



OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

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United We Stand...

“United We Stand in Optimism” was the theme that youth from around the country and world who participated in the Oratorical had to use as the basis for their speeches this year. As in the past our club members have devoted many Friday evenings to helping youngsters to take those first confused and embarrassed steps forward in public speaking. The first evening began with asking them to introduce themselves. With a friendly smile on his face, chair person, Stan Walgreen would ask them, “Well, tell us about where you go to school and what kinds of hobbies you enjoy.” That would be the beginning of many weeks of encouragement and ideas about how each youth could develop their own thoughts about what it means to be “united with the common purpose of Optimism.”

Stan’s committee was just as loyal and dedicated as they have been in years past. The help that Al Bayer, Del Johnson, Chris Ladner, Don Moran, Bob Roller, Kay Welther and Stan offered was invaluable in helping each child to shape their ideas and be able to present them to an audience.

Our gold medal winners were Heather Dean and Zack Ladner. Heather is in the seventh grade and attends Algonquin Middle School while Zack is an eighth grader at Chippewa Middle School. As always each of our young speakers has caused us all to think about that which

we all hold to be common place.

Heather pointed out that “we live in different cities, and towns, we go to different schools, we work at different jobs. We live different lives, and yet we are together in Optimism.” Now doesn’t that make you think? We all know the good that we do for the kids in Des Plaines, but it is so important to remember all of the other clubs with whom we are united. Clubs that are doing the same thing for the youth in their communities. This is just another very good reason for club members to attend the International Convention this summer in Kansas City. “United we stand in Optimism” most certainly does not just stand for our unity as a local club. This statement should help us to realize all that we can accomplish as we unite our fund raising with other clubs to help eliminate some of the causes of Childhood Cancer



in the next decade.

Zack explained in his speech, “Yes, sometimes we need to examine our own thought processes and life style to see if a change should be made. This change can be started by something as simple as the reading of a saying or a creed, and then by carefully following its philosophy.” How true these words are. “To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.” We all recite the creed and need to be reminded, by our youth, that it is the “following of this philosophy” that is so necessary.

Thanks, Heather and Zack. Come to our May 1st meeting to hear their speeches.

The **April 3rd** meeting found all of us enjoying center cut prime rib at no charge, as it was Election Night. After Prez Stacey was elected to a second term (she must like what she's doing), the rest of the slate was approved by acclamation. Our officers and board for next year will be:

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

We thank them for their willingness to serve our club and the youth of Des Plaines.

Committee reports included our Spring Celebration and Oratorical, (please see articles about each of them in this issue). Ray Kopecky has the club's Kite Fly well organized. It will take place on Saturday, May 17 at Lake Opeka from 9am to 3pm. anyone with old sheets is encouraged to make kite tails, in case we need them. Although Ray has ordered fine kite flying weather, we have also reserved May 24th in case in is raining on the 17th.

The Fishing Derby is scheduled for May 31st and will take place, rain or shine. Ray Bochat, chair for this event is hoping for fish for the kids to catch. We hope to see a good club turn out for both of these events.

Don Moran reported that the Fourth of July Parade is going to once again be organized by the Des Plaines Historical Society. The company we used last year is not available, but Don was able to make arrangements with another trolley company for the parade. More information will be in the next issue of the *Pipeline*.

In additional business, Tom Swanson volunteered to serve as the Outdoor Meeting Chair, thanks Tom!

The **April 17th** meeting reported the success of the Spring Celebration and Oratorical. Our Oratorical participants were invited, along with their parents, to attend the next city council

meeting where the mayor would individually recognize them. Our gold medalists were invited to present their speeches to the city council at that time. We had over seventy in the audience as our youth presented their speeches on the topic "United We Stand in Optimism." Many thanks are due, not only to the committee, but also to Dianna Edwards, Ray Bochat and Kay and Ed Welther for helping with the treats that were served after the event. It was good to see so many members in the audience supporting our youth.

Sweet Tomatoes

Ray Kopecky is taking on a project that was first proposed by our late member, Lee Hoelscher. Lee had suggested that we look into a date at an eating establishment called "Sweet Tomatoes" that is located in Schaumburg. It seems that they have a program whereby a certain percentage of the dinner receipts are returned to the club as a fundraiser. A special coupon is required for this donation to be made. Ray will have further information for us.

May Birthdays



We only have one member celebrating this month, and that is:

Lee Piekarz

Many happy returns!

We hope we didn't miss anyone.

Our First Spring Celebration a Success

It was quite chilly, but it was a success. We did all of the planned activities, except the egg hunt, in the field house at West Park.

Everyone said, "We had a great time," "The kids sure enjoyed themselves," "Hope we do it again." That means that our Spring Celebration was a success.

There were many Optimist members who attended with family and friends. There were 17 children ranging in age from 2 to 14, as well as a few neighborhood kids that walked off with some of our hidden Easter eggs.

