

# Pipeline Newsletter

## Optimist Club of Des Plaines

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### Thoughts from President Tom

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Upcoming Events

January 4<sup>th</sup> Oratorical meeting Chris  
and Judy Ladner's seven p.m.

January 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> Dinner:  
Beef tenderloin tips with  
noodles, Peach melba

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> dinner:  
Chicken brochette, rice  
pilaf, peppermint ice cream

We ourselves feel that what  
we are doing is just a drop  
in the ocean. But the ocean  
itself would be less  
because of that missing  
drop.

Mother Theresa

**Hello fellow Optimists,**

Hi All,

I want to wish everyone a Happy and prosperous New Year. As the tree lot is almost a distant memory, thank you to everyone who helped make this another successful year.

The new location was everything we thought it could be. A huge thank you to Ray Kopecky our tree lot chairman. It was a monumental effort on his part and one greatly appreciated.

Our next focus as a club will be on the annual oratorical contest. I know Chris and Judy are currently busy heading up this fine event. Please talk with them to see how you can help. I know they will surely need some.

During the Christmas break I attended our first After Hours event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. I met a lot of interesting people and was able to tell them about our club and what we do. We have a tentative After Hours event that we can host with Stan Walgreen and Starck Realtors some time in June. I know this will be great exposure for the club and a chance for all our members to meet other business men and women of our community. We need to all network and build our club back up to what it used to be.

That's all I have for now. I look forward to seeing you all back indoors at the Elks in January.

Tom

## ANOTHER MERRY CHRISTMAS AT THE LOT

We've survived another December, braving the elements selling our fabulous fresh trees and wreaths. Our new location in the K-Mart parking lot was successful. How successful, you ask? Our across-the-street neighbor left a somewhat less than complimentary letter about not only the "unhealthy competition" we were giving, but also chided us for having the temerity to sell trees from Nova Scotia.

**Don Moran** deserves accolades for haranguing his store manager until he gave in and let us use their space, free of charge. If we had been in our hidden location of the last couple of years, we would have had even more future mulch left unsold.

I don't normally think of public utilities as being warm and fuzzy, but **Bill Baxmann** managed to get Commonwealth Edison to grant us a substantial discount on getting our electric hooked up. Bill could not only sell ice cubes to Eskimos, he could convince them to buy two trees, a wreath, and a bundle of boughs at the same time.

**Ray Kopecky** spends more hours at the lot than anyone could imagine. Turning out wreath after wreath, assisting the customers, answering questions and managing the lot from ordering product to trailer set up to trailer take down requires enormous dedication and our club is blessed to have him.

It was nice to see fresh faces at the lot this year. **Steve Meinecke** showed up before being bitten by the mono bug, **Becky Meinecke** learned the fine art of wreath making, and **Zack Ladner** pitched in as well. Some customers thought we were part of K Mart, and seemed happy when they found that we were volunteers, doing our bit to improve the community.

An Army reservist showed up in fatigues, and left smiling. Not only did she get an extra special deal on her tree, but Optimists at the lot actually stopped what they were doing, shook her hand, and thanked her for her service to America.

!

## ORATORICAL TO BEGIN JANUARY 11TH

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, our club will once again begin our training of local youth in public speaking. This important public service is among the oldest of our programs, and also among the most rewarding. All the sessions will take place at the Des Plaines Public Library at seven p.m. and this year's theme is "Why me? Why Not?"

Chris Ladner ([chris.ladner@oce.com](mailto:chris.ladner@oce.com)) is chairing this event, and Judy and Zack Ladner, Steve Meinecke, Eric and Markay Suevel, and Stan Walgreen have agreed to coach, with Don Moran being Sergeant at Arms and Al Bayer timekeeper.

Letters and a poster were sent to all public schools that serve Des Plaines children, and they have generated some interest.

As in the past, we will have a preliminary contest if there are more than ten participants of the same gender. No more than five of each gender should advance to the final round.

As of this time, we are searching for judges for both the preliminary and the final contest-that's a total of nine people. While club members can serve as preliminary judges, I would prefer that outsiders do it, to avoid even the slightest chance of conflict of interest. If you know of anyone willing to donate two hours or so of their time, please have them contact me at the above email.

If you've never observed the progress made by our orators, I urge you to do so. The final night is exciting, and when you see how proud both the contestants and their families are, you know that we are doing a very valuable service.

The schedule, tentatively, is as follows:

January 11<sup>th</sup>...General Session  
January 18<sup>th</sup>...General Session  
January 25<sup>th</sup>...One on One  
February 1<sup>st</sup>...General Session  
February 8<sup>th</sup>...One on One

February 15<sup>th</sup>..General Session  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> General Session  
February 29<sup>th</sup>.. Boy's Preliminary  
March 7<sup>th</sup>.....Girl's Preliminary  
March 14<sup>th</sup>.....Final



## MONEY MAKES THE CLUB GO AROUND

Tree lot 2007 may just be over, but the time for raising money for our cause never ends.

There are almost limitless fundraising ideas, and many are easy to implement.. We have participated in Jewel's coupon days in the past, Carson's does a coupon day event that is virtually painless, restaurants such as Culver's participate in sharing a portion of their day's receipts with community organizations, and events such as golf and poker nights can also bring income to a club.

What is your idea? The more money we bring in, the more generous our support can be for Des Plaines youth.

If you have a brilliant idea and would like to share it, please bring it up at a club or board meeting, call, snail or email a board member, and remember, there are no "stupid" ideas.

## AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT...

It will soon be time for the annual budget meeting. Having sat through and survived several of these, I know from experience that it truly helps to have requests in early, so that we may get a better idea of what's needed. While we can sometimes honor requests that come in after our deadline, it is a bit more involved and causes delays in the participants receiving their support. Committee chairs should have an idea of what it will cost to run their program and relay that information to the finance committee.

If you have contacts within the groups we usually support (scouts, baseball, Junior Warriors, etc.) make sure they send their request on their letterhead by February 29<sup>th</sup>. If you know of any groups that you feel fit within the framework of groups we should support, consider contacting them and letting them know about us.



## DP OPTIMISTS JOIN DP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The idea of a non profit joining an organization that promotes business might seem strange, but on close review it makes great sense. The board recently decided to have the club join the Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce, and President Tom has already attended an after hours session, and is planning to have us co-host one with Starck Realty and Stan Walgreen. Joining this group lets us meet the “movers and shakers” of our area, provides us with many possible new members, and also lets us meet possible donors for our many activities. This is a win-win scenario, and I think we can look forward to a long and happy relationship with them.

### YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY....

Spring must make a man's heart to love, because there's a lot of Optimist's celebrating birthdays in January. Please join us in wishing these people the very best: Al Bayer, Ray Bochat, Dianna Edwards, Dick Hissong, Ray Kopecky, and Mike Schimka

### I'VE GOT THE WEDDING BELL BLUES

I guess people don't want to brave frigid Chicago winters during a wedding, because my records say January has no club member celebrating an anniversary.

Unless someone like you cares, a whole, awful lot, things aren't going to get better, they're not!...Dr. Seuss, The Lorax