

# CONNECTION

A SAINT PAUL JAYCEES PUBLICATION

MEMBERS OF  JCI

[www.stpauljaycees.org](http://www.stpauljaycees.org)

October 2009. Volume 22. Issue Nine

## Choose your attitude to make your day exceptional



**Debbie Ackerman**  
83rd President

As I go to bed tonight, I know that tomorrow when I wake up I will have a choice to make. I will have the opportunity to make the choice for tomorrow to be a great day. If I hit snooze too many times, find myself running behind, stressed and crabby, I will have another opportunity to make the choice for the rest of my day to be

better than the start of my day. There are times in my life when I have not always embraced the opportunity to make my day great and instead chose to have a bad morning, meeting or event ruin the rest of my day. As a tempestuous teenager I can remember my parents reminding me that it was my decision to have a good day or a bad day. Of course, I didn't ever want them to be right so I would choose to let one negative event ruin my day.

As an adult, I still sometimes have to remind myself to be positive and turn things around when they aren't going as planned. A positive attitude helps us live life to

the fullest. It helps heal sickness, it provides hope in hopeless situations, a positive attitude can turn our day and our lives around for the better. Lately as I have found myself busy with work, family and Jaycees I reflect on being thankful for having the opportunities to live a full and fulfilling life. I may be physically tired but I am grateful for the friendships, learning, leading and living that this organization provides.

Over the past few months, I have begun to explore social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook. I find it interesting to observe people's social media personas. Some people are consistently positive, encouraging others, thanking others and offering humorous stories. Others consistently complain about work, being tired, bored, etc. I find myself gravitating towards the people who spins things to the positive or humorous, hoping they have posted something since I last checked and dreading reading through posts of negative complaining. We make a choice each time we put

something out to others via text, email or websites to have a positive attitude or a negative

attitude. Most people if given a choice would choose to surround themselves with upbeat, positive people. I encourage you to be that upbeat, positive person in social media and in person.

Keep in mind that your boss, your co-workers, your parents, your friends, fellow Jaycees, etc. are often also your Facebook "friends" or follow you on Twitter, make the best impression you can with those important people in your life.

Encourage others to look on the bright side and be thankful for the gifts they are given. When things don't go your way take the opportunity to make the choice to turn your day around, you'll be glad you did.

"Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitudes toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it." – Charles Swindoll

## Awards and election results from Fall All-State Convention

### 2010 State Elections Results:

President - Laura Chesney  
Individual Development VP - Debbie Ackerman  
Management Development VP - Jari Steinlage  
Community Development VP - Mike Waterbury

### State Awards:

Gold Director - Chris Thompson  
Gold Individual Development VP - Dawn Stillmunkes  
Silver Secretary - Anneke Schultz  
Silver State Delegate - Justin Lashley  
Silver Jaycee of the Trimester - Elyssa Weber  
Bronze Chapter President - Debbie Ackerman  
Bronze Community Development VP - Deb Most  
Bronze Website - James Bly  
Gold International Development Project - Support Our Troops  
Gold Environmental Project - Merrick Center Clean-Up  
Gold Individual Development Project - Change Management  
Gold Public Relations Project - Midway Little League  
Gold Fundraising Project - City Pages Beer Festival  
Gold Membership Recruiting Project - Saint Paul Art Crawl  
Helping Hands Award - Josh Ackerman

### Parade of Chapters - 5th

Congratulations to Region 6 for having the highest growth period of all the regions!

### Regional Awards:

Chapter - Bronze  
President - Debbie Ackerman - Gold  
State Delegate - Justin Lashley - Silver  
Comet Award - Dawn Stillmunkes from District Director Laura CDVP - Deb Most - Gold  
IDVP - Dawn Stillmunkes - Gold  
Treasurer - Rana Rand - Silver  
Secretary - Anneke Schultz - Gold  
Director - Chris Thompson - Gold  
Jaycee - Elyssa Weber - Gold  
New Jaycee - Todd VanWambeke - Bronze  
Website - James Bly - Gold  
Newsletter - The Connection - Bronze  
International Project - Support Our Troops - Gold  
Individual Development Project - Como Bonfire - Silver  
Business Development Project - Stone Arch Festival - Gold  
Community Development Project - Great River Energy Grand Prix Bike Event - Bronze  
Region 6 pin - Josh Ackerman

## Share the benefits of a Jaycee membership

**Tara Broker**  
Membership Vice President

When you volunteer you are giving something back to your community by lending a helping hand to people and organizations. What you may not realize is that volunteering also benefits you as an individual. There are many good reasons to get involved in the community, including learning something about yourself.

Some of the benefits of being a Saint Paul Jaycee member are:

- Make new friends
- Explore career and personal interests
- Earn great recommendations for future employment
- Develop marketable job skills
- Build your resume
- Enrich your education
- Uncover hidden skills and talents
- Increase your self-confidence
- Have fun
- Make a difference

Volunteer service benefits everyone. Annually, the Saint Paul Jaycee members touch the lives of more than 1,000 youth in the Saint Paul and surrounding area through the Best 100 Juried Art Exhibition, Children's Holiday Celebration, Rondo Library event, Punt-Pass-Kick, and many other youth projects. This past spring Jaycee members spent a day doing "spring clean-up" at a local community center - weeds were pulled, flowers were planted, and beauty was spread wide. What's great about this project is that Jaycees were not only planting flowers - they were providing an inviting environment to families that may not feel very welcomed in other areas of their life.

Thank you for being a member of the Saint Paul Jaycees. It is because of your support and dedication our communities are better places.

