



OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

President – Stacey Magnusson
Vice President – Bill Atherton
Vice President – Jim Woods
Secretary – Dianna Edwards
Treasurer – Stan Walgreen

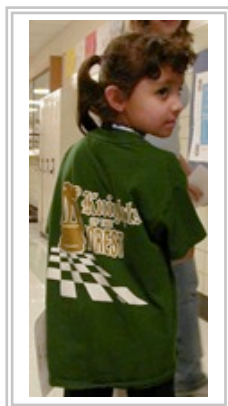
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Check and Mate



On Saturday, March 8th, 285 youngsters were able to come together to test their skill at playing the ancient game of chess. The event was a tournament hosted by the Knights of the Forest, a chess team from Forest

School. You may recall that Jack Shepherd was a guest several months ago, explaining how chess was an activity that many of our youth are finding more enjoyable than some of their computer games.

Our club was able to help this day of chess become a reality as we donated the funds so that 250 sets of boards and pieces could be purchased, enabling Jack Shepherd and the Knights of the Forest to host such an event. Now that they have these sets they will be able to do this again. There is also hope that other schools in District 62 will want to borrow them in order to start teams of their own. Presently, there are three other teams in the district at Algonquin and Chippewa Middle Schools and Central School.

We were happy to have some of our members there to help out with the event. Many thanks to Glenn Swanson, Ed Welther, Stan Walgreen, Paul Magnusson, Ray Kopecky and Dianna Edwards for their time on that day. It was kind of nice to have parent after parent coming up to us, thanking us for

helping to make this day possible for the students. Dianna really got an earful of praise for our club as she came into contact with lots of parents as they came through the cafeteria line during lunch. She was lucky to draw the short straw for that assignment.

It was interesting to see how the tournament was structured. There were kids age kindergarten to eighth grade participating. They each were able to play four rounds of chess. If they won they received a point, if they had a draw, they got a half point and, of course, no points if they lost. After the first round, they were then paired with another person who had the same score. Finally, at the end of a long day, the trophies were handed out in the various categories. There were participants as far west as Rockford, as far north as Grayslake and even some from Muncie, Indiana.

Parents had to stand out in the hallway, waiting to hear from their child as to how everything went. It seems that when parents were allowed to be in the same room there was too much “interaction” with the play. Now isn't that hard to believe?





It says, "Knights of the Forest – Boards donated by the Optimist Club of Des Plaines, IL"

Spring Celebration

On Sunday, April 6th Kay Welther is planning a wonderful family activity that will involve egg hunts, an egg decorating contest, a coloring contest and lots of prizes. This **Spring Celebration** will be from 1-3 PM and will be held at West Park, rain or shine. In order to participate in each of these contests you need to bring a decorated egg and/or a coloring sheet that you can get from Kay or Dianna Edwards. Any club member, and their families or relatives can come. Call Kay, 985-1336, or Dianna, 296-6573, to let them know you will attend. Please bring a dessert to share, (brownies, cookies, etc.).

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; Kay Welther, Director; and Jim Woods, Vice President.

So, election night will be this Thursday, the 3rd. This meal is free and will be prime rib or Salisbury steak, depending upon the turnout. Be there or we'll have to eat glorified hamburger!

April Birthdays



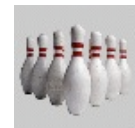
Several of our members are older this month than they were. They are:

**Bill Atherton,
Joann Braam,
Steve Kozak,
Glenn Swanson**

Many happy returns!

We hope we didn't miss anyone.

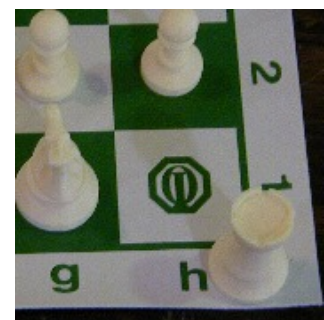
Bowling For Fun



Those of us who attended the bowling event that Dianna Edwards organized for us truly had a wonderful time. There was a great turnout as members, spouses and family took over several lanes at the Elk Grove Bowl on Sunday, March 9th. We all had fun and fellowship as unknown bowling talents our members have were brought to light. In fact, we all can't wait for the next time we can do this.

Thanks, Dianna, for organizing and helping us all to have such a great time!

The **OI** logo on the boards we provided



March Meetings

The **March 6th** meeting found Prez Stacey dodging the bullet, as she was unable to attend, allowing Vice Prez, Bill Atherton to preside over this annual budget meeting. Before the budget presentation we were happy to welcome and induct a new member, **Vern Luebbers**.

Our treasurer, Stan Walgreen, (should we call him Trez?), presented the budget that had been prepared in committee session to the membership. After some discussion the budget was approved to fund our activities and donations for the year.

Thanks to all who attended the **March 20th** meeting. We barely filled three tables for this one. Tom Swanson received a smiley from Prez Stacey, a Jack Russell calendar. For those of you that may not know, Jack Russell is a breed of small, but active dog that Tom happens to own. Now Tom won't have to buy a companion for his dog who just happens to be called, Jack. What a clever name for a dog!

We also had a brag from Don Moran in respect to the excellent presentation that Prez Stacey's students provided at Algonquin Middle School. Don, Al Bayer and Chris Ladner came to support this youth performance of Music Man Jr. They were so impressed with the quality of entertainment that they encouraged a photographer from *The Journal* to come the next evening to "snap a few" for the paper.

