



The Charge!

Volume 1995/96

Voice of the Peoria Jaycees'

July 1995

"Herr Pulfer" Hits 40 with Giant Bash

Marquette Hts., IL - An all day party successfully closed the turning of 40 years to **Jeff Pulfer** on June 17, 1995. Herr Pulfer thanked those who attended his 40th birthday party and also gave a special thanks to those who had brought gifts and cards. Pulfer's birthday party brought an diverse mix of people, refreshments, entertainment, education and of course fun.

A new and highly acclaimed band opened their world tour at the party. The G-Men took the stage shortly after 7:00pm, with **Rusty Greene** on guitar and harmonica, **Rick Owens** on a Gibson Les Paul electric guitar, and **Dan "the Good Friar" Schmidt** on lead vocals.

Of the refreshments, a selection of home brewed beer was available, made exclusively by Herr Pulfer Brewing Co. in Marquette Hts., IL. Brewed just weeks prior at the Beer Brewing Dynamics, the 'Big 40 Pale Ale' was received very well by the critics.

Science experiments were also conducted at the party. With the help of Mistress Dawn from the Club Cabaret, attendants at the party have learned exactly how much weight and stress may be applied on a small, plastic table. In general, a splendid time was had by all. Contact **Dennis Owens** at 693-8771 to place your video order TODAY!

Festival of Beers

Jeff Pulfer, Kathy Pulfer, Dennis Owens and **Dan Schmidt** attended the Festival of Beers event in East Peoria to see how their's compared to the Peoria Jaycee's extremely successful International Beer Fest. The event was to raise money for East Peoria's Festival of Lights program this Christmas. Dan and Dennis eventually replaced the East Peoria Jaycees who were working one of the booths. Both of them were more than happy to share their beer expertise with anyone who would listen to them. Jeff met and recruited two of our newest members that night, **Mark Monge** and **Jennifer Misak**.

Wines on the Waterfront

The Easter Seals had another successful fund raiser with their Wines on the Waterfront event last June 24th. Several Jaycees were in attendance, including two new members who signed that night, **Mark Monge** and **Jennifer Misak**. The Peoria Jaycees were on hand in setting up for the project, serving and tasting different wines and food, and the tear down of the event. At 11:00pm when the event was ending, the only things and people around were the sound of crickets and the Peoria Jaycees, who took the responsibility of folding hundreds of chairs, loading tens of tables and transporting them back to the Peoria Civic Center in such high heat and humidity. When it was over at 2:00am, a member from the Peoria Civic Center was greatly appreciative and thankful that the Jaycees remained to help. However, one casualty was logged after the event; a brand new pair of shoes that Jennifer Misak had purchased. After all the water, mud, and grass she had to walk on in tearing down the equipment, Jennifer had deemed her shoes KIA (killed in action). But this goes to show you the dedication of the members of the Peoria Jaycees!

G-Men Get Second Gig

Rusty and the boys with the G-Men completed their 1995 World Tour in Princeville, IL, at the Princeville Heritage Days. In a talent show, they put on a 10 minute act and sang some of their classics, including 'Achy Breaky Heart', 'Yer So Bad' and 'Hoochie Coochie Man'. The band is gearing up for a new album and tour later this summer with a new drummer. Stay Tuned!

From The Desk of the Most Dangerous Writer in America

by Rick Owens

The results are in! Tens of complements were received regarding the newsletter. I was even flattered to hear the other day that a couple of people were not interested in joining the Jaycees, but they did want to receive *The Charge* every month. I have also had a number of suggestions on feature articles and ideas for the newsletter, which I'm always glad to hear. I also encourage your input as this is your newsletter. So if you have anything you would like to share with the chapter, please submit them to the address or fax them at the information below this column.

However, out of all the complements I received, only one complaint was noted and logged. The person who issued this complaint claimed that the newsletter was being used as means of delivering a political agenda and used humor against certain people who did not subscribe to that agenda. Furthermore, he/she stated that the newsletter should just be news and only news; nothing else. Perhaps this person did not read the disclaimer, written in small print, at the bottom of this page. He or she is taking this too seriously and is becoming paranoid. We're here to have fun; lighten up!

But since the approval rating is well above 90%, why try to fix something that is not broke. Therefore, the newsletter will go on like it currently is.

