

# Sioux Falls

## Morning Optimist News

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2015

### ***Presidents Corner with Sean Ervin***

I trust you were thankful of many things this Thanksgiving. Optimists are always thankful of what we have. I think that is part of what gives us the attitude to share our gratitude with others. I am Thankful for all of our members. You do great things every day.

We completed one of our big fundraisers this past month in the World Series Pool. It ended up doing even better than the budget we had planned for, so that is great news! That deserves a huge thank you to everyone who sold tickets and worked hard to make this a success. This is especially true for Eric Olson. He worked tirelessly on this project and it is greatly appreciated. Looking forward, we are approaching Christmas, where everyone is a bit happier and more optimistic. Make an extra effort to show your Optimism openly this month. Your attitude and smile are impactful to many others. Let's make sure people know we are Optimists by the way we treat others.

We are approaching our first quarter mark of this optimist year. We have had a few drops, but not enough additional members to offset as yet. Keep your eyes open for others to invite to share in our cause. Have a fun December!

### **December Programs:**

- 12/3 Jeffrey LeMair – Influence of the Boys & Girls Club on his life & work at JDC
- 12/10 Sertoma Butterfly House & Marine Cove  
Audrey Willard
- 12/17 Christmas Message – Pastor Bob Rudebusch, First United Methodist Church
- 12/24 MERRY CHRISTMAS! – no club meeting
- 12/31 Elle Carlson – SD Junior Golf Association

### **December Events:**

Dec. 12th  
Children who eat at The Banquet will have the opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts at The Banquet from 1:30 – 3:30 pm for their parents, grandparents or other significant adult in their life while club members will wrap their presents. Gift donations are needed from club members, especially items for men which may include small tools, aftershave, gloves, etc. Cash donations are appreciated as well as committee members will go shopping for gifts also. Please contact Cheryl Dyvig or Maria Cade for more information or to volunteer for this event!



## Club Member Highlight

*George Boom* joined Sioux Falls Morning Optimist Club 60 years ago as a Charter Member. As a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, he was the person who picked up gifts from the dime store, a cake from Dickenson's Bakery, 16mm cartoon films from KELO TV and put on a monthly birthday party for the students at the Crippled Children's School. Through that position, he became acquainted with the staff at the school. One of the staff members there also worked in the clinic in Worthington, MN where an Optimist Club was being formed. He got to spark plug Bob Beck and between the two of them, we caught the bug and became active in the formation of the Sioux Falls Morning Optimist Club.

George's favorite Optimist Moment was hauling Elvis from the airport to the hotel and from the hotel to the arena for his concert. There were people standing in front of his car wanting to get to Elvis. He was ordered by his guards to go. George's favorite tenet of the Optimist Creed is to "Be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind". But wearing a cheerful smile at all times can be a challenge for a funeral director!

George's favorite fundraiser was the World's Largest Rummage Sale. It was a huge money maker that almost all members worked on. It started with some members donating items and holding it in a vacant store building on Phillips Avenue. A couple of years later, someone went to local TV and Radio stations and asked the public for unwanted items for charity. Soon the vacant store was not adequate and it was moved to the Coliseum. George chaired the event for a few years. It generated \$20,000. Eventually it became too much for the club to manage as members were tired of hauling refrigerators, stuffed furniture and other large items that would not sell but was convenient to donors.

George is married to Faye. They celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on July 9, 2015. Faye ran a beauty shop that supported the family for the first ten years of their funeral home ownership. She was the right lady for George as several of his classmates left funeral service because their bride could not handle it. They have one son, David, who also is licensed in funeral service. He lives on a farm near Montrose, SD, where he raises Black Angus cattle. Faye and George have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Faye and George have lived in Sioux Falls since 1952.

George grew up in Tea and Lennox and initially worked as a carpenter like his father. In the 1930's his family lived humbly often eating corn bread and jackrabbits. George had an uncle that was a funeral director in Minnesota. On his visits, he would come all dressed up driving his shiny new Ford. George noticed the difference between his uncle's appearance and his bib overalls. After George's return from service in World War II in the Navy, he used his GI Bill benefit to attend South Dakota State, Augustana and the University of Minnesota to obtain his education as a funeral director.

