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Pipeline Newsletter



Optimist Club of Des Plaines

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Happy Third!

For the past two or three Fourth-of-July Parades our club has ridden in style in an air-conditioned trolley car. The car held members who did not want, or were not able, to walk the parade route. Those members that could, walked along side, passing out candy. Last year, there was hardly anyone on the trolley, everyone was walking.

The suggestion was made that maybe we should see if we could make a float, instead. We called upon Ed Welther who enthusiastically agreed to design a float and superintend its construction of it. Of course, we needed a trailer on which to build the float and a convenient location for the construction. The trailer was provided by Glenn Swanson's daughter and the construction site was Glenn's garage.

There was lots of work to do and lots of club members on hand to help out. Besides Ed, Ray Kopecky, Jerry Warchol, Ray Bochat, Tom Swanson, Chris Ladner, Don Moran and Paul Magnusson were there to saw and screw (pardon the expression, but we didn't really use any nails). Of course, Glenn was always on hand, supervising and offering all of us water and pop to drink.

There was also lots of painting to be done of the various signs, also designed by Ed, explaining our various youth activities we support in the community. Painting was supervised by Kay Welther, ably assisted by the Prez and a whole flock of JOOI Club kids and also Zack Ladner. For me, that was one of the neatest things to see, all these youth coming to paint each evening.

The day of the parade everyone showed



If this looks strange it is because it is a combination of two different pictures.

up to add the finishing touches and walk with club members and youth, passing out candy (also provided by Ed). In addition, we had plastic containers that contained a little blurb about the club's anniversary coming up, as well as information on how they could visit our web site to find out if the ticket that was also enclosed would win them a prize.

So far, we have been contacted by four people who have won. Three of them received their prize at our Family Picnic Meeting. We have yet to "connect with" the fourth winner. It gave you a deep sense of pride in what we do to see this float, the youth, and the great showing of club members who were there to walk ahead of it, letting the community know who some of the members of the Optimist Club of Des Plaines are.

Thanks to all who helped to build the float or participate in the parade. And of course, a big, huge, thank you to Ed and Kay. Glenn was kind enough to let us store the wood behind his garage so that we can do it again, next summer.

Meetings

Since the parade was our first meeting of the month, our second was held at Mountain View Mine, the Park District's miniature golf course. There was a tent that sheltered us from the sun and rain (if there had been any rain) and also grills for grilling and tables for eating. The idea was a good one and members drifted in, and out, over the six hour time period we had announced. Some of us played golf and all youth were able to golf for free.

At this time, we don't know if next summer will find us having a family picnic meeting, but I am fairly sure that we will find our club meeting at this facility. There was ample room for a large group, sheltered from the elements, as well as grilling facilities. Even though all of our members were not there at the same time, it was evident that everyone enjoyed themselves and that we will probably return to Mt. View Mine in 2005.



Whenever we have had our spring/summer youth events in the past few years, our grill meisters have cooked up those delicious hotdogs for one and all, making sure that they are done to perfection. We wonder how many of you are aware of the company that has been providing them for us. As you can see, it is called Kelly Eisenberg and they have been making fine deli products since 1921. It is because of Kay Welther and her cousin who works for this company that we are able to enjoy this donation to our youth and their stomachs.

So, thanks Kay, and thanks to Kelly Eisenberg for their donation. We many times encourage our members to patronize companies that are so generous. So, the next time you are at Wrigley Field, please realize that the hot dogs that you love, so much, are the same that we serve. That's right, you can't buy them retail.



Joey Swanson lines up a putt.

In Memoriam
Meghan Atherton
(1957-2004)



Several issues ago our president wrote about our members as being bright lights of hope and inspiration. We are so very saddened to have to report that Meghan's light has been extinguished as she has finally lost her battle with Cancer.

This struggle began two years ago as this terrible disease once again began to destroy her body. Up to two weeks before she passed, this heroic lady and her brave husband, Bill, were still optimistic that they would somehow find a way to overcome and reverse the devastation that had been caused by her illness.

Meghan joined our club, along with Bill, almost four years ago. They immediately made a positive impact on our organization with their cheerful smiles and willingness to help in any way that they could. In particular, Meghan found a "home" at the Tree Lot, invading the society-of-wreath-makers, not only learning how to make the wreaths, but also participating in all of the "fringe benefits" that such membership entails. This past December, Meghan could not work the lot, but did ask if she could be driven by, just so that she could see it, remembering all of the good times that were had as we sold trees to fund our youth activities.

All who knew Meghan, loved her. We mourn her passing and, for those of us who knew her well, we will forever hold her bright, shining light of Optimism in our hearts.

Float Pictures



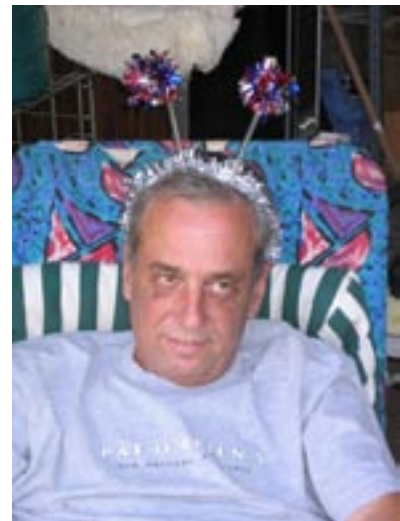
Float Construction by JOOI Club



Stuffing the tissue paper



Father and Son, Chris and Zack



Can't a guy take a break?



Float workers



Our youth!!!



The Bells were Ringin' for two of our members this month, Bob Ehlert and Judy (44), and Ron Goczkowski and Joanne, (40).

We wish them and their brides a very Happy Anniversary!