Until next month, I thank you for your support!

The Charge
An Official Publication of the Peoria Jaycees

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Disclaimer: Portions of this newsletter are used for entertainment purposes only and they should not be taken seriously.

Mark Your Calendars

July

Business After Hours; Thursday, July 13, 5:00pm - Meinen Field, call Val Mount

Ethnic Food Night; Thursday, July 13, 6:00pm - call Diana Barach

Membership Meeting; Thursday, July 20, 7:00pm - Amvets

Epicurean Night; Thursday, July 27, 6:30pm - Katie Hooper; call Susan Wilbur

Car Wash; Saturday, July 29, 10am-2pm - (tentative, need to be passed at membership meeting); call Steve West

August

Board Meeting; Thursday, August 3 - at RLO, Inc.; Call President West

Summer Regional in Galesburg; Saturday, August 5 - at Benny's Tap, meeting starts at 2:00pm. Call Rusty Greene

Newsletter Articles Due; Saturday, August 5 - Call Rick Owens

Co-Ed Volleyball Tourney; Sunday, August 6, 9:00am - call Jeff Bilslund or Pulfer

Kid's Care; Sunday, August 6 - call Joann Ziegler

Taste of Peoria; Wednesday, August 9 - Call Pulfer or Dennis Owens

Summer G.A.; August 11-13 - held at the Pere Marquette, Peoria and sponsored by Lincoln Jaycees; call Rusty Greene

55th Anniversary Party/Past President's Party/Membership Meeting; Thursday, August 17 - call Pulfer or Dubby

Car Wash; Saturday, August 19, 10am-2pm - (tentative, need to be passed at membership meeting); call Steve West

September

Garage Sale; Saturday, Sept. 9 - (tentative, need to be passed at membership meeting) Lake of the Woods at the residence of Rick Owens; call Steve West

Monday Night Football; Monday, Sept 11, 7:00pm - at Jeff Pulfer's, 301 Beloit, Marquette Hts. IL; call Pulfer

Community Development

By Jeff Bilsland

Firecracker 5000

Another Firecracker 5000 concludes with the 13th successful year. This year we had over 600 runners/walkers, including Congressman **Ray LaHood**. The overall male winner was **John Stein** with a time of 15 minutes and 49 seconds and the overall female winner was **Maggie Berres** with a time of 14 minutes and 53 seconds. Our major sponsors this year were **The RiverStation, Brewer's Distributing, WGLO Radio, Hinckley and Schmitt** and **TCI Cablevision**. All our sponsors did a great job and we would like to thank them.



A big hand should go to **Jay Denton** for keeping everything together and coordinating all the different companies involved. Jay has put in many hours of his time and he should be congratulated for his efforts and on a job well done. Thanks, Jay!

There were many other sub-chairpersons involved; **Val Mount**, manpower; **David Sporrer & Brian Milbrandt**, race operations; **Susan Wilbur**, pick up/registration; **Rick Owens & Dubby**, public relations and photography; and **Dan "the Friar" Schmidt**, finishline. All of these sub-chairpersons worked very hard to deliver a top notch race for Central Illinois. Let us not forget all the people from Peoria and other chapters that helped out in this event. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for your help. There will be an appreciation party in the worker's honor and you will be contacted later.

We did raise money for the Midnight Basketball League and the Special Olympics, but at the time of this writing, the actual figures have not been compiled as we are awaiting final expenses to come in. We are proud to hold this race so that we can contribute money to worthy causes throughout the Peoria area. After all, isn't that what the Peoria Jaycees is all about, "Service to Humanity is the Best Work of Life".

Bratfest Co-Ed Volleyball Tourney

The first attempt for the Peoria Jaycees to run a volleyball tournament is to take place on Sunday, August 6th at 9:00am at Hickory Grove Park in Lake of the Woods. This event is sponsored in part with the German-American Society. There is a \$50 entry fee per team, with cash prizes awarded to the top teams. Games will be played on grass courts and two matches are guaranteed. Proceeds from this event will go to charity. Entries must be received by Friday, August 4th. To sign up or for more information and directions to Hickory Grove Park, call **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897 or **Jeff Pulfer** at 675-7979.

