

# Pipeline Newsletter

## Optimist Club of Des Plaines

Newsletter Date April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

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### Thoughts from President Tom

Hello Fellow Optimists,

I hope all is well and that everyone is busy in their yards getting ready for the summer season. It was an especially long winter and it feels good to be outside, which reminds me that our summer outdoor meeting season is upon us once again.

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I want to especially thank Dianna Edwards, Ray Bochat and Al Bayer for their hard work and making this event a successful one. Thank you also to the numerous club members who worked very hard as well.

The first meeting in May is election night. My two-year term is coming to an end and it is time to elect someone else to lead us. I hope that everyone will show up and support the individuals who have expressed their interest in taking on this important task. Remember, this is an election night and if being a board member interests you, please speak up. We need new ideas and new direction. That is our lifeblood as a club.

We have many upcoming events to focus on. The first is the fishing derby to be held at Lake Park on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please start getting the word out to the public. Talk to Ray Bochat to see where your help is needed. Second is the Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks event. Jerry Warchol and Stacey Magnusson are in charge of the parade festivities and I am in charge of the fireworks event. I know help will be needed at both events.

Thank you to Reme Aleck the clutter cutter. At our last meeting she gave us a twenty-minute speech on how to remove clutter from the home. It was interesting and humorous as well. If you know anyone who would be interested in speaking at one of our club meetings please let me know. Most people you ask are more than willing to come and speak to a group. The board is continuing its quest of finding an alternative meeting spot. We should have some direction on this matter within the next month or so. If you haven't been to a meeting in awhile please come on out and enjoy a little food, friends and fun. Next meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you soon.

Tom

### Up coming Events

#### May 2-3

District Conference -  
Holiday Inn - Peoria

May 17<sup>th</sup> Fishing Derby

May 29<sup>th</sup>-Board meeting

## ATHENA, MIGUEL CROWNED REGIONAL CHAMPS

On Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Steve Meinecke and I travelled to Sterling, IL for the annual regional oratorical competition. Sterling has been the site of much disappointment in the past. After working long and hard with our kids, we've seen them defeated by clubs that, simply put, let others do the work. Fenwick High School is legendary for its speech team, and they have bested us far too often.

Would this year be different? Would a 10 year old from Plainfield named Miguel Hernandez, in just his second year of the contest, be the champion? Could Athena Saldanha, a 14 year old eighth grader have enough poise and talent to beat high schoolers?

The orators spoke, and each delivered knock out performances. I felt confident and hopeful. I was confident and hopeful one time when the Cubs were in the playoffs. Then they got five outs away, and the rest is history. The point is, I knew they were great, but would the judges?

When Mark Sedig, the regional coordinator came in the room with the results, I finally stopped pacing, wiped my sweaty hands on my pants, and sat down. "The boy moving on to Peoria", he said "is...Miguel Hernandez!"

Fantastic! I finally know what it's like to mentor somebody to the finals!

"The girl moving on is Athena Saldanha!"

A two for two day, the first in our history, and if I had a bottle of bubbly handed I would have doused them with it. I think the Fenwick coach was somewhat taken aback, because his face looked like mine after the "five outs away" game was concluded.

This year's contest was a bit different in that the first and second place winners are moving on. Seeing as they called our kids names first, I assume they finished first. And I know they'll be in first after the finals are held in Peoria on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you haven't had the treat of seeing these two present their speech, they have been asked to speak before the mayor and city council on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and seven p.m. Time is tight, so I've been asked to keep my introduction brief. That will be a challenge, as proud as I am.

**At the center of your being you have the answer;  
You know who you are and you know what you want.**

-Lao-tzu

## ELECTION DAY 2008

May 1<sup>st</sup> is one of the most important meetings of the year. After doing a more than able job the last two years, Tom Swanson's successor will be chosen to lead the club for 2008-2008. In the past, we used to provide dinner for the club, but our recent thought has been to pour as much money into our kid's activities as possible, so this is not a free dinner. The candidates are:

President	<b>Zack Ladner</b>
Vice President	<b>Ray Bochat</b>
Vice President	<b>Steve Meinecke</b>
Treasurer	<b>Judy Ladner</b>
Secretary	<b>Dianna Edwards</b>
Board	<b>Bill Baxmann</b>
Board	<b>Ruth Del Re</b>
Board	<b>Chris Ladner</b>
Board	<b>Stan Catlett</b>

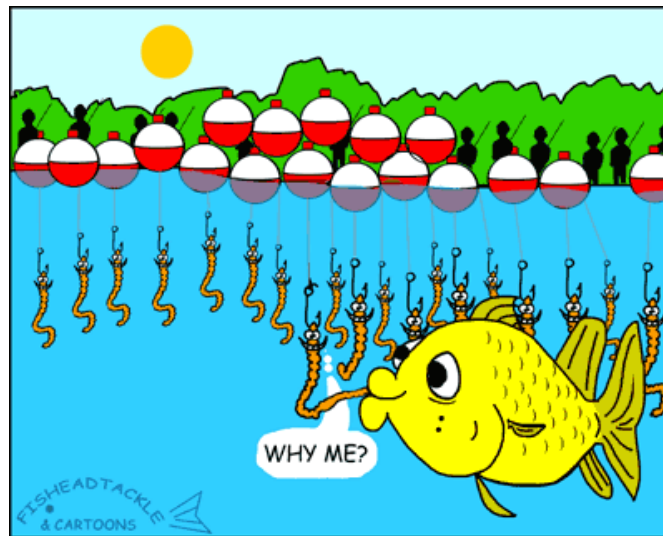
These people will guide the club the next 12 months. Please come and cast your ballot.

## PASTA PALOOZA 2008 = SUCCES\$

Our fabulous pasta dinner fundraiser on April 13<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. We actually ran out of food. The raffles were popular, and earned over \$500.00. Al Bayer did a magnificent job of extracting gifts from merchants, and Stan Walgreen was a superb salesman. None of this would have been possible without Dianna Edward's wonderful work as coordinator. Thanks to all who helped-if your name was missed, please accept mu apologies: Ray Bochat, Bob Bochat, Toby Gilbert, Ron Goczkowski, Diane Graham, Ray Kopecky, Chris, Judy, and Zack Ladner, Steve and Becky Meinecke, Charlie Schmidt, Jerry Warcholl, and of course Chef Ed Welther for his cooking expertise and use of his restaurant.

## FISHING DERBY SLATED FOR MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

The annual fishing derby will be held May 17th. We'll once again meet in the Optimist Pavillion on the Howard Street side of Lake Park. This event seems to increase in popularity every year. We will be there baiting hooks for the faint of heart, giving out cool prizes, and providing lunch. If you'd like to help, contact Ray Bochat at 847-296-0988. We'll need people to help cook, unload supplies, and load them back up at day's end. We'll probably start around nine, and we're usually done by one.



## SWEETHEARTS FOREVER

Celebrating anniversaries this month are the Ladner's and the Bochat's. There are no known birthday lady's or gent's.

**Better to do something imperfectly  
than to do nothing flawlessly.**

-Robert H. Schuller