

# CONNECTION

A SAINT PAUL JAYCEES PUBLICATION

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## Presidential Selection; A unique process to select our next leader



Debbie Ackerman  
Immediate Past President

As I reflect on the process for selecting our next president, I am reminded of a conversation I had in Seoul, South Korea, during JCI World Congress in November 2006. The United States delegation had gone to dinner together and Laura Chesney (79th President), Kathy

(Harvey) Carda (80th President) and myself were having a conversation with Karen Poole, Immediate Past President of the Greater Waldorf (Maryland) Jaycees. Karen was at JCI World Congress representing Greater Waldorf as they were nominated for the honor of "Top Jaycee Chapter." During the conversation, Karen turned to me and asked when I was going to serve as Saint Paul Jaycees president. I told her that I wasn't sure if that would ever happen and we went on to explain our

unique process to select our chapter president. I remember Karen being so intrigued with the process and asking many questions about the details of how our selection process operates. I was in awe that the chapter president of the "Best Chapter" in JCI Area C, was genuinely interested in hearing more about how our chapter selects a president. The uniqueness of our process for selecting our chapter president has sparked similar curiosity and interest in conversations with other chapters around Minnesota and the United States. The Saint Paul Jaycees legacy of leadership has been founded for decades on the process of presidential selection instead of election, also known as "railroading".

For those who are new to the Saint Paul Jaycees, each year in April, the board of directors selects a Presidential Selection Committee (PSC) from among board members and general members. The PSC is facilitated by the Immediate Past President. Once selected, the committee meets in secret over the course of a couple of months to discuss the eligible candidates as well as what they feel our chapter needs in its next president. To be eligible to serve as president, you must have served as a

voting member of the board of directors for at least one full term and be a member in good standing. Throughout the process the PSC needs to keep discussions confidential but can consult with past presidents to help them narrow down the list of candidates. Once the PSC has selected their top candidate they first speak to that person's significant other (if they have one) and then to their supervisor to ensure that they have the support of the candidate's family and employer should the candidate agree to serve as president. Once support has been garnered, the committee coordinates a fun and surprising way to ask the candidate to serve as the next chapter president. When a candidate accepts the honor to serve as our next president, the secret is kept for awhile longer, until the next president is revealed during the July Membership Meeting, also known as the "Railroad Social". The 85th President of the Saint Paul Jaycees will be revealed in a fun skit at the "Railroad Social" on Thursday, July 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Ratskellar Room, Summit Brewing Company. I look forward to seeing you there and have you be part of what makes our chapter unique!

## Well rounded experiences enriches all aspects of life

Joy Goodwin  
84th President

I feel that the work/life balance is talked about so much that it has almost become trite. In the Jaycees, it takes on a whole new level as members talk about balancing work, Jaycees, and the rest of their lives. I feel as though people say they need to find balance because they may spend more time doing one thing over another, instead of really focusing on what it means to develop a life where one feels rewarded in all aspects.

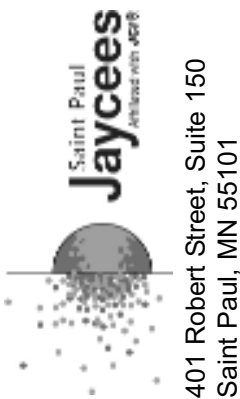
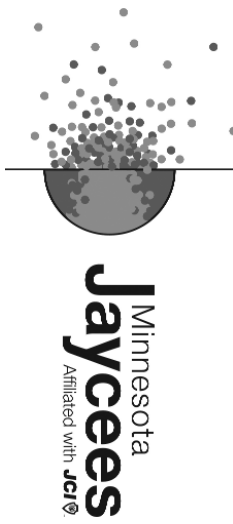
What I have found is that it's not really about making time for one thing over another; it's really about finding how each aspect of one's life complements another. I was recently reminded of this when I accepted a new job. I start my new job this month, and right out of the gate, they have me traveling a lot. I know that travels will interfere with some of my Jaycee activities. But I also know that I would not have gotten my new job if it hadn't have been for the experiences I have gained while being a Jaycee.

For me, it wasn't one project in the Jaycees or one position held on our board that gave me the skills I needed, but more a compilation of all those experiences and who I have become because of them. Throughout the interview process, I found I referred to my Jaycee experience more often than I did my work experience. This was because I became comfortable in my old job and was no longer finding new challenges. However, gaining and sharing experiences is not a one way street. I know I have taken the skills learned in my profession back to the organization to help it grow.

People of Jaycee age are faced with growing careers, starting families, and many other things that erode the time that can be spent on Jaycee activities. But instead of looking at it as choosing one thing over the other, think about how one thing can enhance the experience in the other.

As I am writing this article, I have no idea who will be the 2011 president or if the selection committee has even asked anyone yet. I hope that whoever it is will think about his or her life as a whole and think about how his or her unique skill set can help move this organization forward and how serving as president will add to other aspects of his or her life.





## Leadership Development Through Community Service

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### 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;  
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

## Upcoming Events

Please see our website for complete details  
[www.stpauljaycees.org](http://www.stpauljaycees.org)

Fri., July 9 - Meet and Greet Social; The Liffey

Sun., July 11 - Canoeing on the Saint Croix

Fri., July 16 - Hopkins Jaycees Raspberry Festival

Sat., July 17 - Hopkins Jaycees Raspberry Festival

Thurs., July 22 - Membership Meeting & Railroad Social;  
Summit Brewery

## Chapter project awarded highest honor from National Jaycees

### 90th USJC Annual Meeting in New Orleans:

The Saint Paul Jaycees were awarded a pair of prestigious, national awards during the USJC Annual Meeting in New Orleans this year. The first, the United Nations Millennium Development Award, was awarded for the project T-shirts For Africa for which Jaycees collected T-shirts to be sent to Africa to be used as diapers.

After earning the United Nations Millennium Development award, the T-shirts for Africa project was judged against all other award winners where it earned the Dr. Jerry Bruce Memorial Award, also known as "The Overall Project of the Year Award." It is presented annually to the chapter having the most outstanding project in the nation regardless of award category or chapter size and selected from the first place single project award winners. Congratulations!



## 2010 Stats Corner

What have we accomplished this year?

Total Members: 105  
Funds Raised for Chapter General Fund: \$8800  
Funds Raised for Charitable Foundation: \$1000  
Manhours Executing Community Events: 305 hours

## Jaycee of the Month

**Elyssa Weber**

Elyssa can always be counted on in a pinch. She chaired the Merrick Spring Clean up and was seen at all the fundraising events in June. She also activates new members and serves as a mentor to new Jaycees.