



OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

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Vice President – Bill Atherton
Vice President – Jim Woods
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And the Winnah is...

We are all familiar with the various award programs that we see on TV, such as the Grammys and Academy Awards. All of these choose to honor those various artists or groups that have been nominated, by a voting process or committee as representing for any particular year what their standards feel is the “very best.”

When it comes to our club, all you need to do is question any member you meet and they will be glad to tell you that the Optimist Club of Des Plaines, Illinois, is pretty special.

Oh, that is not to say that you will also get comments as to how we can improve or why do we do it this way or that? That is just human nature and we have a lot of that type of human nature in our club, but we also “think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best.”

It is still nice when others, outside of our organization, bother to take the time to recognize that what we do for youth in our fair city is something special. Lately, that is just what has been happening and we were so pleased to find out that our very own Park District had nominated our club to receive recognition.

The Illinois Park & Recreation Association and the Illinois Association of Park Districts present the Community

Service Award jointly to those individuals and organizations throughout the State of Illinois who have contributed to the advancement of parks, recreation and leisure activities in their community. The Des Plaines Park District nominated the Optimist Club of Des Plaines for this award in recognition of the many local recreational opportunities for the youth supported by our club.

Now just to be nominated was great, but to actually receive the award was even better. Dave Markworth, Director of Parks and Recreation, was on hand for our February 6th meeting to present the award and plaque to the club. Dave was quoted as saying, “The Optimist Club of Des Plaines has a long history of reaching out to the



Dave Markworth and Prez Stacey

young people in our community. Without their assistance, we would not be able to provide as many services as we do for our youth. All of us, and speaking especially as a parent, owe them our thanks.”

Now if that weren't enough, our city was happy to present us with a picture of the tree that we donated, as well as to give us credit for providing the others for purchase at the most recent City Council meeting. Stacey “wowed” them all by announcing that next year we will donate all of the trees for all of the various youth organizations to decorate. It was your board of director's decision to be a real (continued)

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“Friend of Youth” to all for next year’s Holiday Celebrations in Library Plaza.

They say that things come in threes and we can only hope that this will be true as your president and her hubby will be attending the annual Socrates Rand Spirit of Des Plaines Awards Banquet which is presented by the Special Events Commission. Our club was nominated to receive the Paul Jung Community Service Award. There have been several others who have also been nominated. The banquet will be held on March 7th at Grazie’s and has been entitled, “Hands Across Des Plaines.”

Whether we receive this additional honor and recognition is not as important as the understanding that our club will continue to reach out with our hands, and our hearts, to all the youth in Des Plaines.

Officer Slate Selected

The Nominating Committee met and the following slate of officers was selected for presentation to the membership at the April 3rd meeting. They are, as follows:

Bill Atherton, Vice President; Dianna Edwards, Secretary; Ray Kopecky, Treasurer; Paul Magnusson, Director; Stacey Magnusson, President; Tom Swanson, Director; Kaye Welther, Director; and Jim Woods, Vice President.

Spring Celebration



Mark your calendar for a great afternoon on Sunday, April 6th. Kaye Welther is planning a wonderful family activity that will involve egg hunts, an egg decorating contest, and lots of prizes. More details will be forthcoming.

March Birthdays



Several of our members are older this month than they were. They are:

**Bob Ehlert,
Rich Rogers,
Fred Triebe,
Ed Welther**

Many happy returns!

We hope we didn’t miss anyone.

\$\$\$ Show Me The Money \$\$\$

Our next meeting, March 6th, will include the presentation of next year’s budget. Because we will be talking about our funding for next year it is important that we **do not** include guests at this meeting. Be sure to ask them to come to the second meeting of the month on the 20th.

Bowling For Fun



Dust off your bowling paraphernalia, (I could have worded that differently), and join us for a great afternoon of family bowling. We presently have over 32 members and family signed up and its not too late to include **you** in our plans. The date is Sunday, March 9th, from 1:30-3:30 PM at the Elk Grove Bowl. Give Dianna Edwards, (847) 296-6573, a call to make your reservation.

February Meetings

The **February 6th** meeting was highlighted by our special guest, Dave Markworth, Director of Parks and Recreation. As you have already read earlier in this issue he was there to honor the club with a special award for all that we have done for youth in Des Plaines. As usual or fearless, dynamic duo of Ed and Ray provided us with yet another opportunity to win all kinds of great stuff. And, as for the meal, it was good, as it always is, but not nearly as good as a room full of Optimists!

