Looking back at 2015
Elections, bylaws changes, committee reports - It was a busy OPC Annual Meeting on Jan. 14

By Judy Horan
2015 Board Secretary

P resident’s Report. Todd Murphy reviewed goals he set for his presidency.

• Continue the successful Hall of Fame event without its awards partner.
• Support the goals of Steve & Christine Villamonte. He congratulated Steve on paying down the club’s debt obligation.
• Update bylaws with the help of board member Allen Beermann. Bylaw amendments were approved at the meeting.
• Launch a detailed review of the club’s finances by an outside accounting firm.
• Grow corporate membership.

Executive Director’s Report. Steve Villamonte reported a challenging year financially. His goal for 2016 is to manage the club back to a profitable bottom line by increasing wedding reception and other revenue-producing events. He pointed out that membership alone does not support the club. Although the bottom line in 2015 showed a $10,299 loss, the club reduced its loan obligation by $8,124.

OPC Foundation. In 2015, 18 scholarships totaling $43,000 were awarded, foundation president Steve Jordon reported. Fundraising campaigns have raised a total of $31,431. One fundraiser, the OPC Show, “The Wrath of Khan-Agra,” will be held April 1 at the Holland Center. Receiving awards at the 2015 Scholarship Dinner were Larry Walklin of UNL (Journalism Educator) and Rose Ann Shannon (Career Achievement). At the April 29, 2016 Scholarship Dinner, honorees will be Jeremy Lipschultz and Jim Fogarty. Jordon said the OPC Foundation and Omaha Press Club are working closer together with common goals.

Finance. OPC treasurer J.J. Bartlett noted in his written report that 2015 had a loss for the first time since 2008, when the club was closed for six months. It is important, he said, to point out that food and bar costs for the year were in line with industry standards. He saluted good management. “Looking into 2016, Steve and Christine have already taken a number of steps in an effort to improve business going forward, including reducing insurance costs and ramping up wedding business marketing.”

Marketing/Membership. The committee laid groundwork for a corporate membership campaign, reported chair Bridget (Weide) Brooks. Membership at 1,166 was up, with an increase of almost 300 members in the past two years. OPC developed a joint membership initiative with PRSA, and Steve Villamonte reignited a relationship with First National Bank, which helped grow membership about 30 percent. Goals for 2016 are to grow membership to 1,300 members; increase the email list to 1,100, and provide greeters for OPC “Face on the Barroom Floor” events.

Communications. The committee met monthly to plan and produce 11 six-page newsletters, reported co-chair Susan Eustice. Don Summerside is copy editor. Eric Stoakes of The Reader is graphics editor. Committee co-chair Judy Horan coordinates content. Webmaster Craig Coffman posts the newsletter on the website and Bridget (Weide) Brooks utilizes it for Constant Contact emails. NEW IN 2015: A busy Tamsen Butler stepped down in May from her editing role. The meeting was moved from the third to the second Wednesday to better meet deadlines. A monthly feature about OPC Foundation activities was introduced. Jennifer Bull is a new committee member.

Face on the Barroom Floor. Face honorees in 2015 were: David Brown (Chamber of Commerce), Terence “Bud” Crawford (champion boxer), former Gov. Dave Heineman and Sally Ganem, and Kyle Peterson (ESPN), reported chairman Tom O’Connor. O’Connor pointed out all of the dinners were well attended with a sellout crowd for Heineman/Ganem. He sees more young Faces at events. “With baby boomers aging, the younger generation is the future of the Press Club,” said O’Connor. Faces scheduled for 2016 are O’Connor on Feb. 5 and Ruth and Bill Scott in April or May. O’Connor has a long list of potential Faces, but welcomes further nominations from members.

(continued on pg. 2)
Legendary Husker volleyball coach Cook to speak at Shatel Lunch on Feb. 23 His 2015 team won third national championship

John Cook, the architect of the University of Nebraska’s national championship volleyball program, will be the guest speaker at the Shatel Lunch Series at noon on Feb. 23 at the Omaha Press Club.

In 2015, the Huskers captured their third national championship under Cook by defeating Texas in the championship game at CenturyLink Center Omaha. It marked the third time Cook had led the team to the Final Four when it was being hosted at the Omaha arena and the second time he had brought home a championship there.

“T’m thrilled that Coach Cook will be coming to the Press Club,” said Tom Shatel, Omaha World-Herald sports columnist and host of the Shatel Lunch Series. “This will be tremendous opportunity for people to meet one of the legendary sports figures in our state.”

