The board could vote to excuse a member in event of illness, travel or family emergency.

Board members present at the October meeting voted unanimously to support the proposal and put it to the full membership. The Maskel motion:

"I move to amend the OPC bylaws to require that members of the Board of Directors attend six (6) of the ten (10) regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year, with the understanding that the Board of Directors could vote to excuse a member’s absence in the event of illness, travel, a family emergency or similar situation."

Also up for a vote are these nominees:

President: Jeremy Maskel, Ralston Public Schools
President-elect: Tom Shatel, Omaha World-Herald
Treasurer: Dale Ervin, First National Bank
Secretary: Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Image Building Communications
Immediate Past President: Woody Bradford, Houghton Bradford Whitted
Board Members:
Mike McKnight, WOWT
Melissa Hoeman, Nebraska Medicine
Kristyna Engdahl, MECA
Chris Allen, UNO
Cindy Workman, Creighton University
Erin Johnson, First National Bank

For those who wish to vote but are unable to attend the meeting, a proxy ballot is on page 3. Please mail the ballot to the Press Club or email it to opcchristine@gmail.com

Stothert event attracts lively lineup of roasters

The Nov. 9 installation of Mayor Jean Stothert as the Omaha Press Club’s 159th “Face on the Barroom Floor” brought out a who’s-who roster of roasters. From left are: KFAB’s Jim Rose, Police Chief Todd Schmaderer, Matt Tompkins of “Omaha Live,” Mayor Stothert, Tracie Mauk of “Omaha Live,” KFAB’s Scott Voorhees, former Gov. Dave Heineman, and Congressman Don Bacon. For more on the event, see Page 2. Photo by Gary Willis.
Snow no match for Stothert and her roasters

By Don Summerside
Communications Committee

The newest “Face on the Barroom Floor” was forewarned and forearmed.

After a morning snowfall created a rush-hour nightmare on Nov. 9, Omaha officials (and more specifically, the Mayor’s Office) felt the heat from the driving public.

So Mayor Jean Stothert, OPC “Face” No. 159, walked to the podium to rebut her roasters – carrying a snow shovel, a box of salt and a bottle of de-icing brine.

KFAB’s Scott Voorhees, emcee for the event, summoned a formidable list of notables to roast Omaha’s “first openly female mayor.”

The lineup included KFAB’s Jim Rose, Congressman Don Bacon, former Gov. Dave Heineman, Police Chief Todd Schmaderer, and “Omaha Live” entertainers Matt Tompkins and Tracie Mauk.

Street jokes were mandatory, of course. Bacon said: “I apologize for being the last one here. I hit one of those big potholes. I couldn’t see it because the snow was covering it.”

Chief Schmaderer said: “The Police Department has set a lot of records. This morning was another: the most accidents in the City of Omaha before 7 a.m.”

Other popular targets were Stothert’s strong management style and her penchant for texting at all hours.

Voorhees began the roast by asking Stothert “to sit up here (at the podium facing the roasters) not only as a seat of honor but also to make sure you’re not texting us as the evening goes on.”

“I’m not saying the mayor likes to control things, but she did write all of these jokes.”

Added Rose: “I’m not suggesting that Jean is an unpopular boss, but when all of your employees vie for the chance to put crushed Valium in your coffee every morning . . . maybe you should adjust your management style.

“How tough is Jean? When she gets on an airplane, her comfort animal is a wolverine.”

Heineman praised Stothert’s budget surpluses and suggested restaurant tax relief “so (wife) Sally and I can afford to eat out in Omaha again.”

Chief Schmaderer offered a video presentation of the Stothert nonstop texting style and then addressed the mayor’s husband:

“Joe, I helped Jean pick out a gun to give you for your birthday. I had my own motives. I wanted it to be a fair fight between the two of you.”

Tompkins and Mauk wound up the roast by portraying the mayor’s fictional long-lost sisters, Joan and Jan. The two threw darts at all the roasters as well as their “sibling.”

“They say our sister Jean will never get a street named after her because nobody crosses her and lives!”

