



OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

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FORE SCORE AND TWENTY-FORE

It was only three years ago that Bill Atherton had the idea of our club sponsoring a golf outing at Lake Opeka. That first year we had 40 golfers involved and it has now grown to 104, ages 8-15. The participants were even able to compete in a putting contest, which was a new addition to this year's event.

Besides the youngsters enjoying a round of golf it has also lead to a wonderful relationship with our Park District that we think is going to blossom into even more joint ventures that will benefit the youth of Des Plaines.

The weather could not have been more perfect with lots of sunshine and the temp only reaching a high of 80 degrees. As usual, there were lots of what every kid enjoys, prizes and food. Many thanks to Kay Welther and Eisenberg for the donation of the hot dogs and once again to Ed Welther and the Mars Corporation for donating the ice cream and some really nifty Seat Coolers filled with ice cream.

Additional prizes included a \$150 swing evaluation by Golf Tech at the Golf Center, four tickets to a Schaumburg Flyers game, a \$50 gift certificate to Borders, and many golf items as well as free rounds of golf at Lake Park. Of special note was the rare occurrence

of a hole-in-one on the 12th green. Michael Geweniger, who is going into the fifth grade, said that he had used a pitching wedge to accomplish the feat. The club presented him with a special trophy to commemorate the event. Because of the timing, we were able to get it engraved with his name, date and the event. Boy was he happy and surprised. Even at his young age he is already conditioned to awards that are given and then have to be taken away so that they can be engraved. Not this time! He was able to take it home that very day.

It should be noted that as this event has grown in popularity it has caused some families to plan their vacations

around it. They don't want to miss it.

There are always lots of people to thank. Besides the donations of food already mentioned and the Park District's help, we also want to thank Rob Ward and his staff at Lake Park. We are so grateful for all of the members who showed up to work and enjoy: Meghan and Bill Atherton, Al Bayer, Ralph Cote, Dianna Edwards, Ron Goczkowski, Ray Kopecky, Vern Luebbers, Stacey and Paul Magnusson, Steve Meinecke, Rich Rogers, Charlie Schmidt, Glenn Swanson, Stan Walgreen and Ed Welther. We hope we didn't miss anyone.



August Meetings

Our August 7th meeting found us at the lovely home of Mary Alice Wenzl. This was the first time that we were fortunate enough to meet at her home. The surroundings and set up were ideal for an outdoor meeting and the weather was perfect for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Of very special note for this meeting was the induction of three new members. Steve Meinecke, his fiancée, Maggie Croft, and Jonathan Cohen have officially joined our ranks, as they were happy to take an abbreviated version of the induction ceremony, waiting until later for the formal presentation. For Steve and Maggie that will be the second meeting in September.

Any of you that have worked the tree lot in recent years know Jon Cohen. He began his love affair with the tree lot as a young scout, helping us to unload the trees. He then continued to stop by the lot to see if he could help, and has for several years been a member of the Royal Wreath-Making Society. He was the youngest Boy Scout to attain the rank of Eagle and he is presently our youngest club member. He attends SIU where he is Forestry major. Jonathon will be, at his request, inducted at the tree lot when he is home for his winter break. That will be a meeting that you will **not** want to miss.

We also had a guest attend this meeting, Mandy Valenza. Mandy works for one of our local dentists, Dr. Barry, as a dental hygiene assistant. She now has the distinction of seeing Paul's big mouth not only as a student at Maine West, (she was in his band and choir classes and was also a member of the Choraliers), but also in her professional capacity. When Paul had had a dental appointment, he invited her to "check us out" by visiting the webpage. He also invited her to attend a meeting.

At this meeting it was announced that we would only need one more new member to become an Honor Club for the year. Mandy was happy to take on that job for us and will be inducted at the first meeting in September. Thanks, Mandy, for putting us "over the top!" Remember, this will also be our first indoor meeting as we return to the Elk's Club.

Our second meeting of the month, and last outdoor, found us returning to the Ladner's and their warm hospitality. This was a very hot evening and was also a Spouse's/Significant-Other meeting. Even though the evening was warm, we heated up the grills one more time and had fabulous brats, hamburgers and salads for our dinner. Special thanks go out to Tom Swanson and his lovely bride for making the trip to Sam's Club to get all the fixin's, and to Ron Goczkowski and Ray Kopecky for attending to the ritual preparation of the food by fire.

