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# Pipeline Newsletter

## Lots to Do



### Optimist Club of Des Plaines

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

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I love to look back over my shoulder. By that, I mean I like to see how far I have come, how much progress I have made. Sometimes it feels as though things are in “slow motion,” but when you look back you are amazed at what has really transpired.

In regards to our club, we can all be truly proud that we are involved in an active club and one that promises to become even more so as our members come forward with ideas of how we can better serve the youth in our community.

We are midway in our year, which begins for us in October. What has happened in our club since then? Well, we can start with a wonderful celebration of our Fiftieth. (Yeah, I know, I promised you all a special issue and with one thing or the other, have not gotten around to it. It'll come, before our next fiftieth, I promise!!!). That party was a big undertaking and we did it with style.

Next, we had our tree lot. A new location that posed all kinds of potential difficulties, but our new leadership rose to the occasion and we, once again, were able to sell the trees in order to make the money for our youth projects and club activities.

Then we began another year of Oratorical with some new ideas on how to help the youth construct more effective speeches. That has recently concluded with the same polish and success of previous years. Besides lots of gifts and awards the participants have also been given a DVD of the

night's activity. It looks and sounds very professional and their families can view either the entire evening, or jump to each individual speech, if they like.

Just before the Oratorical we had the Pizza Tasting/Contest. This is the second year we have joined with our friends at the Journal and Topics for this project. It was a fun, delicious way to earn some extra cash for the club.

Hot on the heels of the Oratorical was our Bowling for Youth program. It was held on the first day of spring break. Likewise, it was successful and full of joy as youth, grades K-5, some with bumpers up and some with them down, enjoyed a morning of bowling.

At the same time, we have sent out invitations for students to make posters as part of an OI Illinois District contest. This is a first time event for us and we hope to have their entries for the second meeting in April for our membership to judge.

We can also look forward to our Spring Celebration. This will be our third year getting together with family and friends to revel in the beginnings of warm weather and rebirth. Kay and Ed Welther are hard at work with preparations for this May 1 (May Day) event.

Looking even further down the road, we have Outdoor Meetings, Fourth-of-July Parade, OI International Convention in New Orleans, and our Junior Golf, which has gotten bigger and better each (continued on next page)

(Lots to Do, cont. from pg. 1)

year, to look forward to. Then we ease into fall and start it all over again. I must also say, that there is the feeling in the air that we will be bringing in new members, with new ideas for projects and activities that we can do for our youth and community.

Normally, this would be the kind of report that could tire a person out. However, for me, as I look back with pride at our accomplishments, I am also able to look forward with the anticipation of what is to come for the rest of our year. I hope that you are as excited about our future as I am and that we will see you at our next meeting as we chose our leaders for this coming year (free meal!!!) and “press on to the greater achievements of the future.”

### *Meetings*

**O**ur first meeting of the month was run by Prez of Vice, Paul. Prez Chris was in the Carolinas with an ailing father-in-law, who ultimately passed away. Our sincere regrets on their loss go out to Judy and Chris.

The meeting was one whose main purpose was to present the budget for the new year for our club activities and operations. Treasurer Ray did just that and, after a few questions, the budget was approved as presented.

Our second meeting of the month revolved around an Irish theme as it was St. Patty's Day. Although the beer was not green the Corned Beef was, (no, just kidding). But it, along with the cabbage and potatoes, was almost as good as the friendship and fellowship.

Diana presented Prez Chris and club with an award that was given to us by the city for the trees that we donate for the kids to decorate in Library Plaza. Please see Diana so that you can sign up for a month during which you may display the award in your home.

Chris reminded us all that our second meeting in April will be one dedicated to increasing our membership. We also heard about the Oratorical Contest from Paul and the Spring Celebration from Kay and Ed. Please refer to articles about these events later in this issue.



Our next meeting is this coming Thursday and will be an election night, steak and all the fixins and, the price is right. If you would like fish, please remember to call the Elk's Club, (847) 824-1556, to order that. Make sure you tell them that it is for our meeting and to also give them your name. This dinner is on the club, so please come, eat, and vote.

### *Post Office Box Change*

**T**he Board recently, upon Ray Kopecky's recommendation, has decided to change our PO Box. The one we had was really too big for our present needs, so to save some club money we now have a smaller one. Everyone should be aware that means a new number. So, our official address is now PO Box 1551. Anything sent to the old one will be forwarded for the coming year.

### *Vanguard Fund*

**T**he club has had a “Rainy Day Fund” for over ten years. It is no longer earning us much interest, and so the Board has proposed that we transfer these funds into an account which is administered by the OI Foundation. The Foundation does many things for our organizations and youth, not the least of which is to provide for all of the scholarship prizes presented throughout the year.

We will be guaranteed an interest rate of

(*Vanguard Fund*, cont. from previous page)

4%, have complete access to our funds after 90 days, and have the satisfaction of knowing that our “Rainy Day Money” is also helping youth.

In order for this transfer from the Vanguard account to the Foundation account to take place, we must have membership approval. This proposal will be presented to the club at our next meeting.

### ***Out Door Meetings***

**Y**es, we will have Out Door Meetings this summer. Tom Swanson will chair the coordination of what has become a favorite way for us to meet in the warm weather of summer. We will begin with the second Thursday in June and end with the first meeting in September. We have already had homes volunteered by our board and a detailed listing of locations and dates will be published in the June issue of the *Pipeline*.

As always, these meetings will require some extra help for setup, cooking, etc. Tom is only going to coordinate, not “do” all that must be done, so start thinking about how you can be a part of what has meant so much to many of us these past years.



A young lady models the back of our shirt as she picks up a spare.

