward. I challenge each one of you to make the decision to face each day with the goal to move forward on your leadership path. Whether that means taking a small step and volunteering at a new project, a bigger step to chair a project or taking advantage of the opportunity to challenge yourself as a leader and take the step to serve on the 2010 Board of Directors.

I am half way through my term as president and I have learned a lot about myself and my role as a leader. I've learned that there is always room for improvement and the biggest challenge as a leader is to accept that change is a constant. No matter how well planned an event, the best

leader is prepared to "go with the flow" and change as needed.

When I look to 2010, a part of me pictured a year of relaxing, being available as a resource to the 84th president and catching up on TV shows. After contemplating this image of my future, I recognized that this image didn't feel right. Sitting back and watching others lead isn't me. I want to continue to learn, grow and move forward as a leader.

I am excited to announce that I am taking the next step as a leader and running for the position of MN Jaycees Individual Development Vice President. I plan to work with MN Jaycees Strategic Plan workgroup focused on leadership development and to focus on promoting individual development competitions as an effective tool for both leadership and personal development.

I am pleased to announce that the 79th President of the Saint Paul Jaycees, Laura Chesney, is taking an even bigger step and will be a candidate for 2010 President of the MN Jaycees. If Laura wins, she would be the first past president of the Saint Paul Jaycees to serve in that role since 1965. Laura was president for the Saint Paul Jaycees in 2005 and has continued to move forward on her leadership path, attending state, national and international conventions and trainings and serving on the state level as a program manager, district director and vice president. Laura is focused on working with the MN Jaycees Strategic Plan workgroups to move this organization forward. I encourage each of you to make the most of this organization and the leadership development opportunities it has to offer.

25th Anniversary of historic Supreme Court decision

25 years ago on July 3, 1984, the St. Paul organization known as the Saint Paul Community Business Leaders Association celebrated a landmark victory as the United States Supreme Court ruled that women should be allowed full and equal membership to their local Jaycees chapter. The Saint Paul Community Business Leaders Association had been formed as a substitute organization when women were banned from full membership in the Jaycees. On August 20, 1984 the Saint Paul Community Business Leaders Association voted unanimously to re-affiliate as a Jaycee chapter.

The Supreme Court victory not only allowed women full and equal membership in the Jaycees but it also became a precedent setting decision as the Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and many other single-sex clubs throughout the nation opened their membership to women.

This change to include women as full members did not come overnight. Despite knowing it was in violation of the United States Jaycees bylaws, the Saint Paul Jaycees began allowing women full membership rights in 1975. In 1977, Colleen O'Kane, Georgene Loveless and Kathy Hawn were the first three women to serve as directors on the Saint Paul Jaycees Board of Directors. In 1978, the Saint Paul chapter charged the U.S. Jaycees with a violation of Minnesota law by not allowing women to be full members. Barry Kennedy, the president of the U.S. Jaycees, ordered all chapters to comply with the national by-laws or face expulsion. The Saint Paul and Minneapolis Jaycees chapters filed a complaint with the Minnesota Department of

Human Rights in 1978. The complaint alleged that the exclusion of women from full membership required by the national organization's bylaws violated the Minnesota Human Rights Act. (Roberts v United States Jaycees, 468 U.S. 609, 1984).

After many years of court cases, wins and appeals the U.S. Jaycees' appeal to exclude female members' full membership based on the First Amendment right to freedom of association was upheld on June 7, 1983. In October of 1983, the national Jaycees ordered the Saint Paul chapter to "remove" any female members and submit male names to replace the female board members, including the president, Anne Ford Nelson. When the Saint Paul Jaycees refused to submit male names for president and board of directors the U.S. Jaycees revoked their charter in January 1984.

Following the Supreme Court Ruling, the U.S. Jaycees re-instated the Saint Paul Jaycees charter and our organization was forever changed.