Kids Care

K-Mart is organizing a project to help identification of kids and through the National Junior Chamber of Commerce would like to help coordinate manpower with the Jaycees. This project is a national project and will be conducted throughout the country on August 6. It will consist of the making of identification cards, fingerprinting and education. **Joann Ziegler** is working with K-Mart to try and bring this together. If you are interested in helping out, you can contact Joann at 689-0051 or **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897.

T-Ball with Peoria Heights Jaycees

We helped the Peoria Heights Jaycees put on their annual T-Ball games that were held every Wednesday during the month of June. Thanks to all that helped, Dan "the Friar" Schmidt, Dubby and Dennis Owens. We helped to broaden the experiences of young kids from 4-6, it was a great project and very successful one. We look forward to helping Peoria Heights next year.

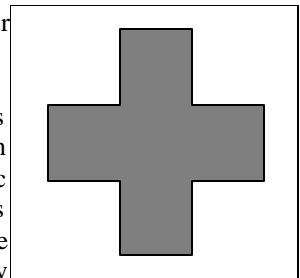
O.J. Simpson Trial

This is your chance to voice your opinion on what the outcome of the O.J. Simpson trial will be. **Susan Wilbur** has put together a poll to help raise money for Women's Strength of Peoria. For \$1.00, you can voice your opinion on whether the most famous, expensive and definitely the longest trial of the 90's will be a mistrial, hung jury, guilty or not guilty verdict. Get your opinion in today by calling Susan at 685-8365 or **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897.

Quiet Hero Club

Have you donated your pint of blood for the month? The Red Cross has been promoting donation of blood on a regular basis. The Jaycees are members of their Quiet Hero Club and we would like to become stronger members. By donating blood regularly you will be helping to keep the blood stock for central Illinois at acceptable levels. The blood donated at the Red Cross in Peoria will be used throughout the central Illinois area so you know that your blood will help those in your communities.

The American Red Cross unit is located at 405 W. Third St. in Peoria (just behind the Civic Center) and the phone number is 800-728-3543. Please contact the Red Cross if you have any questions to how the process is done. Remember when donating blood, tell them that you are a member of the Quiet Hero Club under the Jaycee name.



State Director's Report

by Rustin A. Greene



Yes, I am still in the powerful State Director's Office and it's time once again to inform you pagan liberals of upcoming events. As I spoke with my good friend, Newt Gingrich, we discussed how great things are beginning to happen in the Peoria Jaycees. I told him how more members were getting involved and some pagan members were getting out. Newt liked the fact that the Peoria Jaycees had taken charge of it's members in getting them in or out on the right foot.

I had a wonderful and enlightening experience at the Peoria Heights Jaycees membership meeting held on June 5, 1995. In attendance were **Dubby, Dan Schmid, Steve West, Jeff Bilsland, Rick Owens, Val Mount**, and of course myself, **Rustin A. Greene**. I was very impressed with the Peoria Height's Jaycees because of their organization and time restraints. The meeting started at 7:37pm and ended at 8:32 pm. This is something the Peoria Jaycees are currently working on.

This month is going by very quickly, however, I will be calling on my fellow Peoria Jaycees, brothers and sisters, to join me on upcoming visitations.

1. East Peoria Jaycees - Tuesday, July 18 at 7:00pm
Jaycee Hall, Cole Street (Yes, Pulfer will be there)
2. Morton Jaycees - Monday, July 24, at 7:00pm
Schooner's (This one has Dubby written all over it)

My pledge as State Director is to visit two chapters a month, but I need everyone's help. We need three person visitation teams to get credit from the state. Have a project coming up? Visitations are a great way to promote chapter projects and socials. DID I HEAR SOCIAL????

Don't forget the summer regional "Pull Out The Polyester", Saturday, August 5, 1995 at 2:00pm at Benny's Tap, 74 N. Chambers St., Galesburg, IL. and the Illinois Jaycees summer G.A. August 11-13, 1995, Pere Marquette, Peoria, hosted by the Lincoln Jaycees. (This year's theme is "Wet and Wild in Paradise").

As always, I, Rustin A. Greene, am proud to provide thoughts and wisdom to the Peoria Jaycees.

Remember.... "Character is Power" - Booker T. Washington
Steve West - Where is our gavel????

