



From the President

Hi, Everyone!

I am officially in the Christmas mood! You may ask how this can be. Isn't it just a bit too early? Won't you burn out before Christmas Eve? I made a trip to Chicago last week for business and was surprised to find that, when I hit Rockford, my favorite Chicago radio station has already changed to holiday music. That is all it takes for me! I enjoy the music all the season long. I miss it when it's gone. This was also one of those rare trips where I didn't have a lot of obligations and spent much of the time doing those thing I enjoyed before I moved to Minneapolis. My sister and I spent time shopping at some places where we hadn't been in awhile—including European Imports!—and we went to some eateries that I miss—like Portillo's Hot Dogs and Lou Malnatti's pizza. I spent an evening at the local Barnes and Noble store, paging through all the new holiday books while enjoying my first min hot chocolate of the season. I even helped my sister set up her exterior Christmas decorations and brought the tree box and some of the village boxes up from the basement. Yes, it doesn't take much for me! I felt the same when I got back home: **it is time for the holidays**. Maybe it's like the song says: "Yes, we need a little Christmas" this year. I think through all the gloom and doom today, we are all longing for whatever it is around the holidays that takes us away from the day-to-day worries and lets us dream, be hopeful and just enjoy life.

I hope you all find some time to feel that way this holiday season. As for me, I hereby make a reservation for the easy chair in front of the TV for at least a couple replay of "A Christmas Story".

I hope you all will be joining us for our Christmas Dinner at Latuff's. Remember to bring your toy for Toys for Tots. They especially need items for teens!

~shirl

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Dates to Remember:

**December 2: NLCC meeting at
Latuff's Pizzeria**

September 29th-Oct. 2nd, 2011: Arizona Gathering

Hi Everyone,

The Northern Lights annual Christmas party will be held at our normal meeting date/time (Thursday, December 2 7PM) at Latuff's Pizzeria located at 10820 Hwy 55 in Plymouth. The restaurant is at now at a new location just east of South Shore Drive next to the Holiday Gas Station. We'll be in the party room.

If you've been really good this year, "Santa" might even decide to subsidize your meal. Of course, if you haven't paid your dues yet (and you know who you are), you'll need to pay Santa's elf (aka Tom) first!

In place of a gift exchange please bring a new unwrapped toy for donation to the "Toys for Tots" program. I've been told that gifts for infants and teens are most in demand.

See all of you—and your spouses/significant others—at the party! ~Tom

Hi, too, from your newsletter lady!

Well, the Christmas party is going to be at one of my favorite spots: Latuff's Pizzeria. As luck(?) would have it, I won't be able to be there that evening.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~ Diane

SEPTEMBER 29TH-OCT. 2ND, 2011: ARIZONA GATHERING



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