Forum topic: immigration changes

President Obama’s executive actions dealing with immigration will be the topic at an OPC Noon Educational Forum on Thursday, Jan. 15. The presenters will cover the implications and realities of the orders for Nebraskans and how the impacted community has responded.

The presidential orders issued in November lift the threat of deportation for millions of immigrants living illegally in the United States. The orders also prioritize the deportation of criminals and recent arrivals while sparing those who have been in the country at least five years and have roots, including children who are citizens.

The Noon Forum will be moderated by Dr. Jim Van Arsdall, OPC Education Committee member. It will cover the legal background of Administrative Relief and who qualifies, the history of executive action as it pertains to immigration, a brief history of the most recent immigration changes in the law, including the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act and 1996’s Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Response Act.

The two panelists will be from Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), a major immigration legal service which has been at the forefront in immigration law implementation.

Charles “Shane” Ellison is the legal director for JFON-NE and one of the regional attorneys for National JFON. Ellison previously worked in the New York Asylum Office, within the Department of Homeland Security, where he adjudicated asylum claims and provided training to asylum officers.

Staff attorney Virginia Maynes specializes in working with immigrant children and their families. She previously interned for the U.S. Immigration Court in Kansas City as well as Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in Washington, D.C.

The forum will begin promptly at noon. The $15-per-person charge includes lunch, which will begin at 11:30. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations, which require an OPC or credit card number. Cancellations must be made at least 24 hours before the event or there is no refund.

Validated parking is available in the Doubletree Hotel garage for OPC members. Bring your garage ticket.

Non-Press Club members welcome!

Notice! Annual Meeting:
January 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
Hors d’oeuvres and social will follow

Participating in the Jan. 15 Noon Education Forum on Immigration will be Dr. James E. Van Arsdall, Social Science faculty, Online Lead faculty, Political Science, Metropolitan Community College, ATLS Educator, American College of Surgeons, treasurer and member of the board of directors, Justice for Our Neighbors.

Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Nominations are now open for the selection of inductees for the 2015 Hall of Fame. Nominees may be living or deceased and must have made notable contributions to broadcast, print or new media journalism. They must have shown exceptional leadership, courage or contributions to the news industry. They will have worked in the Omaha area during their career, or they may have had a reasonable career in the area before going elsewhere.

Your Name ___________________________ Phone Number ___________________________

I nominate (name) ___________________________ □ Check here if the journalist is being nominated posthumously.

Tell us why the person should be inducted into the OPC Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame. Use separate sheet

Pleased submit by March 6, 2015, to the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame Committee, 1620 Dodge St., 22nd Floor, Omaha, NE 68102
OPC Show will be an April Fool’s folly

Top-secret talks are taking place at the Omaha Press Club.

Sources close to the situation will only confirm that the agenda involves the annual OPC gridiron show, slated for Wednesday, April 1, at the Holland Performing Arts Center. And fun and frivolity are on the agenda.

The show’s executive producer, Chris Christen, is believed to be assembling a crackerjack team to deliver a script that zings the headline stories of the past year, makes politicians squirm in their seats and leaves patrons rolling in the aisles.

(While members of The Weisenheimers improv comedy troupe were seen entering the closed-door brainstorm session in the OPC clubrooms, their participation was not yet being confirmed or denied by Christen.)

Ric Swanson is the show’s new artistic director, while Ric Swanson steps in as music director for the first time. They replace the husband-wife team of Keith Allerton and Rebecca Noble, who directed for several years but found themselves with scheduling dilemmas for the 58th show.

Robbins is a veteran performer and director at local community theaters and served as the OPC Show’s choreographer last year. Swanson is a musician and director who has arranged music for OPC Shows over the decades.

Sources name performer and quick wit Jeff Shields is the third key spoke in the creative wheel. He’s heading the writers committee, which means he’s the man to corner if you really want to know what’s shaping up for the April Fool’s Day folly.