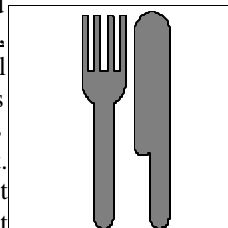
Editor's Note: If you are not a member of the Peoria Jaycees and feel somewhat offended with the term 'Pagan Liberals', well don't be offended... you just have to know Rusty.

Individual Development

by Diana Barach

Ethnic Food Night

Our next ID project is the Ethnic Food Night which is planned for Thursday, July 13 at 6:00 pm and will last until ????. I know it's cutting is close as you probably have just received this newsletter the day of this event. However, this was also posted in last month's newsletter as well, so just think of this as a reminder for tonight.



The Ethnic Food Night is going to take place at my place, 4403 Broyhill Ct., Peoria. Please bring a dish that has it's origins in some other part of the world or with another culture. Also, please bring the recipe and other background information on your dish. In addition, we also have a swimming pool at our disposal, so please bring a swimsuit if you want to work off those added calories from all the food. You are also welcomed to bring a guest. Drinks will be provided by the chapter. For more information or directions, call me at 693-0307.

Chapter ID Night

At the July membership meeting, we will have two speakers discussing topics of Communication, Leadership and Time Management. The speakers will start at 8:00 and should finish at 8:45. Both speakers will hold their session concurrently, this way we won't be in the meeting all night. The speakers are:

- **Tom Shaughnessy** will be discussing about "Reflections on Success". His topic covers on how you can build on your past successes. Mr Shaughnessy is a professor at Illinois Central College and is currently writing a book on this topic.
- **Reg Willis** will be speaking about leadership. Mr. Willis is a past state president for the Illinois Jaycees and has served on the Peoria County Board.

In The Works

I am currently working on CPR Training, Sommer Park Teams' Course and Camping Dynamics. If you have any ideas for fun ID projects or if you are interested in chairing or helping with an ID project, please call me at 693-0307 (I need all the help I can get).

Membership Report

by Ms. Janet

Who's Due

For the month of July, the following members are due:

Yolanda Adams	Valerie Mount
Beth Barr	Terri Thomas
Steve Dozard	Greg Underhill
Rick Kem	

For the month of August, the following members are due:

Diana Barach	Janet Neuswanger
Jeff Bilsland	Kathy Pulfer
Gabriela Cornado	Chad Riggins
Steve Janda	Jeanne Skewes
Larry Needham	Keith St. Louis

Membership Status

I am happy to report that the Peoria Jaycees picked up 4 new members in June 1995. They are **Mark Mount** (recruited by Steve West), **Mark Monge**, **Jennifer Misak** (recruited by Jeff Pulfer), **Frank Hess** (recruited by Steve West). Unfortunately, we lost one member, but this puts us at a gain of three members for June.

In addition, July is starting to look like a promising month as we have added three new members already. They are **Samer Sader** (recruited by Dan Schmidt), **Kristin Mangold** (recruited by Steve West) and **Gregg Strode** (recruited by Susan Wilbur).

Keep up the good work guys! If we can keep up with this pace, we'll be at 100 members by the end of the year.

Editor's Note: This has to be the best article ever written for this newsletter... due to the fact that Ms. Janet has been on vacation for a month and no one's heard from her.



Mail Call

Hilary Young Williams

has wrote in and told us that she and her family has moved to California. She will be traveling in August to a family reunion in Colorado, but will also be making stops in Arizona, Utah, Idaho and finally stop in Reno, NV before going home.

Her new address is 1111 Magnolia Lane, Arcadia, CA, 91006. She also wrote that she enjoys reading *The Charge* and looks forward to reading about what we are doing. Also, she is joining the Pasadena Jaycees, which is 200 members strong.

The Bloomington-Normal Jaycees has sent us a copy of their newsletter, IMPACT (that is an actonym for Individuals Making Progress And Changing Tomorrow). Of the things they are doing this summer include a Outdoor Bar-B-Que Techniques project in July. New grilling ideas, recipes, barbecuing techniques and safety will be covered.

Also, their 5th annual Boat Outing at Clinton Lake will take place the weekend of July 21-23rd. Officially, it is only suppose to be a one day event on July 23rd, but several Jaycee members are stretching it into a 3-day camping trip.

