

June 1, 2004
Vol. 50, Issue 9

Pipeline Newsletter



Optimist Club of Des Plaines

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>

Traditions

I had a boss when I first started to teach who one time told me, “Tradition is what we did last year.” Well, for those of us who are newer members, or perhaps newly joined in the last four or five years, the traditions of the club are many times just that. It is only when we stop to think that we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary this coming November that we have to realize that there is so much more that has made the Optimist Club of Des Plaines the great club that it is today.

Occasionally one of our older members will comment on past times and activities, but for the most part, they do, in fact, live that part of the Creed that says, “...press on to the greater achievements of the future.” They are interested in not only those programs that are a “tradition” and are repeated each year, but are also interested in the new ideas that have been proposed and implemented.

This is why it was such a joy to have Ken Kehe back in our midst at our first meeting in May. Ken lives in Elgin now and still keeps his membership current and his contact with the club from phone calls and the news in the *Pipeline*.

Ken recounted to us the early days of the club and how it took

two years to bring together the 25 men who would be our charter members. He commented on the various locations that used to serve as meeting places, many of which, like the Moose Lodge, along with its slot machines, are no longer there. The reason for our club being an evening club was because very few members worked in Des Plaines, with many finding their jobs in Chicago. Meals cost \$3 and were prepared by the wives of the members.

Des Plaines was then known as the City of Roses as there were three very large greenhouses located here that shipped roses all over the country. The club’s fund raisers were small activities that did not generate a lot of revenue. However, that changed when we first began to sell Christmas Trees. Beginning with only 350-400 trees, we one year ordered 2200 and sold them all! There were some years when the lot had lots of trees that were not sold, such as the first year that artificial trees began to be sold. That year the club had a very large bonfire, (it was still legal to do that back then).

One year half a box car of trees never showed up. Imagine, waiting for them and they never arrived. When they did turn up they were in Elmhurst. It took two trucks and lots of trips, back
(cont. on next page)

and forth, to get those trees to Des Plaines.

Our club was one of 23 in what was called the Northern District of Illinois Optimists. It was a time when there were lots of new clubs being formed and ours reached a maximum membership of 106. We were well known in the state and provided much leadership in the state with many Lt. Governors and District Governors coming from our club. Ken was one of these and was Governor of the Northern District 1967-1968.

So, thanks, Ken, for helping us to understand about the great heritage that we try to continue each year. You helped us to understand a little better about how the past has helped to shape our present. Throughout these many years we continue traditions like the Tree Lot, Oratorical, Kite Fly and Fishing Derby. And oh yes, one more very important one, serving the Youth of Des Plaines.

Meetings

Besides our guest speaker, Ken, we had another fun filled activity put on by our Mr. Fun and Mr. Frolics, Ed and Ray. (Or is it Ray and Ed, I can never figure out which one is which.) I think the one with the hat is Frolics. (Ray has managed to lose or misplace his). Ed had a bunch of strings, all connected to "kites". If your ticket was pulled, you got to pick a string and pull in the money that was attached. Some kites were "heavier" than others, but we all had fun.

Our next meeting was on **May 20th** and was run very ably by president-elect Chris Ladner. The Prez had a school commitment.

We heard from all of the committee chairs about the activities that will be happening soon. Look for details elsewhere in this issue. Ed and Ray devised an interesting variation on our normal drawings. Whatever the last two numbers were of the ticket that was drawn, they were then reversed and whoever had that number split the proceeds that were in various envelopes. If no one had the reversed number, then you got it all.

Of course, Berkie left his tickets behind and as usual, he won! Hey, Berkie I owe 'ya \$8!

Our last meeting at the Elk's Club will be on June 3rd. Our guest speaker will be Chris Smith from the Springfield club. He will bring us up-to-date regarding the Childhood Cancer Campaign in the state and nationally. Be sure to turn out for this meeting. Our second meeting of the month will be a good old fashioned outdoor at Tom Swanson's, 110 Wisconsin Drive. Come and enjoy the great outdoors, food cooked on the grill, and Tom's dog, Jack.

Of Ducks and Things

For those of you who get your Pipeline in the regular mail, we must apologize to Ralph Cote for incorrectly identifying his duck. Her real name is Gwendolyn. However, this gives us a chance to mention that we still have many members who are receiving their issue in the regular mail as well as electronically. We need to eliminate

(continued page four)



The Bells were Ringin' for four of our members this month. Norm Voss and Jean (54 years), Stan Walgreen and Donna (45 years), Ray Kopecky and Janice (34 years) and Tom Swanson and Colleen (13 years). Last month we inadvertently missed Chris Ladner and Judy's tenth anniversary. We wish them all 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:

**Bob Bochat
Ralph Cote
Peggy Higgins
Steve Meinecke
and
Charlie Schmidt**

It's All About the JOOI!



