

# Pipeline Newsletter

## Optimist Club of Des Plaines

Newsletter Date July 12, 2006

### **PRES SEZ**

We've passed out our 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholarships to students at Immanuel Lutheran, St Zachary's, Chippewa, Iroquois, and Algonquin, and if the reaction of the students and parents mirrored those at Algonquin, then we made several people very happy. Thanks to the schools that took time to nominate a student for a pat on the back, and shame on those who didn't.

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I had the honor of making the presentation at Algonquin, and the young lady I gave the award too seemed genuinely surprised to get her \$100.00 check and plaque. The graduates we're perfectly behaved. Some parents, however, seemed to be unable to follow the simple request to not holler, whoop, hoot, scream, grunt, or otherwise delay the proceedings when they're child's name was read. And they wonder why their kids don't follow rules...

### **MONEY MAKES THE CLUB GO ROUND**

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As I'm writing this, I'm still for the total of our Jewel fundraiser to come in. I'm hoping to get it early, but was told to expect payment in July. We'll have two more dates to pass out coupons coming up, so that's two more money-making opportunities. Jewel's procedures, however, will seem lightening quick compared to the IRS's. As of June 15<sup>th</sup>, still no word if their Wizard of Tax-Exemptness has issued a royal edict granting us that coveted status.

## SUMMER MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The next meeting is July 20<sup>th</sup>, at Dianna Edwards. Her address is 2116 S Plainfield. Her number is 847 296 6573.

August 3<sup>rd</sup> sees us at Ray Bochat's. His address is 2230 S Pine. His phone number is 847 296 0988.

Our final meeting will be at Ed Welther's.

Don't forget Golf Tourney on August 9<sup>th</sup>!

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*When I approach a child, they inspire in me two sentiments; tenderness for who they are and respect for what they may become.*

*--Louis Pasteur*

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### CRAPPIES AND BLUEGILL AND PERCH, OH MY!

Our annual fishing derby was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the weather could not have been more favorable. Comfortable temperatures, ample sunshine, and the joy of angling brought dozens of participants out. I've been to several derbies in the past, and the weather has ranged from February like (I seem to remember a pavilion wrapped in plastic like a work of modern art by Christo) to spectacular. June 3<sup>rd</sup> was definitely the latter.

The caught fish ranged from diminutive three-inch bluegills to a monstrous 16 inch bass that would have made Jimmy Houston proud. One skilled and determined angler caught a total of 20+ fish, though most were sardine sized.

After they had exhausted themselves by proving their fishing prowess, the youth were treated to a free hotdog lunch, plus they received a goodie bag containing of all things, trout bait said to attract the trout in a way I can't mention in a family publication. There was also a free raffle. I believe everybody left happy.



*Bringing out the best in kids -  
2006*

## JOHN PHILLIPS SOUSA WILL BE ROLLING IN HIS GRAVE

Our award winning 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade unit will be in action once again this year. Under the direction of musical genius Steve Meinecke, we will be slaughtering patriotic standards without mercy as we stride along the parade route. Don Moran has already bought finely crafted instruments at the Dollar Store, and we will be walking right behind the finest tow truck Schimka has to offer.

If you want to march, feel free. If you want to watch and cheer, heckle or whatever pleases you, make sure you're wearing your Optimist shirt. Whatever you choose, we'll follow the same route as last year.

### 2006 Optimist Club International Convention

The 2006 Optimist International Convention will be in Nashville July 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Tom Swanson, our incoming president will be attending, and has picked an especially important year to attend his first annual shindig.

There are a number of proposals on the board. You can be sure the merits of each will be debated vigorously and at length.

First and foremost is the renewal plan. A plan to consolidate 50 districts into 10 regions is in the works. This plan would also eliminate Governor and Lt Governor posts, see that 10 Regional Administrators are hired in St Louis, and forever change the face of O.I.

The plan is not without its good points. Governor and Lt Governor posts are difficult to fill, and many zones go without Lt Governors, or have the same person fill the job for years, growing more and more disenchanting each time.

Eliminating Governors would save an estimated one million dollars a year in expenses, and there would be no need for the various conferences that are now held.



*Come join us in a celebration of our nation's birthday on July 4<sup>th</sup>!*

### THE OPTIMIST CLUB CREED

#### Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble

On the con side, regions would be huge, in some cases crossing into Canada, and attending an annual regional conference could be difficult. Although plenty of leadership spots would exist, I wonder if they'll provide the type of opportunity and personal satisfaction that propels some people into international positions.

Governor's Koenig thought was that the renewal plan may be tabled due to the many questions that are as yet unanswered. Either way, I look forward to hearing Tom's account of the battle. It just may resemble an Iraqi cabinet meeting.

Another idea that will be floated is to allow JOll age youth to join an adult club if there are no JOll clubs in the area. They would not have voting rights and would not be counted as members on the roster. Additionally, the sponsoring club would have to be attempting to establish a JOll club. While I wouldn't want middle schoolers attending our meetings, I personally have no problem with, say 16-year-olds coming on board. They're only two years away from minimum entry age anyway, and it's a very convenient bridge to build. I'm told that some clubs have been less than honest about the age of members in the past to get interested parties in, so all this proposal is really doing is making it possible to do so in a more forthright manner. Apparently, our friends to the North for years allowed women into clubs before getting the official okay from O.I. And we all know that allowing the other major gender into our clubs has resulted in a far healthier organization. I don't see how allowing considering youth as non voting members can hurt the cause.

Another proposal involves eliminating the strict 25 minimum member requirement to get a club chartered. Instead, membership would be tied to community size. It makes sense, and I hope it passes. Yet another asks O.I. to create a new class of membership called "family membership" and dues for that would be set at \$16.00 annually. What it doesn't say is if the club would reduce its dues as well in an attempt to encourage families who would like to become involved, but have tight budgets. To my thinking, anything that can result in larger clubs with more active members is to be given an enthusiastic thumbs up.

A final proposed amendment that I favor is one that would allow absentee balloting for clubs that can't afford to send a member to the convention. There's some rules attached to this, but it gives more voice to more members, and that is terribly important. Details on these and other proposals can be found at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).

**Editor's Note:** My apologies for the tardiness of this newsletter. Some of the information is now outdated. I hope that has not inconvenienced any one unduly. Next date of publication is scheduled for August 1. Any articles or information you would like to have placed in the newsletter should be sent to me via email at [emschurch@msn.com](mailto:emschurch@msn.com) by July 25. Again, I apologize for the lateness of this publication.

Sincerely, Markay Suevel