Artist Jim Horan’s “Face” caricature pictures the mayor holding a to-do list. “Fix all potholes” leads the list. In the background are the Omaha skyline and a group of new police officers.

Also in the drawing is Jean’s husband, Joe, dressed in his scrubs as a trauma surgeon at the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine.

In rebuttals to the roast, Mayor Stothert tossed good-natured insults at her verbal assailants and then concluded with some serious thank-yous and thoughts about the press.

“Being named a ‘Face on the Barroom Floor’ is a great honor (bestowed on recipients) for the last 47 years,” she said. “While I hardly feel certain in their company, I accept the recognition.”

I want to thank the Omaha Press Club for your leadership and your membership.

“Free and open press is one of the most important safeguards of American freedom. Holding the powerful accountable and providing transparency into all things good and bad is vitally important.”

MCC’s new facility houses various trades under one roof
Forum travels to construction training center

By Jon Brooks

Omaha Press Club members toured Metropolitan Community College’s Construction Education Center located at the Fort Omaha campus site on Nov. 15 as part of the club’s Noon Forum series.

Dr. Nate Barry, dean of career and technical education at MCC, talked about the need for properly skilled workers in the construction trades.

“It is the first time in 30 years that construction projects are not getting done due to a lack of workers,” he said.

Metro’s Construction Education Center is part of a “community effort” trying to solve this issue in Omaha.

The center houses various construction trades under one roof, meaning disciplines such as plumbing, electrical and HVAC are in the same location as welding, civil engineering, construction, and architectural technology.

Instructors co-teach classes so students are ready to work in the industry — and develop an ability to interact with other trades.

The facility features glass walls and exposed ceilings so students can get an idea how plumbing and electrical systems are structured throughout the building.

The Construction Education Center is part of a $90 million, three-building investment at Metropolitan Community College that includes a new student center and the Center for Advanced and Emerging Industries.
New OPS chief hits the ground running

By Jeremy Maskel
Education Committee

Speaking candidly to Noon Education Forum guests at the Omaha Press Club on Nov. 8, Dr. Cheryl Logan shared her work underway since becoming superintendent of Omaha Public Schools.

Having recently completed her 90-day entry plan after coming to Omaha from Philadelphia, Dr. Logan has already connected with a wide range of stakeholders, from students to families and community members.

She has also stepped in with community partners to respond to unforeseen situations, like the relocation of hundreds of residents from an Omaha apartment complex, which forced her to reschedule the OPC forum from October to November. As Dr. Logan said, for her, it’s “all about the students.”

Responding to questions about choice in education, Dr. Logan praised the many specialized programs in OPS, as well as Nebraska’s option enrollment process, offering students and families a range of opportunities within the public school system.

Dr. Logan also shared her reflections after talking with students in OPS, specifically around work to ensure that classroom lessons and educational standards best prepare students for life after graduation. Dr. Logan explained that this work recognizes the value in the many different paths a student may take -- toward higher education, trades or elsewhere in the workforce.

Making a point to visit as many schools in OPS as soon as possible, Dr. Logan explained how that effort has allowed her to make meaningful connections with students, staff and school leaders after just a few months of leading Nebraska’s largest school district.

OPC MEMBER PROXY BALLOT

Members not attending the annual meeting on Jan. 17, may vote by returning the proxy ballot below to reach the Omaha Press Club by 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16. See instructions below.

OFFICERS

President
Jeremy Maskel □For □Against

President-Elect
Tom Shatel □For □Against

Treasurer
Dale Ervin □For □Against

Secretary
Bridget (Weide) Brooks

Immediate Past President
Woody Bradford

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike McKnight □For □Against
Melissa Hoeman □For □Against
Kristyna Engdahl □For □Against
Chris Allen □For □Against
Cindy Workman □For □Against
Erin Johnson □For □Against

Officers and board members assume office on Feb. 1, 2019

Fax this completed ballot to 402-345-0114 or mail to the Omaha Press Club, 1620 Dodge St., 22nd Floor, Omaha, NE 68102-1561. Absentee ballots MUST be received by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 16.

NOTE: If you plan to attend the annual meeting, do not return this proxy ballot.
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Winter is on the doorstep and we are in the middle of our holiday season.

