

December 23, 2020

**Rich - O - Gram**  
Optimist Club of Richfield, Minnesota  
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota District  
Club Number 35125  
[www.richfieldoptimists.org](http://www.richfieldoptimists.org)

Hello fellow Richfield Optimists,

**WED Dec 23 - Zoom meeting at 8:00 AM**

Our guest speaker will be : **Steve Sviggum - U of M Regent**

Sign on for Zoom is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/>

( Or **See e-mail From Mike Sandahl**).



Last week it was our privilege to hear about the Spartan Foundation from **Bill Davis** and our own member **Blaine Joerger**. Blaine is the incoming President of the Foundation. Bill was long-time President, and a 1960 grad of RHS.

Spartan Foundation was started 31 years ago with the main aim to provide scholarships to Richfield students. It started with two, and now does 25, the most of any other organization.

A major fund raiser for the Foundation is the Spartan Golf Tournament, where sponsorships by community members are the key to success. A banquet is usually a part of the tourney – except for 2020 which also denied the golf tourney. They expect to return in 2021 on June 21 at Crystal Lake Course.

Bill Davis was a star basketball player in the famed State Tourney 60 years ago in Edgerton, MN. And was the team captain.

Blaine also was a star basketball player, but for Staples-Motley, MN & Mankato State!

**In member news,**

**Mike Sandahl** is recovering from hip replacement surgery on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Tom Rappe** and wife Diane have both contracted Covid-19 and are recovering at home.

**Floyd Sjostrand** spent much time in 2020 in Arizona, and says he is going again soon.

**Doug Waller** is replacing Doug Kleist on the Club Board, as **Doug Kleist** is becoming our Treasurer.

**David Kriesel-Koll** has moved to Fergus Falls, MN. Says they love their new digs and have great views from their five acre yard.

**John Ashland** is doing fine but has trouble trying to establish access to Zoom for our meetings. If anyone would want to help him set up for this on his computer, call him. His phone number is on the roster.



**See page three  
For a copy of  
The Night  
Before  
Christmas by  
Uncle Torvald.**

In memory of Cliff Johnson, Charter member of Richfield Optimists

*Uncle Torwald's Christmas Carol*

**It'vas da night before Christmas,  
And each little Norsk,  
Vas dreaming of rommegrot, lefse and torsk,  
Our stockings had holes and dey hung by da door,  
Dere vasn't no fireplace, 'cause ve vas poor.**

**Da times had been hard and Pa vas laid off,  
Grandpa vas sick and he had a bad cough,  
Sister and brudder vere needing new shoes,  
And Mama vas feeling the "NO MONEY" blues.**

**Along about midnight ven ve were in bed,  
I heard a big racket out dere by da shed,  
And den as I listened, I heard loud and clear,  
"On Axel, On Torger, Let's get out of here."**

**Next morning I woke and to da vindow I crept,  
And dere was a sack laying on the back step,  
It vas yammed full of presents .. Oh, vat a trill !  
For each vun of us ... A ten dollar bill.**

**Oh, dat vas the merriest Christmas of all,  
I can still hear Santa's Christmas Eve call,  
"On Axel, On Torger. Let's get out of here",  
I vas sure it vas Santa ... it sounded so clear.**

**Yet, somehow dat voice seemed familiar to me,  
And I noticed big hoof prints out by da oak tree,  
Den I remembered Mr. Knutson who lived across town,  
Who always helped others ven der luck vas down.**

**Mr. Knutson had horses and he owned a big sled,  
I thought it all over dat night in my bed,  
"God Bless Santa", I said, and then with a grin,  
"God Bless, Mr. Knutson, 'cause I tink it vas him."**

*In memory of Clifford Johnson, Richfield Optimist Club Charter Member*