May 12 Noon Forum to explore human trafficking in Omaha

By Ann Pedersen
Education Committee

More than 250,000 people are trafficked in the U.S. every year. Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert calls it “an alarming crime that needs a comprehensive, community-wide strategy to address it.”

With its location along I-80 and I-29, and its regular hosting of major sporting events, Omaha’s metropolitan area sees thousands of these people flow through.

Surges in sex trafficking are commonly seen around events like the College World Series, Olympic Swim Trials, concerts and conventions. Local anti-trafficking task forces have identified more than 100 cases of child sex trafficking in the area, but report that this number represents only a very small percentage of what’s really going on in our community.

At the Noon Forum on May 12, two leading experts will explore the human trafficking issue in Omaha. Panelists will be Sister Rosalee Burke and Stephen O’Meara.

Sister Rosalee is a Notre Dame nun and coordinator of the order’s Social Justice Committee. She is chair of the Coalition on Sex Trafficking, which was started by the Leadership Conference for Women Religious.

She is a former high school teacher, domestic violence volunteer coordinator, St. Vincent de Paul thrift store manager, parish minister and pastoral planner and consultant.

Stephen O’Meara, J.D., is a graduate of the Creighton University School of Law and has been practicing law for 43 years. O’Meara currently serves as an assistant Nebraska attorney general, coordinator of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF), and coordinator of Child Protection Training.

Last October, O’Meara authored a report with recommendations for the establishment of the NHTTF, which the Nebraska attorney general adopted.

THURSDAY, MAY 12
NOON TO 1 P.M.
(lunch served starting at 11:30 a.m.)
$17 per person includes lunch
Reservations – call 402-345-8008 or email jeanie@omhcoxmail.com
Guests and nonmembers welcome
Hall of Fame dinner continues a tradition

Eight years ago, KETV’s Rob McCartney stood in front of a large group of excited friends, relatives and colleagues of journalists who were inducted into the very first Omaha Press Club Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame. He was the emcee for the inaugural event. The annual dinner has continued to be a special evening and highlight of the year.

He’s back. McCartney, who was inducted in 2014, is returning to emcee this year’s ceremony as the Omaha Press Club places six more journalists into the Hall of Fame.

Miss this dinner and program and you are missing a special evening.

Hall of Fame dinner continues a tradition

By Judy Horan
Hall of Fame committee co-chair

Gift to OPC Foundation can now be made on May 25 through Omaha Gives!

By Scott Darling
OPC Foundation

Are you looking for new ways to give to the Omaha Press Club Foundation in support of our Journalism Scholarship Program?

If so, we’ve got one for you – Omaha Gives! Yes, the OPC Foundation will be participating in Omaha Gives! this spring.

Omaha Gives! is a 24-hour charitable challenge powered by the Omaha Community Foundation. It's going to be held from midnight to midnight on May 25 with a minimum donation of $10.

The goal of Omaha Gives! is to inspire the community to come together for 24 hours to give as much as possible to support the work of 501(c)3 nonprofits in the Omaha metro area.

Last year, 20,684 individuals came together to support nonprofits with gifts of $10 or more to the omahagives24.org website. This generosity resulted in 704 nonprofits in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties receiving more than $8.8 million in donations in just one day.

Please consider supporting the OPC Foundation with your gift through Omaha Gives! The scholarships we award are for student journalists at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Creighton University. In 2015 we awarded 18 scholarships totaling $40,500.

Thank you for considering a donation to our Journalism Scholarship Program. Your tax-deductible gift not only supports exceptional young talent, but also provides affirmation for these students that they have the skills, commitment and promise to positively impact their profession and their community.
Republican congressional candidates Chip Maxwell and Don Bacon agreed more than they disagreed as they stood in front of a packed room of potential voters at the Omaha Press Club on April 21.

Some of the issues they agreed on:

- The deficit is a major issue. “It’s not just bad policy, it’s immoral,” said Maxwell. Government spending needs to be reduced, they agreed. “Forty percent of spending is on entitlements,” Bacon noted. Both agreed they would support the Republican candidate for president no matter who the person is, that illegal immigration needs to be controlled better in fairness to those who get in line, and that minimum wage decisions should be made on the state level.

The rare times the two candidates disagreed, it was with civility. Bacon and Maxwell are running against each other in the May 10 Nebraska primary for the Republican nomination for the 2nd Congressional District seat now held by Democrat Brad Ashford.

First-time politician Bacon emphasized his knowledge of Offutt Air Force Base, the Omaha area’s largest employer, and his management experience as an Air Force brigadier general (now retired). Maxwell, an attorney, pointed to his political experience, having served on the Douglas County Board and as a member of the Nebraska Legislature.