We hope that we will have good attendance at our next meeting, which is election night. That means not only important business, but also a free meal. See you there!

Warning!!

Thanks to Glenn Swanson for the following "heads up." It seems that there is a new scam out there that may lead you to believe that you need to return a long distance phone call about some very important business. If you grab the bait, you will find yourself with a larger phone bill than usual. The area codes you **don't** want to dial are: 809, 284, and 876. This info comes directly from AT & T. If you dial into these areas you will be billed at \$2400 or more!

Ouch and thanks, Glenn!

Say "Hi" to Vern Luebbers!



We hope that those of you who don't know Vern Luebbers will introduce yourself and welcome him to our club, as he is our

newest member. Vern was born in Barrington, IL, and was raised by his grand parents. Their ten-acre farm kept him plenty busy. After high school he set pins for a few years (he's a very good bowler, by the way). He worked at various factory jobs until he came to Des Plaines and a job with Parker Hannifin as a saw operator. After 25 years with them he was working as a chrome plater when the plant moved. He soon got a job with Omni Circuits in Glenview where he worked for 13 years until his retirement. Since he has retired he has been very active, helping his mom a lot.

Welcome, Vern!

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

50 Years of Marriage Celebrated



We are always happy to recognize special events in our members' lives and nothing could be more significant than to be able to celebrate fifty years of marriage. It is always easy to understand why some marriages do not stand the test of time, but the picture that was given to us by Glenn's daughter, Donna, is sure worth more than a thousand words.

Yes, that is Glenn Swanson with his bride, Milda. They were married March 28, 1953. We all know all that Glenn means to our club, having been a member since 1980.

After serving in the military Glenn graduated from college in 1961. He has worked in two different coin and stamp shops, combining an occupation with a hobby interest. He has also served as a Master Mason and has been involved with other local charities.

His wife, Milda, is from Neilsville, Wisconsin, and came to the Chicago area after graduating from high school. After working for the railroad, she moved to Des Plaines and held several clerical jobs while their two daughters were growing up. She has supported these daughters in their interests by volunteering with the Brownies and Girl Scouts.

In addition to their two married daughters they have a granddaughter and two grandsons.

Happy Anniversary, Glenn and Milda!

Oratorical Contest



We are fast approaching the end of one of our most extensive time commitments for our youth, and that is the Oratorical. The final training session will be this Friday in Room A of the Des Plaines Public Library. Our contest that will result in a boy and girl winner will be held on April 11th. Once again, this will take place at the library and will be in the same general location as our training sessions have been. This event will begin at 7:00 PM. Please try to attend as we listen to our youth speak on the subject, "United We Stand in Optimism."

Outdoor Meetings

As we all look forward to warm weather, many of us look forward to outdoor meetings. I am sure that none of us take these pleasurable evenings for granted, but you may not fully realize the extraordinary effort that makes them possible.

For many years we can thank Jim Woods for chairing this committee. Jim has organized everything necessary to make our Outdoors "happen".

Jim is stepping down as chairperson of this event and it is time for someone else to "step up" if we are to continue with these meetings. We will also need homes, captains, and cooks for each one. So, get your hand ready for the question, "Who is interested in chairing our Outdoors?"



Friend of Youth

Coming Events

- April 3 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
Sorry, but no guests at this meeting. We will be electing officers for next year.
- April 6 **Spring Fling**, West Park, 1 PM
Call Kay Welther at 985-1336 or Dianna Edwards at 296-6573.
- April 11 **Oratorical Contest**, 7:00-9:00 PM
at the Des Plaines Public Library.
Try to be there to cheer on our youth.
- April 17 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
- April 24 **Board Meeting** at Stacey Magnusson's, 7 PM

Oratorical will only meet for one more Friday training session on Friday, April 4th in Room A of the Des Plaines Public Library beginning at 6:30 PM.



The Prez Sez



To everything, (turn, turn, turn), there is a season, (turn, turn, turn), and a time for every purpose under heaven. Whether you know the above verse from the Scriptures or the song made popular in the

1960's by the Byrds, it summons feelings of change.

As you know, this past week our family has experienced the greatest sense of change with the loss of Paul's mom. One cannot question the timing of such change as it is out of our human control. We must accept and move forward with our lives, trusting that God in His infinite wisdom has promoted her to Glory.

More times than none, we are unable to directly CHANGE a situation – look at what is happening in the world around us. We need to make the best of the situation and do what we can to deal with the circumstances on a day-to-day basis. Whether we agree or disagree, we need to trust those in command.

Change is inevitable – it is how we deal with it that builds character. If we don't like how things have changed, just wait a while – they'll be sure to change again (sounds like Chicago weather!) Many times change is good – a new home, a new job, a new diaper... and many times – as I stated above – change takes some getting used to. Isn't that funny how that is true about our club, too?

Think about the changes we have made in the past 10 years, the past 5 years, and even in the past year or so. We have moved forward with new ideas, funded new programs, sponsored new members, lost members near and dear to us. But, no matter what the change was, we remained OPTIMISTS and strived to do the best we could for the youth of Des Plaines, "To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best," (no matter what changes may come).

Remember, this is your newsletter. If you have anything that you would like to see published, please let the editor, or President, know of this interest. This could involve travels, honors, family additions or any other personal news you would like to share. Help to keep all of us, "in the know."