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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
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.doptimists.org>

District Conference

Whenever you sign up to attend any type of conference, you find yourself reading the schedule of events and various meetings, deciding which you would like to go to, and which you have to attend. Our Illinois District conferences are no different.

As for the “meat and potatoes” part of the schedule, much of that occurred as it normally does in meetings where there is not only information given, but, more importantly, information shared. Some of this happened in sessions deliberately planned for by our district leadership, and some of it happened, as it always does, in the hospitality room, at the pizza party, luncheon and dinner. In fact, there was a great exchange of ideas with Governor Elect, Mike Koenig, that happened as we had breakfast on Sunday before the long journey home.

However, this conference, at least for this editor, was a bit different. As mentioned, there were still the “have-tos” and sessions that were optional, but there was a certain added ingredient or combination of components that made this one seem special.

It did not occur to me until the final dinner on Saturday. The governor, filling some time while the entertainment was arriving, asked each of us what the weekend had meant to us. I began to realize that this conference was different because, for the first time, I was involved with part of the district leadership as CIT Chair and editor of the District Bulletin. As

such, I had more of an active role in some of the sessions.

But then I also realized that it was so much more than that. Stacey and I have been going to these conferences for the past four years or more. We can still remember the very first time, signing in and going up to the Hospitality Room and introducing ourselves as members of the Optimist Club of Des Plaines.

There were so many names and so many clubs from various parts of the state. There were communities that we had never heard of and projects that these Optimists did that were so different from our club’s schedule of events, but so very vital to the youth of each of their respective communities.

And now, even though I have yet to visit any of these clubs outside of our zone, I have realized that these folks that we meet with on a quarterly basis are so much more than just fellow Optimists, they are now friends. So much so, that Stacey and I cannot think of what it would be like if some of them weren’t there.

Of course, each session, some aren’t in attendance, due to ill health or other commitments, and we miss not seeing them and being able to share the opportunity of making “our optimism come true” with them.

This is so very true for all of you as we like to think that you are not just members, but friends. We look forward to the next meeting or event where it is not just about the youth, but also about friendship.

Meetings

Our first meeting of the month was well attended and full of great fun. The Board of Directors had recommended that the membership consider changing the time that our meetings would start. After some discussion, the following was approved: 6:45 PM will have the Pledge and business meeting, 7:05 PM will have our prayer and dinner. This will still allow time for fellowship before we begin so that time will be available for fun and frolics as well as a guest speaker. We should be able to do all that we want and have the meeting over at a reasonable time.

After all of our excitement about having two bells, we were back to “business as usual” with no bell at all. However, this time their absence was not due to any thievery. Ed Welther is refurbishing the bell that Chris found on eBay. Our club bell has been on display for all to see in the case at city hall this past month. We thank Judy Ladner for doing that for the club.

Our Spring Celebration, which has been such a success these past two years, has been scheduled for May 1st from 11-2 PM at the West Park Building. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. If you should need further information or would like to help out, please contact Dianna Edwards at (847)296-6753, dedwardsboc@aol.com or Kay Welther at (847)985-1336, kmwelther@aol.com.

There are many folks out there that really should be getting into the fun of Optimism and learning what we all know to be true, that the giving of oneself to the Youth of Des Plaines is a very good thing. To that end, Prez Chris announced that the second meeting in April 21st, will be a bring-a-friend-to-a-meeting night. Each of us must have someone that we can invite and this is the time to do it. Now, if you don't happen to have any friends, or cannot find one that can come to this meeting, we still hope you will attend as all of you are needed to share the joy of Optimism with our guests. We know that Mr. Fun and Mr. Frolics will have lots of good times to share will all.

Ed Welther is coordinating the collection of money for those of you that would like to get in on the “Ball Drop” that will help to fund the OIJGC (Optimist International Junior Golf Championships) Midwest Qualifier that is sponsored by our Illinois District. For a mere \$100 per ball, you could win \$5,000. There will only be 150 balls sold. We hope to purchase a couple for the club, the winnings, of course, would go to our youth projects. Individuals are encouraged to contribute to buying a “group ball”. Contact Ed, at (847) 489-5216 or edsnetadd@comcast.net, if you want to get in on the fun. All he needs to know is your interest and how much you want to “donate” to the cause. He will get your money later. Thanks Ed, for spearheading this effort. To this date our club has purchased five balls!

Our Fun and Frolics is something to which we all look forward at each meeting. Once again Ed and Ray put on a great show as they presented a special Valentine Raffle. If your ticket was drawn, you could choose from one of several gift bags, or you might even have won a special prize. There were lots of each.

