



Optimist Club of Des Plaines

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Oratorical

Our Oratorical Contest was held on April 2nd at the Library, concluding over seven weeks that our committee had worked with the youth, helping them to develop a four to five minute speech on the topic, “Thinking, Working, and Expecting the Best.” We all should recognize that as part of the creed, which we recite at the end of our meetings.

The students, pictured below, (minus one young lady who managed to elude the camera), competed in a preliminary contest held two weeks prior to the official club event. We want to thank the judges from our club who helped us that evening, Stevie Rogers, Andy Piscitello and Dick Hissong. Al Bayer served as our time keeper

for both the prelims and final contest.

Our gold medal recipients were Elyssa Salinas (8th grade) and James Vernola (6th grade). Maggie Mueller (8th grade) and Zack Ladner (9th grade) received the silver. Samantha Long (10th grade) and Shaif Ysufishaq (6th grade) were awarded the bronze.

Elyssa and James went on to Regional competition in Sterling on April 17th, and, although they were not chosen to compete at the district level, presented their speeches flawlessly and with great spirit.

We thank all of the committee members who helped this year. The Oratorical is our longest running program.



Club Meetings

Our meetings in April were well attended and enjoyable. The first meeting of the month had been advertised as one featuring the prestidigitation of our very own Ralph Cote. He was amazing as ever (however many of us missed his duck), but we also were treated to the magic of another of our members, Ed Welther.

Many of us did not know that the performance of magic tricks had been a hobby for Ed since he was young. He, and Ralph, were truly amazing and had us laughing and wondering at how they were able to stupefy us all and keep a pleasant banter going all the while.

We all look forward to a repeat performance, and, as for the duck, we suggest that everyone that would like to see a reappearance of Gwendolyn should be sure to let Ralph know. Perhaps he can be persuaded to bring her along, that is, if she manages to survive the arduous migration from the South.

Our second meeting of the month was primarily a business meeting, dealing with the election of officers and board members for next year. The slate that was presented by the committee was approved unanimously. Please refer to your previous two editions of the *Pipeline* for a listing. Chris Ladner will be our president and has all of our confidence that he will do a fine job with the club.

Additionally, we heard reports from Bob Ehlert, who will be heading up our Kite Fly this year. Besides providing kites and helping the kids

to get them in the air, he hopes to have members from a professional club on hand to put on a demonstration for all to see. We look forward to that.

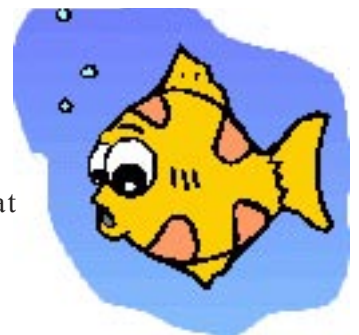
Ray Bochat will be helping our young anglers pursue the denizens of the deep at Lake Opeka for our Fishing Derby. Ed Welther will be helping with bait procurement and we hope that the fish will be bitin' for our young friends.

This year we will be getting some assistance from the Park District as they are going to allow us to fish from the west side of the lake, near the golf course. We've been told that the man-made structure of the lake on this side causes most of the fish to hang out over there. Perhaps they are also avoiding all of the hooks they have come to know on the other side. In any case, it should be fun for all.

Try to spend some time at the lake with our committees and the youth as we sponsor these events that have been a part of our club for so long.

Our second meeting ended with another fabulous raffle, put on by Ed and Ray. There were lots of prizes as we got to "go fish" in Ed's portable pond that he has brought these last few years.

The fish caught provided everything from cash prizes to some wonderful tee shirts, left over from our days sponsoring "Mud Volleyball." A few of our members found it a bit difficult "snagging" a fish. Ed was very helpful, actually reaching into the murky waters to catch a fish with his bare hands and put it on the hook for them. We wonder if he will do that at Lake Opeka?





The Bells were ringin' for two of our members this month. Ray Bochat was married to his lovely wife, Ellen, 35 years ago, and Peggy Higgins was married to her handsome man, Rich.

We wish both couples a Happy Anniversary!

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

*May
Birthday:*



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

**Maggie Croft
and
Lee Piekarz**

We hope we didn't miss anyone.

