

**Carlton County
Coordinator/HR Office**

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Carlton County

County-wide newsletter brought to you by the County Coordinator's Office

Issue 04 October / November / December 2022

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Employee Service Awards



**Jeffrey Boucher
(Attorney's Office)
10 Years**

**Karola Dalen
(Zoning Office)
10 Years**

Commissioner Brenner Receives AMC Outstanding Service Award

The 2022 Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Awards Committee selected Carlton County Commissioner Richard "Dick" Brenner as one of three recipients of the AMC Outstanding Service Award. Established in 1985, this award is presented to individuals who have exhibited exceptional leadership, participation and service to Minnesota counties and the Association. Commissioner Brenner has served as a Carlton County Commissioner for over 30 years, with two years remaining on his current term, and is the longest serving commissioner over the 152 year existence of the Carlton County Board, with the late Ted Pihlman's 24 years of service being the second longest tenure. During that time Commissioner Brenner has served with 11 different commissioners.

During his tenure, he has been responsible for representing the Carlton County Board on several dozen committees, commissions, and boards. Some of his current assignments include the Airport Commission, Arrowhead Counties Association, Arrowhead Health Alliance, Arrowhead Regional Corrections, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, Carlton County Collaborative, Cloquet Economic Development Partnership, Carlton County Justice Partners, Coastal Water Commission, Northeast Waste Advisory Board, St. Louis River Trail Committee, and the Human Services Appeal Committee. He has been instrumental in facilities planning as a member of the County Building Committee, having been a board member during the planning and construction of the County Transportation buildings in both Carlton and Bamum, the Community Services Building in Cloquet, the acquisition of the Government Services Building in Cloquet, and most recently the planning and construction of the 120,000 square foot state-of-the-art Justice Center Complex, including new court space and a new 80 bed jail facility and 16 bed justice involved females program.

As the County's primary representative on the five county Arrowhead Regional Corrections Joint Powers Board over the past two decades, Commissioner Brenner has been a consistent leader in the growth and development of the North East Regional Corrections Center as well as providing oversight for the application of probation services under the community corrections model to thousands of men and women throughout the Arrowhead Region. Commissioner Brenner has also been instrumental in the establishment and development of the Carlton County Collaborative over most of his tenure as commissioner. The Collaborative Board is made up of county, school, and community agencies throughout Carlton County, with the goal of bringing their collective resources and ideas to bear in a positive manner on children and families throughout Carlton County.

Commissioner Brenner takes great pride in serving all county residents, not just those in his commissioner district. He understands and values the importance of building and sustaining respectful and collaborative relationships across all aspects of local county government. He has an excellent working relationship with the Fond du Lac Band, and has been consistent in his diligence to build and maintain that relationship, as his district includes most of the FDL Reservation located in Carlton County. He is married to Liz, who he noted "(h)as has been a great and supportive partner to me throughout this journey. I would not have been able to do this without her and I so much appreciate that!".



Left to right: County Coordinator Dennis Genereau, Commissioner Gary Peterson, Commissioner Dick Brenner, Liz Brenner, Commissioner Marv Bodie, Commissioner Tom Proulx, Auditor/Treasurer Kevin DeVriendt

2023 Carlton County Board of Commissioners



Dick Brenner
Chairperson
218.879.5572

District 1
Dick.Brenner@co.carlton.mn.us



Marv Bodie
Member
218.879.2085

District 2
Marv.Bodie@co.carlton.mn.us



Thomas Proulx
Member
218.348.4288

District 3
Thomas.Proulx@co.carlton.mn.us



Susan Zmyslony
Vice-Chairperson
218.380.2170

District 4
Susan.Zmyslony@co.carlton.mn.us



Gary Peterson
Member
218.380.4949

District 5
Gary.Peterson@co.carlton.mn.us

*Board meetings are held at the Transportation Building on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. and the 4th Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

Public Health & Human Services Director Receives Public Service Award

Dave Lee, Carlton County Public Health & Human Services Director, was presented with the Public Service Award at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minnesota State Conference held on November 5, 2022. He was recognized for his leadership in building a stronger mental health system in our state.

Chris Bray, MA, PhD, member of the NAMI Board of Directors, recognized Dave as being instrumental in improving the mental health system by successfully raising awareness and advocating for systems' changes for children and adults with mental illnesses and their families. Dave was honored with the Public Service Award for his leadership, commitment, and innovation as highlighted by his extraordinary work in the areas of telehealth, suicide prevention, tribal relations and the Mental Health Day at the State fair. Dave was also recognized for his years of service on the State Advisory Council on Mental Health, including his recent term as the council's chairperson.

Congratulations Dave on receiving this distinguished award!



