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Pipeline Newsletter



Optimist Club of Des Plaines

President – Chris Ladner
Vice President – Tom Swanson
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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 1551
Des Plaines, IL 60017
Phone: (847) 827-1444
Fax: (847) 296-5624
E-mail: ladnercj@yahoo.com

On the Web:
<http://www.dpoptimists.org>

Start Your Engines!

That familiar exhortation, long associated with the Indy 500, (do they still call it that?) begins this annual test of driving ability, team work, and fast-moving vehicles. Likewise, our club has started its “engine” as we move into one of our busiest times of year. There are all kinds of activities and opportunities for not only service to youth, but good fun and fellowship, as well.

In what has become an annual event, Kay Welther and Dianna Edwards provided an afternoon of great enjoyment for our families with their Spring Celebration. This year’s craft kits were a new activity that brought together youth and adults.

Al Bayer and crew followed upon this success with our Kite Fly. There were 39 youth in attendance as well as lots of members to help with registration, kite construction, and cooking. Representatives from the Police and Fire Departments were on hand to add to the event. It was a glorious day and fun was had by all.

Special thanks go out to members who were there to lend a hand: Bob Bochat, Ray Bochat, Dianna Edwards, Chris and Judy Ladner, Steve Meinecke, Rich Rogers, Glenn

Swanson, Tom Swanson, Dennis Vernola, Stan Walgreen, Mary Alice Wenzl, and Kay Welther. We hope we didn’t miss anyone. All of our activities do not happen without leadership. In this case, it was provided by Al Bayer. Thanks, Al.

Our annual Fishing Derby, started long ago by Dick Hissong, will be presented

this coming weekend. Plan to come to help out with this fun time as our youngsters pound the waters of Lake Opeka in search of fish. The day will start at 8 AM for setup and will finish after lunch.

Our club has had representation in our City’s Fourth of July Parade for many years. This year will be no different and will



Spring Celebration

have a slightly different twist than previous parades. Ed Welther plans to decorate two cars (any convertibles available?) so that our older members who cannot walk the entire length of the parade can ride in comfort.

In between will be a shopping cart brigade that should be great fun. Paul Magnusson will whip up some easy “marching band” maneuvers for us to do that will amuse the crowd and

(continued from page one)
annoy those following us, as we hold up the parade to “do our thing.” If you would like to be included in this frivolity, be sure to let Paul know, (847) 294-0568 or pmagnusson@comcast.net.

August 10 will find approximately 150 youth participating in our annual Jr. Golf match at Lake Opeka. Try to plan your life so that you can be there to help out as this is a big event that calls for lots of help from all. There will be two shotgun starts, the first at 7AM and the second at 10:30 AM. This year we will feed the troops at the end of each session, as well as give out prizes and awards. This will make the day easier for parents and kids that are there for the early start.

Stan Walgreen is chair of the golf outing.

Well, that takes us through the summer, but one more important activity is our meetings. This coming Thursday will be our last one that we will hold at the Elk’s Club until next September. Summer outdoor meetings will begin on June 16. Please see the schedule printed later on in this issue.

Meetings

Our meetings this past month were highlighted by our club’s membership increasing. This is a direct result of our B.A.F.F.L.E Night. Dennis Vernola and Tony Gates joined our midst at the first meeting and Toby Gilbert joined us on the second. Toby had been invited to our B.A.F.F.L.E. Night but was unable to attend due to illness. He made up for that by coming to our first meeting this month.

Spring Celebration

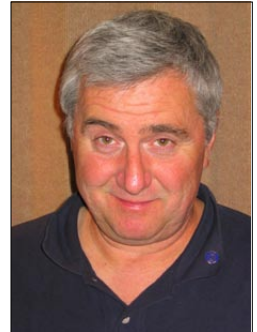
Kay Welther and Dianna Edwards are to be commended, once again, for organizing and providing a wonderful activity for our families to enjoy. This was the first year that the event was held after Easter. In fact, the date just happened to be the weekend before Mother’s Day and as such provided an opportunity for youth to create many wonderful gifts that will be cherished for year’s to come.

Special thanks to Ed Welther, who helped to put together the many kits and projects with which both adults and youth had fun.

New Members

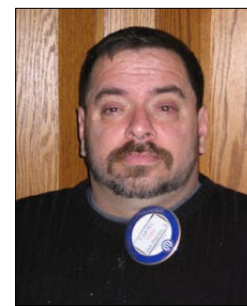
We have several new folk for you to meet. They are new members that will be there to work for the youth and with the membership. We hope that you will introduce yourself to them and get to know them at your earliest opportunity.

Dennis Vernola is a new member with ideas and excitement about what we can do to enhance tree lot sales and do more for the youth of Des Plaines. Already, in a short time, he has shown that he has many ideas that, when implemented, should bring more people to the lot. He has lots of interests and ideas and has already helped out by taking digital pictures of the Kite Fly. (see next issue)



One of his claims to fame is that he is the father of James Vernola, our Regional Oratorical Champ.

Tony Gates is a very close friend of Eric Suevel and yet another former student of Paul’s. He is one of eleven children and has lived in Des Plaines his



whole life. He has worked for Contour Saw for the past 20 years. His large family has meant that he is uncle to 57 nieces and nephews, which give him great delight. A five year Cancer survivor, Tony is interested in anything that he can do to benefit

youth.

(New Members cont, next page)

With Sympathy

We extend our deepest regrets to Fred Triebe over the loss of his dear wife, Jean. Her passing was a result of many years of failing health, during which her devoted husband, Fred, saw to her every need.

(New Members, cont.)