We have received a newsletter from the Lincoln Jaycees recently and this is what they are up to. They have a water balloon volleyball scheduled for July 22nd. That same weekend is also their Campfire Safety Wilderness Weekend. They have also been busy with sandbox fillups for the kids and a car wash last June.

If you're a past member or from another chapter, and you wish to share any of your news with us, please mail your news at 1010 Wonderview Dr., Dunlap, IL, 61525 or FAX at (309)691-5196.

Chapter Management

by Valerie Mount

WE DID IT!!! We got the 1995/96 Peoria Jaycees Plan of Action/Chapter Plan rough-drafted, revised, budgeted, and postmarked July 1, 1995. That's 5000 points on the Parade of Chapters (an award system). In all of 1994/95, we only had 8900+ points. So we're well on our way of fulfilling the goal of being a "Blue Chip" chapter. The next challenge, get the National Blue Chip paperwork submitted by July 15 - we're working on it.

A reminder that the Board Meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. The new location is RLO, Inc. on

Willow Knolls Rd - (west) kitty-corner from the Knights of Columbus and just east of Hanson Engineers. (It's on the Allen Road side of O'Leary's) I hope you all understood Rick's map and directions to RLO - I've been to RLO now 3 or 4 times and didn't understand the directions - or map - at all. (Don't anyone say anything about female drivers!)

Next big project - the 1995 **HAUNTED HOUSE**- committee meetings are under way. After all, there's only 3 months left 'til October. If you're interested in serving on this committee, contact **Sue Wilbur** - 685-8365 or **Dan Schmidt** - 691-0700.



President's Letter: From the Desk of Commander West

Peoria Jaycees Grow by Three

The Peoria Jaycees ended the prior year in April with 78 members. After May and June, we have grown by three and now have 81 members. With everyone's help, we can continue to grow. Ask a friend to our next meeting or event. I am convinced that most people that spend time with our fun group will want to join. But you have to ask people and give them a chance to join. Recruiters so far this year include **Jeff Pulfer, Dan Schmidt, Susan Wilbur** and **Steve West**. Remember, **Rusty Greene** says, "If each Jaycee recruits at least 1 new member this year, our chapter will really take off!"

Congratulations for a great Firecracker 5000! **Jay Denton** did a great job as chairman. We had 657 entrants in 1995 compared to 450 in 1994. Runners seemed to appreciate all of the door prizes; and the refreshments after the race were super (*Note: is Commander West*

starting to sound like 'Jim the Photographer' on 106). This was our 13th annual Firecracker 5000 and our 2nd largest race ever!

The American Red Cross is always looking for blood donors and the Peoria Jaycees are a Quiet Hero Club. Please consider donating blood or platelets soon. Remember, the Red Cross has moved to their new location off Kumpf Blvd. When you donate, don't forget to give credit for your donation to the Peoria Jaycees. Our goal is to donate 2 units per month, but we need new donors to accomplish our goal. So give the gift of life. Give blood!

The Peoria Jaycees will celebrate their 55th year in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Jaycees as part of our August membership meeting, on Thursday, August 17, 1995 at the Amvets Hall, 237 N.E. Monroe in downtown Peoria, right next to the Shrine Mosque. We will have food and refreshments for a modest price before the meeting, so plan to come early and enjoy the celebration! If you know any former Jaycees, be sure to invite them to the party. For further information, call the Jaycees Hotline at 676-JAYC (676-5292).

The Peoria Jaycees have scheduled 2 car washes starting at 10am on Saturday, July 29, 1995 and Saturday, August 19, 1995. The location is right next to McDonald's Shell on the corner of Glen and University, next to K-Mart. Please to participate in this fun event that will help us raise money for the chapter.

We have two excellent speakers lined up for our membership meeting on July 20th at the Amvets Hall. Past Illinois Jaycee President **Reg Willis** will speak on Leadership while ICC Professor **Tom Shaughnessy** will speak on "Reflections on Success". Plan to be there!

