

Pipeline Newsletter

Optimist Club of Des Plaines

Newsletter Date June 1, 2006

PRES SEZ

What if they gave a B.A.F.F.L.E. Night and nobody came? I guess I found out the answer at the meeting on May 4th when there was nary a guest to be found. I'm as guilty as anyone of showing up solo. Are we at our peak membership right now at 50? I don't think so. If tiny (pop 7,272) Mendota can add a staggering 31 members in a single night, I know Des Plaines with more than seven times the population can find five or 10 new Optimists if we try hard and just ask. Perhaps the summer will be good to us.

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If we don't add members, it means that every event we plan will have to be worked by a larger percentage of our membership, which raises the danger of member burnout. We need to think of just one person, look them straight in the eye, and "just ask."

May 12th and 13th saw me in beautiful Bloomington (as close to Normal as I'll ever be) for the District Conference. It was a busy weekend. The Oratorical final was held, and the winners were a girl from Belleville and a boy from Champaign. The girl gave an especially riveting speech. Only 14, she spoke and carried herself with the charisma of a professional public speaker.

The winning essay was also read. It had scored 99 out of 100 possible points, and of hundreds of anti drug posters received, the winners were selected. Unfortunately, none were from Des Plaines.

SCHOLARSHIP HELP NEEDED

We've budgeted the funds, contacted the schools, and the responses are coming in. St Zachary's has a recipient named for our 8th grade scholarship, and it would be great if somebody would present it at the graduation. Dianna Edwards, our scholarship chair, will be on vacation, and I'll be in Galena with Judy taking a delayed anniversary weekend. Please contact Dianna or myself if you can help. The graduation date is June 10th-time is not known yet. As more responses are received, more people may be needed to present our awards.

Speaking of posters, the chairman of the event, Stan Knecht from Centralia recalled that one year his club promised the entrants that their posters would silk-screened onto a t-shirt as a way of saying thank you for entering. The Centralia club was inundated with 999 entries, making it the first and last time they made such a promise.

District Conferences are a marvelous way to learn about what O.I. is doing and to make friends from around the state. Everyone is welcome, and the next is slated for August 11th-13th, 2006 in Bloomington. I hope to see some of you there.



† CRAPPIES AND BLUEGILL AND PERCH, OH MY!



*Bringing out the best in kids -
2006*

Bring your angling knowledge to Lake Park on Saturday, June 3rd for the annual Dick Hissong Fishing Derby. Even if you have no knowledge of fishing and the idea of plunging a sharpened hook through a slimy and squirming worm makes you sweat, show up anyway. We always need help with registration, cooking, clean up, and I seem to remember a man managed to cut himself fairly badly last year. (Eric, can you have paramedics at the ready?)

The fishing derby is held rain or shine, heat or cold, and sometimes Chicago weather makes it all of those on the same day. Dress appropriately, and be prepared for one of our signature events. This event, along with the kite fly, golf and oratorical are our most significant "hands on" events where we meet the kids we serve. That makes it a tremendous opportunity to sell the club to the parents of participants. I'll be sure to have a stack of applications to snare any prospects.

THREE CHEERS FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE...

We have a date, we have a theme, and now we need a volunteer to lead of merry bunch in the 4th of July parade. Jerry Warchol is unable to be our leader this year, so will a creative person please step up and seize the baton?

Last year's shopping cart drill team was favorably received, and the cost was almost free. Maybe try lawnmowers this year? Bicycles? Convertibles? A tow truck brigade led by Mike Schimka?

Like I said, a creative person is needed, especially since the budget is somewhat miniscule.

SUMMER MEETINGS SCHEDULED

June 1st is our farewell to Elks cuisine for the summer and our hello to some of the tastiest meals we'll get all year. Our first meeting is at Tom Swanson's 110 Wisconsin in Des Plaines. His number is 847 375 8759. The next meeting is July 20th. At Dianna Edwards 2116 S Plainfield. Her number is 847 296 6573. August 3rd sees us at Ray Bochat's 2230 S Pine 847 296 0988, and our final meeting will be at Ed Welther's.

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Lack of guests notwithstanding, Our May 4th meeting was great fun. The food was...interesting, and Mr. Fun and Mr. Frolics were inspired by the NBC show Deal Or No Deal in devising the raffle. Some people may say they stole the idea, but that isn't important. After a number of envelopes with modest winnings were pulled, Don Moran was the big winner of fifty bucks. Don was last seen driving north to Crivitz, where that kind of money will still buy you a mail order bride, a case of PBR, and a all you can fish fry reception for all.



Take Time to remember those who served

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

TAX EXEMPT UPDATE

It would be awesome if I could say that the long awaited ruling from the IRS on our tax-exempt status was a done deal and we had it. Sadly, government doesn't work that way. The IRS had about a dozen questions for O.I. to answer before ending it to a review committee. The questions were sent to O.I. in late April. They were answered, and now we must wait...and wait...and wait.

Hey, Everyone!

My first attempt at putting this together and it wasn't too difficult. Hope everything is in that needs to be in. See you tomorrow night!

Your new editor,

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Remember, tomorrow is our last indoor meeting until September. The June 15th meeting will be at Tom Swanson's, 110 Wisconsin. Wisconsin is just off Mt Prospect Road and between Northwest Highway and Rand. Randy tells me rib eye steak is on the menu-it won't hold a candle to our summer grub, but should still be good.

And Saturday is the fishing derby. Everybody come, bait hooks, cook hot dogs, and have a great time.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for our summer events.

Jewel Share Days	May 29 th - thru 31 st
Memorial Day	May 29 th
Fishing Derby	June 3 rd
First Outdoor meeting	June 15 th
Parade	July 4
Golf Tourney	August 9 th