The debate was co-sponsored by the Omaha Press Club and the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha. KIOS Radio will air the hourlong program starting at noon on May 9.

Obituaries:

OPC remembers Barc Wade

Barc Wade, a member of the OPC Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame, died April 8 at age 89. He founded AAA Home and Away magazine in 1980 and won numerous awards for his promotion of Nebraska tourism. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.

Wade’s 65-year career in journalism began at the Kearney Hub and continued at the Fremont Tribune and at Fremont High School, where he taught journalism. He moved to the AAA Cornhusker Motor Club in 1954, where he started a new motor club publication and from 1968-2002 wrote the “Biteless Barc” travel column. He once estimated that he had written more than 1,500 travel articles.
Shatel diners hear UNO’s Alberts

Trev Alberts, vice chancellor-athletics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, was the guest speaker at the April 19 Shatel Lunch Series. Alberts, who was recently inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, discussed the transformation of the Maverick athletic program in recent years and how the university has rallied around its new brand. The monthly Shatel Lunch Series will return in September.

MEMBER BENEFITS

OPC members receive preferential treatment when holding a special event, with no charge for room usage. Wedding. Birthday. Retirement. Maybe just celebrating your team’s win. We offer great food, a beautiful setting, an unequaled view, free room rental and an experienced event coordinator.

Call our favorite party person, Christine Villamonte, at 402-345-8008, for information.

MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 8
Two Settings: 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Adults: $22 • Children under 10: $12

CARVING STATION
Steamship Round of Beef with Horseradish Chantilly & Red Wine Au Jus
Old School Pineapple-Glazed Ham

ENTRÉES
Chicken Supreme
Baked Tilapia Beurre Blanc
Eggs Benedict • Risotto
Lyonnaise Potatoes • Seasonal Vegetables

À LA CARTE
Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Waffle Bar

SALAD DISPLAY
Thunderbird Salad • Imported Cheese & Antipasto
Coleslaw • German Potato Salad
Deviled Eggs • Smoked Salmon Chaud-Froid
Fresh Fruit Display • Fresh Baked Pastries
Breakfast Breads • Pecan Rolls

DESSERTS
New York-Style Cheesecake with Strawberries
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries

OPAHA PRESS CLUB
Gourmet Club Wine Dinner
Hosted by Scott Voorhees
Friday, June 3, 6 p.m.

Hors d’oeuvres
Empanadas, Chicken Mousse & Olive Tapenade Croustade,
Spinach & Artichoke Stuffed Mushrooms, Cucumber Shrimp
WINE: Ferrari-Carano Fume Blanc

Appetizer
Stuffed Shrimp on an Avocado Risotto with a spicy sauce choro
WINE: Director’s Cut Chardonnay

Sorbet
Raspberry Kiwi

Entrée
Thunderbird Salad with a Parmesan Tuile
WINE: Joel Gott Pinot Noir

Duel Entrée
Medallion of Beef with Madeira
Caramelized Pearl Onions & Portabella Stuffed Mushrooms, Cucumber Shrimp
WINE: The Franc and The Dark

Dessert
Chocolate Mousse Flan with OPC Signature Truffle
Dow’s Trademark Port

OPC Member: $45 • Nonmember: $55

HORS D’OEUVRES
Tomato Bruschetta
Cucumber & Shrimp Canapés (Passed)
Crab Artichoke Puff

Salad
OPC Thunderbird

Entrée
Chicken Marsala
Arancini
Mushroom Hominy

Dessert
Italian Strawberry en Croute
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The month of May will be bringing some administrative changes to the Omaha Press Club. In April, the Membership Committee and the board of directors unanimously approved an important membership and marketing initiative for the future of the club. This will improve operational efficiency, allowing staff to focus on continuing to provide the best events and service in town. I encourage you to read the story by Bridget (Weide) Brooks below.

- Sean McGuire, OPC President

OPC membership categories cut to four
MOST SIGNIFICANT OVERHAUL IN 20 YEARS

“Fewer choices, more new members.” That’s the reason behind the most significant overhaul of membership categories for the Omaha Press Club in more than two decades.

As part of the Spring Membership Drive, the Press Club’s Marketing and Membership Committee proposed consolidating the current 37 membership categories into only four categories. Feedback from prospective members was that it was too difficult to determine which membership category fit, and this indecision too often led to no decision. By reducing the choices to four categories, the goal is to simplify the signup process for new members.

Changes to the membership category for existing members will be activated on the annual renewal date of the membership. Members will receive a letter with that dues invoice to provide a reminder of the change. Although some members will see a small increase in dues — the first dues change in almost 10 years — several members will actually see their dues reduced. Those in the Communicator category will not have a quarterly food or drink minimum. The move is expected to be revenue neutral in terms of impact to dues income.