The Peoria Jaycees are having an excellent year in 1995/96. The officers are doing a super job, but no one is perfect! People are human, and we all make mistakes. This is a volunteer organization. We need to make it fun, since none of us is getting paid. We also need to get new members involved. If you are currently a member, and want to get more involved, let me know. We need assistant chairmen on all of our projects. This is a leadership training organization, and we can't expect the officers to organize everything. Give us a hand! (...and now you hear the chapter giving them a round of applause) Please give me a call if you want to be a member of the board or an assistant chairman. The Peoria Jaycees need you - to get more involved! Call me at 676-5292. As always, I'm very proud to be a Peoria Jaycee.

With Regards,
Steve West

Taste of Peoria

The Taste of Peoria is to be held on Wednesday, August 9 from 3:30pm to 11:00pm in downtown Peoria. **Dennis Owens** and **Jeff Pulfer** need volunteers to work this great event which attracts over 20,000 people. The first shift is from 3:30 to 7:00pm for selling tickets while soda serving is from 4:00pm to 7:00pm and 7:00 to 10:30pm. We might also get a chance to serve beer if some other group from last year cancels out (keep your fingers crossed). Contact Jeff Pulfer at 675-7979 or Dennis Owens at 693-8771 if interested in helping out. Spots are limited.

Anniversary/Past President Party

The Peoria Jaycees is to hold their 55th Anniversary Party at the August membership meeting on August 17th at the Amvets at 237 N.E. Monroe St. in downtown Peoria. We will also be commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Jaycees.

Social hour will be from 5:30-6:30, dinner from 6:30-7:30pm, with the membership meeting to follow. All current and past members are invited to attend. Guests are also welcomed. Since The Charge only goes out to the current members, Keymen and Past Presidents, we'd like those of you who receive this please help us in getting the word out to other past members.

The cost per person will be \$5.00 and will include a grilled sandwich of some sort, potato salad, beans, chips, anniversary cake, soft drinks and beer. Please RSVP by Tuesday, August 15th so we may plan accordingly. Please call **Jeff Pulfer** at 675-7979 to make reservations.

Along with celebrating our anniversary, we will be recognizing last year's president **Alan Pennington** for his efforts. After some debate, the current board and chapter decided to make the anniversary party also the Past President's Banquet. This way, we can take care of two social events at the same time. It is our intention to make this year's party an annual event tied to our August membership meeting.

For those of you out there who keep saying you'd like to make a Jaycee meeting and find out what the current chapter is doing, here's your big chance! For those of you who are past members, this is an effort to bring back the "Rooster Banquet" that was held in the past.

Tattoos For Charity

Dan Schmidt and **Kathy Pulfer** need your help in selling temporary tattoos at the Summer G.A. at the Pere Marquette starting Friday, August 11th to the 13th. Funds raised will go to benefit the Jaycee AIDS Mission for children in St. Louis. Each tattoo will require a \$1.00 donation. Dan and Kathy had so much fun with these tattoos at Pulfer's 40th birthday party that they thought the rest of Illinois would want to be 'tattooed' as well (especially when the money is going to a good cause).

Monday Night Football

It's the Bears vs. the Packers on opening night of Monday Night Football! Bring your favorite snacks and your friends to Jeff Pulfer's Party Central at 301 Beloit Rd. in Marquette Hts., IL on September 11th. The fun will commence at 7:00pm with hot dogs, brats, beer and soda to be provided. The game will be shown on the big screen TV in the basement, and weather permitting, a 27" screen TV will be on the back deck.



Haunted House

The summer of '95 is half over with and before you know it, there will be a chill in the air and the leaves on the trees will start changing color; it will be autumn. And you know what that means... the Peoria Jaycees Haunted House. Committee meetings have already started planning the 1995 Haunted House. This year, **Susan Wilbur** and **Dan Schmidt** will be co-chairing this giant undertaking. If you would like to get involved, please call Susan at 685-8365 or Dan at 691-0700.

--- Quotables ---

"Our ignorance of history causes us to slander our own times." - Gustave Flaubert, French author (1821-1880)

"Old age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill." - Unknown

"Michael Jackson has announced he will redo the lyrics on a controversial song on his new album. Gee, it's not like Michael Jackson to change things." - David Letterman

From the Home Office in Marquette Hts., IL... Tips From Pulfer

Get Noticed Fast By Mastering Meetings

Here's how to show your boss and peers just how good you are. As a general rule, it takes time to win respect and credibility in your organization. But if you want to get noticed fast and build your reputation, one of the best ways is to master meetings. That's where your boss and peers see you in action and draw conclusions about how good you are.