At the July Membership and Networking meeting, members were asked to make commitments to the Saint Paul Jaycees. Many members committed to volunteer at community and youth events, others committed to telling their family, friends, and colleagues about the Jaycees and inviting them to Jaycee events. All of these commitments will make the Saint Paul Jaycees stronger and a force of good in our communities.

## Congratulations to Laura Chesney & Debbie Ackerman!

At the Minnesota Jaycees Fall All-State Convention, Saint Paul's 79th President, Laura Chesney was elected the 2010 President of the Minnesota Jaycees and Debbie Ackerman was elected the state's Individual Development Vice President.

Thank you for taking the next step in your leadership careers and sharing your drive with the entire state.





Leadership Development Through Community Service

[www.stpauljaycees.org](http://www.stpauljaycees.org)

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors:

**Anchor Bank**  
**Travelers**  
**Wilkerson & Associates**

**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 treasury lies in human personality;

**Upcoming Events**

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

Friday, Oct. 2 - Meet & Greet at Obb's

Thursday, Oct. 15 - General Membership & Networking Event

**Thank you to the September project chairs!**

**Rana Rand** - Amy Johnson Summer Social

**Nikki Rohloff** - New Member Mixer

**Mike Weiss & Todd VanWambeke** - Oktoberfest

**Spencer Sokoly** - Punt, Pass & Kick -

**Marty Pleasant & Dawn Stillmunkes** - Career Seminar

**Josh Ackerman, Tom Lukanen, & Eric Scott** - Golf Tournament

**New Jaycee of the Month**

**Kelly Czech**

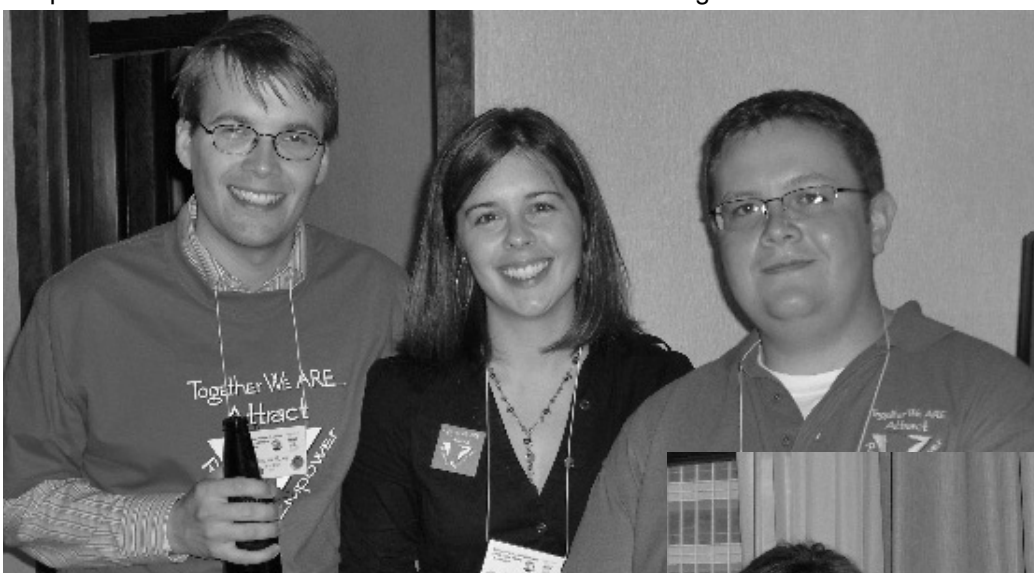
Kelly chaired her first project this past month, Vali-Hi outdoor movie theatre. Kelly made arrangements to bring her grill, and some extra food. Everyone at the event had a wonderful time, all in thanks to Kelly's hard work! Congratulations Kelly!

**Saint Paul Jaycees to Lead the State**

At the Minnesota Jaycees Fall All State Convention in Rochester in September, two Saint Paul members won contested state elections. Laura Chesney, the 79th President of the Saint Paul Jaycees, was elected to serve as the 79th President of the Minnesota Jaycees in 2010. This is the first time in over 65 years that a past president of the Saint Paul Jaycees will lead the state. Also, current chapter president, Debbie Ackerman, was elected to serve as the 2010 Individual Development Vice President.

As the 75th president of the MN Jaycees, Josh Bohmbach, commented the Saint Paul Jaycees have a strong history of developing leaders at the local level but not moving on to share this leadership with the state organization. Over the past few years our chapter has seen members move onto help the state organization serving as Program Managers and on the State Strategic Plan workgroups. This serves as a model for new members to see the breadth of leadership options they have before them in this organization. Having our members involved in state leadership exposes our chapter to many additional ideas and opportunities as well as helping other chapters learn from us. As a chapter we are fortunate to have Laura and Debbie serving as elected officers in 2010.

Many Saint Paul chapter members traveled to Rochester, MN for the Minnesota Jaycees Fall All-State to show support for their candidates Laura Chesney and Debbie Ackerman. Pictured from left to right and top to bottom: Magnus Skoog, Joy Goodwin, Chris Thompson, Tara Broker, and Lisa Hiebert.



**Jaycee of the Month**

**Lisa Hiebert**

Lisa and Quinn Kolb partnered to chair the 25th Anniversary of the Roberts vs the US Jaycees. The case changed the course of the Saint Paul Jaycees, Minnesota Jaycees, and many other community organizations. Lisa also continues to play a critical role on the Minnesota Jaycees Strategic Plan's Branding Committee. Thank you Lisa for all you continued hard work and dedication to all Jaycees. Congratulations!

