

Pipeline Newsletter

Optimist Club of Des Plaines

Newsletter Date September 1, 2007

Thoughts from President Tom

I thought I'd write a few paragraphs to say hello and to let you know the state of the club.

We are in rebuilding mode. By that I mean, we are in search for new members. To date, we have had (3) new members join our club since the first of the year.

Although we are not blazing any trails, this is a very positive sign. I still encourage everyone to bring a friend. It doesn't matter which meeting, just bring them.

I recently attended the Illinois Optimist Convention August 10 –12, in Lake Shelbyville, Illinois. It was fun to share ideas with other Optimist Club members throughout the state. There is a common thread when you begin to form relationships with these members. That thread is that these people really care about what they do for the children of their community. I see that same quality in our club. Let's continue our efforts.

Thank you Chris Ladner for stepping in to become our new pipeline editor. Chris does an enormous amount of work for this club in addition to being the Lt. Governor for our region.

Thank you to Stan Walgreen and Stacey for their efforts on the Junior Golf project. We had about (80) golfers show up even though the weather was hot and sticky. Thanks also to those who volunteered that event. You know who you are.

Remember, we are moving from the great outdoors to the fabulous Elks Club Lodge. I hope to see everyone September 6.

Tom

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It's easy to make a buck.
It's a lot tougher to make
a difference.-Tom
Brokaw

Sept 6th dinner:
Fried chicken, potatoes
au gratin & apple pie!

Sept 20th dinner:
Ham, sweet potatoes &
chocolate parfait

Remembering Steve Kozak

Former member Steve Kozak passed away far too soon on Thursday, August 17th, 2007. He was 53.

A member of the club from 1986 to 2005, Steve's vision and dedication as Tree Lot Chair benefited the club greatly for many years. He was active in other offices as well, and earned the respect and friendship of all.

His wife, Patricia, and children Koreen, Eric, Nicole, grandson Tyler Grembowski, and many nieces and nephews survive Steve. Eric is nine, and a student at Cumberland Elementary

If you would like to make a memorial, the family is requesting it be sent to American Heart Association, Memorial and Tribute Lockbox, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674

NEW DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again when we ask each of our members to reach deep into their pockets and pay \$60.00 to renew their membership in our club. Statements will be mailed shortly, and prompt payment is appreciated.

Paying the annual dues is never fun, but when you write your check, think for a moment of the importance of that expense, then realize that \$60.00 a year is about .17 cents **A DAY**. That's less than a price of a cup of coffee by 1960's prices.

Once again, our dues are the lowest in Zone One and among the lowest in the state.

MEAL PRICES TO INCREASE

After meeting with Elks Club manager Randy Menzies and planning the menus for 2007-2008, he announced that dinner prices will increase by 15%, to \$15.00.

Nobody likes paying more, but increases passed on to the Elks have been passed to us. Is \$15.00 too much to pay for a four-course meal including tip? Some members may wish to shop around and see if any local venues would welcome a club meeting twice a month that averages 15-20 in attendance. If you have suggestions, questions, or concerns, please share them with a board member.

GOVERNOR EMERY TO VISIT SEPTEMBER 6TH

We will be honored with a visit from Gov. Jerry Emery at our first meeting in

September. Jerry will begin his second term on October 1st. His enthusiasm for all thing Optimist is simply amazing. I don't know how many miles he's driven in the past year attending conferences, training sessions and visiting clubs, but it must be in the thousands. Let's welcome Jerry with all our warmth, display our bell and banner with pride, and prepare to begin another Optimist year.

JUNIOR GOLF REVISITED



The weather On our August golf outing was not the type that makes one yearn to be outdoors. Hot and muggy, with a threat of rain, it was rain forest like at best. That didn't deter dozens of youth and dedicated Optimist volunteers from making sure the event went off as scheduled. The participation was down from last year's record high because the Park District is now aiming the program at a younger group, which has caused the high-school age youth to drop off.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED

If you take a moment of how much we do for our community, you realize that to accomplish these things it takes the work of many people. We have no fewer than 10 areas that need people to either run them, or assist the people that have volunteered to do so. These will be discussed on committee night-October 18th-but this list is food for thought. "Chew" on the idea of becoming involved on one of these, and your optimism will grow.

C.C.C.-Childhood Cancer Committee. From placing coin banks to arranging for possible sponsoring of a youth to Camp One Step or Camp Coco, this is an area that we have not participated in much in the past. Why not make 2008 the year we jump in.

O.I. Foundation Without a foundation, there would be no scholarships for Oratorical, essay, or golf winners, no funding for pediatric cancer research, and many other O.I. activities would suffer. Why not jump in and I

Oratorical: Chris Ladner will chair, but can't do it alone. There are coaches needed, people to help with refreshments on contest night, and possibly members to help out as judges. This is our most intensive event, in terms of working with kids-and our most rewarding.

Essay-Zack Ladner has agreed to chair this. We accept at large essays from areas where there is no club, or the local one does not participate. He'll need help in getting three judges with superb English skills to pick a winner, as well as with the other details

Poster-Judy Ladner will be contacting the schools to encourage participation by the 3rd to 5th graders. Last year, sadly, not one school participated. Perhaps 2008 will bring a better response. Help would be needed in picking up the finished posters and setting them up for judging.

Golf: This has become a hugely popular event, and it must be coordinated with the park district, prizes must be obtained, and help is needed both on the links and in registration and cooking.

Fishing- Help will be needed in registration, cooking, measuring the catches, and yes, baiting hooks.

Kite Fly- Can you assemble, demonstrate, and otherwise assist?

Fun/Frolics Let's bring this one back. It may be silly, but it sure is fun.

Eighth Grade Awards. Diana Edwards does a superb job of contacting schools, but we need representatives to attend the ceremonies, pass them out, and perhaps say a few words about the club and the award winner. Feel comfortable speaking to a crowd? Then this is for you.

Finance/Income: We can't give it out if we don't bring it in. Can you think of creative yet feasible ways to increase revenue?

Tree Lot: This is the most labor intensive thing we do. For 30 days we attempt to move lumber, and we need all who can to volunteer at least two shifts-or about eight hours.

Membership- Without new members and the positive energy they bring, clubs wither and die. Can you think of ways to promote our club in ways that will make people want to join?

This month's birthday celebrant is our former president, Lt. Governor, and teacher par excellence, Stacey Magnusson. Happy birthday Stacey, and may you soon drive the pink Cadillac!

There are no couples in our club celebrating their anniverseries that I know of in September. Last month, I omitted the fact the Jerry O'Leary observed his 40th year of wedded bliss. Congratulations, Jerry!

Positive things happen to positive people-Sarah Beeny



REAL (SUPPOSEDLY) EXCUSE NOTES TO SCHOOL

September means the end of summer, the beginning of school, and if the teachers I have known ever get anything close to notes like these, please share them.

Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.

Please excuse Gloria from Jim today. She is administrating.

Please excuse Burma, she has been sick and under the doctor.

Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.

I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.

Please excuse Mary for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.

Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.