



OPTIMIST CLUB OF DES PLAINES, IL

President – Stacey Magnusson
Vice President – Glenn Swanson
Vice President – Jim Woods
Secretary – Dianna Edwards
Treasurer – Ray Kopecky

Optimist Board
Ray Bochat
Paul Magnusson
Tom Swanson
Kay Welther

Sergeant-at-Arms
Don Moran

Pipeline editor and webmaster
Paul Magnusson

P.O. Box 1547
Des Plaines, IL 60017
Phone: (847) 294-0568
Fax: (847) 376-8226
E-Mail: sdmag@comcast.net

On the Web:

<http://www.dpoptimists.org>

BOWLING FOR YOUTH

The happy smiles tell it all as we report about the success of our newest program, Bowling for Youth. This program had been proposed by many and it was last summer, when we got our first screening of club participation tee shirts, that it first began to take form.

We needed a design for the back of the shirt, so what we came up with was a montage of all of our activities. We thought that if we included “Bowling for Youth” as one of these, it might make us actually create it. That was exactly what Vern Luebbers and Paul Magnusson decided to do as they co-chaired the event.

Usually, when we go to plan an event, we have a mind set that the first year will produce a small turn out that will increase, from year to year. It is an unusual turn of events when the first year you actually have more participants than you can handle. 131 young bowlers, grades K-8, showed up at River Rand Bowl to enjoy a morning of bowling. Our problem for next year will be to see how we can limit participation to only 120. This would give us five bowlers per lane. This year we had six and seven per lane.

Each child was able to bowl two games, rent shoes and use of bowling ball, and got a donut and juice, along with a prize before they left. We originally had a mind set that was geared toward competition. We thought that we would give out first, second, and third place awards based on total pins, etc. Well, it

soon became obvious that it would take an awfully long time to determine who these youth were, while all of the rest of them waited. It also caused us to think about whether this was a contest, or just a day to have fun. There was no doubt about the answer to that question.

As always, there are members to thank who were there to help. Without their help and commitment to our youth the day would have been very difficult and not enjoyable for anyone.



Helping us with registration was Bob Kraft, Peggy Higgens, Nancy Nalbandian (a friend of Stacey’s), and Tom Swanson. Ralph Cote, Andy Piscitello, Maggie Croft, Steve Meinecke and Stan Walgreen were also on hand to help with

supervision. The Prez was there, helping to give out prizes to all who bowled. Rob Ward from the Des Plaines Park District was also there to help. Vern Luebbers, co-chair, assisted the young bowlers with finding a good ball, as well as with supervision. Paul Magnusson helped to find places for the many youth that “just showed up, or tagged along with friends,” hoping to get in on a good thing. Fortunately, there was no child (or parent) that was disappointed.

We also owe a big “thank you” to River Rand Bowl. They had extra folk on hand to help make everything run smoothly and were so accomodating and easy to work with. When faced with this multitude of bowlers all they did was smile and say, “We do this all the time.” Well, we can’t wait until next year to do it again.

District Conference

Our Illinois District has quarterly meetings, the second of which was held February 20-21 in Decatur. Among other items of business, various announcements are made regarding achievements and awards that were earned by various clubs in the district. Several years ago, the Prez and her hubby began to attend these for the first time, listening to the names of clubs from various parts of the state. At that time, we were proud to say that we belonged to the Des Plaines' Club and we were happy to begin to tell them about what we do for our youth.

This year, it was the name of our club that was read, over and over, recognizing the programs, participation and growth of our club. It is so very easy to forget that what we are doing for youth is above the norm. As we bask in these glories we also realize that we must press onward to "the greater achievements of the future."

Here is a list of our club awards: the Friend of Youth and Community Service Award, a New Membership Award, Honor Club (there were only five in the state and it has been ten years since we were an Honor Club), and special recognition for our sponsorship of a JOOI Club (this was from OI, not the district).

Paul Magnusson was recognized for sponsoring ten new members. Last, but most certainly not least, our Club President, Stacey, was given the Optimist President of the Year Award for the whole District. WOW!!!!!! Congratulations, Prez Stacey.

As members have heard of this honor being bestowed upon Stacey, they have congratulated her, given her "two thumbs up", but more times than not, saying, "She deserves it!" Amen to that!

In other business, it was announced that there will be a new state chair position next year that will be called Communications, Information and Techology. The job will entail making sure that the entire district is linked by email, fax or regular mail.

Paul Magnusson will be chairing this new position when Dr. Jerry Wolf is Governor.

In order to get a "head start" on next year, Paul will begin to get CIT chairs established in every club in the state, so that when Jerry takes office, his communication network will already be in place.

