



## OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

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## AND SO IT BEGINS

Our installation night was a fabulous beginning for our new year of Optimism in Des Plaines. We were once again treated to the jazz piano sounds of Chris Mahieu as we noshed on h'ors d'ouvers, had a beverage and enjoyed each other's company. Besides our spouses, Mayor Arredia and his wife attended the dinner and ceremony. He looked like he was having a good time as all he had to do was be recognized and enjoy the evening as it was one time he did not have to be the center of attention.

Stan Walgreen served as Master-of-Ceremones and Jerry Warchol, past Distinguished Lt. Governor, was on hand to bring in our new officers and board.

Each committee chair was recognized by Prez Stacey and there were also special awards that were presented. As out-going treasurer, Stan Walgreen was recognized for the many years that he has kept track of our money and paid all of our bills on time. Tom Swanson, a member who has been willing to help out whenever there was a need, was named as "Key Member." Tom agreed to serve on the board when there was a vacancy and is continuing this year, as well. He also volunteered to chair and organize our Outdoor Meetings this past summer.

Our Rookies-of-the-Year, taking note of their participation in chairing old and new events, as well as working on the

board, were Kay Welther and Ray Kopecky. Glenn Swanson was recognized for his Outstanding Service to the club. Glenn is usually the first one to show up to one of our events, rain or shine, to register the kids. He collects our money for the Outdoor Meetings and entertains us every meeting with his jokes and card draws. He is always able to answer our questions regarding policy and procedures.

Paul Magnusson, pictured here, was surprised by our prez and his spouse, Stacey, with the Optimist-of-the Year Award. In her speech Stacey recognized Paul's sponsorship of four of our five new members this year. Already, he will be sponsoring



three additional members in the new year. He is the editor of our internationally acclaimed newsletter, webmaster of our website, and has assisted with all of the table, chair, and equipment moving for our outdoor meetings. In addition he designed the participation tee-shirts for our youth and is helping to start a new bowling event. This year he will also be chairing the Oratorical Committee.

As we celebrate this past year, we also are looking forward to continued excellence and growth as we serve the youth of Des Plaines in a variety of ways. We are a club that reaches out to give children the chance to catch a fish, as well as the chance to beat Cancer!

## *October 18th Meeting*

Our second meeting of the month found us all (except for Tom Swanson) a little down-in-the-dumps because of the Cubs' misfortune. However, we still had a great meeting. Our guest speaker was Kevin Callahan, of Kevin R. Callahan & Associates, Inc. Kevin, at one time, was the only English speaking president of a French speaking Optimist Club in Quebec. Kevin happens to be fluent in French and claims to know the Creed better in French than in English.

His presentation was about the development of leadership and was quite inspirational. He began by reminding us all of the Creed and how you have to be able to look for the good in people. He also said that leaders have to have a dream and that when you are part of a team (or club) that those members of that team have to "buy into" your dream and combine it with theirs. The last step is to make a conscious decision to **be** a leader and to also decide to do this every day. Prez Stacey presented him with a copy of our Creed and he was so grateful as it was the first he had ever been given that was in English. He said it would have a prominent spot in his office.

We also had another smiley from Don Moran. This one was given to Glenn Swanson. It was a pair of tennis shoes. It seems that some time back, waaaay back, Glenn was working a flea market with Don and Jerry Warchol. Well, Glenn took off his shoes and put on some slippers, to be more comfortable while they sat at the table. It seems that Jerry sold his shoes to someone. Well, it was a loooong time ago, and the shoes that Don gave him didn't fit either then or now. So the Prez ended up with them and will take them to school to see that they end up on a pair of deserving feet.

The Prez was proud to announce that she has been asked to serve as Lt. Governor for our zone. This is quite an honor and she will follow many of our club who have held this position. Don't panic, she will still be our prez!

Last, but certainly not least, was the installation of a new member to our club. His name is Bob Kraft and he has just retired after 33 years of teaching at Algonquin Middle School. His sponsor was Fred Triebe, who used to teach with him. We welcome him and hope that you will all get to know him. He has already volunteered to work on the Oratorical Committee as well as the new Bowling Activity that is being planned.

Our next meeting will be on November 6th.

*November*

*Birthdays*



Only one of our members was born in November and he is:

**Ken Kehe**

We wish Ken the best of wishes and hope that we haven't missed anyone.

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



The Trees are Coming!