Our special guest this evening was Optimist Governor for the State of Illinois, Corky Helms. We had been hoping to have Corky visit us before his term as governor was concluded. We got the call, Thursday afternoon that he was in town for the meeting. It was great to have everyone get to meet him and even better to get a first hand report from him about the Childhood Cancer Campaign and the impact that Optimists are making to help families that are assailed with this dread disease.

Once again, our next meeting will be inside the friendly confines of the Elk's Club.

Pancake

Breakfast



In yet another new activity for the club, Prez Stacey and Stan were able to arrange for our members to assist the Mt. Prospect Kiwanis Club with a pancake breakfast that they hold each year in their community. All we had to do was show up to work and they would split the profits with us. And show up we did, with a really great turnout. Thanks to all that were able to be there: Meghan and Bill Atherton. Mike Berkowitz, Bob Ehlert, Dianna Edwards, Ron Goczkowski, Ray Kopecky, Chris Ladner, Paul and Stacey Magnusson, Stevie and Rich Rogers, Glenn Swanson, Stan Walgreen, and Mary Alice Wenzl.

Now that we have seen how they do this, perhaps it is something that we can do for our club as a fundraiser. In any case, it was a few hours investment and we now have more funds in the treasury for the youth of Des Plaines.

It's an Honor!

You may recall that several issues ago our president informed us that all it would take for us to become an Honor Club was to take in a few more members. At that time, "few" was defined as being four. Other criteria for this distinction were the documentation of a youth project in the form of something that OI calls a CPA, (Community Project Award), and that the president attend 75% of the district meetings. Well, as of our first meeting in September when Mandy Valenza joins our club, we will have fulfilled all of these requirements!

Now what does this really mean? Does it mean that we can proudly proclaim, for all to hear, that our club is an Honor Club? Does it mean that we can add a patch to our club banner? Does it mean that we will get state and national recognition for this accomplishment?

Well, the answer to all of these questions is, yes! But it is important that our club members realize that this is not really the most important consideration. Being an Honor Club is so much more than what has been stated, as it is really a test of how "healthy" your club is. It shows that your club is growing, providing new workers and future leaders for our youth activities in Des Plaines. At 35 youth per new member, our five new members will cause 175 more youth to be served. The fact that our leadership has attended the required meetings means that they have represented us, as a club, and that they have been able to receive training and inspiration that they then can bring back to our club and our activities. The reports filed with OI about our projects document what we do for youth and allow other clubs the opportunity to know about them as well.

There is one last aspect of this award that must be mentioned. Our receiving this is a result of our club's president having a vision and goal for us and for our youth. I am sure that many of you often listen to goals and objectives as being some type of "pipe dream." I think that now we can see that this

is not the case. So, the Optimist Club of Des Plaines, Illinois, is now an Honor Club. I hope that you are as eager as I am to look forward, with great anticipation, to Prez Stacey's second term of office, and to find out what her vision for the growth of our club is for this coming year.

September

Birthdays



This month three of our members are celebrating (we hope) another year of growth. They are:

Bobbi Atherton,

Stacey Magnusson,

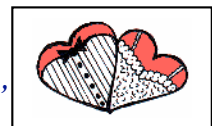
and

Bob Roller

We wish them joy as they celebrate and we hope that we haven't missed anyone.

The Bells

Were Ringin'



We are slowly, verrrrry slowly, getting some anniversary information from our members. It seems that it is always a month behind as they read the *Pipeline* and realize that their longevity as man and wife has not been mentioned. So, we would like to congratulate two of our members who were married in August.

They are Bob Ehlert and his bride, Judy, for 43 years of marriage and

Ron Goczowski and his bride, Joanne, for 39 years of marriage.

Congratulations to your many years of wedded bliss!

District Meeting

Part of our achieving Honor Club stature involves your club's leadership attending 75% of the District meetings that are held. That meant that the most recent conference held in Springfield had to find representation from Des Plaines in order for us to receive this recognition. Prez Stacey and Paul were in attendance and once again came away with renewed enthusiasm and ideas for our club. What was even better was that not only leaders in Optimism from our state, but also members of other clubs are beginning to recognize both of them by name.