One of the first to win was Bob Bochat. Some of these prizes can be described, but you really had to be there to get the “full effect.” Bob's first prize was a set of “whistling lips.” There were also two spin-the-bottle pins (marked “for 16 and older”) won by Kay Welther and Prez Chris. We are sure that they will put these to good use.

Our second meeting of the month was a Valentine Spouse's Night. We enjoyed an evening filled with fun and fellowship with our spouses and fellow club members. Two “brags” were presented when Glenn asked, as he always does. Ernie Challberg was proud to announce that he and his bride would be celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary this month. We also heard from Prez Chris as he told us how his son, Zack, had won a special culinary award for salad making. Zack will go on to further competition and we wish him well!

(meetings, cont.)

Ed Welther presented an up-date on plans to reserve seats on an Am-Trak to allow us to ride and party in style as we go down to “The Big Easy” for this summer’s OI convention in New Orleans. Please see this information on the following page.

Kay reported that our Spring Celebration will be held after Easter this year. It will be a creative day for our families and friends that we invite. There will be two large and one small project that the children will be able to do. Two examples are decorating garden stones and making a bird feeder. Mark your calendars for May 1st.

Fun & Frolics was, as usual, just that. Everyone attending received a free ticket and if their ticket was drawn they were able to play a variety of games, one of which was “Let’s Make a Deal.” Don Moran (he really cut it with knowing the correct cheese prices) and Kay managed to make it to the final, grand prize game. Both were winners, receiving gift certificates to The Loft and Little Villa. We all left the evening with the warm glow of love and optimism.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting. It will be an important one as we will be approving the budget for our youth projects and club expenses. Please plan to be there.



Judy Ladner and Ed Welther at the District Conference

The nominating committee will be presenting the following slate of officers and board of directors for 2005-2006 at the first meeting in April. They are:

Officers

President - Chris Ladner
Vice President - Tom Swanson
Vice President - Paul Magnusson
Secretary - Diana Edwards
Treasurer - Ray Kopecky

Board of Directors

Al Bayer
Don Moran
Glenn Swanson
Ed Welther

March Birthdays



Several of our members are older this month. They are:

Bob Ehlert
Rich Rogers
Fred Triebe
and
Ed Welther

We wish them the very best!
Many Happy Returns of the Day!

OPTIMIST 2005 New Orleans Convention

6-9 July 2005

For this venture Ed will be working with Ray Bochat to organize all travel arrangements. Rooms are the responsibility of individuals or small groups and information for both travel and room accommodation is shown below.

TRAVEL

Ed has reserved 24 seats on Amtrak Railway "Train 59 – City of New Orleans". The return train is "Train 58".

These seats are 14 regular rates at \$150.40 each round trip. I also have an additional 10 seats classified as Senior Citizen (62 and up) at a cost of \$127.84 round trip.

There are currently 13 sleeper rooms available at \$101 round trip and 11 @ \$126.00 round trip.

All these accommodations require deposits by 17 March and full payment by 23 May. I can make the deposits for anyone interested (for the club) and collect the monies at the next two meetings.

Additional seats and or rooms are on an 'as available basis' so don't hesitate to confirm your spot.

The train leaves Union Station on Tuesday, 5 July at 8 PM. It will take 19 hours and 31 minutes to arrive in New Orleans. That's 3:31 PM on Wednesday, 6 July.

The return trip leaves New Orleans on 10 July arriving back in Chicago on 11 July.

The train has numerous means of food and dining. It is a NO SMOKING train although passengers are allowed off for a smoke at the longer stops.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Hilton – Riverside. In the heart of downtown New Orleans alongside the Mississippi River. It hosts over 1600 rooms, several restaurants and grills, lounges, gift shops, two pools, tennis, racquet ball, gym. More information can be gotten on line at www.hiltonfamilyneworleans.com/riverside.html.

Nearby attractions include a Six Flag Theme Park, Zoo, Aquarium, Children's Museum, Parks, Shopping, and of course New Orleans' own French Quarter, markets, etc.

Ed will copy housing request forms and will have these available at the next meetings. These need to be mailed by 8 June and all reservation accommodations are on a first-come-first-served basis.

You may also call the Hilton direct at (504) 561-0500, or call toll free at 1-800-Hiltons (445-8667), which is a central number for reservations, located in Dallas, TX.

