

October 1, 2004
Vol. 51, Issue 1

Pipeline Newsletter



Optimist Club of Des Plaines

President – Chris Ladner
Vice President – Tom Swanson
Vice President – Paul Magnusson
Secretary – Dianna Edwards
Treasurer – Ray Kopecky

Optimist Board

Al Bayer
Ray Bochat
Don Moran
Stacey Magnusson
Mary Alice Wenzl

Sergeant-at-Arms

Steve Meinecke

Pipeline editor and webmaster

Paul Magnusson

P.O. Box 1547
Des Plaines, IL 60017
Phone: (847) 827-1444
Fax: (847) 296-5624
E-Mail: ladnercj@yahoo.com

On the Web:

<http://www.dpoptimists.org>

Reflections

Every time we come to a new year we can't help but reflect upon the old one. We have aspirations for what is in the future, a positive hope for all we want to continue to do and excitement for new events, and experiences that are just over the horizon.

Well, our reflections over the leadership that has inspired us by Prez Stacey could go on for pages. It was her vision of what we could be and do for youth that has allowed our club to move forward with new activities and enthusiasm. It was her pride in our club and community that has caused us to be recognized across that state as a Club of Honor, a club that has become synonymous with innovation and growth.

We can't help but recall the Creed when we think of the past two years. I hope that with this issue you will, in fact, read the Creed and think of Stacey's leadership. She has lived that Creed, and then some. She has inspired, been cheerful when it was not always easy to be so, and at all times has seen the best in all of us. How could our last two years not have been a success?

Our reflections, this year, need to be more than just the last two years that Stacey has been our president, for this is our club's Fiftieth Birthday! We have to reflect upon all those leaders that have gone before. In fact, many of them are still with us and continue

to lead and inspire us with their work, participation, and wisdom.

Fifty years ago a group of men had a dream of what an Optimist Club could do for the youth in our community. We are blessed to have two of them still in our midst, Ray Fiddelke and Del Johnson. Our community has changed over these fifty years, as have all of the communities that surround us, but the need to support and encourage the youth has not.

The youth will always be centermost in all of our minds and activities. They will also help to inspire us as we move forward with our club. Isn't it especially wonderful that we get to do all of this with fellow club members who care and want to do the best they can for our youth? It is one thing to do good works, and yet another to be able to do these good works with very good friends.

So now we begin another year. It was tempting to say "another fifty years," but we can be sure that our founding fathers did not look on it as a fifty year job, but rather, took them one year at a time, trying to do the best that can be done each year.

Let's all of us support our new president, Chris, and realize that the traditions of the past are our strength as we move forward to even greater achievements in this new year.

Meetings

Our **first meeting** of the month was held in the friendly confines of the Elk's Club, where we will continue to meet for the rest of the year. The only exception to this will be the month of December when we will meet at the tree lot.

Prez Stacey asked for a report on the fiftieth, which was given by Paul, since Jerry was unable to attend. Announcements have gone out and responses are beginning to come in. Jerry would like for everyone to observe the October 1 deadline, in fact, he would like for you to send in your card and check as soon as possible. Dignitaries that will be present will be Dr. Jerry Wolf, our new Governor for the Illinois District as well as Mayor Arredia. Everyone present will receive a special pin that is being made to commemorate our fiftieth. We are still trying to find former members, so if you know of any, be sure to tell Paul. It would be better for you to do this and be told, "We've already sent one to them," than to leave someone out. It's going to be a good time, so don't **you** be left out.

Stacey also reported that the board has authorized the use of funds to rent a storage facility. After fifty years there is an awful lot of "stuff" in garages, basements and attics that can be brought together and stored in one place. That would include our grills, as well as tee shirts, etc.

We also heard that the Elk's Club has raised the price of a dinner to \$12. The board has agreed to subsidize the additional buck through the end of this calendar year. It was announced that Ray Kopecky will be continuing as treasurer for another year. Peggy Higgins, due to time constraints, had decided that she would not be able to serve in this capacity. Thanks, Ray!