Auditions for the show, titled “Fools Rush In,” will take place Tuesday, Jan. 27, and Thursday, Jan. 29. If you’re interested in performing, watch for details on Facebook.com/Omaha Press Club Show. Or email opcshow@hotmail.com.

Tables for the April 1 lampoon are $1,500, $2,500 and $5,000. Individual tickets are $150 each. If you’re interested in making early-bird table reservations, email opcshow@hotmail.com.

The OPC Show is managed and produced by the OPC Foundation. Proceeds benefit the OPC Scholarship Fund. Last year, the Foundation awarded $32,000 to aspiring journalists and media professionals at UNO, UNL and Creighton University.

OPC Media contest awaits your entries

The renamed Omaha Press Club Excellence in Journalism contest is open.

Newspapers, radio and television stations, public relations consultants and college students and media can enter the contest. Entries will be accepted until Feb. 15.

The contest was renamed from the former Excellence in Journalism to recognize the work of public relations professionals in the area.

“This is a great way for companies and individuals to get their work recognized,” OPC President Daisy Hutzell-Rodman said. “It’s a reward for hard work, and it showcases the talent of the media employees here in the heartland.”

All entries will be submitted electronically through the Better BNC link on the Omaha Press Club webpage, omahapressclub.com/EIM. OPC is hoping for a record number of entries. It is reaching out this year to a wider area than in the past.

Entries from Sioux City down to the Missouri and Kansas borders, from Shenandoah to Grand Island are being accepted.

Judging will be done out-of-state, and the awards banquet will be held in conjunction with the Hall of Fame inductions June 6.

Professional development session January 24: Diversity in media

The event, which costs $15, starts at 9 a.m., with check-in beginning at 8:30 a.m. A continental breakfast is available. RSVP to the OPC at 402-345-8008.

The keynote speaker will be seasoned reporter Bobby Caina Calvan. Calvan has been in Omaha on a Ford Fellowship grant to help promote diversity in media, from both reporting and advertising stances.

Bobby Caina Calvan is the lead reporter for the Heartland Project, a yearlong Nebraska-based reporting fellowship funded by the Ford Foundation to promote coverage of communities of color and the gay and lesbian communities. He previously worked in the Boston Globe’s Washington bureau, covering Congress and the 2012 presidential race. He has also reported on the federal health care law for the Sacramento Bee and covered the war in Iraq for McClatchy Newspapers. Among other highlights of his career: covering baseball’s 2010 World Series, when the San Francisco Giants triumphed over the Texas Rangers. Follow him @CalvanBobby and @BobbyCalvan.

A roundtable discussion will follow Calvan’s keynote talk, which is projected to end before noon. For more information, contact chair Chris Allen callen@unomaha.edu or Daisy Hutzell-Rodman daisyhutzell-rodman@gmail.com.
By Daisy Hutzell-Rodman

OPC President

What a year! The OPC held its largest Face on the Barroom Floor event (Greg and Doug McDermott in April), sold out the roast for John Knicely in February and came close to selling out the roast of the Johanns in September. Per their request, we left the Agnew Room open so people could view a special video that night.

We renovated the Agnew Room and at the same time redesigned the OPC website. Our online presence looks modern and shows the best of the Omaha Press Club to potential and current members.

We held a professional development seminar in September on social media, with plans to hold another professional development session later this month, and version 2.0 of the social media seminar next September. We also increased membership by several hundred.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the help of many people. The board of directors and committee members of the Omaha Press Club are dedicated individuals with a great variety of skills – from knowing the right people to contact to spending their own time promoting the club. The talents of the people on the board and committees never cease to amaze me.

The staff of the OPC always makes sure the members have a fantastic experience at the club. We are fortunate to have an executive director who is also a certified chef, as he can provide invaluable experience in both the office and the kitchen. Event planner and manager Christine Jones is always friendly and at the front of the house, ready to help customers with a multitude of questions and requests. Administrative manager Jeanie Campbell keeps everyone on top of the organizational and financial details of running the club. Part of the charm of belonging to a private club is the personal touch that members receive. In November I attended a party and mentioned to Steve that I was impressed that he knew the drink order for someone who had only been to the club a couple of times. He said “That’s our job!” It might be, but it takes special people to remember a detail like a drink order times 1,000, and the servers, bartenders, kitchen staff, and others at that club are just that.