February 20th was a Valentine's Day, Spouse's Night event. It literally got off on the wrong foot when Ron Aaron's wife, Dianne, took a little misstep as she neared the bottom of the stairs, taking a nasty spill. Prez Stacey and others were immediately there to administer first aid and we are glad to report that she is doing fine. It may not sound like it when I report that she had to have five stitches and had also sprained her ankle. But, she was well enough to be able to leave with Ron for a vacation that they had planned to Arizona. We won't see them until May when there is a pretty good chance that the weather around here will be more pleasant. Ron reports that the only problem they are having is some of the "evil eyes" that are glanced his way. It seems that his lovely bride also suffered a black eye in the tumble.

Former Lt. Guv and club member, Jerry O'Leary, duly swore in Tom Swanson to serve on the board for the remainder of the year. We were so impressed at Tom being able to remember all of these very long phrases in the pledge until we saw the little "cheat sheet" that Jerry had given him. We're still impressed and know that Tom will do a great job on the board.

Additionally, we welcomed a guest of Paul Magnusson's, Jo Wolinski. She's been giving Paul coaching on his bowling style as they are on the same team and league.

The night finished off with our intrepid duo treating us to an event that we all look forward to, the Optimist Horse Race. After a round of bets on each of the entered equines, it ended up being a real horse race as Voss' Hoss won it all. Thanks, guys, for all the fun!

The Optimist 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 to 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.

Christian D. Larson

Kansas City Here We Come!

We hope that everyone has had the opportunity to read the winter issue of *the Optimist* magazine that should have been in everyone's mail box a couple weeks ago. As always, there's a lot of good stuff in there, but what is most exciting is all of the news about the international convention that will be held in Kansas City this summer. Having just attended our first convention last summer, we couldn't wait to attend another one. The fact that it is in Kansas City only makes it better as there is the added appeal of all that great KC jazz and lots of barbeque to get to sample.

We made lots of friends at the last one, but would much prefer to hang with our own folk, so, check it out and get those reservations in as early as you can. We will be charged up and optimistic when we return home to do an even better job for our youth!



Mmmm.....
barbeque and jazz
and barbeque and
jazz and barbeque
and barbeque and
barbeque!!!!



Friend of Youth

Coming Events

- Mar. 6 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
Sorry, but no guests at this meeting as we will be presenting the budget
- Mar. 8 **Chess Tournament**, Algonquin Middle School, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
- Mar. 9 **Bowling** at the Elk Grove Lanes, Higgins and Arlington Heights Road, 1:30 – 3:30 PM
- Mar. 20 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
- Mar. 27 **Board Meeting** at Stacey Magnusson's, 7 PM

Oratorical meets every Friday at 6:30 PM in Room A of the Des Plaines Public Library



The Prez Sez



Beautiful Downtown Normal, Illinois? Well...almost. Even though the weather outside was dreary and cold, the mood inside the Holiday Inn was warm and cheerful as it was filled with Optimists. What a

turnout at this District meeting – at least 60+ Optimists gathered to share, learn and swap ideas with each other. One club runs a rodeo as a fundraiser, another focuses on the poster and essay contest. Many were interested in our Fishing Derby and Kite Fly and were amazed that WE coach our own oratorical youth.

Many times we get so wrapped up in the activities of our club that we don't stop to really think about the range of possibilities we provide for the youth of Des Plaines. We are fortunate to have a park district, police and fire departments and a school system that offer many of the same programs that OI provides giving us better opportunities to be creative and offer other things like scholarships, kite fly and fishing derby. This meeting gave us plenty of time to brag about what we do for our youth.

Hopefully you have all read the latest Optimist magazine featuring the registration for Kansas City. If you have never attended a district convention or international convention you are in for a real surprise. The fun, fellowship, ideas, and the camaraderie all come together to provide a fabulous experience. I know that Paul and I are planning to go to Kansas City (Kansas City here we come), and I hope that you will too. You need to attend something of this magnitude to fully appreciate what a wonderful organization Optimist International is and what an outstanding club we have in Des Plaines.

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

What better way to improve yourself and your optimism than to plan to attend Kansas City? Hey, with thousands of Optimists surrounding you, you can't help but have fun!