It was also announced that Ray Kopecky and

Ed Welther will be cochairs for this year's tree lot. They both bring a lot of experience working at the lot and will do a great job for the club. We know that Steve Kozak, who has been the chair of this activity for the past 15 years, will be on hand to help and assist. Stacey thanked Jim Woods, again, for his foresight in obtaining the location for our sales for this year.

Ed Welther ran another great raffle, as those of us who had their number pulled were able to choose a container that was labeled with a particular year. He would then either buy it back from you, if you so chose. Fred Triebe decided to do just that and lost out on a really nice lawn chair. As usual, it was great fun.

Our **second meeting** of the month welcomed Dianna and Kay back into our midst. They had been on a cruise to Alaska, and yes, they did see whales, besides having a very good time. Dianna had our new banner ready to display our most recent bunch of badges the club had earned. In fact, each one was hand sewn by Dianna. Thanks, Dianna.

As this was Prez Stacey's last meeting as our president, she had a few smiles and recognitions to give out to members of her board. Of particular note was that Dianna and Kay received special "Girls Rule" awards, as they, along with Stacey, were the only women on the board this year.

Another humorous presentation was a special tee shirt that was given to Don Moran. It seems that whenever he is working at Dominick's or K-Mart, he has a habit of asking various youth in the stores if they had either Stacey or Paul as a teacher. In order to help him out, they made a shirt for him that has their picture on it with the following question: "Do you know the Magnusson's?" Stacey figured that it would probably save him a lot of time and vocal strain. The first time that he wore it in public a girl did come up to him and say, "Hey,



Girl's Rule!

(Meetings, cont.)

I had Mrs. Magnusson for my Music Class!"
We guess that the shirt works.

As we said, this was Stacey's last meeting as our president. Thanks, Stacey, for two great years!

Our next meeting will be October 7th and will be Installation Night for our new officers and board. This will be a special dinner (hors d'ouvres, steak, etc.) and will cost \$15. It is also a Spouses/Significant Other night, so bring your special someone and let's celebrate the beginning of a new year of Optimism and service to the youth of Des Plaines.

A Night of Giving

You may recall that two years ago our club participated in what was the first year of a program at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Bill Atherton chaired this event and all we had to do was to sell \$5 tickets to folks, allowing them to enter the Mall after it had been closed. The various stores had lots of sales and special discounts on merchandise just for this evening.

We did not participate last year, but we will be doing so again, this year. Stacey will have tickets for club members to sell. We receive 100% from these sales, as well as a percentage of any money that is taken in at the door that day, provided we have workers to help out that night.

Our JOOI club will also be involved as a fund raiser for their club. The date for this Night of Giving is November 21st, so mark your calendar and plan to sell as well as attend.



Don's Shirt

Storage

It was announced that the board had approved funds to rent a storage facility for all of our “stuff”. It is located on Lee, just south of the Mobile station at Lee and Howard. The idea was to get all of our club’s equipment (grills, banners, etc.) in one central location that would not only be accessible for all, but would be protected from the elements. The idea for this was Ray Bochat’s and you see pictured below, Ray and Ed, as they were packing and organizing. For once they put aside their Fun and Frolics hats (where is yours, by the way, Ray?) and are now serving as our quartermasters. If you need something out of storage, call Ed, Ray, or Tom Swanson and they will help you to get what you need.



Fiftieth

As you read this, the deadline has passed for your checks to be in to Jerry Warchol for our fiftieth bash. If this has “slipped” your mind, you must mail them (or call him) **immediately!** This is one party you don’t want to miss.

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

Show Me the Money!