As we continue to attend these functions, we hope to have others from our club join us. We know that we always come away with several new ideas. If we had more members present, these would simply multiply and be of even greater benefit to us all and to our youth.

Club Visitations

For some time now Prez Stacey and Paul have been thinking of making what is called a "visitation" to other clubs in our zone. Now that we have started to get to know some of the other presidents and members from our having attended district meetings we decided to "take the plunge" and do just that.

It was not an easy thing to do, especially since it was the last week before school would start (for Stacey), but we decided to make our first visit to the Deerfield club. They meet every Tuesday for breakfast at 7AM. We really wondered what that would be like and found that the hardest part was the getting out of bed.

However, the Optimistic spirit of our brothers and sisters in Deerfield made the trip and experience well worth the loss of a little morning shut-eye. The business part of their meeting was short and to the point, touching on board decisions, up-coming events, and a report on the district meeting in Springfield.

The meal was great and everyone ordered from the menu. Members paid for their own meal. The Deerfield Club was gracious enough to

pay for our breakfasts and, as they finished their meeting with some "Fun and Frolics," a quiz on various Chicago Bear/New Stadium trivia, they even paid our fines when we were unable to come up with the correct answers.

The next day Paul took a little jaunt over to Evanston to visit that club and meet some of their members. This club meets weekly at the China Buffet and has been serving the youth in Evanston since 1923. The club only has about 18 members, only five of which live in Evanston. It was interesting to meet the seven that were able to attend this particular summer meeting. There was not as much "pomp and ceremony" to their meeting although they did begin with the pledge and a prayer and ended with some very hard, and interesting, "fun and frolics" questions.

The other side of this coin is the Wilmette club. Until we looked in the directory we weren't even aware that there was a club there. Well, that was sure a big mistake. As it turns out, this club has been around as long as Evanston's. It is alive and well, with a club membership that equals ours. Paul also got a chance to visit this club. That all happened because of Gov. Corky. Somehow he managed to lose his governor's pin in Chris Ladner's backyard. The pin, being on the ground, got stepped on, a lot, and the result was a pin that could no longer be fastened to anything. Well, the Gov. did miss this pin and called the next day to see if it had been found. (We now know that he doesn't sleep with it pinned to his jammies). It had been found and Stacey was able to buy a new back for it. We think it is better than it has ever been. Anyway, Paul had to get it back to him and since he was visiting the Wilmette club it was a no-brainer for him to make yet another visitation.

It was really tough duty as the Wilmette club meets at the Michigan Shores Club, next to Gillson Park in Wilmette. This is a private club and very posh! Paul reports that the lunch was gourmet, all the way, and very enjoyable. And, not too surprising, the Optimists attending were also very pleasant.

(Club Visitations, cont.)

The big passion with this club seems to be golf and scholarships. This past year they sent 12 youth to compete in the state Optimist Jr. Golf Tournament.

The only problem with this visitation was that the Optimists in Wilmette seem to have long memories. They claimed that our club stole their bell 20 years ago and it cost Paul a buck in fines. We guess they retaliated those many years ago by stealing our bell but we will need someone who has been in the club longer than I to tell us who stole who's bell first.

The Wilmette Club's version of "Fun and Frolics" involves one member, who is in charge of this activity, thinking up fines for those in attendance. Some of the infractions were a bit bizarre, to say the least, but everyone paid up. They also collect two dollars from everyone and then have a drawing of club members' names. The person whose name is drawn then receives a portion of that money.

Before he left, Paul tried to see if he could "borrow" their bell, but they had it too well protected.

Outdoor Meetings

As we look forward to indoor meetings we must take a few moments to reflect upon our summer get-togethers and all that it has taken for the membership to be able to enjoy this unique way that we meet during this time of year. Of course, we must thank Tom Swanson, the chair of this committee. It was Tom's first year heading up this activity for us and all that he did was truly fabulous. We can only hope that he will want to do a repeat performance next summer. We also thank all of the hosts and captains.

There were also the loyal workers who made sure that all of the Park District tables and chairs were moved from place to place. Just so you know the process, we first had to make sure that "Big Red"

was available. This is the nickname that our good friends at Accurate Auto Clinic have given to the truck that they are so gracious to let us borrow each year. It is just the right size to carry the tables and chairs for our meetings. We also have Tom's truck, which we fill with everything else: bar, plates, grills, cooking tools, pop, etc.

