



Optimist Club of Des Plaines

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

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Pizza, Pizza, Pizza!

In yet another instance of our club partnering with another organization our membership has taken part in an activity that may well become an annual event. March 7th found a ready and willing crew gathering at the Park District Leisure Center to help set up for the Journal and Topics' Annual Pizza Contest. Pizzerias from the area brought in their wares to be taste tested by the public who then got to vote as to which pizza they thought was the best. The winner would not only get bragging rights, but also a certificate to hang in their establishment stating that they are, in fact, the Pizza Champ.

Work consisted of setting up lots of tables and chairs in the gym at the Leisure Center prior to the public arriving. One father and son were determined to be the first in the door, showing up an hour before the doors opened. For a mere \$2 admission you could

taste all you wanted. I had heard there was such a thing as Hawaiian and Barbecue Pizza, but did not realize how very good they were.

The winners, as published in the Journal, were as follows: for best cheese, Allegretti's,

for best sausage was Giuseppe's and, for best specialty, Little Villa took the prize.

There were 900 pizza-lovers who were on hand to eat and vote. It was quite a sight to see them all descend on the thirteen Pizzerias who brought their

wares to be sampled.

We'd like to thank the following club members for their help with this new project: Andy Piscitello, Ray Bochat, Warren Posternak, Steve Meinecke, Don Moran, Al Bayer, Mary Alice Wenzl, Paul Magnusson, Jerry Warchol, Dianna Edwards, Glenn Swanson, Chris Ladner, and Stan Walgreen.



Club Meetings

Our first meeting of the month found a small, but optimistic group of members, who braved the wet elements to find out about the budget. This was the major thrust of the meeting and it was passed without very much discussion. Glenn Swanson presided over the meeting as our Prez was more than a little, pardon the pun, under the weather.

We also heard from various committee heads about their upcoming projects. Kay Welther reminded us that the Spring Celebration that was so popular last year will be held on April 10th. This is an activity that is for all club members and their families. Those that can work the event should contact Kay. The Spring Celebration will be held again at West Park, so no matter what the weather, we will still be able to enjoy the day.

Paul Magnusson reported that the Oratorical has been, and will continue to be, held at the Library on Friday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM. (Please see the story on the Oratorical on page 3 of this issue). The final club contest will be held at the library on Friday, April 2nd, beginning at 6:30 PM. It will be recorded by Eric Palm and rebroadcast, for all to see, on public access. We hope that there will be lots of club members able to attend this final contest.

Our second meeting of the month was very well attended. Glenn

started it off, like he usually does, with a couple of jokes. The only difference was that this time they were both hilarious! Anyone that wants a copy of them can see the Prez. We even had members donating to the Cancer Fund because these jokes were sooooo funny.

Prez Stacey officially presented the various club patches that we received at the last District Conference. It looks like we may have to order a new banner since there is no room on our present one. Of course, the greatest pride for us all was to be named as an Honor Club. This award is shared by all, but in particular, our officers who lead and inspire us. Recognizing this, there were special certificates from OI for our secretary, Dianna Edwards, and treasurer from last year, Stan Walgreen.

Jerry Warchol reported that efforts are being made to contact former members to tell them about the fabulous bash we will have next (Story continued on page 4)

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. Election Night is April 15th.



The Bells were ringin' fifty-seven years ago for Ralph Cote and his lovely bride, Ruth. WOW!!!! We wish them both a very Happy Anniversary!

If we have missed your anniversary, please let us know so that we can both correct our records and our omission.

April Birthdays



The following club members are a year older this month. We wish them the very best! They are:

Bill Atherton
Joanne Braam
Steve Kozak
Glenn Swanson
and
Mandy Valenza

We hope we didn't miss anyone.

It's All About the JOOI!



Although our JOOI Club has been in operation for several months they are now an official club in that they have had their charter presented to them, and their officers and charter members duly installed. Corky Helms, former Illinois District Governor and present Chair for JOOI clubs in our district was on hand to do the honors. He did more than read the "I Do's" to everyone as he also presented a very inspirational speech about positive thinking and the pursuit of one's dreams. Drawing from his own life experiences, he was able to inspire not only his young audience, but the adults as well. Our club was well represented that evening and we thank all who attended. Please see page five for some pictures of the event.

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 meetings, cont. from pg. 2)

November, celebrating our club's 50th birthday. (See article this page). We also had lots of cash won by members in a drawing held by our Fun & Frolics guys, Ed and Ray. The spookiest thing was when Mary Alice's number was pulled, Ralph Cote thought that they had called his number, which was only ten off from hers. In the very next draw, Mary Alice pulled Ralph's number.

Our meetings in April will be on the first (April Fool's Day), Ralph Cote is going to marvel us with his magic and Ed and Ray will be up to their usual tricks, so be sure to attend, and on the 15th, we will hold elections for officers and board members for next year. This is an important meeting to attend if for no other reason than it is a **FREE MEAL**.



Stan, the Prez and Dianna, with their awards.

They are in our Thoughts and Prayers

It is never an easy thing to do, writing about members who would so love to be with us, to be a part of our activities for youth, and to share the friendship that we all hold so dear. Their health does not permit this and the membership needs to know where they are and how they are doing.

Jim Buscemi has not been well for some time. We were so glad to see him at our Installation Night meeting. He no longer can bowl or play poker with the guys once a month. He has special help coming in and, when I asked him what I should print, he told me to tell all of you that he hopes the best for you and the club and that he misses us all. Jim's address is 870 E. Algonquin, DP 60016. His phone number is (847) 298-2541.

Meghan Atherton continues to battle her cancer. She is making some positive strides as it is shrinking, but ever so slowly. Just recently she and Bill were able to go to Disney World and we can only hope that the Magic Kingdom was able to help the healing process.

Del Johnson has been in and out of the hospital as the doctors try to eliminate the fluids that keep building up in his lungs. His fighting spirit is indomitable, as we all know. It was so good to see him at the Oratorical Preliminary Contest, recently.

Mike Berkowitz has been recovering from some surgery that he has had recently. Biggest thing with Berkey is that he is BORED, mostly because he can't drive yet. Hang in there, Berkey!

Fiftieth Plans

In a "nutshell," the date is Nov. 6th. Cost for member and spouse/guest is only \$20. For non members and guests the charge is \$31. There will be an open bar with wine served during dinner. In addition, we will have live music.

Anyone who has mailing info about former members, or the widows of former members, should contact Paul Magnusson, who is compiling a mailing list.

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- April 1 - **Meeting** at the Elk's Club 7 PM
- April 2 - **Oratorical** Contest Library 6:30 PM
- April 10 - **Spring Celebration** West Park 1-3 PM
- April 15 - **Meeting** at the Elk's Club 7PM (Election Night FREE MEAL)
- April 22 - **Board Meeting** at Stacey Magnusson's 7PM

Prez Sez



“There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” – Edith Wharton

I've been thinking a lot about our membership as many, (including myself) have recently been under the weather.

We've had a lot of activities in the past few weeks and some of our members have called to apologize for not being able to help. They feel badly as they have been active “candles” in the past – lighting the way and shedding Optimism at each activity. What they don't realize is that they are now the “mirrors” to help reflect the light of Optimism. Without their experience, knowledge and history with the club, our light would have dimmed years ago. A candle lights the way for each step we take – the mirror reflects the light for future steps. Our club is fortunately to have both!



JOOI Club Pix - The Cake, Club Officers and Corky, and The Club.