I personally thank Todd Murphy for his help throughout this year. I knew he would be a good “right-hand man” when I asked if he would consider the president-elect nomination a year ago, but he exceeded my expectations. He was there whenever I needed someone to bounce an idea off of, and I look forward to seeing what he brings to the table in 2015. I also want to thank Sean McGuire for keeping meticulous notes during the board meetings and keeping a can-do attitude.

This year has been volatile for the Omaha media, and because of that, the slate includes several new faces for the OPC board, all of whom are the same type of dedicated individuals who currently serve on the board. I look forward to the new experience they bring while I say goodbye to colleagues I now gratefully call friends.

I may no longer be president, but I am not going far, as I hope to continue helping the Omaha Press Club “press forward.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S NOTE

It was last January. I was coaching my son’s baseball team (winter training) when I almost passed out and was prevented from falling by an assistant coach. I called my doctor the next day and over the next 10 months went through just about every medical test you could imagine to determine the cause.

Finally on Oct. 14, I was diagnosed with an incurable ailment – autoimmune liver disease – believed to be caused by my use of the cholesterol medicine Lipitor. I have been receiving treatment since and feeling much better than the previous 10 months, but I have yet to get a prognosis.

The illness has really challenged me in many ways, but mostly I realize we are only here for a short time, and we have to take full advantage of the time we are given. This has drawn me closer to my family and given me a perspective of how much I value those who are close to me. Being sick, I know I have been a real chore for Christine, but she remains strong and helpful in every way. I have been able to continue working and keep up with my Press Club duties and will continue to do all I can for the success of the club.

Looking back at 2014: Another year is in the books, and I am reminded of some highlights of the past year. The renovation of the Agnew Room is significant and will be enjoyed by club members for many years to come. Probably the most memorable event of 2014 was the McDermott’s Face on the Barroom Floor. We moved the event to the Omar Arts & Events building because it by far outgrew our facility. The Omar was a perfect venue and one that added to the ambience of the event.

During 2014 the club experienced its usual ups and downs, with good months and bad months in terms of sales. The biggest impact on our club financially has been the cost of food that we purchase. Costs have gone up nearly 50 percent over the past few years and as the club director, I am always seeking every possible way to avoid having to pass these costs onto you, the customer. Restaurant dining is all about the ambience, quality and value. This is something we try to enhance and maintain for your dining experience at your club.

Beef in prime style: Prime rib is one of my all-time favorite entrees, especially when it’s cooked a perfect medium rare. We have the luxury here at OPC to cook the rib eye in an Alto Sham, which is a slow-cook oven specially made for prime rib.

To cook a prime rib at home, you have to be very careful. Most ovens today are convections, which means they have a fan that circulates the air for even cooking. Season the fat cap side by rubbing kosher salt, cracked black pepper, rosemary and thyme over the surface. If you can, pan sear this side before putting it in the oven. Set the oven at about 400 degrees and let it heat up. Cook the rib eye for about 15 minutes in this hot oven. Then set the oven for the lowest temperature you can, which is usually about 175 degrees. Most rib eyes are around 10 to 12 pounds, which will require more than two hours’ cooking time. You want to cook the rib eye as slowly as possible to create the tender meat.

A kitchen thermometer is a must. Place the thermometer in the center of the meat, and the reading should not go above 130 degrees. Take the meat out of the oven. Let it rest at least ½ hour before cutting. Use the drippings from the pan to make the au jus, which will need more liquid – some beef broth and bouillon – until you get it strong enough.

And finally for 2014, thanks to club president Daisy Hutzell-Rodman for all her support for the past year, and to chef Barry Brewer and all the staff of OPC, including my beautiful wife, Christine, who really is the cog that makes the club go.