That’s right, it’s dues time again. You may remember that a year ago we published a comparison of the various



clubs in our zone. We also talked about the need for a dues increase in the future to increase the operating expenses of the club. Well, our dues are still less than anyone else’s in our zone, and, we have not increased them. Please remit them to PO Box 1547, Des Plaines, IL 60017 (that is the correct zip code), to the attention of our treasurer, Ray Kopecky.



Bob Bochat was married to his lovely wife, Lois, forty years ago. Wow!!

We wish them a very Happy Anniversary!

If we have missed your anniversary, we apologize. Please let us know so we can correct our records.

Oratorical Dates Set

Paul Magnusson, our Oratorical Chair, has announced that the dates for this year's Oratorical Program have been scheduled with the library. The first orientation session for youth will be on January 21. The concluding club contest will be held on March 18. There will be meetings every Friday, between these two dates, to help prepare the participants. This year's topic is "My Hero Is...".

This year's preparation sessions will include two evenings where students will work, one-on-one, with committee members who will be involved with this portion of the training. Each youth will be required to have a written copy of their speech, wherever it is in preparation, for the club member. This will allow suggestions to be notated regarding organization and grammar. It is hoped that this "hard copy" of suggestions and individual help will result in a higher quality of speech.

October Birthdays



We are happy, even if they aren't, to wish some of our members good wishes on their continued longevity! They are:

Stan Catlett,
Ron Goczkowski,
Del Johnson,
Chris (the new Prez) Ladner,
Jerry Oleary,
Stefanie Rogers,
Tom Swanson,
Jerry Warchol and
Jim Woods

Many Happy Returns of the Day!



Paul's big walleye he caught in Canada recently. It measured 32 1/2 inches and yes, he did release it.

District Meeting in Naperville/Lisle

For some time we have heard glowing reports about the Illinois District meetings that Stacey and Paul have been attending. As President, Chris will also be attending the meeting that will be held October 8-10. It has been several years since a meeting has been held in this part of the state. Usually, we have to not only drive for several hours, but stay over night in order to attend. This meeting is in our “own backyard”, so to speak, and we really hope that members will turn out. If you did not get a special mailing that had a full agenda and registration forms, we can get them to you. Call Stacey, (847) 294-0568. You may just want to attend the meetings on Saturday. We have printed those details, below. It’s great fun, very informative, and it’s high time the southern part of the state got to meet the great folks from our club.

Saturday, October 9, 2004

7:00 - 8:00 AM Hospitality Room Breakfast Parlor 811 A Continental Breakfast plus heart healthy items will be offered for a \$4.50 donation or ticket. Thanks to the Zone 2 Clubs for sponsoring this lower cost meal.

8:00 - 9:30 AM Conference Registration Arbor Sponsored by the Zone 2 Clubs

8:00 - 9:00 AM Executive Board Meeting - Illinois District Pine, Spruce, Walnut District Officers, Lt. Governors, Club Officers & members invited.

9:00 - 10:30 AM Opening Session: BELIEVE! Pine, Spruce, Walnut Welcome opening comments by Governor Jerry Wolf and Optimist International Vice President, Dave Bruns. Followed by red hot, gonna start a fire reports from select District Committee Chairs.

9:00 AM - Noon Guest Program: Naperville Old Settlement Meet in Lobby Special partners and guests will travel to the Naperville Old Settlement village

10:45 AM - Noon Inspirational Speaker Michael Caruso Pine, Spruce, Walnut “How to Make Optimism Even More Attractive”

Noon - 1:30 PM Illinois District Optimist Luncheon Parlor East/West Optimist International Vice President Dave Bruns will share News of Optimism. The Illinois District Foundation Chair Corky Helms will discuss OI foundation programs including Childhood Cancer.

1:45 - 2:45 PM Break Out Sessions: How to get the club noticed! Maple Does your club need to be noticed more, marketing professionals will discuss how to get your club, large or small to be noticed in your community. (Leader TBA)

“I Believe” Team Training Update Elm Lt. Gov’s., Club Presidents and Secretary/Treasurers will receive updates from Optimist International Vice President David Bruns.