Accommodations include Single (1 bed 2 people), Double (2 beds 2 people), quad (2 beds 4 people), roll-away etc are available as well as rooms for physically impaired access. Rates begin at \$95 for single / double and \$115 for triple / quad.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Ed will have copies of registration forms at next meetings or they can be found in your OI International Winter 2005 magazine, which also lists a schedule of meetings and events.

Better Late Than Never

Each month we hope that we have not missed someone's special day, and continually ask members to help us update our files. Well, it was the first time that found out from our good friend Ernie Challberg, that he and his wife were celebrating, last month, their 61st Anniversary! Wow oh wow! Happy Belated Anniversary!

Rest assured, we have corrected our records and wish them many more. How many of you, out there in Optimist Land, have not reported your anniversary to Paul. Please do so. We don't want to accidentally find out about your special day!



We wish a very happy anniversary to Glenn Swanson and his lovely bride, Milda, who were married 52 years ago this month and Stan and Donna Catlett, who are celebrating their 32nd. We extend congratulations and best wishes to both couples from us all!



We now have two bells!

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

PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA!

This coming Sunday, on March 6th, we will be working the Best Pizza Contest of the Northwest Suburbs, which is sponsored by the Journal. We will need lots of help and look forward to the club "stepping up to the plate" for this fun and easy way to make some extra cash for the club.

Set-up will be at 10:30 AM at the Leisure Center, north of Iroquois School. We should be done and out the door by 2:30 PM.

If you can help or have any questions, give Prez Chris a call.



Our Valentine's Spouse's Night found two pairs of love birds in attendance who had been married the longest: Stan and Donna Walgreen for 45 years and Stan and Donna Catlett, for 32 years, this week. We wonder how many clubs have two Stans and two Donnas?



Bowling for Youth

Last year we began a program that, like many first time efforts, had some problems. Ours was one of excess. We had too many kids for the bowling alley to handle easily, although River-Rand was most accommodating and there were no youth that were denied the opportunity to bowl.

This year's event has been scheduled for Monday, March 28, and happens to coincide with Spring Break. So, we are hoping that this will provide for a nice way for our youth to begin their vacation. We plan to limit the participation, per school, so that we won't have to squeeze so many onto the alleys.

Vern Luebbers and Paul Magnusson co-chair this event and will need lots of help. Please contact either of them if you can help.

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- Mar. 3 - **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 6:45 PM
Budget Approval Meeting
- Mar. 6 - **Pizza Contest** - Leisure Center,
10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- Mar. 17 - **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 6:45 PM
- Mar. 18 - **Oratorical Contest** - Room C
of the Library, 6:30 PM
- Mar. 28 - **Bowling for Youth** - 9:30 AM
to 12 Noon, River-Rand Bowl
- Mar. 31 - **Board Meeting** - St. Martin's
Parish House, 7 PM (This is the
last Thursday of the month due to
Holy Week)

Please note: Oratorical youth will be presenting their speeches on March 4 and 11, prior to the final contest, at 6:30 PM at the Library. Stop by to hear and support their efforts.



Prez Sez

The annual budget will be presented to the club for approval at the March 3rd meeting. I find the fact that we hold this meeting in spring significant. As the earth shakes off the remains of winter and bursts forth into new life, the Optimist Club of Des Plaines also bursts forth with new funding for both new ideas and old favorites. Both spring and a new budget promise hope for the future. I look forward to a wonderful turnout for this very important meeting. Remember, meetings will now start at 6:45, instead of 7:00.

There have been N.O.W. programs in our history, round-ups to bring former members back into the clubs, and currently our international president is pushing his "Just Ask" program. With the idea of increasing our roster firmly in mind, the April 21st meeting will be a night to B.A.F.F.L.E. people. That is, Bring-A-Friend- For-Laugh-And-Eats.

This is an opportunity to let a friend learn about the club in a low pressure and friendly manner.

I want to make this night as special as possible. I will be asking the top finishing boy and girl and their parents from our Oratorical contest to attend, and to share their speeches. The posters done by the third through fifth graders will be done by that time, and I will arrange to have them available for viewing, as well as having the top boy and girl and their parents also attend as our guests. If anybody has any ideas on how to add to the festivities, please share them with me.

Most importantly, I want every member to try and think of just one person they can invite who would be an asset to our club.

As I see it, if half of our usual attendees bring a guest, that would be about 12 potential new members. If all guests join, our roster improves greatly.

Does this sound a little too hopeful? Remember the name of our club. I am, and will remain, an Optimist.