Trump’s ground game called key to victory
Noon Forum hears analysis of election results

By Claudia Bohn
Communications Committee

The 2016 presidential election was full of twists and turns throughout the Democratic and Republican race to the White House. The end result surprised many, but political experts Vince Powers and J.L. Spray told the Omaha Press Club Noon Forum crowd it’s what makes our country great.

Powers, chairman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, and Spray, a member of the Republican National Committee, addressed the election both nationally and statewide at the Nov. 17 OPC event. The key to Donald Trump winning the presidential race came down to the ground game.

“The Clinton campaign was very smooth and very well run, and they had 30 years of campaign experience,” Spray said. “Trump had the ground game on the local level, and it was the best we have ever had. The campaign plan that was handed to Donald Trump is what made his election possible.”

Powers said the Democratic Party has much to learn from the recent election and must reorganize its efforts.

“When a party wins, they get to organize the government and the country,” Powers said. “When you lose, you have to reorganize your party and examine what went wrong. Many in our party are still surprised by the outcome. We will wait and see. I want our country to do well. Things are going to be different, but it will all work out.”

The political experts also touched on the legislative races in Nebraska, the Electoral College and how President-elect Trump’s agenda could impact Nebraska.
Omaha leaders roast and toast Woody and Dana Bradford

By Don Summerside
Communications Committee

Photos by Kurt Keeler

A man of many hats and a man of many words -- as Woody and Dana Bradford were dubbed by their roasters -- share the 151st “Face on the Bar-room Floor.”

Before a crowd of more than 180 at the Nov. 16 OPC event, Woody and son Dana received the irreverent salutes of community leaders.

Roaster Bruce Lauritzen produced the visual highlight of the evening. Lauritzen, chairman of First National Bank of Omaha, called attorney Woody “a man of many, many talents who has worn many hats.” Then, with the assistance of son Clark and the creative talents of Bruce’s wife, Gerry, he brought forth hat after hat for Woody to model: a husband hat (a “honey-do” bonnet); a father hat (Woody, father of four sons, is a western movie fan and the father hat was actually a stack of cowboy hats with the names of Woody’s sons on them); a coach hat recalling Woody’s days of guiding youth teams; a gardener hat; a political hat; a barrister wig; an Episcopal hat; and, finally, a Bradford beanie complete with propeller.

The man of many words? Roaster Mickey Anderson, president of Baxter Auto Group, said business and civic leader Dana has a special and lengthy vocabulary: “He never lets a few words say well what so many words can say poorly.”

Added Roger Dixon, president and CEO of MECA: “Dana had a lot of big ideas. When he was on the MECA board, the staff would joke about keeping a fire extinguisher handy. Dana always arrived with his hair on fire!”

Jay Noddle, president and CEO of Noddle Companies, said: “You know it’s going to be a long meeting when Dana opens up with: ‘You’re all handicapped with bad facts. Let me tell you how it is.’”

Emcee for the evening was Terry Kroeger, publisher of the Omaha World-Herald and president and CEO of BH Media Group. Kroeger called Woody and Dana a legendary duo – “like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, or Brad Ashford and Nancy Pelosi.”

Kroeger introduced roaster Anderson as “maybe the best car dealer in the United States.” Anderson, in turn, thanked Kroeger for the compliment, then added: “But maybe endorsements aren’t your strong suit!” (The World-Herald endorsed Hillary Clinton, its first for a Democrat presidential nominee since 1932).

Woody’s full name is D.C. Bradford III. How did he learn to talk? Would he ever grow? Would-He became Woody.

In artist Jim Horan’s “Face” caricature, Woody and Dana are wearing classy outfits, a style that Horan calls “law suit.” They are carrying briefcases with signs for favorite organizations such as the Omaha Press Club and MECA.

Woody is juggling the scales of justice. The lady with the sword – Lady Justice – is not happy about it. Dana is holding a red-hot branding iron, a tool for his business, Waitt Brands. In the center between Woody and Dana is the soaring tower symbol of Stinson Park and Aksarben Village.

In closing, emcee Kroeger called the Bradfords’ gifts to Omaha.”

Dana concluded with: “It’s a real honor for me and for my family to be recognized by the Omaha Press Club. For all of you to take the time to show up, it means an awful lot.”

And from Woody: “I want to say how proud I am of my son and to express the joy a father gets on an occasion like this. I appreciate this honor and want to thank you very much.”

And the man of many words? Roaster Mickey Anderson, president of Baxter Auto Group, said business and civic leader Dana has a special and lengthy vocabulary: “He never lets a few words say well what so many words can say poorly.”

Woody is a man of many hats, says roaster Bruce Lauritzen, with help from Clark Lauritzen.


O1012016
Goodbye to Bill Ramsey

The Omaha Press Club lost a good friend and the community lost a public relations legend with the death of Bill Ramsey. President of the OPC in 1974, Ramsey was a “Face on the Barroom Floor” in 1995 and a recipient of the club’s “Distinguished Member” award.

After serving as a Marine Corps infantryman during the Korean War and receiving the Purple Heart for a shrapnel wound, the Council Bluffs native returned home to become one of Omaha’s top PR men and a spokesman for veterans’ causes for decades.