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

*It's All About
the
JOOI!*



Many of you should have received an email that the Prez sent telling the membership about a new adult Optimist Club that has been formed in Iraq.

Our JOOI kids are helping to "spread the JOOI" over there, as well, by providing care packages for a Marine unit. They are collecting items such as power and granola bars, beef jerky, trail mix, non chocolate candy and personal items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste and baby wipes.

If you would like to help by making a donation, please bring it to the next meeting.

Thanks, guys, for all the fun.

Spring Celebration

Last year Kay Welther had an idea to start an activity for the club that would be an event for club members and their families. Calling it a “Spring Celebration” it was scheduled around Easter and held in the West Park facility.

This year she repeated the success she had last year, in fact, building upon it to make an even more enjoyable time for all. Not all of us have family that is near or “wee small”, but that did not keep some of us from being on hand to not only help, but to enjoy. Those of you who were not there should really make an effort, next year, to see what the Celebration is all about.

This year there were once again activities and games for everyone. The youth enjoyed coloring and egg decorating contests with three different age categories and lots of prizes.

Our JOOI Club was on hand to help out with the games and fun. Our Prez supplied a piñata, which was full of candy. Everyone

took a whack at it. These piñata are amazingly resilient creatures. Finally, we let the JOOI club kids join in and it surrendered up its goodies.

The Easter Bunny was also a special guest and endured the warm suit so that everyone could have a photo-op with the bunny. We owe special thanks, not only to Kay, but to the Bochat Clan, Dianna, Ray and Bob, as well as to Ed Welther and his daughter, Dolly, who was happy to paint the face of anyone who was interested. Thanks, also, to Ed’s sister, (and Kay’s daughter), Sue, who was the Bunny of Renown.

Will we do this again next year? Well, when we asked the kids if they wanted a repeat performance, the answer was a resounding, “YES.”

Fiftieth Plans

It’s going to be a real bash, so mark you calendars for November 6th!

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



A Spring Celebration

Club Meetings June - July - August

June 3 - Elk's Club

Our last "indoor" meeting until September

Since we do not appear to have the support of the club to have outdoor meetings all summer, at various homes, the board has adopted the following schedule. You will find that it is a blend of the old as well as "new" activities and places to meet. It should be great fun. There will be detailed information in each *Pipeline*.

June 17 - Tom Swanson's, 110 Wisconsin Drive. (You have to see Tom's dog, Jack, bark at planes)

July 3 - July 4th parade (that's right, it will be celebrated on the 3rd)
We will be building a float for the parade. Details to follow.

July 17 - This is a **Saturday**. We will be having a family picnic at the Izaak Walton League park. We will have further details in the next issue. Please mark your calendar for what will be a great time for all.

August 5 - We will meet at the Countryside Inn.

August 19 - We will meet at Radishes.

We will have specific information for these meetings, each month, in the *Pipeline*.

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

May 6 - **Meeting** at the Elk's Club,
7 PM - **Ken Kehe will be
our guest speaker!!!**

May 20 - **Meeting** at the Elk's Club,
7 PM

May 22 - **Kite Fly** at Lake Opeka,
9 AM - 1 PM

May 27 - **Board Meeting** at Stacey
Magnusson's, 7 PM

May 29 - **Kite Fly** Rain Date

May 31 - **Memorial Day Services** at
Lake Opeka, time to be
determined.

June 5 - **Fishing Derby** at Lake
Opeka, 9AM - 1 PM



Is this how Hugh Hefner got his start?

Prez Sez



Each year I am amazed when I hear the speeches given by the Oratorical participants both at our local contest and at the Regional competition. I would like to share some of these quotes with you as my "Prez Sez" for this month.

An Optimist is someone who starts a crossword puzzle with a fountain pen.

-Unknown

Never, never, never give up.

- Winston Churchill

Whether you think you can, or you think you can't - you are right.

- Henry Ford

Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure...than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

- Theodore Roosevelt

A coward gets scared and quits. A hero gets scared, but still goes on.

- unknown

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.

- Ambrose Redmon

You can't move forward if you're standing still

- Charles Walgreen



Don't forget that our next meeting will have Ken Kehe, one of our members who lives in Elgin, as our guest speaker. Ken was governor of the Illinois Northern District in 1967-68. This was when Illinois was divided into a Northern and Southern district. He will have lots to tell us of the club during this time.