The new categories are as follows:

Communicator:
Any person whose primary occupation is related to online or offline journalism, media, communications, public relations, photojournalism, marketing, advertising, graphic arts, blogging, website design or other digital pursuits, and journalism education.
Dues: $15/month ($180/year)
Quarterly food/drink minimum: None

OPC Individual Membership:
Any individual whose primary occupation is unrelated to press, news media, and/or communications.
Dues: $40/month ($480/year)
Quarterly food/drink minimum: $40

OPC Group Membership:
Individuals affiliated with a company, corporation, or membership organization, civic group, or other type of organization which has five or more active Omaha Press Club memberships.
Dues: $15/month ($180/year)
Quarterly food/drink minimum: $40

Non-Metro:
Persons who live and work outside the Douglas/Sarpy/Pottawattamie county area.
Dues: $15/month ($180/year)
Quarterly food/drink minimum: None

The board of directors voted to approve the proposal, and the new categories go into effect on May 1.

By Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Marketing/Membership Committee Chair

TREV ALBERTS WILL BE NEXT ‘FACE ON THE BARROOM FLOOR’ ON MAY 20

WHO: Trev Alberts, vice chancellor of athletics, University of Nebraska at Omaha. A linebacker with the Nebraska Cornhuskers from 1991 to 1994, Alberts was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2015. He will be the OPC’s 149th Face on the Barroom Floor since 1971.

WHEN: Friday, May 20 (Reception – 5:30 p.m., Dinner – 6:30 p.m., Roast following)

RSVP: Call 402-345-8008 or email jeaniec@opc.omhcoxi.com

NOTE: Look for more information on Alberts and the event’s roasters on page 1.
2016-2017 Officers

Sean McGuire
President
E.D. Bellis Healthcare Consultants

Tom Becka
President-Elect
KPTM Fox 42

J.J. Bartlett
Treasurer
First National Bank

Marcia Cady
Secretary
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

Todd Murphy
Immediate Past President
Universal Information Services

Board of Directors

Chris Allen
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Allen Beermann
Nebraska Press Association
Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Image Building Communications
Gary Sadlermyer
KFAB Radio
Tom Shatel
Omaha World-Herald
Beth Weiss
Cox Communications

(2016-2018)
Kathleen Al-Marhoon
Bailey Lauerman
Claudia Bohn
Methodist Health System
D.C. “Woody” Bradford
Houghton Bradford Whitten
Liz Hruska
Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Office
Christopher Sehring
KMTV

Committee Chairs

Communications Co-Chairs
Susan Eustice, Judy Horan
Education
Gary Kerr
Excellence in Media Awards
Chris Allen
Executive Committee
Sean McGuire, Todd Murphy,
J.J. Bartlett, Tom Becka, Marcia Cady
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Tom O’Connor
Hall of Fame
Judy Horan, Todd Murphy
Marketing / Membership
Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Professional Development
Daisy Hutzell-Rodman

OPC Foundation

Trustees
Eileen Wirth, Ph.D.
President
Gary Kerr
Howard K. Marcus
Vice President
J.J. Bartlett
Elaine Allen
Secretary
Tom Becka
Larry Weber
Treasurer
Judy Horan
Steve Jordon
Past President
Todd Murphy

OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

Executive Director
Steve Villamonte
steve@opc.org
402-345-8587

Restaurant and Events Manager
Christine Villamonte
chrisc@opc.org
402-345-8008

Administrative Manager
Jeanie Campbell
jeanie@opc.org
402-345-8008

OFFICE
402-345-8587

NEWSLETTER
Farhan Siddiqui
farhan@opc.org
402-345-8587

Submissions for June issue are due
on or before May 20.

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

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

EVENTS

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

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

Thursday, May 12
Noon Education Forum
“Human Trafficking”
11:30 a.m. lunch, program at noon

Friday, May 20
Face on the Barroom Floor
Trev Alberts, UNO athletic director
5:30 p.m. no-host reception,
6:30 p.m. dinner and roast

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day, Club closed

Friday, June 3
KFAB Winemakers Dinner
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Saturday, June 4
Hall of Fame honorees inducted
5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. dinner
7:15 p.m. program

Thursday, June 16
Noon Education Forum
Hall Daub: “A crystal ball for the
Republican National Convention”
11:30 a.m. lunch, program at noon

Friday, June 17
College baseball opening ceremonies
6 p.m. buffet

Saturday, June 18
Father’s Day Grill, steak and buffet
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, July 2
Celebrate July 4 early
with buffet and fireworks

O’CONNOR & COMPANY