Thank you all and I look forward to serving you for another year at the club.

Steve Villamonte CEC, BS
Executive Director
Omaha Press Club
OPC MEMBER PROXY BALLOT
All Omaha Press Club members are asked to vote using the proxy ballot included with this month's newsletter. Please return completed ballots by 4p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13 or submit your vote in person at the annual meeting at the club on Thursday, Jan. 15.

OFFICERS
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Todd Murphy ___ For ___ Against
President-Elect
Sean McGuire ___ For ___ Against
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Judy Horan ___ For ___ Against
Immediate Past President
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Chris Allen, Ph.D. ___ For ___ Against
Allen Beermann ___ For ___ Against
Bridget Weide Brooks ___ For ___ Against
Marcia Cady ___ For ___ Against
Gary Sadlemyer ___ For ___ Against
Tom Shatel ___ For ___ Against
Heather Tweedy ___ For ___ Against

FAX completed ballot to:402-345-0114 or mail to the Omaha Press Club 1620 Dodge Street, 22ndFloor- Omaha, NE 68102-1561 Absentee ballots MUST be received by 4p.m.on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Note: If you plan to attend the annual meeting, please do not return this proxy ballot.

Valentine’s Day Dinner for Two
February 13th – 14th, 2015
5:30pm
$100 Inclusive

Appetizer
Seafood Portabella Mushroom Soup or Bacon Wrapped Jumbo Shrimp served with a Sauce Veronique

Salad
OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad Served in a Parmesan Crisp

Entrée
Slowly Roasted Tenderloin with a Maytag Bleu & Demi-Glace Old School Chicken Cordon Bleu with Béarnaise Crab-Stuffed Tilapia with a Citrus Buerre Blanc Pan-Roasted Duck with a Vidalia Onion & Sweet Cherry Comfit Penne Pasta with Sun-Dried Tomato Sauce & Kalamata Olives

Dessert
French Chocolate Mousse Martini Style with OPC Signature Truffle Blackstone Cheese Cake with Italian Strawberries

ANNOUNCEMENT
Love working with digital Photos? Love the Omaha Press Club? Want a free dinner for two? Great! We are looking for a volunteer to crop and adjust the remaining 86 Faces (from the Barroom Floor). Help out the club and we’ll buy you dinner.
Email us at tmurphy@universal-info.com or call 402 345-8008 if this project is for you

OPC Santa Buffet
A thick fog did not keep Santa away from the OPC Santa Buffet on Dec. 15, even though his reindeer were grounded. Among those visiting with him were (left to right) Gary Leak—the Mussman family: Rex (3 1/2), Grant, Chase (4 months) and Karin—and Cathy Leak. Photo by Judy Horan
Pelini firing + Riley hiring = record crowd for
Shatel lunch

By TOM O’CONNOR
OPC Committee Chair

When you fire a seven-year head coach who never won fewer than nine games in a season, it’s bound to create a stir.

So it was no surprise that the Shatel Lunch Series on Dec. 16 attracted the largest turnout ever for the three-year series, with nearly 60 people attending.

The attendees were not disappointed as they listened to the insights of Omaha World-Herald sports columnist Tom Shatel and his World-Herald colleague, Dirk Chatelain.

As expected, the discussion centered on the ouster of Nebraska Football Coach Bo Pelini and the hiring of Mike Riley from Oregon State.

The lunch took place on the day that Pelini was named the new head coach at Youngstown State University.

In recounting the Pelini years at Nebraska, Shatel mused that perhaps Pelini had done it “backwards”... that it might have worked out better if he had gotten head coaching experience at Youngstown State before he took the head job at Nebraska.

Chatelain began his presentation by asking if anybody had ever heard of Brian Windhorst. He explained that Windhorst’s career has evolved around covering basketball mega-star LeBron James.