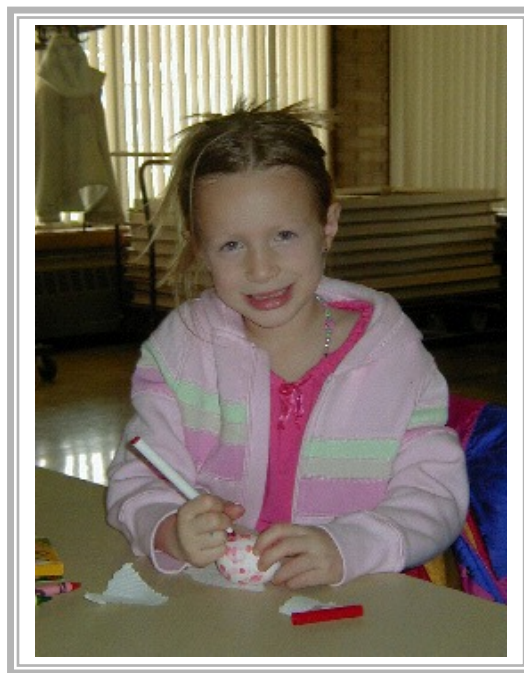
All the kids participated in the Peter Cottontail race, M&M bag toss and the Easter egg hunt. We hid a total of 126 eggs. The treats that were provided were wonderful. There was pie, cookies, brownies, etc., as well as a variety of beverages.

Each child was to bring a picture of the Easter Bunny that they had colored and an egg that they had decorated for our contests. Those that didn't have one were given the chance to color a picture or decorate an egg right then.

Meghan and Bobbie Atherton, Ray Bochat and Don Moran were our judges for the picture and egg contest. Bob Bochat, Ray Kopecky, Al Bayer and Chris Ladner were our game referees. If we left anyone out that helped, we apologize. Each and every child left with two or more prizes.

This fabulous event was the brainchild of Kay Welther. She would like to thank Dianna Edwards and Ed Welther, her co-chairs, for all their help, as she feels that she could not have done it without them, and we would like to thank her for her leadership. Also, we want to thank everyone that came bearing treats, and for being so helpful. They and their families and friends were the ones responsible for our Spring Celebration being a SUCCESS!

You notice that Kay said this was our first Spring Celebration. I think she left out the word, "annual". I can't wait 'til next year's event.



Lee Piekarz's daughter, Alyssa

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



Our Oratorical “Winners”



Taylor and Taso, Silver Medalists



Elyssa and Mike, Bronze Medalists



Front row (l to r), Joey, Adrianna, Savannah, Taso, Second row (l to r), Melissa, Alexandra, Taylor, Zack, Back row (l to r), Robert, Mike, Claire, Heather, Elyssa, our Oratorical “Winners”.

Outdoor Meetings

In our last issue we indicated that we needed to have someone “step up” to serve as the chair for this year’s outdoor meetings. Never fear, Tom is here! That is, Tom Swanson. Tom has volunteered to organize those summer meetings so near and dear to us all. Thanks, Tom!

Tom will need lots of help to make all of this “happen”. We will have four outdoor meetings, and we have already had three hosts volunteer, we need a fourth. See Tom!

We will also need set-up help (2) and cooks (2) per meeting. See Tom!

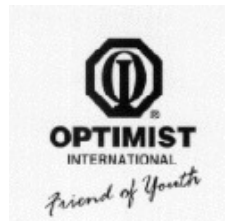
Please see Tom at our next meeting, May 1st, to see how you can help with this year’s Outdoor Meetings.



Friend of Youth

Coming Events

- May 1 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
*Oratorical Gold Medalist to speak
- May 15 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
- May 17 **Kite Fly** at Lake Opeka,
9am – 3 PM
- May 22 **Board Meeting** at Stacey
Magnusson's, 7 PM
- May 24 **Kite Fly** at Lake Opeka
(rain date), 9am – 3 PM
- May 31 **Fishing Derby** at Lake Opeka,
9am – 12pm (noon)



Ray Kopecky's grandson, Phil

The Prez Sez

“TO BE JUST AS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF OTHERS AS YOU ARE ABOUT YOUR OWN”



It is very easy to give every living creature a smile or to talk health, happiness and prosperity, but how many times can we REALLY say that we live up to this phrase

of our Optimist Creed? There is always the person who lost 30 pounds to your 10, got the promotion you know you were more qualified for or bought the car you have been dreaming about. It is human nature to want to succeed and in today's society and to 'look out for number 1'. Just how enthusiastic are you about someone else's success?

What actually is success? Is it a dollar figure, a corner office, the ultimate 'keeping up with the Joneses'? Webster defines success as *to accomplish what is intended; the favorable result of something attempted*. When I asked some of the Oratorical participants how they would define success they responded with things such as – feeling I did my best, making my parents proud of me or accomplishing something that a classmate was afraid to try.

Each year I am amazed at our Oratorical contest when these young Optimists stand proudly and deliver their speeches. Yes, they all strive for the gold, but their enthusiasm for each other's success makes them all winners. They cheered each other on, sat with fingers and toes crossed, gave each other thumbs up and 'high-fived' each other after the final speech.

The hugging and congratulating after the event showed the enthusiasm all the participants had for each other's success. I remember how Adrianna acted when Zach's name was called – she jumped up and down clapping - so excited for her older brother. – she was just as enthusiastic about his success as she was about her own. Can we do that? Isn't that the TRUE spirit of Optimism? Maybe we can learn a lesson from our youth – isn't there another saying... "*...and a little child shall lead them...*"?