A Little Piece of Carlton County Sheriff's Office History



Sheriff Kelly Lake had the opportunity to meet Molly Weinrich and Tess Chase, along with their children at the Carlton County Fair this past August. Weinrich and Chase are the grandchildren of the late Oscar Juntunen who was sworn in as Carlton County Sheriff and served in that capacity for 16 years; from 1951 to 1967. Prior to his tenure as Sheriff, he was a lumberjack, the Constable in Thomson Township, and a Cloquet Police Officer. Juntunen also graduated from the FBI training academy and received a signed diploma from J. Edgar Hoover.

Molly shared that her grandfather was regarded as a fair and even tempered man who was very skilled in calming situations. She said that their grandmother, Martha, cooked meals for the prisoners and was deputized as a matron to guard the female inmates. The family only had

one car, which was the squad car. Molly shared that grandma Martha ran errands and toted kids around as needed, and even pulled over an erratic driver once and scolded him while Molly's dad, Steve, and aunt Mary looked on from the back seat!

Their dad, Steve Juntunen, and aunt Mary grew up in the jailhouse—the home connected to the Carlton County Jail. They would share stories with Molly and Tess about helping to feed inmates by passing trays through the slot in their kitchen wall. Steve would occasionally ride with his dad when Sheriff Oscar was transporting a prisoner to one of the State facilities. Molly laughed recalling when her dad was riding in the backseat on the way to Stillwater when Sheriff Oscar handed him a billy club and told him to "give the guy a whack" if he tries anything.

In May of 1963, Oscar was shot in the line of duty. He was shot in the arm and able to return to duty eventually and finish his final term as Sheriff. A local man was holed up in his family's barn threatening to harm the deputies, the Sheriff, and himself. Though that was a very serious incident,

Article Continued on next page

Sheriff's Office History Article Continued

not all stories Molly has heard over her life were that serious. She remembers reading a newspaper article commending her grandpa for his investigatory skills when he busted a “lady shoplifting ring” in and around Esko, Cloquet, and Duluth areas. Apparently, this organized group of women would make off with everything from pantyhose to waffle irons during their crime sprees before they were caught.

Molly said they had a million more stories to share! Molly and Tess also shared many old photos and articles about their grandfather and the Carlton County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Lake was grateful for the opportunity to meet the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of a former Carlton County Sheriff. “These are moments of Sheriff's Office history that should not be forgotten.”



Left to Right: Sheriff Kelly Lake, Molly (Juntunen) Weinrich, Tess (Juntunen) Chase



Left to Right (front): Molly's children Florence, Oscar, Henry and Finn Weinrich. Left to Right (back): Sheriff Kelly Lake and Tess's daughter Lola Chase

Veteran's Corner - Did You Know

VA will launch new life insurance program in January, making life insurance available to more Veterans than ever before

WASHINGTON — On Jan. 1, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs will open enrollment for Veterans Affairs Life Insurance — the first new VA life insurance program for Veterans in more than 50 years — extending VALife access to millions of Veterans.

VALife will provide up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance for all Veterans, age 80 or under, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0-100%. Acceptance in the program is guaranteed, and no medical underwriting is required. It will also allow Veterans to complete their application online, receive instant decisions, and perform self-service functions — including electronic payments and beneficiary updates.

“All Veterans deserve to know that their families will have financial support when they pass away,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “VALife is a critical step toward making that goal a reality, helping VA provide more life insurance to more Veterans than ever before in our nation's history.”

VALife will increase Veteran access to life insurance in several ways:

- There is no time limit to apply: VA's existing life insurance program for service-disabled Veterans, [Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance](#), required most Veterans to apply for insurance within 2 years of receiving their disability rating. VALife has no such time constraint for Veterans aged 80 and under.
- There is no health requirement to apply: Under S-DVI, Veterans had to be in good health except for service-connected conditions. VALife has no medical evaluation tied to it.
- Veterans are eligible for more coverage than before: Under S-DVI, most Veterans could only receive up to \$10,000 of coverage. Under VALife, all Veterans are eligible for up to \$40,000 of coverage.

VALife premium rates are competitive with, or better than, similar coverage available in the private sector, and \$40,000 of coverage is more coverage than other like products offered. The policy will build cash value after the first two years of coverage when the face value goes into effect. If a Veteran passes away during this two-year waiting period, the named beneficiary will receive all premiums paid plus interest. Unlike S-DVI, Veterans will not be able to get a waiver for their premiums.

VA currently serves nearly 6 million Veterans, service members and their families with more than \$1.2 trillion of insurance. Veterans currently enrolled in S-DVI will have the option to keep their current coverage or switch to VALife. These Veterans can apply for VALife at any time after Jan. 1, 2023; however, if they apply between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2025, they can also retain coverage under S-DVI during the two-year waiting period for the VALife death benefit to go into effect.

