



## OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

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## SPEECHES AND STRIKES

No, this is not a report on some type of insurrection or rioting that is taking place in at City Hall, or somewhere else in our fair city. It is a notice that as we begin the New Year, so do some of our programs, as well.

Most of the old guard is familiar with the Oratorical. It is our oldest program and we have sponsored it for over forty-five years here in Des Plaines. We are the only club in our Zone that runs this activity for youth. That means that our winners automatically are eligible to compete in the regional contest.

In the past, we have had at least three winners go on to the final contest, which is District, and win the \$1500 scholarship. We are hopeful to have such success this year.

Our committee has already met, letters and flyers have been sent to public, parochial and private schools as well as to all of the youth ministers in Des Plaines, and mini-flyers are ready to be taken to various businesses. Hopefully all of this will get the word out about our first session at the library in Room "A", which will be held on Friday, February 6th from 6:30-8:30 PM. With the exception of March 26th, which is Spring Break for District 62, we will meet each Friday at the same time and in the same place. Our club contest will be held the following Friday on April 2nd.

We are pleased to have new members on our committee this year. Maggie Croft and Steve Meinecke will be taking care

of attendance this year. Students will be asked to notify Steve if they are unable to attend one of our sessions. Bob Kraft will be joining Del Johnson, Chris Ladner, and Bob Roller as our coaches for our young speech-makers. Al Bayer will once again serve as our time keeper and Don Moran will be our Sergeant-at-Arms. We hope that club members will stop in to our sessions each Friday to see what we are doing and to encourage our young participants.

In a new activity for our club we will be sponsoring a morning of bowling. We are calling it, "Bowling for Youth", and it will take place on February 16th, from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM (there's no school this day) at River Rand Bowl. For only \$5 youth will be able to bowl two games, get shoe and ball rental, and have some donuts and juice, as well as

prizes. We know that our JOOI club kids from Algonquin will be there and we hope to also get the word out to others in the community.

Vern Luebbers and Paul Magnusson will be heading up this program and are looking for anyone who can help, in any way, on this day. Please give Paul a call at (847) 294-0568. We will need help with registration and "supervision". As this is a new event and one which we hope will become a yearly activity, we will need to make sure that all runs smoothly.

We will also need prizes, so if any of you have anything that would "fit the bill", please let Paul know.



Rob Ward, our friend from Lake Opeka and the Des Plaines Park District has agreed to come over to lend his expertise with this project.

So, as the New Year begins, so do our old activities as well as new ones. Remember, it's all about our club being the best "Friend of Youth" that it can be.

### *January Meetings*

Our first meeting of the New Year was back in the friendly confines of the Elk's Club as we celebrated a successful Tree Lot and shared stories of our times selling trees for Youth. It was good to see Dick Hisson again!

The prez and all assembled gave our thanks to Steve Kozak, our fearless Tree Lot leader, and to the loyal crew, Norm Voss, Jim Woods, Lenny Lang, and Ray Kopecky, who were there, before hours, making wreaths for their many loyal fans who look forward to having a fresh, gorgeous wreath to adorn their front doors during the holidays.

We also wanted to recognize our "rookies" who were there to work the lot for the first time. They were Mandy Valenza, Bob Kraft, Vern Luebbers, Maggie Croft, Steve Meinecke and Andy Piscitello. In fact, the Prez gave Andy a special Tree Lot "Smiley". It seems that Andy really enjoyed the smell of all those trees, so she gave him a car deodorizer that, you guessed, has a wonderful pine smell.

Our second meeting in January was on an especially frigid night that was warmed by the good will and optimistic fellowship of all in attendance. It was particularly good to see Fred Triebe who has been missing due to having to nurse his wife after her return from the hospital. She is, by the way, much better. We also welcomed Warren Posternack. He is a cousin of Stewart from the Deerfield Club and has made application for membership in our club. At this meeting we were reminded of the upcoming budget committee meeting, February 1st, and we also heard all the news regarding the Oratorical and Bowling for Youth that you have already read on the first page of our newsletter.

As we begin February we will be back to our

familiar schedule of the first and third Thursdays of the month, with our next meeting being on February 5th. We hope to see you there!

