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# 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  
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## Kudos

Our installation night was a wonderful success. The food was great, the downstairs room is always special and our spouses were able to share in the evening, as well.

Before we got around to installing our new officers and board, Stacey paused to consider the year and make special recognition of some of our membership. It's interesting to think about awards and what they mean. They single out individuals for achievements or for their service to the club, and ultimately, to the youth.

Whenever we have an event that involves any type of competition, we always say, with great sincerity, "They are all winners, in our eyes." Participation in our club is certainly not a competition, but all members should realize the worth that they bring to our club.

We try, whenever we can, to recognize this, whether it is your dues that help 35 kids, or your time and talent that makes an event "happen". In some cases we note that it is your membership and past participation that inspires those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to continue old traditions.

Installation night, however, is an opportunity to extend special appreciation. It is a time for all to realize that the contributions and time spent have not only made a difference in the lives of our youth, but have been noticed and appreciated by the leadership of their club.

Ed Welther was named Optimist-of-the-Year. Besides being the mastermind



Ed Welther, Optimist-of-the-Year

behind all of the Fun and Frolics that we have all come to love and look forward to, he has helped with Tree Lot setup and construction, and this year designed and superintended the construction of our Fourth of July float. Ed is always willing to help out in any way he can to further the

programs that we sponsor for youth.

Ray Bochat, Kay Welther and Dianna Edwards received the President's Award. Besides being the other half of our Fun and Frolics, Ray has continued to chair our Fishing Derby for the past several years. Kay and Dianna have combined their talents to chair our Spring Celebration, which has become so popular with our own families. All three of them are regular attendees and workers at our various youth events.

In addition, Al Bayer was awarded a Special Recognition plaque. Al has been, this past year, a “Go-To” guy for our club. If there has been something that needed doing, he was there to do it, and right away.

As Chris Ladner was duly installed as our president, he was happy to have the pleasure of bringing his own wife, Judy, into the club. Judy and Chris have two children that some of us know very well from their participation in the Oratorical, Zack, a sophomore at Maine West, and Adrianna, who is in the fourth grade at Cumberland School.



Judy is originally from Washington, D.C. and was raised in the Akron, Ohio area. (Yea, OHIO) She is presently employed by Madsen, Kneppers and Associates as a consultant. This company, as we understand it, serves as a backup for insurance companies when it involves verifying and estimating the costs of rebuilding after a catastrophe. Needless to say, they have had lots of work down in Florida and the Bahamas, lately.

She graduated from University of Akron with a Fine Arts degree. Her major areas of concentration were silversmithing and weaving. She also holds an associates degree from Kent State University in Architectural Drafting.

Her hobbies include sewing, watercolors, and gardening. She is active in her church choir and has also served her church as Sunday School Superintendent.

As a new member, she is interested in helping to design a club pin and learning the fine art of wreath making. She also wants to get to

know all of us. That goes double for us, Judy, so please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to her when next you meet. For some of you that will be the celebration of our fiftieth birthday on November 6.

Our meeting adjourned with a raffle that involved, as always, prizes and not-so-prizes. The good thing was that you got to keep the little footballs that were part of the Fun and Frolics.

Our second meeting involved getting to know the committee structure of our club. We all know about the various activities that we sponsor and the chairs that we have for all of these events. There are many other possibilities, over and above membership and publicity. Prez Chris is interested in finding members who would like to serve in these capacities. We will hear more about this as the year progresses.

Ed and Ray put on a super spooky raffle for us. Some of us won prizes, and some only an Affy Tapple.

And so we start another year of serving youth in Des Plaines. With our Creed as our guide, and the leadership, both past and present, it cannot help but be another year of distinction for our club. Let’s all work to make it the very best ever!

### *With Sympathy*

**W**e were sorry to hear of a loss in Mary Alice Wenzl’s life this past week. Her step daughter, Kathy Tomasetti, passed away after suffering from pancreatic cancer since last October. This is a very painful type of cancer.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Mary Alice and her family.

## *So Long, Jim!*

Since 1986 Jim Woods has been an active, vital member of our club. He has been happy to sit in the back corner of the room at meetings, joking and harassing whomever happens to be at the microphone, and always questioning procedures and policies of the club.