Remember how your teachers used to grade you on class participation? The same is true here. Fair or not, you're being judged at every meeting you attend. So, don't try to hide. Here's how the rising stars use meetings to boost their careers:



- When you walk in the room, pick a spot where you can make eye contact with as many people as possible, especially the person running the meeting. You'll be able to watch the body language of everyone in the room, which will help you read beyond the words and see what's really going on.
- Speak up! Never let a meeting go by without offering your opinion or making a suggestion, but be careful not to hog all the air time. When you do talk, be clear and straight forward. If you disagree, say so. Dancing around the issue only confuses people. Using self-effacing disclaimers (such as "This may not be a good idea . . .") diminishes your point. If you really want to stand out, speak up when you're in a large group. The bigger the group, the less likely it is that other people will have the courage to raise their hand. However, take care not to sound critical or negative in a large audience; better to bring up a sensitive subject with the speaker one-on-one.
- Early in the meeting, help the group state the purpose of the meeting and what you hope to accomplish during the allotted time. This simple task will do more to keep your meetings productive than any other single thing.
- Ask for clarification. If you're wondering about something, chances are other people are too. Too often, a meeting ends and the action items are fuzzy or someone's point wasn't well understood, yet the people in the room never spoke up and asked the questions they were wondering about.
- Pay attention to the process. Every meeting has two separate levels of activity the subject and the process. When a meeting is poorly run, it's usually because the leader doesn't know much about managing the process. If you want to improve the meetings you attend, facilitate the process by helping the group stay on track, summarizing where the group is in the process and making sure participation is balanced and respectful.
- Volunteer to follow up on at least one action item that comes out of the meeting. You'll stand out as a person who isn't afraid of doing more than is expected. I notice that people who often take on action items in meetings are also the ones who usually get promoted.
- Draw out other participants and respect their ideas. If you're ignoring or interrupting others you'll hurt the team's effectiveness and damage your own contribution.
- Paraphrase often. It will help everyone understand what is being said and clear up misunderstandings and conflicts.
- Ask at the end of each meeting, "What did you think of the meeting today?" By doing a quick evaluation each time, you'll notice a drastic improvement in the quality of future meetings. You'll also prevent the "meeting after the meeting" in the hall.

Meetings are becoming more important as companies are becoming more participative. Rather than looking at them as a time waster, why not make the most of them? It's where business gets done and careers get made.

Top Ten Ways to Tell That Your Chapter President is Nuts

- 10.) During poker nights, he breaks out the 'deal a meal' cards.
- 9.) Giggles uncontrollably when someone refers to the gavel as 'the big one'.
- 8.) Starts growing a Judge Ito beard.
- 7.) Stands in line with other cars at car wash project so he can get 'soaped down'.
- 6.) Try's to convince people that he is really Adam West, TV's Batman!
- 5.) Pledges free beer at membership meetings; shows up with case of A&W.
- 4.) Abruptly ends meeting so he won't be late for his electro-shock therapy.
- 3.) Now that she has time on her hands, wants to share presidency with Connie Chung.
- 2.) Suggests doing odd projects such as Celebrity Sumo Wrestling.
- 1.) Has some sort of pancake breakfast fetish.

The Misadventures of 'The Good Friar'

It was getting late and the crowd was dispersing at the Wines on the Waterfront in Peoria. The Peoria Jaycees were getting ready for the immense job of tear down and clean up of the project. They had developed a strong reputation for being a very reliable and responsible group; an organization people could count on.

Dan 'the Good Friar' Schmidt suddenly claimed that his pager had went off and he needed to make a phone call. "I'll be back in a moment, I need to make a call", and then Dan disappeared. He returned minutes later, claiming that a friend of his had just been arrested on a moving violation and that he had to get the Peoria County jail and bail his friend out. "Likely story", claimed Dan's fellow Jaycee members. However, Dan quickly left the area.

In the next three hours, the Jaycees worked diligently, putting away folding chairs and tables. The humidity was 95%; the temperature well over 85 and it was 1:00am. Wiping the perspiration from their foreheads and taking a break, the group began talking about 'the Good Friar'. "Just think", said one Jaycee member, "Dan is sitting on some wooden bench, in an air conditioned room, waiting until all that paperwork is done and his friend can make bail."