Bob Kraft, our newest member

### *Tree Lot Info!*

The Tree Lot is coming soon! Please read and plan to help, we need lots of it!

Nov. 8 – Trailer arrives (clean and set up), 9-11 AM

Nov. 15 – Rack setup (bring your hammer) and lights,  
9 AM-1 PM

Nov. 22 – Trees are delivered, 9 AM



Before we can sell the trees to make the money for the kids, we need to get set up to do so. We need EVERYONE'S help. Plan to spend some time at the lot, please!

### *They Need Our Prayers*

We have several members who are in need of our thoughts and prayers. Meghan Atherton has had more chemo and will be going up to Mayo Clinic soon for consultation. Both Bill and Meghan are in good spirits and are grateful for the support they have had from all of their friends. Bill wanted the club to know that his stepping down as Vice President was solely due to Meghan's health and had nothing to do with his job.

Del Johnson is in a holding pattern and is awaiting the "go ahead" for his operation that will provide him with a pace maker. All reports seem to indicate that his spirits are high and all nurses need to beware.

Although Lenny Lang is not a member of our club, he holds great affection for all we do and spends countless hours each year making wreaths in the trailer at our tree lot. He has recently undergone a double knee replacement. We have been told that all has gone well and that he is undergoing therapy. We all hope that he mends well and will soon be able to return to all of those things that he loves to do.

### *District Conference*

The Prez and Paul attended the first quarter Illinois District Conference in Peoria. They once again came away with many ideas, good training, and the hope that more of our members will be able to join them at the next meeting on February

20-21 in Decatur. This was the first meeting presided over by Kathryn Dewell, our new district governor, and she shows the promise of helping clubs across the state to move forward. She also is a lot of fun to work with.

Dwaine Sievers, our International President was also on hand to bring us up to date on his goals and aspirations for Optimism. He has a great interest in club building and hopes to have 200 new clubs established in his year of presidency. There are already several clubs that have been started in Mexico and he hopes to have enough by the end of the year for Mexico to be a separate district.

On the Childhood Cancer front he shared some exciting news of research that is being done at Johns Hopkins. In the past research has been done on mice. They have recently discovered that the DNA for zebra fish is exactly the same as humans. Because of their size and their ability to reproduce rapidly, they are going to be very helpful in helping with the research to find a vaccine that will help to prevent cancer in children. It will be our OI Cancer Foundation that will be funding the research for such a vaccine.

It makes you proud to know that money that you donate or raise for this cause may help to find this vaccine.

On a lighter note, the last dinner of the conference had a halloween theme and most of the attendees were in costume for it. Of the four categories that could be voted on, the Prez and Paul were selected as being the favorites of all. They ended up being nicknamed "Bonny and Clyde."



## Friend of Youth



### Coming Events

- November 6 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7PM  
November 8 **Trailer Set-up**, 9-11 AM  
November 15 **Rack Set-up**, lights, 9AM-1PM  
November 20 **Board Meeting** 6:30 PM at the Elk's Club followed by, **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7PM  
November 22 **Trees Arrive**, 9AM



International President Dwaine Sievers and the new Lt. Governor for Zone One, Prez Stacey

## The Prez Sez



We just returned from a whirlwind weekend at the first District Conference where we shared ideas with many other clubs, learned about new programs and realized that

there is so much more we could be doing for the kids of our community! We also heard that our *Pipeline* once again took first in state. I am so enthusiastic to jump into this new Optimist year!

It was an honor and pleasure to have the International President Dwaine Sievers at the conference – especially since he was able to install me as Lt. Governor. His message to the clubs paralleled the poem I read at the end of our installation meeting, encouraging members to step out of their comfort zone – to do something you haven't done before. This may be to invite a guest to a meeting, or to perhaps begin a new program or serve on a committee.

Now, don't get the idea that we sat in meetings the entire time – no way! The culminating activity was a costume dinner where we rubbed elbows with Lady Gwenivere and Sir Lancelot, boy scouts, zookeepers, the Cat in the Hat and many more. There were prizes, (we got "favorite couple" for our gangster and his moll costumes), puzzles, games and CANDY (so much for the diet!). I am sorry that we didn't have any other club members with us to share in the fun. The next conference is in Decatur on February 20 –21. Won't YOU join us?

### *\$\$\$\$Show Me The Money\$\$\$\$*

If you have not sent in your dues they are now past due.

Please send your checks, made payable to the Optimist Club of Des Plaines, to our P.O. Box 1547, Des Plaines, IL 60017.