

Peter Jeronimus named president of The Lake Bank

BY SHARON ALMIRALL

A veteran banker with deep roots in Northern Minnesota has been named president of The Lake Bank N.A.

Peter Jeronimus took the reins of the bank in March after being hired by new Lake Bank owners, Charles Gesme and Dennis Lind.

With 24 years in banking under his belt, most recently at North Shore Bank of Commerce in Duluth where he worked in commercial lending, Jeronimus is "fired up" about the prospects of providing more home equity products and home improvement loans through Lake Bank.

"The bank really doesn't have a large portfolio in this area (home equity lending). It was underdeveloped or underutilized in the bank. I'm excited about increasing activity in that area," Jeronimus said.

Gesme and Lind are part of a group of new owners that purchased 100 percent of the bank from Superior Financial Holding Corporation of Two Harbors. Gesme is the principal owner of Mesaba Bancshares, Inc. and Lind is the principal owner of Parkers Prairie Bancshares, Inc.

Jeronimus said there are similarities between Duluth and Two Harbors, but he is finding Two Harbors to be a very distinct community with its own personality.

He is looking forward to the chance to "continue building The Lake Bank."

"We're continuing to provide more value to our branches at Silver Bay and at Super One. We're also continuing to develop the mortgage department which is in Lakeside. It's been an active part of the bank."

Jeronimus said as he was making a decision about accepting the new position, he was leaving a job he enjoyed. One of the owners told him, "if this isn't fun for you, don't take the job."

"I liked that comment. It told me this is a group that enjoys what they're doing," Jeronimus said.

Planning to become involved in the community, Jeronimus has been attending North Shore Rotary meetings and an occasional chamber meeting. "The neat part is that everyone wants to meet me. Over the next month, I'll be getting out, doing a walk about."

Jeronimus and his wife, Mary, are the parents of two children, a 21-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy. Jeronimus is a native of Duluth and a graduate of East High School. He went to college at the University of Montana in Missoula "about 150 years ago."

The Jeronimus family fishes, canoes and spends time at their family cabin. He plays a lot of tennis and watches his son compete in



Peter Jeronimus

cross-country skiing events. His daughter recently returned from a fishing trip to Montana.

"She loved it. She wanted to be there all the time."

After his first month, Jeronimus is positive about the community and the bank. He is commuting from Duluth where his son is a junior at East High School.

"For the foreseeable future, we'll be in Duluth. I enjoy the drive. It's a nice part of my day."

AAHA honors North Shore Veterinary Hospital LLC as 25-year member

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) honored North Shore Veterinary Hospital LLC for its 25-year commitment to excellence in small animal care on March 23, at AAHA's 71st annual meeting in Tampa, Fla.

North Shore Veterinary Hospital LLC, located in Duluth, has been an AAHA hospital member since 1979. The hospital has undergone regular evaluations by AAHA practice consultants who visit hospitals to ensure compliance with AAHA standards in many areas of practice, from surgery to diagnostic imaging.

"These 25-year hospital members have proven their commitment to excellence in pet care and to AAHA. We proudly salute these members and their dedication to the profession of veterinary medicine," said Dr. Dennis Feinberg, AAHA president.

The American Animal Hospital Association is an international association of more than 29,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals.

NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS



The Green Door in Beaver Bay, under the management of Tonya Fultz, was greeted as a new member of the Two Harbors Area Chamber of Commerce. The business has a world famous smelt fry and is the Beaver Bay Municipal Liquor Store.



Welcomed into the Two Harbors Chamber recently was Carol Krynski Insurance Services of Silver Bay. The business specializes in health insurance and assists with health insurance claims.



Northland Trails Guest House of Beaver Bay joined the Two Harbors Chamber and was given a hearty welcome at a recent meeting. The year-round operation provides lodging. Carol Krynski and Dave Mealey accepted the chamber certificate.

SuperiorHealth names Galazen as clinic manager

Kevin Galazen has been named the new clinic manager at SuperiorHealth Medical Group-Two Harbors. Galazen previously worked in the information systems and health management departments at First Plan of Minnesota. He has a bachelor's degree in management and organizational behavior from The College of St. Scholastica.

"Everyone has been very warm and welcoming," Galazen said. "Each day I discover just

how multi-talented a crew we have. They are impressive."