Sometimes, all of that can be annoying. On the other hand, if Jim had not been there, questions that needed to be asked would not have been and all sides of an issue would not have been discussed.

Jim was sponsored in membership by Rich Grzebieniak and ever since then has served on a variety of committees as well as most recently serving as our club's vice president. Jim is always there when we have an outdoors event, willing to pitch in to help make the project a success.

It was Jim who decided, several years ago, that the club needed polo shirts and hats. So, he took care of that for us, and we are still proud to wear these at our functions. Jim has always followed through with his commitments to the club.

I will always think of Jim Woods when I think of the tree lot. I will remember the times when we were at Public Works, back in the weeds and muck, loading our wood from the previous year onto Paul Just's truck. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, this wood each year is transformed in to the racks that

hold the trees that eventually make the money to enable our club to do the good works it does with our youth.

I will remember Jim hooking up the electricity, phone and TV cables for the trailer each year and his not-so-gentle chiding if you weren't pulling your fair share of the load. And, of course, it was Jim who laid the ground work and made the connections for our tree lot to be relocated for this year's sales.

So, as the sun fades into the west, and Jim and Linda head off to the sunny climes of Arizona, we say "Adios, Jim." May your future be as sunny as your smile and may all of your optimism come true. We will miss you.

Hopefully, Jim will be able to attend one more meeting on November 4th.

## *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.

This year, as in the past, you will need a ticket to be admitted to the Mall.

We did not participate last year, but we will be doing so again, this year. Stacey has 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. Give her a call, (847) 294-0568, or email, [sdmag@comcast.net](mailto:sdmag@comcast.net), if you want tickets.

Please note that your money for these tickets and any unsold tickets must be turned in to Stacey at the November 17th meeting.

## ***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***

**W**e were sorry to hear that Ken Kehe's wife, Jeanne, has had a massive stroke. She is hospitalized and we will all be hoping and praying for healing to be brought to her body. Ken will still be attending our Fiftieth, but, sadly, without his lovely wife.

## ***Fiftieth***

**A**ll the finishing touches are being put in place for our celebration of our fiftieth birthday. Remember, drinks start at 6 PM (open bar), with dinner at 7 PM. It is going to be a great night. We have one member that some of us have never met, Don Jones, coming all the way from Minnesota. In 1979-1980 Don was president of our club.

Other dignitaries in attendance will be Dr. Jerry Wolf, Governor and Mike Koenig, Governor-Elect for the Illinois District. It will also be very special to have our two charter members, Ray Fiddelke and Del Johnson in attendance. Mayor Arredia and his wife will also celebrate with us.

After dinner we will have the Mother-of-all-Raffles and dancing to a live band until midnight. We will definitely "Party Hearty".

## **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!***

**W**e still have a few members who have yet to pay their dues. They need to be sent in to our Treasurer, Ray Kopecky, NOW. Please remit them to PO Box 1547, Des Plaines, IL 60017 (that is the correct zip code). Another possibility is to give them to him at The Fiftieth.



## *Tree Lot*

It won't be too long before all of us will be taking a turn working the Tree Lot, selling the Christmas Trees that help to fund all of our activities as well as providing the funds for the organizations that we sponsor. Ray Kopecky and Ed Welther will be chairing the Tree Lot this year and we will be following the same type of schedule as we have in the past.

The lot will only be successful if everyone who is physically able puts in the time necessary to put up the racks, unload the trees, and most importantly, sell them. Don't forget, there are lots of jobs that don't require you to be out in the cold or lifting trees on top of cars. We will need cashiers who will be in the warm trailer, and we will also need folk who will just come by to visit.

So, here is the schedule that we will be following to set up the lot. Our next club meeting of November 4 will be when we begin the sign up process for the lot. Please try to attend, as this is a most important meeting.



**I WANT YOU  
TO WORK THE  
TREE LOT**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Nov. 1 -6 | Trailer and wood delivered  |
| Nov. 6    | Stairs and electrical pole installed  |
| Nov. 13   | Racks constructed. We need lots of club help on this day. Bring your hammer.                            |
| Nov. 27   | Trees arrive. We need lots of club help on this day. Bring gloves. We begin selling trees on this date. |

## *November Birthdays*



We only have one member (hope we didn't miss anyone) that was born in the month of November. That member is:

**Ken Kehe**

and we wish him the very best!  
Many Happy Returns of the Day!



