

Pipeline Newsletter

Optimist Club of Des Plaines

Newsletter Date August 1, 2007

Thoughts From President Tom

Hello Fellow Members,

Summer is flying by. As I speak, my son Joe has one baseball game left to play this season. What started out the first week of April is almost over. You know, being President is a lot like managing a baseball team. You begin the season with getting acquainted with the team and seeing which person fits best at each position based on their talents and passions. The game begins and you start to see the accomplishments of each person. As you watch you see them become better and work together for that one common goal – a victory; or in our world a smile from a child's face or a successful project that brings in lots of cash to feed back into our community. My first season as President is coming to an end. As I personally evaluate this first season I see there are some things I have done well and I admit there are some things I have not done so well. I just keep trying and hopefully things will work for the best. I believe in this club and its members. What we do is good. We are a team of sorts. Our common goal is to make a difference in the lives of children. Although it may not always look pretty, it is always effective. Our team is the Optimist Club of Des Plaines and we are 46 members strong. When push comes to shove I know that each member is willing to go to bat for each other. That is what I see in this team. Thank you for that. If any of you know a player/person who would be good for our team please bring them along to a game/meeting.

See you soon.

Tom

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**Happiness does not
consist in pastimes**

WHAT ' S COOKIN '



MMM,MMM GOOD

Cook it, and they will come. That's not exactly what the voice of God said in Field of Dreams, but it's what our voices told us about selling sandwiches at the 4th of July festivities at Oakton Community College.

After participating in the 4th of July parade, many Optimists reconnected on the grounds of O.C.C. Chef Ed Welther dropped off trays of spectacular pulled pork, slow-cooked to perfection.

After setting up tables and sun shelters and icing down the pop and water, we were ready for business. Although it was slow at first, and we had competition from another vendor selling burgers, brats and dogs, we were optimistic that the quality of our food would speak for itself. For \$4.00, the customers got a generously sized sandwich and chips, and for a buck more, a cold drink.

By night's end, we had sold over 300 sandwiches, plus a great deal of pop and water.

For at least part of the evening, Pres Tom worked minus his shirt. Whether this helped or sales or resulted in desperate attempts to contact the Department of Health may never be known.

It's unknown at this point if this will be an annual event, but it sure was a fun one. 15 sandwiches were sold when Chris Ladner and Tom Meyers became strolling vendors, complete with a sandwich board strapped to their back, and worked the crowd.

O.I.PLANS GROWTH INITIATIVES

O.I. is enthusiastic about-make that obsessed with planting new clubs and growing existing ones. This is a good thing, and the zeal with which they pursue it is remarkable. As a zone and district, we are up this year, as a club we are down four members, though this is partly due to things beyond our control..

Among the things being considered is the use of a celebrity spokesperson to sell the virtues of O.I. If celebrities can sell everything from soup to insurance, why not the benefits of joining Optimist International?



NEW
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT NAMED

The election of Theo Golding was made official at the international convention in Montreal on July 3rd-6th. This was historic for several reasons, and was reported in the Jamaica Observer:

Theodore W Golding, a former senior executive of National Commercial Bank, was earlier this month elected president of Optimist International, the St

Louis, Missouri-based international club that provides service and guidance to the youth. Golding is the first Jamaican to be elected to that position.

"I am honored and delighted to have been considered worthy of the elevation," said Golding, in a press statement issued to the Business Observer. "I look forward to expanding the Optimist brand of service to children across the globe and to being an ambassador for Jamaica and the Caribbean as I do so."

Golding, a charter member who has served the Optimist club for 26 years, is the first black man and first non-American in the 88-year history of the world-wide organization to be elected president.

Golding has been a critical member of the Caribbean District - the largest in Optimist International. He has served as club president, Lt Governor, district governor, vice president of Optimist International; and for the last two years, as a member of the board of directors of Optimist International.

SUMMER MEETINGS CONTINUE

The July 19th meeting was held at Steve Meinecke's, or more correctly, his mom's. Steve and Becky chose a classic burger related summer menu, the weather was lovely, and a good time was had by all.

Our first meeting in August will see us dine at Ray Bochat's 2230 S. Pine, and the final meeting will be at Chris and Judy Ladner's, 197 N. Warrington.

Summer meetings are a great time to bring guests and introduce them to the wonderful people in our club.

OUTSTANDING! YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

Call this the print version of a smilie or brag. Don Moran and Steve Meinecke would like to thank all who participated in the 4th of July parade. It was a hot, hot day, and walking at a snail's pace passing out candy is much more tiring than it sounds.

We had a nice turnout of youth to assist us that represented a fraction of the kids that benefit by the things we do.

I'd like to share a bit of parental pride and recognize Zack Ladner. Rather than spend a portion of the summer aimlessly hanging out, Zack was on a mission trip to the Mississippi Gulf coast the week of July 29th. Hope he wore an Optimist t-shirt and spread the good word about our club throughout the area.

NEXT UP THE GREAT GOLF OUTING

Are you ready for some fun on August 8th? That's the date of the annual kid's golf outing, which has become enormously popular. We plan to have two double shotgun starts at 8:30 and 11:30, and there will be lots of help needed throughout the day. Call Stan Walgreen at 847-296-3900 or email him at swalgreen@wideopenwest.com. It's never too late to volunteer!

A GOLF JOKE-IN HONOR OF KID'S GOLF

A man and his wife walked into a dentist's office.

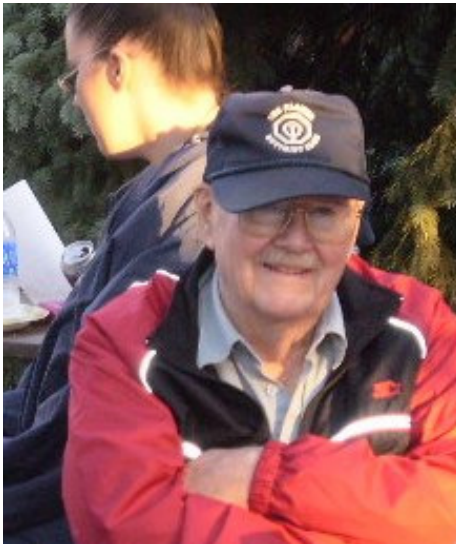
The man said to the dentist, "Doctor, I'm in one hell of a big hurry! I have two buddies sitting out in my car waiting for us to go play golf. So forget about the anesthetic and just pull the tooth and be done with it. I don't have time to wait for the anesthetic to work!"

The dentist thought to himself, "My goodness, this sure is a very brave man, asking me to pull his tooth without using anything to kill the pain."

So the dentist asked him, "Which tooth is it, sir?"

The man turned to his wife and said, "Open your mouth, Honey, and show the doctor which tooth hurts."

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSERIES



Would you believe there are no couples celebrating anniversaries in August, and only one birthday per my list? Looks like Judy Ladner (August 9th) gets all the birthday wishes this month.

We did have one birthday of note in July that's so great it should be mentioned twice Ernie Challberg turned 90!

When you think of what has occurred since Ernie was born, it's remarkable-the Depression, WW2, Korea, Viet Nam, the cointroduction or radio, TV, and rock n' roll...and not one Cubs World Series victory. The more things change, the more they stay the same.