



OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

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A NEW YEAR!

Last year at this time we were thanking Rich Rogers for his two year tenure as our president. We felt that he had done much to help our club to move forward in its service to youth in our community. We welcomed Prez Stacey, wondering with anticipation what her year as president would bring for our club.

Well, now that we have come full circle, we can look back over the last twelve months and ask ourselves what difference this past year has meant for our club? What changes have transpired, and what impact will this past year have upon the new?

Our traditional programs, the Oratorical, Eighth Grade Scholarships, Kite Fly, Fishing Derby, Fourth of July Parade, and Jr.

Golf Outing have continued as they have in the past, with the golf experience for youth enjoying even greater numbers than ever before. Our tree lot has continued to be a successful fund raiser, enabling us to support these programs.

So what was new? We lost a few members, two who did not renew their membership and two dear friends who passed on to greater glory, Ray McNeal and Lee Hoelscher. And yet, as we survey our present membership, we have now gained five new members.

As for programs, we have begun a “Spring Celebration” event that was very successful and will be expanded to

include more of our community this coming year. We donated a substantial amount of money to the Knights of the Forest, which enabled them to purchase 250 chess boards and pieces so that they could sponsor an invitational chess tournament at Algonquin Middle School. This donation not only allowed for this event to become reality, but to permit the wonder of chess to be introduced to other schools in District 62. This year, and in years to come, our gift will allow them to host other tournaments not only for our youth, but for the children of other communities who will attend.



We included three new fundraisers for our club, “A Night of Giving” at Golf Mill,

a Childhood Cancer fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes, and a Pancake Breakfast where we partnered with the Kiwanis Club in Mt. Prospect. These, along with many donations from club members and friends, allowed us to help a local family whose eighth grade son has bone cancer. This sizeable donation which we were able to make helped them to eliminate doctor bills that were not covered by their insurance.

This past year saw our club receive recognition throughout the state and nation. We received a community service award from the Illinois Park & Recreation Association and the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

("A New Year" cont.)

Although we were not chosen, we were nominated for the Paul Jung Community Service Award. Our newsletter, the *Pipeline*, was chosen first in the state for clubs with a membership of 35-74. It then was sent on to international competition where it (and the club) received a second place. And last, but certainly not least, our club will be awarded Honor Club status for this past year. It has been a very long time since we have been an Honor Club.

Additionally, we now have participation tee-shirts that we can give to all our youth that attend our programs. We are already beginning to see them worn around town.

So, a big vote of thanks to our Prez, Stacey, for this past year's leadership, and, to all of our club members who have helped to contribute to all that is new and good in our club. We can only look forward with even greater expectation to this coming year as we continue to grow in membership and service to the youth of Des Plaines.

September Meetings

Our first meeting of the month found us in our familiar "digs" of the Elk's Club. Our guest speaker was Pastor Fred Joob of Christian Life Church in Mt. Prospect. He is also the President of the Kiwanis Club in Mt. Prospect with which we were happy to assist them (and split the profits) from their Pancake Breakfast this past August.



Stacey and Pastor Fred

His inspirational message involved the care and nurturing of a dream. He told how it was possible to have dreams and goals and be able to create reality from them. He said that a dream is "a vision of our imagination of what could be and that desire and determination result in the destiny or final outcome of the dream."

Prez Stacey presented him with a plaque of our Creed. He commented that he had been reading our banner that holds the creed as he was sitting near it during dinner. He said that he was greatly impressed with all that it means and represents. We all know that it is something we recite with great pride as we end out meetings.



Mandy Valenza

We were also proud to induct Mandy Valenza in to our club. Mandy is a dental hygiene assistant for Dr. Barry here in town.

She is interested in learning more about our club and what we do for youth. She has also expressed an interest in working on a bowling activity and she is just in time as we are planning on beginning such a venture next year.

Our second meeting of the month, September 18th, found us with many guests in attendance. We were glad to be visited by Dorothy Collins and Stew Posternak, members of the Deerfield Club. Dorothy is president-elect and Stew is Lt. Governor for our zone. Dorothy regaled us with her enthusiasm for her coming term as president of their club. She told us of the many new and extensive programs that they have for the youth in their community. In addition, the Glenview Club was equally represented by Past Governor Lloyd Kuehn and Charles Dreiske. Charles is considering transferring his membership to our club, as we are closer to his work than the Glenview club.

