Blue Cross CEO Martin will be March 22 ‘Face’

By Marcia Cady
Executive Committee

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska’s president and chief executive officer, Steve Martin, will be the 156th Omaha Press Club “Face on the Barroom Floor.” Martin will be roasted Thursday, March 22.

“It’s certainly a unique honor, joining fellow Nebraskans on the floor,” Martin said. “I’ve been a member of the club for many years and have enjoyed attending past roasts. Hopefully, I’ll feel the same after this one – I’ll let you know.”

The roast is guaranteed not to include wonky talk of insurance codes and pivot tables. There’s much more to be said about Martin’s career, civic work and collections.

Emcee Mary Maxwell, Omaha humorist and 109th “Face on the Barroom Floor,” will make sure of that. Maxwell will be armed with years of ammunition on her friend. Her take-no-prisoners approach won’t stop with the introductions.

W. David Scott, co-founder, Tetrad Property Group, will start the fire, along with Susan Courtney, executive vice president, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, and the vice chair of the Blue Cross board, Karen Aman. Terry Kroeger, chairman and CEO, BH Media Group, and publisher of the Omaha World-Herald, will close out the event.

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Has opioid crisis hit Omaha? Forum will hear drug experts

The opioid epidemic is ravaging America. What is happening in Omaha? Two experts will take a look at both the police and treatment aspects in a Noon Education Forum on March 15 at the Omaha Press Club.

Paul Yakel, a psychologist, has been treatment coordinator for the Douglas County Adult Drug Court since 1997. He began his career in 1984 in a residential substance abuse program in Omaha, spent several years in private practice and then moved to the drug court.

Since joining the Omaha Police Department in 1992, Sgt. Dave Bianchi’s career has been involved with combating illegal drugs and guns. For the first 11 years in the department, he worked in several units focused on illegal narcotics use and sales. He was then promoted to sergeant and assigned to the gang unit as a supervisor. Since 2007 he has been the supervisor of the day-shift narcotics unit.

Lunch service for the forum will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the program beginning promptly at noon and concluding at 1 p.m. The event price of $17 includes lunch. Non-OPC members are welcome.

Husker AD Moos will headline Shatel luncheon

By Marcia Cady

Executive Committee

Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Moos will be the featured guest at the next Shatel Series luncheon on Tuesday, April 24 at the Press Club.

Lunch will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. The program runs from noon to 1 p.m. Lunch includes hamburger steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, and a dessert. If you have special dietary needs, please notify the OPC when you make your reservation.

Moos was hired in October 2017 as the 15th athletic director for the Cornhuskers. Previously, he was athletic director at Washington State, Oregon and Montana. He and luncheon host Tom Shatel will make some brief remarks and then take questions from the audience.

The cost is $17 per person, which includes lunch. Reservations are required. To RSVP, call 402-345-8008, email Jeanie at jeanie@opc.omhcoxmail.com with your member number and the number of people attending or RSVP online on omahapressclub.com (click RSVP in the upper right hand corner and choose “Shatel Series” from the dropdown menu). The 48-hour cancellation policy applies.

Validated member parking is available in the Central City Garage, just west of the First National Bank Building (bring your ticket with you to the club for validation). For non-members, parking is available in the DoubleTree Hotel Garage for $3/car.

Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email Jeanie at jeanie@opc.omhcoxmail.com. Reservations must be accompanied by OPC member number or credit card. Validated parking for members is available at the DoubleTree Garage and on the rooftop of the Central City Garage. Bring your Central City parking ticket to the club for validation.
A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

I think Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow! With that thought – and no matter how long winter weather lasts – let me entice you to get outdoors anyway and up to the club to enjoy the upcoming OPC events.

The March happenings:
• First off, we offer Lent specials every Friday for both lunch and dinner. The chef keeps the menu creative with multiple choices of soups and entrees.
• The Noon Education Forum on the 15th will address the opioid crisis and its effects in Omaha.
• Then we have the St. Patrick’s Day Buffet on Saturday the 10th, from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. What better way to celebrate our favorite Irish holiday than enjoying it with the OPC’s hot, slow-roasted corn beef buffet?
• We cap off the month with a “Face on the Barroom Floor” on March 22. The always-entertaining roast will salute Steve Martin, CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.

Looking ahead to April:
• The Easter Brunch on the 1st (yes, it’s April Fools’ Day as well) will offer two seatings. Our brunches are amazing. And after 40 days and 40 nights of Lenten sacrifice, do not be afraid to go back for seconds and thirds. Our brunch is a true celebration for many.
• The Noon Education Forum on the 19th will present a congressional primary debate between Democratic candidates Brad Ashford and Kara Eastman.
• The Shatel Sports Luncheon series on the 24th will boast a very special guest – Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Moos. This event is certain to draw a big crowd, so we are giving our members first call on reservations. Telephone 402-345-8008, email Jeanie at jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com with your member number and the number of people attending or RSVP online on omahapressclub.com (click RSVP in the upper right-hand corner and choose “Shatel Series” from the drop-down menu).
• At month’s end is the OPC Foundation Scholarship Dinner and Awards on the 27th. Look for more details in the April newsletter.