The weekend was brought to a conclusion Saturday night with a social function that was billed as a "Pajama Party." Members were encouraged to wear their jammies and have fun and fellowship. The refreshments were all types of finger foods, along with a desert that tasted very much like the s'mors we all remember from childhood. Fun was had by all, and the Prez and Paul were elected "co-cutest couple" (along with another couple). The next District Meeting will be in Springfield, May 14-15. We hope that more club members will be able to attend so that they can learn from other clubs, have fun, and begin to let the rest of the state meet the great folk in our club.

March

Birthdays

The following member
March and they are:



**Bob Ehlert,
Joan Kuersten,
Rich Rogers,
Fred Triebe,
and
Ed Welther.**

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



It was just fifty-one years ago that Glenn Swanson and his lovely bride, Milda, took their vows to be man and wife. WOW!!!! We wish them both a Happy Anniversary.

Ballot Set

The nominating committee met and is proposing the following slate of officers for the 2004-2005 year. The slate will be presented to the membership at the second meeting, April 15th, for approval. Remember that because this is an election night the club will be paying for your meal.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Board

Al Bayer, Board 2 yr.; Ray Bochat, Board 1yr, finishing 2 yr. term; Dianna Edwards, Secretary; Peggy Higgins, treasurer; Chris Ladner, President; Paul Magnusson, 2nd Vice President; Don Moran, Board, 2 yr.; Tom Swanson, 1st Vice President; Mary Alice Wenzl, Board, 1 yr.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

It's all about the JOOI

Our JOOI Club will have its Charter Installation of Officers and Members on Tuesday, March 16th, at 7:00 PM in the Library of Algonquin Middle School. Past Governor and District JOOI Club Chair, Corky Helms, will be present to install the officers and present the club with its charter. This is a big event for our JOOI Club and we encourage all members who are able to be in attendance to congratulate the members and officers, and, to meet their parents.

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



Club Partners with Kiwanis and Journal

On Friday, February 27th, our club partnered with the Mt. Prospect Kiwanis Club in an annual Spaghetti Dinner that they sponsor. It was held at the Grace Lutheran Church located at the intersection of Euclid and Wolf Roads in Mr. Prospect. There to help out were Peggy Higgins, Stan Walgreen, Paul Magnusson, Glenn Swanson, Dianna Edwards and Stevie Rogers. Glenn is pictured above, serving coffee to a customer.

(Club Partnership, cont. from pg.3)

In a new fundraising venture our club has agreed to help the Journal with their annual Pizza Contest. This has been a project of the newspaper for about eight years and allows the patrons to sample pizza from various pizzerias in the area. The winning pizza, in various categories, is determined by ballots cast by those in attendance as well as the judgment of a panel of judges.

This event will take place on Sunday, March 7th, from 12:00 noon until 2:30 PM at the Leisure Center. We will need a crew of workers to help set up tables and chairs that morning at 10:30 AM. They will also need to help take these down at 2:30 PM. In addition, we will need a few workers to help with admissions.

Our club will share in the profits made from this day. In the past as many as 800 pizza lovers have attended. Admission is \$2.00. Members that can help should contact the Prez., (847) 294-0568 or sdmag@comcast.net.

Show Me the \$\$\$\$

Our next meeting, March 4th, will see the budget for the year presented to the membership for approval. Because of this, no visitors will be allowed to attend this meeting. We have included a copy of the budget in this issue for you to study prior to the meeting.

February Meetings

Our first meeting in February found several items of business that should be of interest to club members. Paul Magnusson reported that the Oratorical was due to begin the next evening. The Oratorical Committee meets with the youth every Friday in Room A of the Des Plaines Public Library, from 6:30-8:30 PM. The only exception to this will be the last Friday in March, the 26th, which is Spring Break. Our club contest will be held on April 2nd and it is hoped that club members will be in attendance for this event.

Information about the new bowling event for youth was given to the club (see pg. one of this issue) and Kay Welther reported that the Spring Celebration will be held again this year on April 10th. Further details will be in the next issue of the *Pipeline*. Kay reminded members that this event is for members

and extended family **only**. This is not a community event. Members who are able to help with this should contact Kay at (847) 985-1336.

Stan Walgreen and Paul Magnusson met with Rob Ward of the Park District to discuss this summer's activities at Lake Park. This year, the Park District will advertise our Kite Fly and Fishing Derby in their publication, which is sent to all of Des Plaines. In fact, Rob is going to arrange for our youth to be able to fish in a "secret location" of the lake, which is not usually available to our anglers. He claims that this spot is sure to produce fish!

In addition, Rob felt that with the success of our golf outing at Lake Opeka that it was time to include some changes that will make it more of a tournament. On Wednesday, August 4th, we will hold our usual event. On that day the top 16 golfers in each of the three age categories will be invited to compete in a final round that will be held on Saturday, August 7th. It is from this grouping that we will choose our champions. Because of the numbers of golfers involved we will have to use a "shotgun start" for both days. Mark your calendars!

