



*Optimists Bring Out the Best in Children*

*Les Optimistes inspirent le meilleur chez les jeunes • 2007-2008*



# A Stone's Throw

The Newsletter of The Optimist Club of Elwood, IN

**June 10, 2008**

President-Thomas Stone, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Tony Warner, Secretary-Dave Berkemeier, Treasurer-Corey May, Past President-Roger Gardner, Board Members: Gary Bastian, Ron Becker, Ned Dunnichay, David Hoffman, Don Pine, David Stewart, John Moser,

## **THE GOALS FOR THIS YEAR**

The goals for this year are **INCREASED COMMUNICATIONS**, **INCREASED ACTIVITIES**, **INCREASED PARTICIPATION**, **INCREASED CLUB VISIBILITY**, and **INCREASED MEMBER SHIP**.

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PROGRAMS/MEETINGS**

**June's program chair is Tony Warner.**

June 12: Scheduled speakers are Keith O'Donnell and Ray Poole from the Indiana State Police. They will be talking about the ISP summer camps that are available for the youth of our community.

June 19: There is no program scheduled at this time. TBA.

June 26: Our guests will be our six Optimist scholarship winners.

July 22: The July/August board meeting will be held at 6:00 at Cattails. Mark this date on your calendars, refrigerator, etc.

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

We have some events coming up in the next couple of months that will be important to the club and the community. In order to do these programs, we will need the help of many of our members. Here are the projects:

1. Community Fair: This annual activity will be held on June 14 at Callaway Park. We plan to have a presence there again this year, with some focus on our Respect for Law program. We hope to have of the Indiana State Police, Madison County Sheriff's Department, and the Elwood Police Department with us and should have some free things to pass out. Keith O'Donnell is in charge of setting things up. **We need someone to be with Dave Stewart at our tent from 11 – 2 PM and two members to be there from 2 – 5 PM. There is little to do except to either set up the tent and table(s) and to take them down at the end.** An easy activity for those who have not taken part in an activity. **(How about one of our Respect for Law committee members?**

**Kyle, Carl, Merrill, or Bill?) Give me a call (552-0191 or 620-3099) or e-mail me at [tstonemx5@comcast.net](mailto:tstonemx5@comcast.net) ASAP.)**

2. Indianapolis Indians Baseball game: We still have some box seat tickets for the July 1<sup>th</sup> game (a Friday night) against the Toledo Mud Hens. Thirty (30) tickets will be purchased, but some of them have already been spoken for. If you would like to go, contact Dave Berkemeier at Edward Jones.
3. YMCA Painting Project: This project has been put on hold until the fall. This project has been placed on hold until the fall.
4. Want to do some FAST go-cart racing? We have information from Fasttime Go-carting in Indy. If you are interested, check out their web site and then send me an e-mail. This activity will not be for everyone. Possible costs are \$22 a race or there is a membership package: \$50 and you get a shirt and have unlimited race time (6 – 9:30 PM) for \$35 anytime S-M-T. Go to <http://fasttimesindoorkarting.com>. If there is interest, we will check for a date.
5. This is a reminder of the upcoming Glass Festival August 15 – 17. We need our members to plan now to be in town that weekend. With three activities going on at the same time on Saturday, we need all of the help that we can get. Want to volunteer now? Call Dave Stewart (552-5094) or Tom Stone (552-0191) and let us know. We have every spot open at this time, so this is the best time to volunteer. We shouldn't have to beg our members for help at this most important time. Help us out!

### **LAST MONTH'S ACTIVITIES**

1. Oakland Elementary Block Party: The club participate in this annual activity with a game for the students. Again Roger Gardner brought his ceramic throne (at least a part of it) and we held his famous toilet-paper toss.
2. The club will be represented in the Memorial Day Parade by six drivers and students from the middle school. We were well received.

### **SCHOLARSHIP TO BE AWARDED**

The Scholarship Committee, comprised of Corey May (chair), John Moser, Tony Warner, David Hoffman, and Don Pine, and others met during our June board meeting and six Optimist scholarships were awarded. The recipients are as follows: Alma Hope Davis, Kaysha M. Rittenhouse, Sarah Emily Hodson, Jamie Lynn Runyan, Troy Alan Worsley, and Blake Andrew Courtney. They will be invited to our June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and be given their scholarships.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

During our June board meeting, the sponsorship of the high school's new TOP TEN program was approved. We will not interfere (although we may assist) with the mechanics of the program, but we will absorb the cost of the program. This program gives the top ten graduating seniors the opportunity to thank a teacher who has been an influence on them during their school career. The teachers chosen are invited to the dinner with high school administration and the students' parents. The teachers do not know who selected them until the program. This year's dinner was accompanied by a lot of tears from both the students and the teachers. It is an outstanding program, and we are fortunate to be able to be a part of it.

During this board meeting, the board also approved donating \$1000 to the Community Fireworks Fund. Information about this event is forthcoming in the *Call Leader*. A huge thanks goes out to club members Corey May, John Moser, and Jeff Poe. More about this event in the next newsletter. Watch for it.

### **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

Here are some of the events and activities we have been involved in during the past year and some of the *additions* completed or planned for this year:

YMCA Gold Sponsor	Youth Appreciation Breakfasts
Christmas Basket Program	Optimist Scholarships (6)
Glass Festival: Parade; Pancake Bkfst, Fruit Drink Stand	Chili Cook-off
Coats for Kids	Elwood High School Yearbook
High School Awards Day	Chamber Banner Program
<i>IKeepSafe Internet Program</i>	<i>Festival of Lights Work Day</i>
<i>Chamber of Commerce's</i> <i>"Books for Classroom" Project</i>	<i>Shop with a Cop</i>
<i>Tri Star Basketball program</i>	<i>Oakland 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chicago Trip</i>
<i>Kids in Cars</i>	<i>Middle School Rewards Program</i>
<i>Edgewood Playground Project</i>	<i>District Essay Contest</i>
Abraham Lincoln Day Sponsor	<i>YMCA Painting Project</i>
Elwood Girls' Softball Sponsor	<i>Respect for Law Project</i>
Oakland Elementary Block Party	Elwood Babe Ruth Sponsor
Community Fireworks Fund	Memorial Day Parade
	Community Fair

### **WE ARE ON THE WEB**

Thanks to Bob Tippey, the Elwood Optimist Club now has a website. The site is currently "under construction," but information and material will be added. The address is <http://www.elwoodoptimists.org>.

To add information to the next newsletter, please contact me at [\*\*tstonemx@comcast.net\*\*](mailto:tstonemx@comcast.net) (New address) or call me at home – 552-0191.