Son Mark told the Omaha World-Herald’s Steve Jordon that his father, 86, died at his Omaha home Nov. 5 after a brief illness. He and Patricia, his wife of 62 years, had five children, 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

After his military service, the Creighton University graduate worked as a photographer and reporter at WOW Radio and TV and then in public relations for Duchesne College and Academy, Creighton, Boys Town and Bozell & Jacobs before starting his own agency, Bill Ramsey Associates, in 1982. He continued his PR work until just last year, Jordon reported, while finishing his sixth book, “From Tears to Tributes,” on death and dying. Betty Dineen Shrier was co-author on most of the books.

Veterans’ causes were high on the list of Ramsey’s many civic contributions. He helped sponsor the Veterans Plaza Memorial in Bayliss Park in the Bluffs, as well as other Omaha-area monuments to members of the military. He also emceed and spoke at numerous veterans’ events over the years.

Bill Williams, who with his wife, Evonne, organized “honor flights” for veterans to see monuments in Washington, D.C., said Ramsey was a valuable adviser who took veterans’ issues to heart. “He was a Marine's Marine,” Williams told the World-Herald’s Jordon.

Ramsey also was a past president of Serra International, an organization that supports the Catholic priesthood.

OPC Executive Director Steve Villa- monte called Ramsey’s death “a great loss for the Omaha Press Club and the community. We considered him a kind friend with a wealth of knowledge of our community. He will be missed.”

Also noted in passing:
Stanford Lipsey, 89 -- Lipsey, Warren Buffett and Paul N. Williams were members of the inaugural OPC Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame in 2008 for leading the Omaha Sun Newspapers to a Pulitzer Prize. The prize was awarded in 1973 for an expose of Boys Town’s finances. It was the first Pulitzer ever given to a weekly newspaper. Lipsey, an Omaha native, later became publisher of the Buffalo News, another Buffett-owned newspaper. He died Nov. 1.

Ruth Williams, 91 -- Longtime fans of the Omaha Press Club Show will fondly recall “The Church Ladies.” The duet of Williams and Dorothy Andrews was an annual show favorite -- prim and proper stone-faced singers bearing hymnals with saucy lyrics. Williams worked at WOW-TV in the 1970s and ‘80s as continuity director and later as creative director. She died Oct. 24.

OPC MEMBERS ENJOY MANY BENEFITS

Your Omaha Press Club membership opens the door to a variety of benefits:

**PRESTIGE OF PRIVATE CLUB MEMBERSHIP**
OPC is a wonderful location for entertaining family, friends and guests. From the stunning views of the Omaha skyline to the unique menu and accommodating staff, it’s a dining and social experience like no other.

**FREE USE OF FACILITIES**
Your membership affords you the opportunity to use the OPC without paying a rental fee, resulting in a savings of between $200-$1,500. For client meetings, office parties, weddings, prenuptial dinners, news conferences and other gatherings, the OPC truly is a perfect setting for any event. The club can seat up to 250 people for sit-down dinners and up to 300 people for cocktail/hors d’oeuvres.

**ACCESS TO SPECIAL EVENTS**
Events are what we do best, and as a member of the OPC, you will receive member pricing for those events, including the quarterly Winemakers Dinners, Face on the Barroom Floor, Fourth of July Fireworks Buffet, Easter Brunch, Santa Brunch, St. Patrick’s Day Buffet, New Year’s Eve celebration, Mother’s Day Brunch, and Valentine’s Day dinner.

**MEMBERS-ONLY NEWSLETTER**
How do you find out about these amazing events? Through our monthly newsletter, members are kept abreast of all the club happenings, plus receive committee updates and features on members.

**RECIPROCAL CLUB RELATIONSHIPS**
As a member of the OPC, you can dine at more than 100 private clubs across the United States.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION AND NETWORKING**
The OPC offers monthly Noon Forum educational events and periodic sports events hosted by Tom Shatel.

**VALIDATED PARKING**
Members receive free parking at the DoubleTree Hotel Garage with a validated parking slip.

**THE CONVENIENCE OF ACCOUNT CHARGING PRIVILEGES**
You will receive monthly statements for any food/beverage and/or event charges incurred during the billing period. (Note: Your account must remain in good standing to receive this privilege.)
Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominees are now open for the selection of inductees for the 2016 Hall of Fame. Nominees may be living or deceased and must have been working journalists who 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
(attach separate sheet if necessary).

Please submit by March 30, 2016, to the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame Committee,
1620 Dodge St., 22nd Floor, Omaha, NE 68102.
Or fax to 402-345-0114.