Under Cook, the Huskers have:
- Won three national championships (2000, 2006 and 2015);
- Made four NCAA finals appearances and six Final Four appearances;
- Qualified for the NCAA Sweet 16 in all but one of his 16 seasons at NU; and
- Won 10 conference titles.

Cook succeeded Terry Pettit as head coach of the Husker volleyball program in 2000. He was an assistant under Pettit from 1988 to 1991, then went to Wisconsin, where he coached the Badgers for seven years and notched six straight postseason appearances.

Cook’s vision catapulted the program to a new phase in 2013 as the Devaney Center underwent a $20 million renovation and became the new home for Nebraska volleyball. The move almost doubled attendance for Husker volleyball. The Devaney Center can hold nearly 8,000 in addition to 400 standing-room-only tickets.

The Huskers have sold out 204 consecutive regular-season matches since 2001, the longest sellout streak in NCAA women’s athletics, and have led the nation in attendance every season since moving to the Devaney Center.

The Shatel Sports Series lunch costs $15 and is open to the public. It is typically held on the third Tuesday of every month. To RSVP, call 402-345-8008 or email opcjeanie@gmail.com. A 24-hour cancellation policy applies.
Mark your calendars for April 1.

Not because it’s April Fool’s Day, but because that’s when you can join our well-informed audience at the 2016 Omaha Press Club Show, titled “The Wrath of Khan-Agra.”

The fundraising show, with proceeds going to journalism scholarships, will be at the Holland Performing Arts Center again, starting with a cocktail party and featuring dinner theater-style seating.

Produced by the Omaha Press Club Foundation, the show promises an irreverent look at the year’s events and personalities - candidates, snowstorms, corporate shifts, football failures and volleyball victors.

Ticket information will appear soon at opcshow.org. To make an early-bird reservation for single tickets or tables of eight, email opcshow@gmail.com.

Climate change? Deal with it, says UNL expert

By Susan Eustice
OPC Committee Co-Chair

“2015 was the warmest year globally and it was the seventh warmest year on record for Nebraska,” said Kimberly Morrow, climate change resource specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Morrow spoke Jan. 21 at the OPC’s Noon Education Forum on the implications of climate change for Nebraska.

Experts have identified climate threats to multiple sectors in Nebraska, including crops, livestock, energy, health, urban systems and rural communities. “Anyone who works closely with the land is feeling the changes,” she said.

The biggest threat, according to Morrow, is decreasing water resources in the Platte River Watershed. Temperatures are projected to increase in terms of the number of days when temperatures rise above 100 degrees. When it gets hotter, water evaporates at a much faster rate.

Morrow explained the natural and human influences on climate. Natural influences include variations in the Earth’s orbit and chaotic interactions in the Earth’s climate such as El Nino.

Human influences have increased concentrations of gases like CO2 and changes in aerosol particles from burning fossil fuels. “We are a fossil fuel-dependent world. It’s scary trying to figure out how to not be dependent on fossil fuels,” Morrow remarked.

Instead of being a topic that can be openly talked about, climate has become a political issue on whether or not global warming even exists. “It does; there’s no question,” Morrow said. “We’ve shifted away from a period of stationary climate and there is no doubt humans are changing the global climate”.

She suggested that wars of the future will be fought over water and not oil.

While she says the current consequences of climate change cannot be reversed, Morrow believes society can adapt. “In the global warming conversations, they tend to center around mitigation and adaptation, and recently they’ve started to be more about adaptation.”

A recent poll of rural Nebraskans found support for creating a state plan to adapt to climate change, and 80% supported renewable energy development.

What’s ahead for Nebraska? Morrow sees an increase in the number of heat waves, higher daytime temperatures, lower nighttime readings and monthly record temperatures.

She also sees an opportunity for Nebraska to lead and innovate in continuing to feed people around the world despite climate change.

“There are incredible things we can do. We just need to put our minds to it, shift the message so it’s not scary or political and make it an opportunity for leadership and innovation.”

(More information and copies of the most recent climate reports are available at http://go.unl.edu/climatechange.)

Congratulations to Bruce Lauritzen as Midlander of the Year.