At this meeting the topic of Outdoor Meetings was discussed. There is a feeling that attendance and interest in these has warranted a review of this club activity.



(Please note the following article in this newsletter).

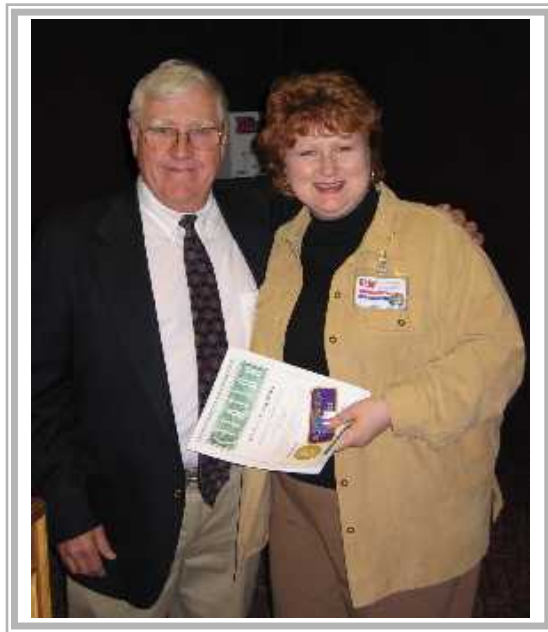
The second meeting of the month was a more relaxed meeting, and included our spouses and loved ones.

Warren Posternack, pictured here, was admitted into membership in the club. Warren works at the Journal and is anxious to learn more about the club and its activities. We welcome him into membership and hope that members will

(Meetings, cont.)

take the opportunity, if they have not already done so, to introduce themselves and welcome him into the club.

Mr. Fun and Mr. Frolics held their annual Horse Race, collecting lots of wagers and creating the odds for each nag in the contest. Fun was had by all! Paul Magnusson found that if he bet \$1 to win, place and show on each horse that he was sure to win at least \$6. Thanks to Ed and Ray for holding what has come to be an annual event for our club.



Corky Helms and Prez Stacey,
Optimist President of the Year

Outdoor Meetings

It has been proposed that our Outdoor Meetings that have occurred during the summer months be held indoors. In order to have meetings outdoors it requires a crew that will collect tables and chairs from our Park District and pickup and deliver said items to each location twice a month. It goes without saying that this requires lots of dedication and effort.

Last summer, Tom Swanson successfully chaired this committee and he and his crew did what had to be done so that the membership could enjoy food and fellowship in the great outdoors of member's backyards. However, our members did not turn out in droves to attend these meetings.

Rather than eliminate this program and continue to meet at the Elk's Club, the board has proposed the

following plan for this summer. June would see our first meeting held at the Elk's Club, with the second at a member's home, as we have done in the past. The club would provide tables and ask the members to bring a lawn chair to use. (We hope that if any members would like to come and need help with the lawn chair that they will tell us so we can help them). Our first meeting in July would be "held" at the Fourth of July Parade. The second meeting of July would take place as a Club Picnic and be for club members and extended family. This would take place on a weekend, date to be announced.

In August we would meet at a local "establishment" where each member would be able to order their own meal and beverage(s). Our last summer meeting, the second one in August, would again be at a member's home. We would return to the Elk's Club in September.

In this way, we would be able to continue to meet under more relaxed circumstances, eliminating much of the work involved, allowing us to continue this tradition.

We welcome your comments and interest in this topic and hope that you will support our Outdoor meetings by being in attendance.



Dianna at the Spaghetti Dinner

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- March 4 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
March 7 **Pizza Contest** at the Leisure Center,
10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
March 18 **Meeting** at the Elk's Club, 7 PM
March 25 **Board Meeting** at Stacey
Magnusson's, 7 PM

The Oratorical meets each Friday in Room A of the Des Plaines Public Library, from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM., with the exception of March 26th.



Matching jammies!

The Prez Sez



I was bestowed a great honor this past weekend in Decatur, that of President of the Year for the Illinois District. I was very surprised when they

said my name and honored to accept the award.

But, I was even more honored to accept the award of Honor Club on behalf of our club. THAT, to me, was an even more momentous achievement, one that was earned by everyone in the club. YOU worked for the youth of Des Plaines by promoting Optimism, running programs, serving on committees, working at the tree lot and attending meetings, all of which resulted in this honor. Achieving Honor Club status is the spirit of a healthy and growing club.

As we look forward to the spring and summer, our busiest season, we have so many opportunities to share Optimism with youth and their parents. Let's share, with them, the pride of our HONOR by supporting these activities.



Doesn't look like she needs those bumpers!