Windhorst covered James for the Akron Beacon Journal when James was in high school in Akron, Ohio. He then took a job with the Cleveland Plain Dealer when James went to Cleveland in the NBA, then moved to Miami and joined ESPN when James went from Cleveland to Miami in 2010. Now, with James moving back to Cleveland this year, Windhorst is returning to Cleveland with ESPN.

Like Windhorst’s career path, Chatelain, who has covered Pelini throughout his head coaching tenure at Nebraska, announced, “Today is my last day at the Omaha World-Herald, I’m taking a job with the Youngstown Vindicator.”

Obviously, he was kidding, but as one of several World-Herald reporters who had been critical of Pelini over the years, Chatelain is eager to see the Huskers return to their glory days of the 1990s when he was growing up as a diehard Husker fan.

He’s been covering the Huskers since 2002, and during that time, “They haven’t been good,” he said.

“If they’re going to be a national power again, they must have an elite offensive line,” he said, noting that outstanding offensive linemen are at a premium, and that Nebraska will likely have to make due with its existing O-linemen as the Riley era begins.

Chatelain noted that NU backup quarterback Johnny Stanton was recruited by Riley at Oregon State. “I think Stanton has a chance to be the guy next year,” he said. “I wouldn’t be one bit surprised if he’s the starting quarterback.”

Shatel said the Huskers’ Holiday Bowl game with the University of Southern California will be especially interesting as the NU players will be “auditioning for the new coach.”

The hiring of Riley “stunned” everyone in the World-Herald newsroom, Shatel said, as his name was never connected with the search.

“No Shatel lunch in January, February

It will likely be March for the next Shatel Lunch Series as Tom Shatel is undergoing knee replacement surgery on Jan. 19.

As always, when his next Press Club lunch is set, Shatel will publicize it in his sports column, and the Omaha Press Club will publicize it via its monthly newsletter, a blast email to members and its website.

If you wish to be added to the Press Club’s blast email list, please email Jeanie Campbell at opcjeanie@gmail.com.
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Tom Becka (2014-2016) NRG Media
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Excellence in Media Awards

Chris Allen

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J.J. Bartlett, Sean McGuire, Bridget (Weide) Brooks

“Face on the Barroom Floor”

Tom O’Connor

Hall of Fame

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Executive Director
Steve Villamonte............ opcdirector@gmail.com
Planning & Event Coordinator
Christine Villamonte.... opcchristine@gmail.com
Administrative Manager
Jeanie Campbell................. opcjeanie@gmail.com
OFFICE ............................ 402-345-8587
Restaurant .......................... 402-345-8008
Website ............................... www.omahapressclub.org

NEWSLETTER

Tamsen Butler ........................ Editor
Don Summerside ........................ Copy Editor

Submissions for February issue are due on or before Jan. 20.

READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER ON THE GO AT WWW.OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM.

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Sean McGuire ........................Secretary
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Bridget (Weide) Brooks........ Past President
Image Building Communications

Jan 2 Excellence in Media Awards now open for entries
Jan 15 Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.
Jan 15 Educational Forum: Immigration
Jan 19 Federal holiday
Club closed
Jan 24: 9 a.m.-Noon
Professional Development Seminar
“Diversity in Media”
Feb 13-14: 5:30 p.m.
Valentine’s Day Dinner for Two
Feb 15 Excellence in Media Awards deadline for entries
Feb 16 Federal holiday. Club closed
Feb 19 Noon Educational Forum: Common Core
Feb 27 Wine dinner, 6:00pm
March 6 OPC Hall of Fame nominations deadline
April 1 OPC Show “Fools Rush In”
June 6 Excellence in Media Awards and Hall of Fame dinner

LUNCH
Monday - Friday .................... 11:30 a.m to 2 p.m.

BAR
Tuesday - Saturday .................. 4:30 p.m to Close

DINNER
Thursday - Saturday ............... 5:30 p.m to Close

The Best View in Town

CANCELLATION POLICY:
All reservations must be cancelled
48 HOURS in advance.