Santa Brunch
Sunday, Dec. 11
10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army

Buffet
Steamship Round of Beef
Baked Ham with Maple Whiskey Sauce
Chicken Crepes Supreme
Baked Tilapia Citron
Garlic Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
Seasonal Vegetables
Build-Your-Own-Omelet à la Carte
Multi-Topping Belgian Waffle Bar
Salad Display, including
Thunderbird Salad
Salmon Chaud Froid & Fresh Fruit
Fresh-Baked Pastries, Tortes & Cheesecakes
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries
Deep Dish Apple Strudel with Brandied French Vanilla Ice Cream
Spiked French Vanilla Egg nog

Price: Adults $24 • Children $12
All children 10 and under receive a special holiday gift with reservation

OPC New Year’s Eve
Saturday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m.
Live Music by Soldiers of Soul

Hors d’oeuvres
Continental Cheese & Fruit Display

Buffet
OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad with Sauté Toppings
Peruvian Clam Chowder
Prime Rib of Beef
Au Jus & Chantilly
Chicken Marsala
Sautéed in a sweet Marsala wine with mushrooms and bordelaise
Blackened Tilapia
Topped with a Black Bean & Corn Salsa and Lemon Buerre Blanc
Dauphine Potatoes & Brandied Carrots

Dessert
Cherries Jubilee, Brownie à la Mode, Blackstone Cheesecake

Price: $50 per person
Tax & Service Fee Included

Reservations can be made by calling the Omaha Press Club at 402-345-8008

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.
The OPC Foundation is extremely grateful to all who have contributed to our year-end appeal for donations for scholarships. Your support is more important than ever this year with the end of the Davis Scholarships. If you haven’t sent your donation yet, there’s still time to get a 2016 tax deduction. And of course you will be helping some of our finest area journalism students!

We know that all of you are bombarded with requests for donations at this time of year, but we very much hope you will consider ours. Most of us got where we are professionally because someone believed in us. Many of us had scholarships that had a huge impact on our futures. I hope all of you will think of those who were generous to you when you were young as you (hopefully) give our appeal just another look and send us a check of any size.

The Foundation Board is also grateful to former OPC President Wendy Townley, director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation, for the outstanding workshop on fundraising that she conducted for us. Everyone on our board is an amateur in fundraising, and we are all volunteers. We have a lot to learn, and the information Wendy provided will help us tell our story far more effectively. We all do this because we are passionate about helping journalism students.

On behalf of our board, I wish all of you and your families a happy holiday season. Again, thanks!

- Eileen Wirth, OPC Foundation

OPC held its first annual Thanksgiving Brunch the Sunday before Thanksgiving, to a sparse crowd. Those who attended all vowed to come back next year. The food was all scratch and very traditional. The chefs did a great job. I have thought about adding this brunch for years, and I believe it will become well attended in years to come, just like the annual Santa Brunch.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Christine and Michael will have the club decorated for the holidays. Christine always does a great job decorating the tree and the club. I almost wish we kept the string of lights up all year-round.

Take the time to bring family and friends to lunch or dinner and show off your club. And don’t forget about our Santa Brunch and the prime rib New Year’s Eve celebrations. For those new members, these are signature club events that fill up, so make your reservations early.

“We have a new father and son “Face on the Barroom Floor” – Woody Bradford, longtime attorney for the OPC, and Dana Bradford, a business executive who has been a key leader of MECA. The event was well attended and a big night for the club. This one was unique as the high-profile roasters all definitely did their homework. Woody has been the club attorney since taking over the role from Ed Schafer more than 20 years ago.

If you have not booked your holiday event for your family or office, we still have open dates on the calendar, so call Christine.

Thank you all and see you at the club,

- Steve Villamonte CEC, BS, Executive Director
### Committees

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- Chris Allen
- Allen Beermann
- Bridget (Weide) Brooks
- Gary Sadlemyer
- Tom Shatel
- Beth Weiss

(2016-2018)

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- Tom Becka
- D.C. “Woody” Bradford
- Liz Hruska
- Christopher Sehring

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Nebraska Press Association

Image Building Communications

KFAB Radio

Omaha World-Herald

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- Executive Committee: Sean McGuire, Todd Murphy, J.J. Bartlett, Claudia Bohn, Marcia Cady
- “Face on the Barroom Floor”: Tom O’Connor
- Hall of Fame: Judy Horan, Todd Murphy
- Marketing / Membership: Bridget (Weide) Brooks

**OPC Foundation**

- TRUSTEES
  - Eileen Wirth, Ph.D.
  - Howard K. Marcus
  - Elaine Allen

- Julie Prescott Burgess
- Chris Christen
- Scott Darling
- Galen Lilethorup
- Dave Ogden, Ph.D.
- Joe Weber

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**Events**

**Omaha Press Club**

**December 2016**

- **Sunday, Jan. 1**
  - Closed for New Year’s Day

- **Thursday, Jan. 12**
  - OPC Annual Board meeting

- **Friday, Feb. 3**
  - Winemaker’s Dinner

- **Tuesday, Feb. 14th**
  - Valentine’s Day Dinner

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**OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF**

- Executive Director
  - Steve Villamonte............ opcdirector@gmail.com

- Restaurant and Events Manager
  - Christine Villamonte........ opcchristine@gmail.com

- Administrative Manager
  - Jeanie Campbell............. jeaniec@opc.omahapressclub.com

**Office**

- Phone: 402-345-8587
- Fax: 402-345-8008

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**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

All reservations must be cancelled 48 HOURS in advance.