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:

Bill Atherton  
Don Jones  
Steve Kozak  
and  
Glenn Swanson

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

## *Oratorical 2005*



Our annual Oratorical program was held this past March 18th at the Des Plaines Public Library. Each youth had to prepare a 4-5 minute speech over the topic "My Hero Is..." Each year it is so gratifying to not only observe the development of each child, but to be also amazed at how they are each able to take the topic and, from their own experience, write a persuasive speech. This year we were able to present each family with a DVD of their child's performance, something we are sure was not only appreciated but will be valued in the years to come. The Oratorical is chaired by Paul Magnusson. His committee is truly the reason for the success of these young people. They are: Chris Ladner, Andy Piscitello, Bob Kraft, Del Johnson, Don Moran, Al Bayer and Steve Meinecke. Thanks for your hard work and dedication.



Bronze Medalists, Elyssa Salinas and William Kazakis



Gold Medalists, James Vernola and Melissa Szanati



Silver Medalists, Shabana and Shaif Yusufshaq

## ***B.A.F.F.L.E. Night***

Normally, when a club has a meeting that is designed to bring in new members, it is called a N.O.W., or New Optimist Wanted, night. Since we strive to do things with a certain, distinctive flare, our evening to do this will be called B.A.F.F.L.E., or Bring A Friend For Laughs and Eats. Prez Chris' brain child, it will be held on our second meeting of this month, April 21.

This is a very important night in the life of our club as it is hoped that members will "Just Ask" someone to come to join in this experience, which is service to youth and great fellowship and fun, as well.

Now if it so happens that all of your friends are already members and you can't think of anyone else to invite, well, that's ok. We still need you to be at this meeting so that just your presence, friendly smile, and optimistic attitude will be on display. We will have a special presentation about our club for prospective members to see and we hope that you will be anxious to see it, as well.

We will also be treated to our winning speeches from the Oratorical and the posters that have been submitted for judging. All in all, it will be a great night. So, April 21st, mark it down so that your fellow club members and friends-to-be will be so much the better because of your attendance.



Steve Meinecke, in a very hot suit. Steve is the one with the ears. We tried to find Don Moran, who had a similar assignment at K-Mart, but were told that he was not on duty, darn!

## **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



We wish a very happy anniversary to Ralph Cote and his lovely bride, Ruth, who were married 58 years ago this month. WOW!!

We extend congratulations and best wishes to this wonderful couple.

## *Spring Celebration*

**F**or the past several years we have had a very special program for our club and extended family called Spring Celebration. This year, we are not holding it during the Easter season, but rather on May 1st. What could be more glorious than to celebrate May Day together.

There has been some concern that this date change was going to necessitate our erecting a May Pole and subjecting all to learning the corresponding dance. Have no fear! That particular activity is **not** on the agenda.

Instead, we will have food and snacks and lots of activities and projects for kids to do. Ed Welther has been busy at work putting the kits together, but we will need lots of you to help with the construction of the bird houses, garden stones, etc.

This year, we hope that you will not only invite your family to attend, but also friends and neighbors. This might be the activity that introduces someone to the Wonderful World of Optimism.

If you have any questions contact Kay Welther at (847)985-1336, [kmwelther@aol.com](mailto:kmwelther@aol.com) or Diana Edwards at (847)296-6753, [dedwardsboc@aol.com](mailto:dedwardsboc@aol.com).

## *PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA!*

**T**hanks to all who were able to help out with the Pizza Taste/Contest his past month. Our share of the proceeds was even better than last year and will be used to benefit the club. We express appreciation to our friends at the Journal for allowing us to help them with this event.

Pictured below are those members that were able to be on hand to set-up, tear down, help with the general cleaning during the program, take tickets and, or course, sample the wares. Don Moran is not pictured as he was out, greeting his public, while the shutter was being snapped.



## *Friend of Youth*



### Coming Events

- Apr. 7 - **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 6:45 PM  
Election Night - **FREE** Meal
- Apr. 16 - **Regional Oratorical Contest**,  
10 am. Sterling, IL
- Apr. 21 - **B.A.F.F.L.E. Meeting** - Elk's  
Club, 6:45 PM
- Apr. 28 - **Board Meeting** - St. Martin's  
Parish House, 7 PM
- May 1 - **Spring Celebration** - 11 AM-  
2PM West Park



## *Prez Sez*

"I get by with a little help from my friends." - John Lennon

**J**ohn Lennon's quote is more than just a lyric from a catchy Beatles' tune. We all get by with help from our friends to triumph over adversity, share each other's joys, and share the fellowship of our wonderful organization called the Optimist Club of Des Plaines.

When you have something as special and precious as we have, the natural thing to do is to want to share it. I am asking everyone to become an evangelist of sorts and spread the word of not only Optimist International's wonderful mission, but the tremendous things the Optimist Club of Des Plaines does as well. OI could hire the most skilled-at-advertising, public relations guru in the world, and still not as successful selling the benefits of membership as one enthusiastic club member.

April 21st is our B.A.F.F.L.E night, bring a friend for laughs and eats. If all goes well, I hope our winning boy and girl from the Oratorical contest will deliver their speeches, the entries from the 2005 poster contest will be available for viewing, our "menu" of the many we things we host and support financially will stun and amaze, and our natural enthusiasm and warmth will not only make our guests feel at ease, it will make them wonder why they never thought of joining the club before.

Please call me or send an email with your guest's information as you get it. A successful recruiting night involves many things, including recognizing guests for their special talents and seating people together whom you feel will bond with each other.

Prior to the BAFFLE night, though, is our election. I hope to see a HUGE turnout of members on this very important occasion. Always remember: **TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC YOU HAVE ACT ENTHUSIASTIC!**

### **Roster Correction**

Please correct your rosters so that you have the correct phone number for Jim and Linda Woods in Arizona. It is: (408) 802-1038.