Veterans will no longer be able to apply for S-DVI after VALife launches Jan. 1, 2023. However, eligible Veterans still have the opportunity to [apply](#) for the program between now and Dec. 31, 2022.

To learn more, visit [VALife](#). Information can also be found in the [final rule](#).

(Article credit: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

**Carlton County
Committee's**

Building Committee -
2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
(Government Services Building -GSB)

Committee of the Whole -
1st Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. (TB)

Diversity Committee -
4th Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
(PH&HS)

Finance Committee -
1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. (TB)

Policy Committee -
3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
(Law Enforcement Center - LEC)

Management Team -
1st Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (GSB)

Supervisors Committee -
3rd Thursday quarterly at 2:00 p.m.
(Varies)

Wellness Committee -
2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.
(Varies)

**For a more detailed Carlton County
Committee list [click here.](#)**



Are you interested in submitting an article in the next Carlton County Newsletter? Email or mail your articles and pictures by the March 24, 2023 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst
Carlton County Coordinator's Office
1307 Cloquet Avenue, Suite #1
Cloquet, MN 55720
shanny.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us

*Please note that all submissions are subject to editing, as needed.

Let's Get Acquainted With the Carlton County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy

What role do you play at Carlton County?

My name is Dan Danielson. I am the new Chief Deputy and second in command of the Sheriff's Office. My role is to assist Sheriff Lake in the day-to-day and long term operations of our Sheriff's Office.

What work experiences and education led you to a career at Carlton County?

I am in my 23rd year of law enforcement and completing my 20th year with Carlton County. I grew up in a law enforcement family, having a father that retired from law enforcement as well as many other family members currently working in or retired from law enforcement. I recently completed my undergraduate degree in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) and have sought other leadership opportunities including serving two terms as an elected Cloquet school board member and other boards and committees.

What are the things you like most about your work?

I always enjoy knowing that what I think I am going to do at the beginning of the work week is never remotely close to what I ended up doing when I reflect at the end of my work week. The challenge of constant problem solving is probably the most fun part of law enforcement, as well as the contacts and relationships we build with our community and co-workers.

Tell us a little something about your family.

I am married to my wife Katie who is a school social worker at the Cloquet High School. My oldest daughter Chloe is finishing her social work degree at UMD while serving at the 148th Air National Guard. My two youngest daughters, Dru and Quinn, are attending Cloquet High School and involved in various activities including tennis, basketball and volleyball.

Tell us a little about yourself.

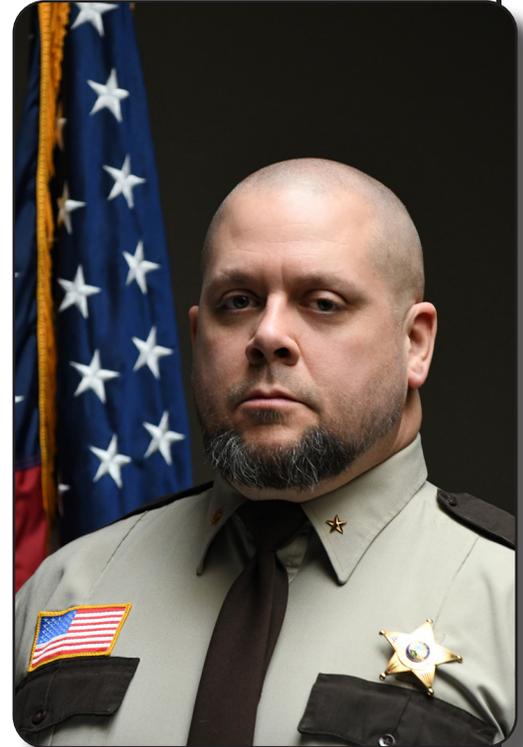
I was born and raised in Cloquet, and have been a lifetime Carlton County resident. I graduated from Cloquet High School in 1998 and attended Hibbing Community College immediately after where I completed my AAS degree in Law Enforcement and played football. Upon completing my degree at HCC, I started my career with the Fond du Lac Tribal Police Department. Later in life, I re-enrolled in college as a non-traditional student at both FDLTCC and UMD, where I completed an Associates Degree (FDLTCC) and ultimately a Bachelors degree (UMD). Outside of work, I am an assistant coach with the Cloquet High School girls' basketball program, I am on the Cloquet Educational Foundation and the Cloquet Basketball Association board of directors, and I serve as a member of the Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board that assists the Fond du Lac Police and Conservation Department.

Tell us three things most people might not know about you.

I am also a Fond du Lac Band Member who lives on my reservation.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies generally revolve around playing, watching, refereeing or coaching sports at some level. I also enjoy classic and sports cars and I always have a book on my nightstand.



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."