3:00 - 4:00 PM General Session: Problem Solving Pine, Spruce, Walnut A forum designed

to answer questions and solve problems based on information compiled from first morning session. Moderated by OI & District Leadership Team

4:00 - 5:00 PM Committee Meetings (as needed) Pine, Spruce, Walnut

5:00 - 6:30 PM Hospitality Suite Parlor 811. Zone 2 Clubs are our hosts.

6:30 - 8:30 PM Texas BBQ Buffet and Program (dress is western apparel). Parlor East/West Governor Jerry, OI International Vice President David Bruns Inspirational address, Michael Caruso

8:30 - 11:00 PM Hospitality Suite Parlor 811. Zone 2 Clubs are our hosts and good snacks, great conversation and goofy jokes will all be found.

Here are the itemized costs for you if you have not pre registered:

Optimist member registration \$16.00
Friday Pizza Party \$6.00
Saturday lunch \$21.00
Saturday evening buffet \$39.00
Breakfast (\$4.50 per day)

So, if you came only on Saturday, your total costs would be \$76. Believe me, it is well worth the cost!

The conference is being held at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville, 3003 Corporate West Dr., Lisle IL 60532. The hotel's phone number is: 800-505-8948

If you need directions on how to get there, or have any questions, ask Paul or Stacey.



Prez Sez

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- Oct. 7- **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 7 PM
This is an Installation Meeting and, as such, is a **Spouses's Night**.
- Oct. 21- **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 7 PM
Committee Info Night!
- Oct. 28- **Board Meeting** in the Parish House of St Martin's Church, 1095 Thacker, 7PM



"You can do it if you think you can. This knowledge is literally the gift of the gods, for through it you can solve every human problem. It should make of you an incurable optimist. It is the open door" - Robert Collier

Off I go, into the wild blue yonder ...

As I assume the role of president for our club, I sometimes feel like I'm taking a leap into the unknown, into a future fraught with potential peril. When this happens, I must remember I am an Optimist, and quotes like the above serve to bolster my belief that challenges can be met. (Especially when I've been given a chance to lead a club with such a distinguished history) It really helps my confidence when I can look at the membership and see former presidents and former and present lieutenant governors that are active members of our club. I know I'll be able to go to them with questions about club business and procedure and receive knowledgeable advice.

I hope by the time people read this that many will have registered for the District Convention in Naperville on October 8th and 9th. Stacey Magnusson reports that these are both fun and inspiring, and that this is the first one to be held in our area. I know I'll be there, most likely with the offspring in tow. If you can't make this one, the next is February 18th-19th in Decatur, and I ask you, what could be lovelier than Decatur in February?

One of my goals as president is to once again be an Honor Club, or perhaps even become a Distinguished Club. To do this, all we need to do is have net increase of ONE MEMBER over last year, and to meet our financial obligations to the District and OI by September 30th, 2005. I heard it many times at the convention, but it still rings true: Most people became Optimist members because they were asked. To be a Distinguished Club, we can either sponsor two JOOI Clubs, or sponsor a new Optimist Club with at least 25 members by September 30th, 2005. A third alternative would be to increase our membership by 25. It's a challenge to meet any of the Distinguished Club qualifications, but not an insurmountable one.

Another goal is to increase the number of guest speakers that attend our meetings. To that end, I'd like to thank Don Moran for arranging an appearance by a Civil War enthusiast and re-enactor to speak at our November 4th meeting. This should be a great opportunity to learn more about the most important war in our nation's history from an expert.

Our October 21st meeting will be a committee information night. This provides us with a chance to learn more about the many things we do, and I think it would be a great time to bring a guest, especially if you know somebody with an interest in one of our programs.

And so we begin the 2004-2005 Optimist year. May it be filled with joy and prosperity for ourselves, our loved ones, and the Optimist club of Des Plaines.