George's favorite quote: Make hay while the sun shines. He has another quote that Faye won't allow him to share in print. (I guess we will have to ask him) At his age, he says that if he was given a million dollars he would give it to charity as he is thankful that his needs and his family's needs are met. In his spare time, George enjoys living in the country with buildings and cropland. He has planted potatoes and corn in the past. He plants enough sweet corn to satisfy the deer, raccoons and have some left over for a neighborhood corn feed. He says he will not be growing either crop in the future.

George wants all of the Optimists at club to know that if he watches what he does, he has a good life. Currently, that does not include making a 7AM club meeting or going out to do things at night. He enjoys spending time on the computer and irritating friends with Google facts check on his I phone. Except for a few aches and pains, with some help he enjoys living in his too big house in the country.

George, thanks for sharing your story. Thanks also for having the vision to charter our club that remains alive and well today to serve children in our community.

## 2015-16 Committee Chairs

**OI Foundation** – TBD

**Newsletter** – Cheryl Dyvig

**Programs** – Carolyn Downs

**Fellowship** – Judy Winter / Bob Christensen (60<sup>th</sup>)

**Nominating Committee** – Ken Munch

**Highway Beautification** – Correen Major

**JOOI Club** – TBD

**World Series Fundraiser** – Eric Olson

**CDHH** – Cheryl Dyvig

**Respect for Law** – Bruce Swan

**Fishing Derby** – Joe Kelley

**Membership** – Ken Munch / Jack Dyvig

**Finance** – Larry Eickhoff

**Public Relations** – Amy Hendrix

**PGI** – Star Munch

**Children's shopping at Banquet** – Cheryl Dyvig

**Donation Committee** – Ken Headrick

**Spring Golf Fundraiser** – Ken Munch

**Tri-Star Sports** – TBD

**Oratorical** – Tom Parliman

**MO's Carnival** – Jack Dyvig

**Food to You** – Cheryl Dyvig

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### Board Report:

At the November board meeting the following was discussed:

- 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Club members participating in the Results Radio Cure Kids Radiothon in the spring of 2016
- Marketing packet for new members
- New committee members for the Donations Committee

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### Membership News:

Optimist International announced a "Season of Giving" during December and January where they will waive the new member fee for any members who join the club during these months. At the present time we are contacting members who have not yet renewed their membership and are optimistic they will continue their involvement.

## The V.O.I.C.E. JOOI Club:

Jordan Everding, Club Advisor, reports the JOOI club has been schedule for some volunteer activities. Club members rang bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign in November and will do so again in December at the Hy-Vee on East 10<sup>th</sup> street. Stop by and donate on 12/2 or 12/16! They will also be doing a Souper Bowl of Caring food collection for the Sioux Falls Food Pantry.



**Congratulations** to Jack Dyvig for being named the DMM Optimist of the year! He is pictured with 2014-15 governor Don Stover.

The new playground at the Bishop Dudley House was dedicated on Dec. 1st! The club helped with funding for this project for their guests to enjoy while staying there.



### **December Birthdays:**

12/2 Larry Sprenger  
12/5 Roger Hogstad  
12/6 Maria Cade  
12/16 George Boom  
12/21 Dick Kinsley, Bud Westendorf  
12/27 Jack Dyvig  
12/30 Tom Salestrom

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

### **Save the Date:**

*January 14* – Food to You Distribution at  
Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church

*February 11* – Serve breakfast at  
The Banquet

*May 23, 2016* – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet

### **Volleyball Coach?**

The Club is sponsoring a 3<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team from Hawthorne Elem. School through EmBe's girls youth league. The team is in need of one more volunteer coach, who loves helping out the youth of our community, is willing to share a couple hours of their time with them and loves to have fun! No volleyball experience is necessary as training materials are provided, if anyone would be interested in helping out with this team please contact Kari Halstenson (Johnson) at [karihalstenson@embe.org](mailto:karihalstenson@embe.org).