The packages being prepared for the Marines in Iraq are in the mail. Thanks to those club members who donated to this worthy project.

Elections have been held for the officers for the Algonquin club for next year. Thanks to the efforts of Zack Ladner, a freshman at Maine West, it looks like we may have a sponsor there for a high school club. This will be just in time for our eighth grade graduates. We know that Zack will be first in line for the initial meeting at the high school. Thanks, Zack!

(continued on page four)

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

(Ducks and Things, cont. from pg.2)

the snail mail version. Not only does it save the club postage expense, but more particularly, the **time** it takes to print those extra copies, to speak nothing of the extra cost for printer cartridges, etc. Don't be a lame duck!

Thanks to those members who last month agreed to eliminate the necessity of receiving a hard copy of the *Pipeline*.

Fiftieth Plans

We are still looking for names and addresses of former members. Please, put on your thinking cap and let us know.

Additionally, Jerry Warchol has had a check out for a sizable amount for the Fun and Frolics portion of the party. Ed and Ray will be in their glory, as will we. You have to be there to win!!

That means you, Berkie!

Remember, anyone who has mailing info for former members, or the widows of former members should let Paul Magnusson know. He is compiling a mailing list.

They are in our Thoughts and Prayers

Continue to hold those of our members who are ill. In particular, we think of Jim Buscemi and Meghan Atherton. They need to know that we are thinking and praying for them. They need to know how very much we miss their smiling faces and optimistic outlook.

If there are any of you that have health concerns that you would like us to tell the club about, please, please, let us know.

(JOOI Club, cont.. from pg. 3)

The JOOI Club will be celebrating the end of their first year of existence in two ways. The first is that the purchase of a plaque has been authorized by the board. It will be engraved with the JOOI Club logo, and the names of all of the charter members. The second is going to be a trip to Mountain View Mine for a round of miniature golf, courtesy of Glenn Swanson. Afterwards, they will adjourn to the Prez's house for a cook-out.

July Family Picnic Plans

Plans are being made for our second meeting in July to be a family picnic. We hope that all will mark their calendars for this July 17th event. The times will be from 10 am until dusk and will be held at the south end of Lake Opeka. Look for the tents and shelters that will be set up. We can play volley ball, fish, and hang out. Families and members will bring their own food and beverages.

Comin' Home

We all know that our days at our tree lot location are numbered. Rather than wait for the "hammer to fall," Jim Woods has taken a proactive approach to this problem. In meetings with Car X and Richard's Men's Wear, Jim has gotten permission from both of them to use the space behind Car X and to the west of Richard's to house our lot for next year. The board has approved this action and it looks like we will be
(continued next page)

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- June 3 - **Meeting** at the Elk's Club 7 PM
- June 5 - **Fishing Derby** Rain or shine! Lake Opeka 9 am-1 PM
- June 17 - **Meeting** at the Tom Swanson's, 110 Wisconsin, 7 PM
- June 24 - **Board Meeting** at Stacey Magnusson's 7 PM

Prez Sez



One of our favorite family photos is that of my dad and me fishing at lake Opeka. I must have been about 4 years old. I can't remember catching any fish that day, but I do remember wearing a plaid dress and not wanting to put the worm on the hook. I'm sure that we weren't there more than an hour, but I can still remember the closeness that my dad and I shared (and still share) when we were together.

Being a teacher I know that many children aren't as lucky as you or I were to have parents who spent time with them – fishing, throwing a ball, reading, flying a kite, etc. These kids look to teachers and other adults for mentoring. They look to us as positive role models.

Statistics show that every Optimist member touches the life of 35 children. Our club offers so many opportunities for the Youth of Des Plaines to participate in activities such as our kite fly, fishing derby and golf. Many come with their parents, but many wander over on their own. YOU might be the person who will create a lasting memory for that child. Mark your calendar now to come out and share your Optimism at our youth events.

(Comin' Home, cont. from pg.4)

comin' home, as this was the successful location of the lot for many years.

Of course, we will need to get the word out about this new location. It is an area that gets much more "traffic" than our old lot. Treasurer, Ray Kopecky, xeroxed over 200 checks that we received from last year. We plan to send all of these customers letters telling them of our new location.

Thanks, Jim and Ray for thinking ahead!