



The SOC-KET

Bringing
Out
The Best
In
Children

*The weekly publication of the Optimist Club of Salem
Volume 60 Issue 25 April 23, 2009
Ye Olde Editor — Wes Alderson*

**The Club meets every Thursday noon at Willson House
(check out our website at www.optimistclubofsalemor.org)**

2007-08 Club Officers

President: John Chamberlain
 President-Designate: TBA
 Immediate Past-President: Bruce Gilbertson
 Secretary/Treasurer: Arlen Hollinshead
 Directors: John Day, Paul Negstad, Frank Masser,
 Dave Sevall, Vern Tabery, Dave Wiley



It isn't as though the banner above takes precedence over our guest speaker, but it does appear on the Salem YMCA web site and, since today's speaker, Jeff Dunleavy, is Chief Executive Officer of this organization, the connection is well established. He has been

with the YMCA the past four months and one of the first things he commented on was his age (54), has two daughters, and that he likes to talk. Jeff also was quite complimentary with reference to the Optimist Club and that we are truly "Friends of Youth."

YMCA began its programs in 1859, the same year that Oregon achieved statehood, and it is their desire to continue the progress that has been made within the organization for the past 150 years. Jeff expressed some concern that there is an apparent lack of awareness of the YMCA programs currently in effect, and perhaps they have not partnered with other groups that might prove advantageous for all. Almost everyone is aware of their sports activities, but they have pioneered in other fields as well. Were you aware that back in the 1930's and the 1940's the YMCA appointed a black man as Executive Director. Not too many people are aware of that. In the 1950's, the YMCA had more rooms for rent than some motels. That, too, is not widely known.

Referencing the present, the YMCA is more family oriented; that is, they provide the least expensive indoor recreational facilities to around 14,000. They also are able to provide affordable child care. Just how extensive this might be is not known, but it appears that, for those in need, it may be worth checking out. The YMCA is also an important alternative to a youngster's time spent in front of the television set.

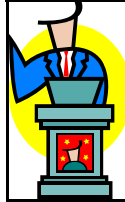
There is another aspect of their services that most of us have little cause to be concerned about, and that is children who are of foreign parentage. It is not always that easy for them to adjust to local customs if they are kept apart from other children, except perhaps in the classroom. By providing a common meeting ground, the YMCA provides an opportunity for these youngsters to mix freely with others and can allow them to adjust to these variances without undue pressure.

There is little doubt that the YMCA is an asset to the City of Salem, and will be able to boast of that for many more years. We appreciate Jeff's taking the time to address our group, and he is welcome to return at a time of his choosing.



We all know how important the gavel is when conducting a meeting such as ours. It is even more important when the President loses track of its whereabouts. This situation befell John today, and he felt compelled to use a fountain pen to ring the bell at the start of the meeting; it was not quite the same. No doubt he will check more closely before the next meeting starts.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Hey, Salem Optimists,

Things are truly moving in the month of April. In fact I saw a couple of groups of boys moving so fast at the mayor's mile pre-trials on Tuesday night. They ran a one mile relay in under 5 minutes! In watching some of the other competitors, they finished at over 6 minutes. I guess that shows what dedication, focus and determination can achieve.

It seems that our opportunity for sponsor a Jr. Optimist Club at McKay is going to be delayed until September. This decision was reached because of the upcoming busy schedule for the faculty as well as for the students. Since graduation is just around the corner, the details for setting up a new club would be a bit much at this time. They would rather begin a new school year with something NEW, rather than end the year with it, then let it sit untouched for 3 months.

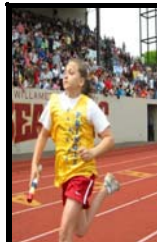
With the trip to Portland to sample German pastries and listening to feedback from current members, it sounds like our efforts at the Oktoberfest may come to a temporary halt. This decision will be made at the upcoming business meeting on Tuesday, April 28, by the board. If you would care to share your opinion, please call.

I just want to share what is currently happening with the club and encourage you to share your thoughts. So remember, if we use a little dedication, focus and determination, who know just what we are capable of accomplishing?

Sincerely, John Chamberlain phone: (503) 949-2744



April 30 TBA



SALEM KIDS' RELAY RACES

As was stated previously, this young girl's picture will continue to appear in this spot for a week or so yet to promote help at the races. Besides, she is pretty and helps to attract the reader's interest to this article. Youngsters like her will be participants at this year's event.

Have you thought of someone who might like to help with this program? If you have, don't put the question off any longer. Remember, the date is May 9th, and it is now the month of April. That person or persons, as the case may be, needs to have a background check beforehand.



Don't forget that the Awesome 3000 event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, just one week ahead of the Salem Relay Races. Fortunately, like the relays, the Optimist Club is only one of several organizations that participate, and it is fun event for the kids. This does not mean

that your help isn't needed, and the t-shirts are still there for volunteers. It is never too late to be accepted as another volunteer.

As is always the case when Vern brings his grandson, Brandon Hulse, to a meeting. He is most welcome here, and we look forward to his future visits.

There is a board meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m. It is to be held at Almost Home Restaurant located at 3310 Market Street.

It may be of interest to some that Dave Sevall will be taking over the duties of bulletin editor beginning next week. Whether his schedule will permit him to do this every week remains to be seen. It might possibly be every other week.