I hope these previews of late-winter and early-spring events will provoke your interest and whet your appetite. And remember, we always look forward to welcoming you for lunch and dinner on “non-event” days, too!

-Christine Jones Villamonte, B.S. Nutrition Restaurant and Events Manager

Wine dinners guarantee a festive Friday

By Christine Jones Villamonte
Restaurant and Events Manager

The Press Club has wine dinners every quarter, typically on a Friday night allowing you to unwind. On the Friday before Valentine’s Day, we had an outstanding turnout of 80 guests! Wine Dinners are a “member perk” with no wine limits, and laughter and fun all around.

A typical Wine Dinner includes six courses paired with five wines (a palate-cleansing sorbet substitutes for wine in one course). Then our friendly wine representative -- Ryan from Republics Distribution -- speaks to the group before each course on the wine they are about to taste. Ryan also visits the individual tables, providing one-on-one information about the wines, with as much detail as is requested. The evening winds down with coffee and good company while diners enjoy views of the city at night.

The Wine Dinners focus mostly on American wines which are then expertly paired with each course. My favorite course at the February dinner was the surf and turf entrée, which also seemed to be the biggest delight for our guests. Occasionally a food course will need a description (like sweetbreads), and then the executive director takes over and explains the meal which accompanies the wine. The cost per person is $50. I encourage all to enjoy this event, whether you make a night of it with a group of friends or just a couple’s “date night.” Check this newsletter for the next wine dinner or give me a call.

The menu will be announced soon for the May 11 event, which begins with a 6 p.m. social followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Ashford, Eastman set for debate April 19 at OPC

Democratic congressional primary candidates Brad Ashford and Kara Eastman are scheduled to debate April 19 at the Omaha Press Club.

The luncheon debate preceding the May 15 primary election will be co-sponsored by the OPC and the League of Women Voters, with Brian Mastre of WOWT 6 News as moderator. WOWT is partnering in the debate and will record it for rebroadcast on Channel 6.

Ashford and Eastman are competing for the Democratic nomination to challenge Republican incumbent Don Bacon in the Nov. 6 general election.

Rep. Bacon ousted Ashford from the 2nd Congressional District seat in the 2016 election. Eastman is a nonprofit executive who was elected to the Metropolitan Community College board in 2014.
St. Patrick’s Day Buffet  
Saturday, March 17  
11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Members $15  

All-you-can-eat  
Fresh Corned Beef  
Boiled Cabbage  
Irish New Potatoes  
Dark Rye Bread & Butter  

Dessert  
Frosted Brownie

Easter Buffet  
Sunday, April 1  
Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.  
Adults $22 • Children under 10 $12  

Carving Station  
Steamship Round of Beef  
Whiskey Pepper-Glazed Ham  

Entrées  
Chicken Bourguignon  
Lemon Pepper Butter Baked Tilapia  
Eggs Benedict  
Lyonnais New Potatoes  
Biscuits & Sausage Gravy  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Build-Your-Own Omelets  
Multi-Topping Buttermilk Pancakes  

Salad Display  
Thunderbird Salad, Broccoli Salad,  
Chef 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

Mother’s Day Brunch  
Sunday, May 13  
Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 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 Crepes Supreme  
Baked Tilapia Buerre Blanc  
Eggs Benedict  
Risotto • Lyonnaise Potatoes  
Seasonal Vegetables  

A La Carte  
Build-Your-Own Omelet  
Multi-Topping Pancake Bar  

Salad Display  
Thunderbird Salad, Imported Cheese & Antipasto,  
Coleslaw, 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  
Warm Peach Cobbler with French Vanilla Ice Cream
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Events

We’re Online! Read Your OPC Newsletter at OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM

Fridays throughout March
Lenten lunch, dinner specials

Thursday, March 15
Noon Education Forum
“Opioid Crisis in Omaha”
Paul Yakel, Douglas County Drug Court
Sgt. Dave Bianchi, police narcotics unit
Lunch at 11:30 a.m., program at noon, $17

Saturday, March 17
St. Patrick’s Day Buffet
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., $15

Friday, May 18
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Cathy Hughes, Omaha native who is founder of Urban One, the leading TV/radio outlet for African-Americans.

Thursday, March 22
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Steve Martin, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. dinner,
7:45 p.m. roast

Are you looking for a perfect party setting? A lunch surrounded by brilliance?
A dinner your guests will always remember? Keep the OPC in mind.

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

Hours of Operation

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

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Submissions for the April issue are due on or before March 20.