This fall OPC management and the Marketing Committee introduced a new express menu and a new First National Bank tenant membership opportunity. Both are going well, as the express menu is gaining customers, and many are repeating. The club has gained more than 100 new tenant memberships so far.

Also during October we had a great turnout for our annual Octoberfest dinner with a beer or wine option. Farnam St. Brewery provided beer options made from hops of the Nebraska Hops Yard.

Christine and I had the opportunity to be part of a record-breaking crowd at the induction of our friend Allen Beermann into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame. Also inducted at the banquet in Lincoln on Oct. 19 were John Gottschalk, retired World-Herald publisher, and the late Stuart Bohacek, one-time Wilber newspaper owner and later Voice of America executive. The blessing before the Hall of Fame meal was a singing of “God Bless America” by opera tenor Ian DeNolfo.

What an honor to be a guest for such a special night.

Beermann and Gottschalk are former “Faces on the Barroom Floor.” Allen, executive director of the Nebraska Press Association, is a longtime board member and supporter of the Omaha Press Club and one of our personal favorite people. Thanks for all you do for so many, Allen.

If you haven’t already done so, RSVP now for upcoming major events at the club.

The Santa Brunch is an annual family favorite for our members. If you have never attended, make it a date on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Then we wind up the year with the New Year’s Eve Prime Rib Buffet. It’s always a sold-out event and the seating is first RSVP, first choice.

Meanwhile, do you know a soon-to-be bride or groom? If so, send them to our new reception link at http://omahapress-club.com/wedding-receptions/

-Steve Villamonte
Executive Director

Santa Brunch
Sunday, Dec. 9
Two Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults $24 • Children 10 and under $12
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 in Lemon Butter
Garlic Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
Seasonal Vegetables
Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Pancake Bar
Salad Display, including Thunderbird Salad
Salmon Chaud Froid & Fresh Fruit
Fresh-Baked Pastries, Tarts & Cheesecakes
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries
Deep Dish Apple Strudel
with Branded French Vanilla Ice Cream
Spiked French Vanilla Eggnog

All children 10 and under receive a special holiday gift with reservation

OPC New Year’s Eve
Monday, Dec. 31
6 p.m.
$65 Per Person, Tax and Gratuity Included

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 Black Bean & Corn Salsa and Lemon Buerre Blanc
Dauphine Potatoes & Asparagus Citron

Dessert Choices
Flourless Chocolate Torte & OPC Truffle

Live Music by Soldiers of Soul

Quarterly Winemakers Dinner
Friday, Feb. 8, 6 p.m.
$55

Quaff
Creamy Shrimp Scampi Dip with Fresh Dill Tortilla Chip
Gorgonzola & Paneer

Appetizer
Villamonte’s Clam Chowder with a Brie Rusk

Salad
Villamonte’s Thunderbird in Parmesan Crust

Sorbet
Key Lime

Entrée
Pan-Seared Filet with a Garlic & Herb Butter
Risotto Pilaf
Candied Carrot

Dessert
Flourless Tart & OPC Truffle

PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS
**SOUPS**
French Onion
Peruvian Clam Chowder
Spicy Chili
Soup du Jour

**SALADS**
**OPC’S FAMOUS THUNDERBIRD SALAD**
Mixed greens tossed in our famous Thunderbird dressing, bacon, blue cheese, shredded mozzarella and chives, Roma tomatoes, and homemade croutons

**COMPLEMENT YOUR THUNDERBIRD SALAD**
Add grilled or thai-glazed salmon, grilled chicken breast, or sautéed garlic shrimp to your Thunderbird Salad

**COBB SALAD**
Mixed greens, tomatoes, bacon, diced grilled chicken breast, shredded mozzarella, black olives, egg, chives, and croutons – served with our Nebraska Cobb salad dressing

**ADD A SIDE SALAD TO ANY ENTRÉE**
Thunderbird, Caesar, or Garden

**SANDWICHES**
*Includes Kettle Chips*

**OPC CHICKEN WRAP**
Your choice of:
Club | Buffalo | Caesar | Thunderbird

**TRADITIONAL PRESS CLUB**
Roasted turkey breast, bacon, tomatoes, mayonnaise, and Swiss cheese on sourdough, wheat, or pumpernickel