The loyal and faithful that load all of these items have been Tom and his son, Joey, Ray Kopecky and his grandson, Phil, Vern Luebbers and Paul Magnusson. Paul has served as the driver for Big Red and has decided that this is not something that will bring him out of retirement to pursue as a full time activity. Just think, our good friend Berkey does this with much bigger equipment for a living. We also need to thank Chris Ladner and his son, Zack, for helping Paul to return the tables and chairs to the Park District.

We must also give a special "thank you" to our good friends at Accurate Auto Clinic. They are so supportive of our club and what we do for kids in Des Plaines. Besides allowing us to use their vehicle in the summer, they have also advertised our tree lot on their marquee as well as other activities that we sponsor. I was impressed with the loaner cars that they have available for use by their customers and the next time I need a little work done on my Buick I think I'll give them my business. They also have a shop in Palatine at 2228 N. Rand Road.



So we have to say goodbye, for the summer, (gee that sounds like a song), at least goodbye to our outdoor meetings. It will be good to return to the Elk's Club and hopefully, next summer, we can "meet and greet" outside, as we have, for so many years.

As we approach our new year in Optimism, we all need to be aware of how our membership dues breakdown into their separate components, as well as how they relate to the other clubs in our zone. Raising our dues to \$60.00 per year only generates \$214.60 of operating expenses for the club. It presently costs \$156 to mail the *Pipeline* to everyone who does not receive it on line. By law, we are only allowed to use 10% of the monies we raise as operating expenses, unless we have a fundraiser that is designated as one that is being held to “support the Optimist Club of Des Plaines.”

**Optimist Club of Des Plaines, IL
Dues for '03-'04**

Dues	\$30.00
Magazine	\$ 4.50
Office Fee	\$.50
Insurance	\$ 9.00
Currency Exchange	\$ 1.50
Rose Bowl Float	\$.80

National Total	\$46.30
State Dues	\$11.00

Total	\$56.30
Our Club	\$3.70 (for 58 members, that is \$214.60)
Grand Total	\$60.00

Zone One Dues for '02-'03

Glenview	\$140.00
Wilmette	\$124.00
Evanston	\$108.00
Deerfield	\$ 84.00
Niles	\$ 65.00
Des Plaines	\$ 53.00

Our Newest Members



Maggie Croft and Steve Meinecke



Jonathan Cohen



Pancake Day with Mary Alice, Meghan and Bill, with Ray, pouring.



Mike Geweniger, a hole-in-one and proud of it!



Vern, Phil, Ray, Tom and "Big Red"



Friend of Youth

Coming Events

- September 4 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7PM
- September 18 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7PM
- September 25 **Board Meeting** at Stacey Magnusson's, 7 PM.



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

The Prez Sez



Happy New Year!?!

As a teacher, I think more of September as starting the New Year than January. A new school year, new students, new activities and a new

enthusiasm to reflect upon the past, but *press on to greater achievements of the future*. It is a wonderful coincidence that our Optimist year starts at almost the same time.

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the new activities we started, the new members we have brought and will be bringing into the club and the renewed sense that we, as Optimists, are making a difference for the youth of Des Plaines.

Kay Welther developed our Spring Celebration, which was a wonderful success and a lot of fun for kids and their parents. Tom Swanson (with the help of Paul, Vern, and Ray Kopecky) chaired our summer meetings, which allowed us to continue this tradition. We have new tee shirts, which we wore when we helped the Mt. Prospect Kiwanians with their pancake breakfast. We raised money for a child in the community who has cancer.

Vern Lubbers joined our ranks earlier in the year, followed most recently by Jonathan Cohen, Maggie Croft and Steve Meinecke. Mandy Valenza will be joining us at the September 4th meeting.

We went to Kansas City for the International Convention where Paul accepted the award for our *Pipeline*. We also discovered that it might be possible for us to make Honor Club. As far as I can tell - WE HAVE!

As I look toward the greater achievements of the future - our new year - I see us continuing the fine tradition of Optimism in Des Plaines. With new collaborative activities with our Park District, a new bowling for youth program and the beginning stages of our sponsorship of JOOI (youth) clubs, we will be sharing our Optimism with even more people than ever before!

Sure makes me proud to be an Optimist - how about YOU?