In the past 25 years the Saint Paul Jaycees have had 14 female presidents including: Anne Ford Nelson (57th), Colleen O'Kane

Fraley (58th), Janet M. Anderson (62nd), Ann M. Reim (65th), Karen Bechtold (69th), Lori Grams (70th), Rhonda Pape (71st), Beth Tamblyn (74th), Barbara A. Uchtyl (76th), Lisa Hiebert (78th), Laura Chesney (79th), Kathy Harvey (80th), Elizabeth Lukanen (81st), and Debbie Ackerman (83rd).

The Jaycees have been shaped over the last 25 years by women leaders. We are all grateful for the hard work and efforts that the men and women of the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Jaycees put forth more than 25 years ago to ensure all persons equal rights to leadership development opportunities in this and other organizations. Their legacy of leadership will be felt for generations to come. You can read more about the Supreme Court ruling on our website (www.stpauljaycees.org) in the "About Us" section.

The Saint Paul Jaycees is proud to announce and endorse
Laura Chesney
for 2010 Minnesota Jaycees President!

Together We ARE...

Attract



www.LauraChesney.com



www.stpauljaycees.org

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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 treasury lies in human personality;

Upcoming Events

Please see our website for details and click on Calendar of Events

Friday, July 10 - Meet & Greet at Patrick McGovern's

Sunday, July 12th - Canoe Trip

Thursday July 16th - July Membership & Networking Event/Railroad Social at O'Gara's

July 17 & 18 - ROAD RUN to Hopkins Raspberry Festival

Tuesday, July 28 - Cajun Hot Soles at Minnesota Historical Society

Saint Paul Jaycees present Support Our Troops

Help us increase support for soldiers as they return home from active duty. This year we will be putting together gift baskets for Operation Welcome Home, an event hosted September 18-20 at the Miracle Lodge (www.miraclelodge.com) outside Rochester, MN. This is an opportunity for a soldier and their spouse to reunite for a weekend after returning home from a tour overseas. The weekend is a time to reconnect through sessions on parenting, communication, dealing with anger successfully, healthy conflict resolution, finances, faith and making marriage work. They will also have access to the many wonderful amenities of the ranch.

Our goal is to fill up 25 couples' gift baskets. The chapter will also be purchasing some larger items needed at the lodge. You can donate individual items, put together a basket of your own, or help sponsor a couple to attend the retreat!

Suggested items for donations:

- Toiletries for their stay
- Coffee
- Games, Books, Movies
- Personalized message to the soldiers
- Partial/Full sponsorship for couple
- \$275 covers a couple's cost for the weekend.

Please bring all donation items to the railroad social on Thursday, July 16. If you cannot make that event, donations can be made through the month of July.

An August 4 event will take place to package all the baskets together (details to follow).

Please contact Jackie Van Deusen (651-764-0590) or visit our website www.stpauljaycees.org for questions.

New Jaycee of the Month Kelli Raymond

Kelli joined the Jaycees in mid May and within two weeks had attended three projects and signed up for more in June. She is fun and hardworking and we enjoy the contributions she has made in a short period of time. Congratulations Kelli and we look forward to seeing you more in 2009!

Jaycee of the Month Eric Scott

Eric helped out with many events in May. From being at the May Meet & Greet to attending Spring All State convention to helping out with City Pages Beer Festival, Eric has always been there to lend an enthusiastic hand. Thanks Eric!

Thank you project chairs!

- Dawn Stillmunkes** - Professional Development Series
- Tim Simplot & Natalie Vestin** - Grand Old Day Parade
- Rebecca Henders & Leslie Crain** - Grand Old Day Wristband Sales
- Magnus Skog and Spencer Sokoly** - Great River Energy Bike Race Festival-Social
- Jackie VanDeusen, Deb Most and Justin Lashley** - "Support Our Troops" campaign
- Todd VanWambeke** - Stone Arch Festival of the Arts
- Mike Weiss** - Como Park Bonfire



Committee of the Month City Pages Beer Festival

Thanks to **Mike Rohloff** and **Elyssa Weber** for making this year's City Pages Beer Festival another great success. This year City Pages changed locations, changed the layout, and requested 100 volunteers. It was also the first in many years where it did not rain. Mike and Elyssa, with help from **Nikki Rohloff** and **Chris Thompson**, were able to handle the typical City Pages issues with ease!