Steve Meinecke, who joined our club in August, was formally inducted with great pomp and ceremony as we put Lt. Gov Stew and Past Gov Lloyd to work as part of his initiation. As we finish the year with five new members, we can look forward to even more in October.

Additional guests were Andy Piscitello who works in the Dominick's pharmacy and Bob Craft who just retired from teaching at Algonquin Middle School. We've been trying to get Bob to a meeting for several months and this one was the charm. He sat next to one of his

(meetings, cont.)

former colleagues, Fred Triebe who will be sponsoring Bob in membership next month. We also heard from Prez Stacey that Joan and Tom Kuersten have submitted their membership forms and will be joining us also.

Paul Magnusson reported that he and Ray Kopecky have met with representatives from the Children's Oncology Department at Lutheran General. The meeting went well and they now know of our interest to help kids with cancer. They are going to present us with some ideas of just how we can help to make a difference.

Prez Stacey told the club how she and Stan were able to meet with the family whose son is battling bone cancer. As fate should have it, the amount of money we were able to raise, almost to the penny, equaled the amount that the family needed to pay their medical expenses that were not covered by their insurance.

Since it was the Prez's birthday, we let them eat cake! (and ice cream) Too bad the candles were trick and wouldn't blow out!

Board Meeting

At the board meeting held at Prez Stacey's home on the 25th there were many items of note for the membership. The board received the resignation of Bill Atherton as vice president-elect, due to increased concern for Meghan's health and added responsibilities at work. Glenn Swanson was appointed by the board to fill Bill's remaining time on the board and his office for next year. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Bill and Meghan.

The board approved funds, pending membership approval, for sponsorship of a JOOI (Junior Octagon Optimist International) Club at Algonquin Middle School. We have been so excited to see what young people can do with these clubs in learning about volunteerism and service to their school and community.

Paul Magnusson reported that he would be meeting soon with the manager of River Rand Bowl. We hope to sponsor a new bowling event for youth next year.

We also received a recommendation from Al Bayer to look into how we can help the children of needy families in Des Plaines. Prez Stacey will be contacting the Salvation Army to find out how we might be able to help.

October

Birthdays



This many of our members are celebrating (we hope) another year of growth. Guess those cold Januaries were productive.

They are:

- Meghan Atherton,**
- Stan Catlett,**
- Ron Goczkowski,**
- Del Johnson,**
- Chris Ladner,**
- Jerry O'leary,**
- Stephanie Rogers,**
- Tom Swanson,**
- Jerry Warchol,**
- and**
- Jim Woods**

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

No one has come forward to tell us if their anniversary was in October, so we guess none were married then.

Show Me The Money!



Don't forget to get you dues in pronto. No checks will be cashed until after October 1st, but all dues are due, **NOW**, please. You may send your checks made payable to the Optimist Club of Des Plaines to our P.O. Box 1547, Des Plaines, IL 60017.

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- October 2 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7PM
- October 16 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7PM
- October 19 **Board Meeting** at Stacey Magnusson's, 3 PM. Please note that this is a **Sunday afternoon** meeting.



Steve is about to say, "I do!"

The Prez Sez



This month's Prez Sez is going to be a little different. I came across a few quotes that are wonderful and very optimistic and I would like to share them

with all of you.

The Optimist has a reason for every success; the pessimist has an excuse for every failure. The Optimist sees a green near every sand trap; a pessimist sees a sand trap near every green. The Optimist goes out and rings the bell; the pessimist wrings his hand.

-Dr. William Arthur Ward

The rains that nourish the Optimist's flowers make the pessimist's weeds grow; and the drought that does what the pessimist predicted for the flowers does what the Optimist hoped for the weeds.

A pessimist is one who counts each second as being just one second nearer to his grave. On the contrary, an Optimist is one who looks forward to the possibility of utilizing every remaining second of his life to being of service to others.

-Arthur Osbourn

I hope to see everyone at our Installation of Officers on Thursday October 2nd. It is sure to be a wonderful night where we can welcome in a new board and revel in the success of our past year. I'm sure it will make you even a little bit more proud to be a member of our club after this night.

“Stressed” spelled backwards is “Dessert”!