Ed Welther, and his creation

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

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

August Birthdays



We don't seem to have any members that were born in the month of August. Hmmmm... guess nothing much was going on with our parents in November. Wonder if it was just too much turkey?

August Meetings

We are very excited about our remaining meetings in August. We hope that the club members will mark the following dates and details and support these meetings. We are the “Friend of Youth” and our strength is in our membership and their participation.

August 5th - Our first meeting in August will be held at Ed Welther’s Son’s home on 163 Warrington and will be hosted by Ed. This will be a good, old fashioned Outdoor.

We look forward to a good turnout!

August 19th - Our second meeting will be held at the Golf Center’s restaurant, Club Casa. This facility is across from Holy Family Hospital on River Road. This is a super place for us to meet and eat. The food is great and the bar is open.

International Convention



Prez Stacey, Paul and Prez-Elect Chris Ladner and his family attended the 86th annual Optimist International Convention in St. Louis.

There was lots of training for Chris and Stacey, while Paul attended various meetings that he found interesting and informative.

There were lots of great breakfasts, lunches and a fabulous President’s Ball, but the convention was not just about eating great meals, but more importantly meeting other Optimists from across the county, finding out about their clubs and membership.

As usual we came away from this annual event pumped up with Optimism about what we all can do to make a great club even greater. For those of you who do not know, OI provides all types of activities, morning, noon and night, for the kids and spouses to do. In fact, Zack, Chris’ son,

made several friends and word has it that they are planning to meet again in New Orleans at next year’s convention.

We also would like to announce that Judy will probably be our newest member, not only because she wants to support her husband, but because of all that she saw and did at the convention. She will be a fabulous addition to our club!



Laverne Johnson, Maggie (Del’s grand daughter) and Del at our meeting at Mt. View Mine. Maggie is manager of the facility. It was good to see Del, again. Doesn’t he look great?

Help - Help - Help!!!!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Jr. Golf Outing, which had been scheduled for August 4th, has been **rescheduled** for the following week. The reason for this date change was to due with a conflict with another Park District event. So, August 11 will have a double shot gun start. The first tee-off will be at 7:30 AM. We will need early bird helpers to be at Lake Opeka at 6:30 AM (yawn) to help with set up and to receive instructions. We have **150 youth** registered for this event. The second shot gun tee-off will be at 10:30 AM.

Some of our members who were going to help with the first date are unable to help with the second. We really need lots of help. Please, please call Stan at (847) 296-3900 if you will be able to help for part or all of the day. Once again, please call him. It will make all of us feel so much better to know ahead of time that all of the crucial areas needing workers are covered.

Thanks, Jim



This is a picture of our “old” tree lot site. No one bothered to call us, guess they figured we would notice that it was all torn up. Fortunately

for us, Jim Woods was thinking ahead and not only laid the ground work, but sealed the deal for our new, and improved location.

What a guy!!!

Save the Date!

Four times a year there are District meetings of Illinois Optimists. They usually begin with a dinner on a Friday evening, followed by a hospitality suite/room, where members from across the state can socialize and find out about what other clubs are doing.

The next day, Saturday, there are various “round table” discussion groups that take place after a general meeting in the morning. These are both good to attend as we get a chance to hear from state leaders as well as national ones who attend these meetings. There is usually some type of social activity/dinner on Saturday, although

this varies with the District Governor’s term. For some, the afternoon sessions ends the District meeting.

This fall the first District meeting of the year will be held in Naperville. It happens to follow our first meeting in October, which is our installation banquet. This will be an outstanding opportunity for our club to make a real showing at this meeting. It will not mean a hotel bill, just some commuting. It will mean that you will be able to get a first hand view of a District meeting as well as letting Optimists from the central and southern part of the state get to know who are members are, up front and personal.

Believe us when we say, they already know about the Optimist Club of Des Plaines. It’s time they find out about the members that make it the wonderful club that it is.

So, save the dates, October 8th and 9th.

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- Aug. 5 - **Outdoor Meeting** -
163 Warrington, 7 PM
- Aug. 11 - **Jr. Golf** - Lake
Opeka, 7 AM - 2:30 PM
- Aug. 14 - **Jr. Golf Finals** - Lake
Opeka, 8 AM - 1 PM
- Aug. 19 - **Meeting** at Cafe Casa,
the Golf Center on
River Road across from
the hospital, 7 PM
- Aug 26 - **Board Meeting** at
Stacey Magnusson's
7 PM.



Here's Charlie, living up to his nickname. After marching with our float word has it he went back to help out the Barefoot Hawaiians.

Prez Sez



I have a poster in my room at school that says *"It doesn't matter what kind of house you live in or the kind of car you drive, but that you made a difference in the life of a child"*. I know that as Optimists, we are aware of the difference we make in the lives of children through our programs and activities, but are we aware of the difference we can make in the lives of fellow Optimists?

This summer we have mourned the loss of Jim Buscemi and Meghan Atherton – both wonderful members of our club. As we read their memorials written by our editor, we pause and reflect on the lives they lived. I know that I smiled every time I saw both Jim and Meghan at our meetings. Their Optimism was contagious!

We, as Optimists, have a great outlook on life – pressing on to greater achievements, making all your friends feel there is something in them. We know that we are role models for children, but, have you stopped to think about the role model you are setting for other Optimists or friends and neighbors?

As I reflect upon Jim and Meghan I must smile again – they wore a cheerful countenance at ALL times – even when they were not well. They made all their friends feel there was something in them – always focusing on the other person. I know they are smiling down on us as they enjoy their greater achievements of the future that await us all.

Jim, Meghan, you are loved and you are missed!

An error is only a mistake if you refuse to correct it.
(author unknown)