Toby Gilbert has lived in Des Plaines for 40 years. He has been Married for 28 Years to his wife, Jane. They have two sons, Shawn and Gavin.

He has been in Real Estate for 3 Years. His wife is one of the owners of Norbert Pool's in Niles. He tells us that he likes to joke around., saying that "I think your SMILE is contagious."

His friendly smile and positive attitude will indeed make him an asset to our club.

Isn't this great, and we have just learned, as we are about to "go to press," that Diane Graham, who was Dianna's guest at our B.A.F.F.L.E NIGHT will also be joining our club.

WOW! Five new members!

June Birthdays



We have members who are celebrating a birthday this month.

They are:

Bob Bochat

Ralph Cote

Peggy Higgins

Steve Meinecke

and

Charlie Schmidt

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

Summer Meetings

Summer meetings is something that we look forward to each year, even though it means a little more effort for the club. Tom Swanson will be chairing this committee again this year and, although we have hosts for each of the meetings, we will need Captains who will help to decide the menu, procure the food and help to cook it. See Tom if you are interested in helping. The following schedule is meant to inform and remind. Clip it out and put it on the fridge. The Fourth of July Parade will substitute for a meeting the first week of July.

June 16 Steve Meinecke - 1341 Evergreen Avenue

July 21 Chris Ladner - 197 Warrington

August 8 Stacey and Paul Magnusson - 175 N. Wolf Road (yes, you can park on Wolf after 6 PM)

August 22 Tom Swanson - 110 Wisconsin Drive

Ahhhh.....barbeque and the great Outdoor Meetings!

PLEASE NOTE: This year you will need to bring your own lawn chair as we can no longer get them from the Park District.

The first meeting in September will find us back at the Elk's Club.



Four of our members are celebrating their anniversaries this month.

They are:

Ray Kopecky (35)
Tom Swanson (14)
Norm Voss (55)
Stan Walgreen (46)

We wish them the happiest of happys on their special day!

We hope we haven't missed anyone.

District Conference

The district conference was held in Bloomington and held its usual mix of fellowship, training, and information from around the district. This one was particularly special as we had an entry in the District Oratorical Contest, James Vernola. Unfortunately, James did not receive the scholarship. We all felt so bad for him, but his response, afterwards was, "Each year I have improved. The first year I won nothing, the second year I got to Regionals and this year to the District Contest. I can't wait until next year!" What a great kid!

Roster Change

Del Johnson is now living at the following address: 907 West Willow Lane, Mt. Prospect, 60056. His phone is (847) 981-0734.

On-the-Mend

Bob Bochat has recently undergone knee replacement and has been in and out of rehab. In fact, he felt well enough to attend the Kite Fly and help out with the cooking, like he usually does. What a guy!

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

On the same note, Vern Luebbers has also had a knee replacement (gee I hope this isn't catching) and is presently going through rehab and is scheduled to return home on June 8. We wish them well and look forward to their quick recovery.



Doesn't the hospital gown bring out the color in Bob's eyes?

Friend of Youth



Coming Events

- June 2 - **Meeting** - Elk's Club, 6:45 PM
- June 4 - **Fishing Derby** - Lake Opeka,
8 AM to 1 PM
- June 16 - **Meeting** - Steve Meinecke's,
1341 Evergreen Avenue, 6:45 PM
- June 23 - **Board Meeting** - St. Martin's
Parish House, 7 PM
- June 24-25 - **Garage Sale** at the Prez's
- July 4 - **Parade** - Meet at Romanos. Step
off is at 10:30. The theme is 170
years of History.



Prez Sez

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give" - Winston Churchill

Eric Suevel, Dennis Vernola, Tony Gates, and Toby Gilbert... Over the past few weeks I've had the pleasure of inducting four new members into our club. That's four people willing to share their time and talents for the good of our cause. It's wonderful when you can go to a district convention and report that the club is

in a growth spurt instead of a decline. Much credit must go to Stan Walgreen, for sponsoring Toby, Paul Magnusson for sponsoring Dennis and new member Eric, who persuaded Tony to join. Actually, Tony was also sponsored by Paul, his former teacher. This shows what a ripple effect one sponsorship can have where a former teacher of Eric gets him to join, Eric persuades long time friend Tony to join, and so it goes.

It's funny how getting involved in an organization gradually becomes a huge part of your life. How huge? Well, Judy and I recently celebrated our 11th anniversary. Now, some people might go to a romantic bed and breakfast for a quiet weekend. Not us. We spent it in Bloomington with other Optimists from around the state, listened to the Oratorical finals, and had a whale of a time doing it.

If spending my anniversary at an Optimist event is a clue that I enjoy the club, then accepting an invitation from incoming governor Mike Koenig to take over as Lt Governor for our zone when Stacey's term expires is proof positive. It'll be a challenge being a President/Lt Gov, but if the other clubs are filled with members, committees, and a board as dependable and talented as ours, then it'll be easy work. (Note this is said well before I take office)

Did you know June is Childhood Cancer Awareness month? Of all the things Optimists do, I think this is the most compelling. We've helped out a few youths in our community which makes me immensely proud. With that awareness in mind, I want your junk. Or should I say "junque." You see, there's a huge neighborhood garage sale in my subdivision on June 24-25. I want to have members drop off their gently used clothes, electronics, gardening items, tools, etc at my home. I'll sell them, and all proceeds can go to our cancer fund. It's a great way to clean out your house and do a good deed.

We have a busy summer season coming up. Fishing derby, golf, the parade, and summer meetings will keep us hopping. Let's all pitch in to lend a hand as needed and keep our Optimism alive.

You may contact the Prez regarding your "junque" at: (847) 827-1444