### *February*

### *Birthdays*



The following members were born in February and they are:

**Al Cote,**  
**Ray Fiddelke,**  
**Don Moran,**  
**John Tomasello,**  
**Norm Voss,**  
**and**  
**Mary Alice Wenzl.**

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

### *Fiftieth is Coming!*



As you look at the logo to the left, you should recognize that it does not look like the OI logo that we see on a regular basis. That's because

the one we now use was "phased in" in the 70's. This is the one that was used back in 1954 when our club was founded.

Well, we hope that has gotten your interest, because we are going to parteeeee and have a great celebration next November. Jerry Warchol is the man in charge and he wants to get the word out to any former Optimist members, whether they are near or far. Please call or email him with names and info at (847) 635-6898 or [jerrywarchol@aol.com](mailto:jerrywarchol@aol.com).



It was just sixty years ago on February 19<sup>th</sup>, that our good friend, Ernie Challberg and his lovely bride, Anita, took their vows to be man and wife. WOW!!!! We wish them both a Happy Anniversary. As a special present for this wonderful occasion, Ernie shaved off his beard that he had been cultivating for the past several months. What a Guy!!!

### *It's all about the JOOI*

Lot's of things are happening with our JOOI Club. They have decided to donate the funds that they raised in a recent bake sale to the Des Plaines Food Pantry. To that end, Deb Walusiak from the Food Pantry will attend one of their meetings to accept their donation. At the same time, she will give a presentation to them so that they will have a better understanding of how this organization serves Des Plaines.

The club has also decided to pay a visit to Lee Manor in what they will be calling "Bingo with the Grannies." They will be doing just that, after which they hope to be able to visit City Hall for a tour.

### *They are in our thoughts and prayers*

Many of you know that Jean Triebe, Fred's wife, had a gall stone operation recently. All went well, but there was quite a bit of time in the hospital before she could go home. She still has to have a feeding tube, but is getting better on a daily basis.

Megan Atherton has been undergoing new radiation. It seems to be doing some good and she is a little better than she was. The best medicine is everyone's thoughts and prayers.

### **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

### *Christian D. Larson*

We recite the creed at the end of each meeting and, as we finish, many of us give homage to the man who wrote these words, Christian D. Larson. Perhaps our new members wonder at that, since our club banner says "Optimist International."

Mr. Larson was an author who wrote inspirational books (many are still in print) almost 100 years ago. The Optimist Club had just come in to being and needed a creed, and so they adopted his. It was published in a book called "Your Forces and How to Use Them." The Creed appears on page 9, the last page of the "Forward" for the book. The last two affirmations were not adopted by our organization, perhaps because of their length. You be the judge. Here they are:

"To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world, not in loud words but in great deeds."

"To live in the faith that the whole world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you."

Hope everyone finds this interesting and inspirational.

## Friend of Youth



### Coming Events

- February 1 Budget Committee at Stacey Magnusson's, 3 PM
- February 5 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
- February 6 **Oratorical** Room "A", Des Plaines Public Library, 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
We will meet each Friday in Feb.
- February 16 **Bowling for Youth**, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, River Rand Bowl
- February 19 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
- February 26 **Board Meeting** at Stacey Magnusson's, 7 PM

Our **Rookies**, displaying the roll of Lifesavers that the Prez gave to them, because, after all, that's what they were this year at the Tree Lot. (l to r), Maggie Croft, Steve Meinecke, Andy Piscitello, Mandy Pierson, and Vern Luebbbers.



## The Prez Sez



*"Success begins with a dream and the first step in making dreams come true is to know what you want. Have a mental picture of your goals. The mind's eye must see the things you want. When it has a strong mental picture, it will begin to change your dreams into realities." (anonymous) "To dream the impossible dream" (Man of La Mancha) "I had a dream" (Martin Luther King) "I had a dream, a most fabulous dream..." (Gypsy Rose Lee)*

Did you ever stop to think about the dreams that were in the minds of our club's founders? Have we lived up to what they were intending for our club to become? I would imagine that we have done that and more. Many of the dreams I have had these past two years have come true for the club. I set a mental picture of our club becoming an Honor club and we did! I never dreamed we would have a JOOI club, but we do! Many clubs dream of having a membership such as ours, but to us it is a reality. As we approach our 50th anniversary, what are YOUR dreams for our club's future? The first three people to email, call or write to me with THEIR dreams for our club will receive a prize!

*"If you dream it, you can do it" (Walt Disney)*