SuperiorHealth includes three primary care clinics, three full-service pharmacies and a home health care and community nursing service. SuperiorHealth Medical Group's medical staff includes family practice physicians, certified nurse practitioners and a chiropractor.

Clinics are located in Two Harbors, the Piedmont Heights neighborhood of Duluth and in

Proctor; the pharmacies are located in Two Harbors, Piedmont Heights and Silver Bay.

SuperiorHealth Community Care is based in Two Harbors.



Kevin Galazen

Featured Chamber Member

Scenic Title & Abstract



BY NANCY OJARD

Mother and son team, Sharyn Hill and Kevin Eckholm, owners of Scenic Title and Abstract, Inc. have been in the business since 1972. Hill and late husband Jack Eckholm were pioneers in the abstract business in the early '70s. "At that time we were one of the only two companies in the abstract business in the Duluth area," Hill said.

Eckholm, the couple's oldest son, remembers cutting his teeth on the business as he was growing up. "The abstract business was dessert at the dinner table," recalled Eckholm. "I didn't realize how much I had absorbed about the business until I took my first job in Minneapolis," he said. "There's a plaque at St. Louis County Courthouse commemorating my dad, John (Jack) Eckholm, Dean of Abstracting. I guess I was taught by the

best."

In early 2000, Hill and Eckholm decided to form their own abstract company, Scenic Title and Abstract. "We chose Two Harbors for our business' headquarters because we could see the community has potential for growth," Hill said. Later that year they opened a branch office in Duluth as well as an office in Hudson, Wis. run by Kevin's brother Brian Eckholm.

Scenic Title and Abstract has over 75 years of experience in the title business and handles closing in any Minnesota or Wisconsin location. The company employs 14 people between the three offices.

Eckholm and his wife Linda, a Two Harbors graduate, have five children and live on a hobby farm on the Homestead Road. They raise chicken, geese and quail, and enjoy the open spaces when they're

not running the title business. Eckholm's children attend school in Two Harbors. Hill lives in Duluth and is an avid Viking and Bulldog hockey fan.

"We believe in investing in the community where our business is located," said Hill. "When the area grows so will our business."

Recently Scenic Title contributed \$10,000 toward the Two Harbors Community Foundation. Eckholm is an active member of the Two Harbors Lion's Club and Hill serves as chair of the chamber's nominating committee. "Chamber networking events like the auction and fundraising events are a great way to meet people in the community," said Hill. Scenic Title has been a member of the Two Harbors Area Chamber since 1999.



TWO HARBORS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS



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In the last 30 days the Chamber has had some unforeseen changes for various reasons. To start, we have completed our long-range planning and it appears that we will be taking somewhat of a different direction to better serve our membership and our communities.

In early March Kelli Kitzman Young resigned as our chair. With this vacancy Warren Miller of Harbor Insurance stepped up to serve as interim Chair. Our nominating committee has recommended Mark Rafn of Stanley/LaBounty to fill the position on a permanent basis. Mark has some great ideas on moving the chamber forward on a positive path.

On April 5th Reni Ehlen joined the chamber staff to fill a vacant position as office representative, we are excited to have her on board. We may be doing some rearranging in the front office to accommodate the increased walk-in visitors. We are going to be updating the chamber operation technology and upgrade our computers -- again!!

Many of our members are coming out of the winter months with a newly-charged outlook. The great snow conditions this season helped make businesses profitable instead of just getting by as they have done for the past few years. As a Chamber we are positive about all aspects of business in the area. We look forward to the future of bringing the Silver Bay/Beaver Bay/Finland and Two Harbors areas closer together to make this a better region to live.

A reminder to all chamber members, April 23rd is the Spring Banquet & Auction at Lakeview Castle - Get out the bell bottoms, it's '70s night!!

Gordy Anderson - Chamber President



APRIL EVENTS

April 17: Taste of the North TH Community Center 1-4 p.m. Tickets available at the door. Call for information, 218-834-5924.

April 23: Chamber Spring Banquet and Auction, Disco theme and dress up. At Lakeview Castle 6 p.m. Tickets at the chamber office. Prizes, raffle and auction.

May 3rd: Silver Bay Spur & Gifts - 4th Anniversary Party 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. call for more information 218-226-3333.