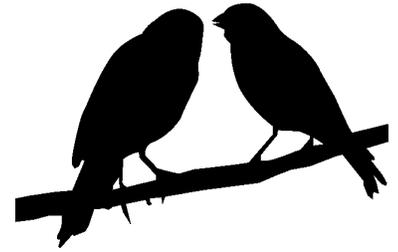


# THE INFORMANT

Saint Croix Valley Bar Association Newsletter

May, 2011  
Volume 21, No. 1



## From the President's Desk

By Joel Schlitz

Dear Members:

Your Bar Association has been busy! This year winter fell upon us seemingly overnight and with it came the annual holiday party. Outgoing President Angela Olson (President, 2009-2010) was recognized for her outstanding service and dedication to your Bar Association for the past 4 years. The holiday party is always a hit and continues to be one of our best-attended events of the year. During the long winter, we had lunch meetings with the judges in Polk, Pierce, and St. Croix Counties; we hosted a happy hour and a judicial candidates' debate; and Nerino Petro from the State Bar drove up to River Falls and presented a free CLE for us. If you are not attending any of your bar association's functions, you are missing out on not only great substantive content, but also the opportunity to meet or reconnect with friends and colleagues. Whether you attend the annual golf outing, the holiday party, a free CLE, a judges' luncheon or a happy hour, there is always an opportunity to take something with you. This is YOUR bar association, but what you do with it is up to you.

The coming of spring brought big changes for Polk County. The Honorable Robert H. Rasmussen's decision to retire from the bench surprised us all. I had the pleasure of speaking with Judge Rasmussen about his plans for retirement shortly after he made the announcement. He told me he has enjoyed his years on the bench but he looks forward to dividing his time between spoiling his grandchildren, spending time at the cabin, and escaping to warmer climates during the winter. He will also be offering mediation

*See Message continued on page 2*

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote a legal system whereby the rights and privileges of all persons are asserted and protected. We are dedicated to strengthening public trust in our legal system. We promote high ethical standards, civility, and professionalism amongst all attorneys. We encourage our members to serve the public. As officers of the court, we have an important role in assisting courts in the administration of justice.

Always check the  
St. Croix Valley Bar Association  
Website for updates at

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

### OFFICERS

**President:** Joel Schlitz

(715) 386-3200 [joel.schlitz@mpl-s.com](mailto:joel.schlitz@mpl-s.com)

**Vice-President:** Christine Rasmussen

(715) 246-2211 [crasmussen@doardrill.com](mailto:crasmussen@doardrill.com)

**Treasurer:** Maxfield E. Neuhaus

(715) 425-7281 [Max@rodlibeskar.com](mailto:Max@rodlibeskar.com)

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Rohl

(715) 386-4658 [elizabeth.rohl@da.wi.gov](mailto:elizabeth.rohl@da.wi.gov)

*Message from page 1*

services, so keep Judge Rasmussen in mind for those cases you just can't seem to resolve. If you haven't done so yet, please join me in thanking Judge Rasmussen for his many years of service from the bench. He will be missed.

An open judicial position meant that the people of Polk County elected a new judge last month. Following a tough campaign and countless hours of knocking on doors, Jeff Anderson won his seat on the bench. He has some big shoes to fill, but his diverse practice background and his willingness to put in the long days and make the tough decisions give him a solid foundation to build upon. Please join me in congratulating Judge Anderson.

Your Bar Association has also been busy in the background. As many of you have heard there is now a free legal clinic in Pierce County on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Philip Helgeson of Heywood, Cari & Anderson, S.C. initiated the effort to start the clinic which is held at the courthouse in Ellsworth. Maureen Wegleitner and Linda Sharretts, who have essentially run the St. Croix Valley Free Legal Clinic in Hudson, were instrumental in getting the new clinic on its feet. Thanks to these three, and your fellow members who volunteer their time each month, the Pierce County clinic has already become a great success!

Your SCVBA officers were contacted by several members of the bar who recommended that the SCVBA take a more direct role in the administration of the St. Croix Valley Free Legal Clinic in order to help insure the longevity of the program. The board of directors voted unanimously to adopt the administration of the St. Croix Valley Free Legal Clinic and we intend to create a committee to administer and oversee the clinic.

Vice-President Christine Rasmussen will also be organizing an effort to extend another arm of the free legal clinic to Balsam Lake. If you are interested in volunteering for the Balsam Lake free legal clinic, or serving on the committee, please talk to Christine, or email her at [crasmussen@doardrill.com](mailto:crasmussen@doardrill.com).

Volunteering for one of the free legal clinics is a great way to give back to the community without having to make a long-term commitment. You can volunteer every month or once. The ongoing success of these clinics depends on you.

Finally, too many years have gone by without a roast. As some of you have heard, Joel Porter, who put the "Porter" in Mudge, Porter, Lundeen & Seguin, S.C., has retired after practicing law for more years than I have spent on this earth - and he has graciously agreed to let the rest of us to have some laughs at his expense. Plans for Joel's roast are in the works, so please keep your eyes open for a flyer in the upcoming days. You won't want to miss it!

- Joel Schlitz

### **Bylaws change:**

The SCVBA officers are recommending the following change to our SCVBA bylaws:

Combine the officer positions of Treasurer and Secretary. Add the officer position of Website and Social Media officer.

Background: With SCVBA communication being primarily by email, the officers feel that it is most efficient to have a single person be responsible for sending emails and collecting RSVPs and money. The officers feel that combining the position will create a more effective and streamlined communication system.

With regard to the creation of the Website and Social Media officer, the officers feel that maintaining our website, [www.scvba.org](http://www.scvba.org), as well as developing other social media platforms, such as a Facebook page, would be best accomplished by having a specific officer designated for this position.

Voting on this by-law change is expected to take place at an upcoming meeting. If you are interested in serving as the new Website and Social Media officer, please contact Secretary Rohl at [Elizabeth.Rohl@da.wi.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Rohl@da.wi.gov) .

### ***St. Croix Valley Bar Association Treasurer's Report***

Balance as of May 2011: \$4,628.06.

This balance is consistent with the balance in 2008. Due to income and expense flow, the +/- change in the balance is typically 15-20% per quarter.

### **Upcoming Events:**

St. Paul Saints Game

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Game starts at 7:05 p.m.

Tickets are \$20/person

More information and RSVP coming soon...