The Omaha Press Club is pleased to recognize a big supporter of the club for his honor as the Omaha World-Herald Midlander of the Year. The Lauritzen Room at the club was named for him and his late father, John Lauritzen, in recognition of the family’s contributions to the club, John Lauritzen was instrumental in the club’s opening in 1971. Bruce Lauritzen, who is chairman of First National of Nebraska, also was honored by the Omaha Press Club in September 2011 as the 130th Face on the Barroom Floor. (See omahapressclub.org/face)

Obituaries

The Press Club remembers:

Jane Keller, 67

The Omaha Press Club, and in particular the OPC Show family, extends sympathy to the family of Jane Keller. Keller, who died Jan. 6 after suffering a stroke, was a longtime math teacher at Metropolitan Community College. In addition, she was the stage manager for more than 150 area theater productions, including many Press Club Shows. Survivors include brothers Paul of Omaha and Richard of San Francisco.
Father Daniel Hendrickson took over as the 25th president of Creighton University on July 1, 2015, succeeding Father Timothy Lannon. Since 2012 Hendrickson had been at Marquette University as associate vice president in the Office of the Executive Vice President, working closely with the president, provost and academic deans. He later became an associate provost for academic initiatives at Marquette. He was elected to the Creighton Board of Trustees in 2013 and also serves on the boards of Boston College and Fordham University.

A native of Nebraska and a graduate of Mount Michael Benedictine High School in Elkhorn, Hendrickson earned his B.A. in psychology and theology at Marquette in 1993 and entered the Society of Jesus in 1994. He received his M.A. in philosophical resources from Fordham University, a Master of Divinity degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University.

Hendrickson’s first contact with Creighton was as a student in the Jesuit Humanities Program in 1996. He returned as an adjunct instructor of philosophy from 2000 to 2003. He also served as an adjunct professor with Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) program in Santiago, Dominican Republic, in 2002. Hendrickson was a visiting instructor at Jordan University College in Morogoro, Tanzania, and an adjunct professor of philosophy at Fordham University.

Hendrickson comes from a family of educators. His identical twin, D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J., is an assistant professor of modern languages at Loyola University in Chicago, and his older brother, Ryan Hendrickson, Ph.D., is a political science professor and interim dean of the graduate school at Eastern Illinois University.

**Valentine’s Day Dinner for Two**

**FEBRUARY 12 – 13**

**$100 Inclusive • 5:30 p.m.**

**Appetizers at Fireplace**

- Imported Cheese Display, Crab Stuffed Portabella, Olive Tapenade Croustade
- Soup
  - Shrimp Bisque with a Bruschetta Croustade
- Salad
  - OPC Signature Thunderbird Salad Served
- Entrée (Choice)
  - Slowly Roasted Tenderloin with Béarnaise Sauce
  - New York Maitre d’Hôtel Prime Rib Au Jus & Chantilly
  - Chicken Apricot
  - Broiled Salmon Veronique
  - Penne Pasta with Sun-Dried Tomato Sauce & Kalamata Olives
- Dessert (Choice)
  - French Chocolate Mousse with OPC Signature Truffle & Strawberry
  - Homemade Tiramisu with Shaved Chocolate & Lady Finger

**One-Night Stand Nonmember price $60 per person**

RSVP 402-345-8008

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**VALENTINE’S DAY CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH**

**10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY 14**

For two or the whole family

**Freshly Baked**

- Croissants, Blueberry, Cherry, Danishes, Caramel Pecan Rolls
- Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with Freshly Whipped Cream, Candied Walnuts and Brown Sugar Glazed Bananas
- Bread Pudding with Crème Anglaise

**Salad**

- Thunderbird Sauté / Shrimp and Garlic Chicken
- Fresh Fruit / Antipasti Style Salad
- Chef Salad
- Broccoli Salad
- Creamy Italian Scramble
- Spinach, Roma, Artichokes, Olives, Mozzarella & Capers
- New England clam chowder

**Main**

- Grilled Asian BBQ Tilapia with Mango Relish
- Apricot Orange Rosemary Pork
- Gratin Potatoes with Artichokes
- Balsamic Glazed Carrots
- Italian Scramble

**Carved**

- Carved Chili Rub Breast of Turkey with Cranberry Chutney
- Rosemary & Garlic Rubbed Prime Rib with Horseradish Cream

**Dessert**

- Chocolate Mousse Pastry Swan and Tiramisu

Includes a Glass of Champagne or Mimosa for Adults

$30 Adults • $12 Children • RSVP 402-345-8008

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**Easter Buffet**

Sunday, March 27

Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**Adults $22 • Children $12**

RSVP 402-345-8008

**CARVING STATION**

- Steamship Round of Beef
- Whiskey Pepper-Glazed Ham

**ENTREES**

- Chicken Bourguignon
- Lemon Pepper Butter Baked Tilapia
- Eggs Benedict
- Lyonnaise New Potato
- Biscuits & Sausage Gravy
- Seasonal Vegetable
- Build-Your-Own Omelet
- Multi-Topping Buttermilk Pancakes

**SALAD DISPLAY**

- Thunderbird Salad, Chef Salad, Broccoli Salad, Creamy Dill Cucumber Salad, Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs, Smoked Salmon, Chaud-Froid, Continental Fruit Display & Continental Cheese Display

**DESSERTS**

- Fresh Baked Cream Puff Profiteroles, Fresh Danish, Sticky Buns, Chocolate Dipped Driscoll Strawberries & Homemade Coffee Cake
2015 turned out to be a tough year with many ups and downs. I have been very busy in all aspects of my life, with work, family and health. The busy schedule made me feel a bit like passing on my column this month. After a long day, I finally got the energy to write a few paragraphs.