**CLASSIC BLT**
Bacon, lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise on sourdough, wheat, or pumpernickel

**FROM THE GRILLE**
*Includes Kettle Chips*

**PRESSMAN PATTY MELT**
Served on toasted pumpernickel with OPC’s famous Thousand Island dressing, Swiss cheese, and caramelized onions

**TURKEY OR CORNED BEEF REUBEN**
*A Press Club favorite: toasted pumpernickel with Swiss cheese, Villamonte’s Reuben dressing, and sauerkraut*

**THUNDERBURGER**
Choice ground sirloin topped with blue cheese, bacon, chives, and mozzarella on a kaiser bun topped with our famous Thunderbird dressing
*(Optional: substitute chicken for sirloin)*

**OPC REPORTER’S BURGER**
Grilled sirloin, bacon, and cheddar cheese on a toasted Kaiser bun

**JOHN SAVAGE (Our Founder)**
Prime rib with sautéed onion and provolone served on a toasted hoagie roll with au jus

**BLACKENED GROUPER SANDWICH**
Served with provolone on a homemade brioche bun

**OPEN-FACED TUNA MELT**
Seared and served open-faced on a seasoned, toasted baguette, topped with tomatoes and provolone

**OPC SIGNATURE**

**CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES**
PAIR OF COOKIES*
ONE-DOZEN
*One for you and one to share, or one for now and one for later!

CALL 402-345-8008 TO ORDER
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- Allen Beermann
- Jocelyn Houston
- Roger Humphries
- Tom Shatel
- Gary Willis

(2017-2019)

- Kathleen Al-Marhoon
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- Todd Murphy
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**Communications**

Jennifer Bull

**Education**

Gary Kerr

**Executive Committee**

D.C. “Woody” Bradford, Jeremy Maskel, Bridget (Weide) Brooks & Marcia Cady

**“Face on the Barroom Floor”**

Tom O’Connor

**Hall of Fame**

Todd Murphy

**Marketing / Membership**

Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Kathleen Al-Marhoon

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- Communications: Jennifer Bull
- Education: Gary Kerr
- Executive Committee: D.C. “Woody” Bradford, Jeremy Maskel, Bridget (Weide) Brooks & Marcia Cady
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Secretary

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**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Sandra Tursi ................. Graphics Editor

Tom O’Connor ............... Proofreader

Don Summerside ........... Copy Editor

Submissions for the January issue are due on or before Dec. 20.

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

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**EVENTS**

**Omaha Press Club**

**Santa Brunch, two seatings**

10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., adults $24

Children 10 and under $12

**Bar**

Open 5:30 p.m. to Close

**Dinner**

Thursday - Saturday

5:30 p.m. to close

**Lunch**

Monday - Friday

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Bar**

Tuesday - Saturday

4:30 p.m. to close

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

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- **D.C. “Woody” Bradford**
  President
  Houghton Bradford Whitted

- **Jeremy Maskel**
  President-Elect
  Ralston Public Schools

- **J.J. Bartlett**
  Treasurer
  First National Bank

- **Bridget (Weide) Brooks**
  Secretary
  Image Building Communications

- **Marcia Cady**
  Past President
  Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska

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**Thursday, Jan. 17**

Noon Education Forum

“Challenges facing the Omaha World-Herald in the Digital Age”

World-Herald staffers Henry Cordes, Melissa Matczak and Graham Archer Noon to 1 p.m.

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.

Open to the public – Cost $17

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**Saturday, Feb. 2**

“Omaha Live: LIVE” – a variety show of comedy skits and songs (similar to the Omaha Press Club Show) 6 p.m., cocktail reception 7:30 p.m., show begins

Scottish Rite Auditorium, 202 S. 20th St.

Proceeds go to Omaha Press Club Foundation for journalism scholarships and to the Nebraska Humane Society.

More details will appear in January issue of OPC News.

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**Friday, Feb. 8**

Winemakers Dinner

6 p.m., $55

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**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.**