

# Pipeline Newsletter

## Optimist Club of Des Plaines

Newsletter Date October 1, 2007

### Thoughts from President Tom

Hello fellow Optimists,  
It is the start of a new year for our Optimist Board of Directors. Our new Board is as follows:

Tom Swanson-President  
Bill Baxmann-Vice President  
Judy Ladner-Vice President  
Stan Catlett-Treasurer  
Dianna Edwards-Secretary

Board of Directors:

Ray Bochat, Don Moran, Tom Myer, Steve Meinecke.

I want to congratulate and thank each of these people for assuming their new leadership roles. Most of the members on this board were the same members as last year. We all worked very well together and I anticipate that happening again this year.

As you know, The holiday season is approaching with break-neck speed and being an Optimist we all know what that means. It is time to start preparing for our biggest fundraiser. Yes, The Christmas Tree Lot. We will be moving our location this year to the K-Mart parking lot at the corner of Lee St. and Oakton St. This move is sure to increase our sales from previous years. I encourage each and every member to set aside a couple of hours each week to volunteer at the tree lot. It does not mean you have to lift heavy trees. It may be to collect money, or to make some wreaths, or to stop by and keep someone company.

While driving Allison to pre-school this morning I was listening to News Radio 780 and Dr Barry Kaufman who reports on health from time to time had a segment on volunteering. He said that people who volunteer their time tend to feel better about themselves both physically and emotionally. Dr Kaufman also said that people who volunteer generally are healthier when it comes to the common illnesses of colds and flu.

When I heard this I thought about our club and what we do. I thought about how healthy most of us are most of the time. Thank God we can volunteer, Thank God for this club. I hope to see you all this Christmas season.

Tom

#### Inside This Issue

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...We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, talented, gorgeous, fabulous-actually who are you not to be-  
Marianne Williamson

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Dinner:  
Pork chops, potatoes Anna,  
and chocolate mousse

Nov 15th dinner:  
Roast turkey with all  
trimmings and pumpkin pie



## CHRISTMAS, XMAS, HOLIDAY OR YULE

Dear Optimists,

Santa's favorite elf, current Lt. Governor, and hard-working Pipeline editor has a big favor to ask.

No matter what you call the tree, our lot will soon be open, and that makes this the time of year when we need to rally together and work hard to move as many trees as we can in about 30 days.

The trailer will be delivered on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and people will be needed to assemble the racks. The semi full of trees will arrive Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, and the season begins.

We will need lots of helping unloading the hundreds of trees and setting them up. Once that's done, the party begins.

We will need people to be on the lot from five till nine weekdays, nine to nine Saturdays, and eleven till nine Sundays. (If you show up early, Ray Kopecky, who does everything but sleep overnight at the lot will welcome you with open arms.

Members can make wreaths, ring up sales, assist customers, refill racks, and have a swell time doing it. Don't let inexperience hamper you- the veterans will be glad to mentor the rookies.

Around 90% of our funds come from this event. In our new and much more visible location this year, (the K Mart parking lot on Oakton) we should have a profitable experience.

If every member who can volunteers to work three or four four hour shifts, it will make everybody's job much easier. The sign up board will be at the next two meetings.

So sign up!

## NEW BOARD SWORN IN OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

It was a special night October 4<sup>th</sup> when Tom Swanson began his second year as president of the Optimist club of Des Plaines. After feasting on surprisingly good prime rib, (no offense to the Elks chefs, but their cooking is as dependable as clutch Cubs hitting in October) the board and officers were sworn in by no other than former distinguished Lt Gov. Jerry Warcholl.

Jerry departed from the traditional script to give the induction in his own inimitable style.

It was also awards night. Newcomer Tom Meyer was named Rookie of the Year, and former president Chris Ladner was named Optimist of the Year.



Don Moran, Tom Meyer, Tom Swanson, Ray Bochat, Stan Catlett, Bill Baxman, Judy Ladner and Dianna Edwards-2007-2008 Optimist Board

Rookie of the Year Tom Meyer accepts his award



Chris Ladner accepts Optimist of the Year honors from Pres Tom

Jerry Warchol, Giving the oaths of office to the new board and officers



## WE'VE CHECKED MILK CARTONS, THE POST OFFICE...

And we still can't find you! Is there something lacking in your life that you just can't put your finger on? Maybe what's missing is your handsome or lovely face at an Optimist meeting!

We are searching for members who are "MIA" and former ones who would like to reconnect with the nicest people you'll ever meet, and are asking you to come to the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for a reunion.

It's our last meeting before departing for the simple life of a trailer, an outhouse, and the smell of a fresh cut tree for a month.

There's no need to RSVP-just show up, and prepare to have fun.



## A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER FOR A SPECIAL GIRL

Amanda Groeller is a 17-year-old Maine West High School student, a Des Plaines resident, and one of many young people in my neighborhood.

Nothing remarkable about this information....yet.

She is also battling a rare form of bone cancer, and after undergoing chemotherapy, had her leg amputated below the knee in July.

While her parents are insured, they are finding that there are many things only partially covered or not covered at all by the insurance corporations, and on Tuesday, November 6th, there will be a fundraiser at Cheeseburger in Paradise from 4-8. Tickets are \$20.00, and they hope to raise enough to pay for most of the cost of a prosthetic leg.

The fundraiser is sponsored by the Des Plaines Police Department, where her mother Lori Matula is a community service officer.

"When you first meet Amanda you sense that she is wise beyond her years. She has the ability to understand the adult world while still maintaining the sweetness of a 17-year-old girl, said her mother. "She talks about her future, her family, her friends. She doesn't concern herself with things that do not honor herself and others. She has learned that life is fragile and that even the youngest and healthiest can be afflicted with disease."

Supporting this courageous girl is what we are about, both as a local club and a national one. If you plan to attend, make checks payable to the Northwest Municipal Federal Credit Union, and if you have questions, please contact Linda Engeriser at 847 391 5444.

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

We have a classic Optimist situation on the dues paid so far. As of October 27<sup>th</sup>, half of our members have paid the \$60.00 dollars to remain members in this great club. Our glass is half full, but a full glass would slake thirst much more.

If you have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible. It makes the job of our treasurer and secretary much easier, it breaks down to a mere \$1.15 per week, and it allows you to know that your actions made a difference in the life of a child.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

My records show two people celebrating their birthdays in November. Happy birthday to Nancy Fisher and Becky Wadas, and many, many more.

Celebrating another year of marriage are Rich and Stevie Rogers. Congratulations!

## THANKS FOR ALL YOU DID

Glenn Swanson and Al Bayer retired from the Board this year. Without their assistance, the presidencies of both Tom Swanson and Chris Ladner would have been much more difficult. Glenn's encyclopedic knowledge of procedure made him a valuable resource, and Al's willingness to get the permits, publicity, and donations helped make the club a success. A president is only as good as his board, and we were blessed to have two dedicated Optimists serving on ours.

"You are what you think about all day long." -- [Dr. Robert Schuller](#)

"There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist." -- [Mark Twain](#)

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years" -- [Abraham Lincoln](#)

Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not." -[Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)