"Yea, I bet that really sucks!", said another Jaycee member.

Meanwhile, just a few blocks away on Main Street at Gilligan's, Dan was dancing on top of the bar with about a half a dozen college girls. "Cowabunga, Dude", Dan shouted as he pantomimed riding a surf board.

"Gosh, you're a lot of fun to party with Dan", claimed one of the women, "How do you find the time to party like this?"

"Well, Honey", Dan answered, "You just have to know what to tell your friends."

It's A Little Known Fact... Surf the Net, Dude

The Internet has its origin in 1969 when the U.S. Department of Defense's Advance Research Projects Agency (ARPA) built an experimental network. It consisted of 4 computers and was basically used so that grant scientists could communicate with one another. By 1972, 50 universities and military research sites were connected to the network.

This network was originally designed so that it could allow many different routes among the other computers so a message could arrive to its destination using a combination of several different routes. This way, if one computer became unoperable, it would not stop the flow of communication to other computers.

By the 1980's, several other networks came into existence. Eventually, all these networks, public and private, were interconnected to enable any computer on one of the subnetworks to access computers anywhere in the entire network. Today, the Internet combines networks of all different kinds of entities spanning across the U.S. and the world.

The 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 Governments Should Be Of Laws Rather Than Of Men;
That Earth's Great Treasure Lies In Human Personality;
And That Service To Humanity Is The Best Work Of Life.**

Peoria Jaycees



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**Ethnic Food Night, Membership Grows,
Pulfer becomes a Rooster, Surfing the Internet & More**

Previously Unpublished

The Taco

How to Prepare Tacos

Ingredients:

Hard Shell (or soft shell, whichever you prefer)
Hamburger
Veggies (whatever you like, lettuce, tomato, onion, carrots)
Grated Cheese

First, you must travel to the nearest store and purchase the above items. Once you are supplied with the aforementioned items, begin by browning the hamburger. Set your stovetop on maximum heat and place ground up hamburger in a skillet. Begin to cook the hamburger. While the hamburger is cooking, start cutting up the lettuce and whatever other vegetables you have so that they may be placed into the taco shell. When the hamburger is done, place hamburger into the taco shell along with all the other fixens' you have. Next step: EAT! Remember, don't forget to turn off your stove.

History of Tacos

This food item has a history that could date back thousands of years. It is believed that the taco originated from the ancestors of the Incas Indians during the middle ages. This once proud Indian race used the taco as a food for social outings, i.e. during certain rituals. It was often used when passing of the peace pipe was involved. Other Indian tribes or guests would visit the Incas, and tacos were their choice of meals. The Incas began a complex farm system, where cattle was raised for the beef, and gardens were maintained for the toppings.

After a few hundred years, the taco became a popular and almost institutionalized meal for the Incas. The tribe then elected a head chef who would regularly prepare this item, as well as tend their watering hole. This individual was known as "Sunny", as it was like a sunny day when they ate one of his tacos. Eventually, the tribe then specified that every Wednesday night would be "Night of the Taco".

On "Night of the Taco", children used to like to sing and dance, so as to entertain the older members in the tribe. Another ritual was born; "Kar-ok-ee", where members of the tribe got a chance to sing folk songs originally sung by other artists. The words to these songs were recorded by the tribe historian, so that tribe members who did not know how to sing them could take part in the fun.

When the Spanish conquistadors conquered the Incas, they took their recipe for the tacos and exploited it to their home country. The copyright alone on the recipe was worth millions. Eventually, the taco was introduced to the New World, most notably, North America. Today, the Incas are remembers with several establishments that produce their once mighty product. Taco Bell is probably the largest of these history preserving entities. So the next time you bite into a taco, please remember the price the Incas paid, so that you may enjoy this fine treat.

Note: This piece was never meant to be published for The Charge! It was written and used by Rick Owens to introduce his dish at the Peoria Jaycees Ethnic Food Night in July 1995. It was supposed to be a take off of the Amvets popular "Taco Karaoke Night" that summer that the Jaycees frequented. Sonny was the bartender at the Amvets at the time.

Disclaimer: The above recipe is guess-a-mated; The above story is definitely a work of fiction.