I felt it important to thank the Press Club 2015 board of directors, committee chairs and members for all the meetings, committee work and support during the past year. It’s always a pleasure getting to know good people. The club is lucky to have all the dedicated volunteers to keep the club going, especially during challenging times.

As president, Todd Murphy provided moral support and had positive results during his term including: networking an arrangement for much-needed accounting support, and an updated website with an ongoing support agreement. Todd has also been instrumental in helping the Marketing Committee lay out objectives for our corporate membership drive. One other important fact; Todd was definitely the most humorous club president during my tenure. 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

2016 will also feature programs like primary debates and an intriguing professional development seminar on digital marketing in the Iowa caucuses. If you are into sports, check out the Shatel lunches because they are the bomb. I hope you are getting my hint that there really is something for everyone.

Like any business there are challenges, but the club is going in the right direction, and if you can help us execute the following three goals, we will be in great shape going into 2017 and beyond.

Grow membership by 20 percent
In 2015 the membership committee laid the foundation for a corporate membership drive. This, along with identifying and recruiting the next generation of members, will give the club additional resources to put towards club improvements and growth.

Increase involvement and utilization
Serving on a committee will connect you with talented and fun professionals. I would like to see member matchups for those interested in networking and am open to other suggestions on how the club can give you the most value for your membership.

Average one new special event per month
Is someone you know getting married or having a graduation party, retirement party or seeking a venue for a charity function? In my opinion, the best benefit of your membership is free club rental. Keep us in mind for your next business or social function and spread the word.

There is no reason to not hang out here, and with two hotels next door we encourage you to make the Omaha Press Club your destination in 2016. Cheers to another exciting year.

- Sean McGuire, OPC President

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the selection of inductees for the 2016 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Destination OPC
We appreciate your membership because the best view in town would not be possible without your support. I hope we get to meet at some point during 2016. We have a fantastic year ahead of us.

If you have not been to the club lately, you are missing out on some really fun events and programs. Last year there were four successful and awesome “Face” events. Everybody’s favorite OPC member, Tom O’Connor, will be honored on Feb. 5 and trust me, you do not want to miss this one.

If you have not been to the club lately, you are missing out on some really fun events and programs. Last year there were four successful and awesome “Face” events. Everybody’s favorite OPC member, Tom O’Connor, will be honored on Feb. 5 and trust me, you do not want to miss this one.

Please submit by March 6, 2016, to the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame Committee
1620 Dodge St., 22nd Floor, Omaha, NE 68102 FAX to 402-345-0114
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“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Tom O’Connor

Hall of Fame
Judy Horan, Todd Murphy

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Elaine Allen

Breakfast
402-345-8008

LUNCHEON
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

WE’RE ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM

OPC EVENTS

Friday-Saturday, Feb. 12-13
Valentine’s Dinner for Two, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 14
Valentine’s Day Brunch
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Feb. 15 Presidents Day
Club closed.

Friday, Feb. 19
Beer Tasting: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 23
Shatel Sports Lunch
UNL Volleyball Coach John Cook
Lunch at 11:30, program at noon

Thursday, Feb. 25
Noon Education Forum (11:30 lunch)
The Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J.
President, Creighton University

Tuesday, March 15
Shatel Sports Lunch

Thursday, March 17
St. Patrick’s Day Buffet
11:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Thursday, March 17
Noon Education Forum (11:30 lunch)
Ann Marie Kudlac, executive director,
Refugee Empowerment Center

Sunday, March 27
Easter Brunch
Seatings at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Friday, April 1
OPC Show: “The Wrath of Khan-Agra”
Holland Performing Arts Center.
5:30 p.m. cocktails, dinner at 7, show at 8

Tuesday, April 19
Shatel Sports Lunch

Wednesday, April 27
Administrative Professional Day
Special menu

Friday, April 29
OPC Foundation
Scholarship Awards Dinner
5:30 p.m. reception; 6:15 dinner

Sunday, May 8
Mother’s Day Brunch
Seatings at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17
Shatel Sports Lunch

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day. Club closed

Saturday, June 4
Hall of Fame Dinner
5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 dinner,
7:15 ceremony

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

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