We don't seem to have any anniversaries, this month. We still have several members who have not reported their anniversaries. Hmmmm, wonder why that is?

## *Nov. 4th Meeting*

We will have a guest speaker at our Nov. 4th meeting. His name is Jerry Kowalski and he portrays Union General George Thomas. He, and his wife, will be coming in costume and he will tell us about Civil War enactment and, in particular, about the general he portrays. Thomas was one of Grant's officers and was a brilliant tactician, responsible for many Union victories. Be sure to attend this meeting.

## *Glenn's Quiz*

Glenn Swanson is always good enough to be an appetizer for our meals with a few jokes or probing questions. Sometimes, the jokes are actually funny, and most of the time the quizzes test our understanding of our community and nation. Here is the latest, with the answers. Thanks, Glenn

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. How many Vice Presidents have become President?             | 14             |
| 2. Illinois has how many Electoral College votes?              | 21             |
| 3. Which State has the most Electoral College votes?           | California     |
| 4. How many Electoral College votes are needed to win?         | 270            |
| 5. How many streets in Des Plaines are named after Presidents? | 11             |
| 6. How many ammendments to the U.S. Constitution?              | 27             |
| First ten of these are know as the?                            | Bill of Rights |
| Last ammendment was passed in?                                 | 1994           |
| 7. When did women gain the right to vote?                      | 1920           |
| 8. When was the income tax ammendment passed?                  | 1913           |
| 9. Now many Democratic Presidents have we had?                 | 16             |
| Republican?  | 17             |
| Whig Party?  | 4              |
| Federalist?  | 2              |
| 10. First Democratic President elected?                        | Andy Jackson   |
| 11. Which state has 34 Electoral College votes?                | Texas          |
| 12. Which state has 31 Electoral College votes?                | Florida        |
| 13. How many are on the Supreme Court?                         | 9              |
| 14. How many women are on the court?                           | 2              |

Thanks, again, Glenn

# **Don't forget to vote!!!!**

## *Friend of Youth*



### Coming Events

- Nov. 4 - **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 7 PM  
Guest Speaker
- Nov. 6 - **50th Anniversary Celebration** - Elk's Club, 6-7 PM cocktail hour, dinner and program to follow
- Nov. 18 - **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 7 PM
- Dec. 2 - **Meeting** - Tree Lot, 7 PM.  
There will be a Board Meeting prior to the regular meeting at 6:30 PM.
- Dec. 16 - **Meeting** - Tree Lot, 7 PM

## *Prez Sez*



I learned something between October 8th and 10th. The District Conventions are a bottomless lake of ideas, enthusiasm and fun.

As a first time attendee I was given the task of collecting as many signatures of Governors, Lt.Governors, Presidents, etc. as I could. The prize for the winner was half off registration for our next convention in February, and I'm proud to say I won.

Friday night there was a welcome party sponsored by the Oswegoland Club. Pizza and appropriate beverages were provided, and it was a welcome opportunity to meet and greet fellow Optimists from the Illinois District. I had a great conversation with Dave Bruns who is not only a lawyer and judge, but an International Vice President. I also talked with a Lutheran church elder, second generation Optimist, and Michael Angelo Caruso the professional speaker, author and consultant who wowed us at the International Convention in July.

Saturday was a busy day, beginning with an executive board meeting at 8:00 AM followed by updates from the District Committee chairs for the various programs sponsored by Optimist International, such as the Oratorical.

Question: Do you know what an "elevator speech" is, and do you have one prepared to tell a stranger about the benefits of being an Optimist member?

Answer: I learned from Michael Caruso that an elevator speech is one you can give in less than 30 seconds that will leave the listener thirsty for more information. Utilizing body language, eye contact, and carefully chosen words, Caruso convinced me that even in the brief time it takes an elevator to reach it's chosen floor, we can promote the cause of Optimism.

I could go on and on with what occurred, but what's more important is what I took home, and that is the fact that our club can grow, offer new programs, and further serve Des Plaines youth by implementing ideas garnered at District Conventions.

Keep February 18th and 19th open on your schedules. The next convention is at the Holiday Inn Select in Decatur, and I urge you to see for yourself just how much fun attending one can be.