Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting will be Jan. 20

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan. 20, the date of the Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting. A 5:30 p.m. social featuring complimentary hors d’oeuvres will precede the 6 o’clock call-to-order. The meeting will include reports from the outgoing president, Roger Humphries, and OPC’s executive director, Steve Villamonte, plus the annual reports from committee chairs.

Also on the agenda is the election of 2022 club officers, including:
- **President:** Hunter Samuels, Ronald McDonald House
- **President-Elect:** Angella Arndt, Freelance Writer
- **Treasurer:** Dale Ervin, First National Bank
- **Secretary:** Jeremy Maskel, Omaha Public Schools
- **Immediate Past President:** Roger Humphries, Roger Humphries Photography

Board members up for election or reelection:
- Allen Beermann, Retired
- Woody Bradford, Houghton Bradford Whitfield
- Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Image Building Communications
- John Christensen, Chancellor Emeritus, UNO
- Taina Evans, Boys Town National Research Hospital
- Dale Ervin, First National Bank
- Jeremy Maskel, Omaha Public Schools
- Liz Hruska, Mike McKnight and Dr. Robert Meyers.

For those who wish to vote but are unable to attend the meeting, a proxy ballot is on page 5. Please mail the ballot to the Press Club or email it to opcchristine@gmail.com

Opp’s roots go back to pioneer Omaha

November 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of “the best view in town,” but the Omaha Press Club’s historical roots go back much farther than the 1971 opening of the club’s home atop the First National Bank Building.

What is considered to be Omaha’s “modern” and first official Press Club was founded in 1955. But as the late James Clemon related in his book “The Omaha Press Club: a Portrait,” “a flourishing Press Club was in existence as early as 1888,” and maybe earlier.

That pioneer-era club, longtime OPC member Clemon wrote, opened to an overflow crowd on Jan. 17, 1888, in the Continental Building at 209 S. 19th St.

Then in 1904, Omaha newspapermen took rooms at 15th and Harney streets for another club. They wanted a place to shoot pool and play cards. Clemon said the club’s launching was financed by what was probably the first gridiron show. “Toodles and Poster Land” featured club members under the guidance of a professional Chicago director.

An Omaha press club also was listed as a seventh-floor tenant for the Bee Building, which sat at 17th and Farnam streets from 1889 to 1910.

With the start of Prohibition in January 1920, “establishments calling themselves press clubs rose and fell in Omaha in proportion to the habitués’ need for places to sample wet goods out of the sight of the law,” Clemon wrote.

One such rumored place was the basement of the Morris Apartments at 18th and Dodge streets. Small lockers, each large enough to hold a bottle of illegal alcohol, lined the walls.

“Each member had a key to his own locker,” according to newsman Ned Williams, who began his career in 1914 at the Omaha Daily News and went onto become a press agent for such stars as Jean Harlow and Cab Calloway.

‘Death of the Senate’ January Forum to feature Ben Nelson and new book

By Gary Kerr
Education Committee

Nebraska’s Ben Nelson, a former governor, served two terms in the U.S. Senate as a Democrat and a centrist who saw bipartisanship as a way to get things done. In his new book, “Death of the Senate,” Nelson is brutally honest in explaining how we lost it, and with humor, insight and firsthand details explains what needs to be done to get it back. The Senate today, he says, is one of division and rancor.

Nelson will talk about the “death of the Senate” and answer your questions at an Omaha Press Club Noon Forum on Jan. 20 that will also include a book signing for those who are interested.

Forum lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. for $17 per person. The program starts at noon and concludes at 1 p.m. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations. Non-Press Club members are welcome.

Otis XII will be ‘Face on Floor’

Radio host-author Douglas Otis Wessellman (aka Otis XII) will become the Omaha Press Club’s 167th “Face on the Barroom Floor” on Feb. 24. Otis, currently the host of “Morning Classics” on KVNO, has enjoyed a wide-ranging entertainment career that includes music and comedy in addition to his broadcasting and writing talents.
Yanney roasters no match for a truly nice guy

By Anne Walsh
Communications Committee

Roasters assembled to tease business legend Mike Yanney faced a conundrum at the sold-out “Face on the Barroom Floor” event Nov. 18.

“IT’s very difficult to roast a squeaky-clean guy. Mike has no dark habits. No dark past, no double life, no mean-spirited comments about anyone. He’s given the roasters almost nothing to work with,” lamented his son-in-law, Bill Roskens, managing director, First Care Companies.

It was a sentiment shared by John Nelson, chairman of the SilverStone Group, who quipped, “One of the peculiar things of American culture is honoring people by roasting them, skewering them and humiliating them. I find it difficult to say negative things about Mike – difficult, but not impossible.”

And so the roasters did their best on a night that Tom O’Connor, former Face on the Barroom Floor Committee chair, described as “a remarkable event. There’s never been a crowd like this. It means the world to us.” State and city business leaders, educators, administrators, government officials and medical experts laughed at Yanney’s foibles, but also heard far more about his remarkable life, business acumen, family, and philanthropic contributions to Nebraska and Omaha.

“He’s a global leader, has relentless drive and energy, and endless friendships. Given all the things he does from morning till noon to night, seven days a week, it’s hard to believe he can be that focused and detail oriented about every aspect,” said Dr. Jeff Gold, UNMC chancellor and executive vice president and provost, NU system.

Dr. Gold said Yanney and his wife, Dr. Gail Walling Yanney, were among the first people he met when being recruited to Nebraska by J.B. Milliken, former NU president. “I will never forget the evening we spent with them, and my wife, Robin, said, ‘This job’s for you.’ Mike’s community values are incredible; he’s a convener and visionary, with incredible energy and enthusiasm. I don’t hold a candle to what Mike and Gail do in this community.”

Former Omaha World-Herald columnist Mike Kelly, emcee for the roast, is publishing a book on Yanney, the chairman emeritus of Burlington Capital. “I’m glad to be finished – I interviewed 125 people, begging them for dirt, but just kept hearing about how great he is, how humble, blah, blah,” he said.

Kelly described Yanney’s early beginnings, growing up the youngest of nine children in Kearney, Nebraska. The family was poor, and young Mike sold vegetables from a little red wagon. He was proud of his Lebanese ancestry and received his undergraduate degree in 1955 from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

“Mike and Gail met on a blind date in Denver, where Mike had started his banking career. Mr. Smooth said, ‘Just so you know, I’m not interested in a relationship.’ And she said, ‘What makes you think I’m interested in a relationship with you?’ They got engaged four days later,” recapped Kelly.

“She returned to Omaha for her final year of medical school – one of only three women in her class – and they wrote love letters. She sent a card. The cover said, ‘I know I’m not your speed,’ and the inside said, ‘but I could slow down a little.’”

Yanney and Walter Scott, former CEO of Kiewit Corporation who passed away in September, were “thick as thieves, bosom buddies and schemers up to no good all the time,” said W. David Scott, CEO of Tetrad, a real estate and investment firm, and son of Walter.

Although out of town in Ireland, Scott arranged for a video featuring numerous photos of Yanney, which he narrated from A to Z. Many of the letters focused on a habit noted by other roasters – Yanney’s ability to fall asleep virtually anywhere – and his love of fishing.

“E is for electrifying. Mike, you are sleeping all the time, you take naps left and right, you are not electrifying,” said Scott. “F is for fishing. You will notice from these photographs that Mike never touches the fish. He has a fear of touching the fish. Either that or you don’t like the smell on your hands.”

Son-in-law Bill described Yanney’s nonstop work ethic, the pace of which may have something to do with the odd nap. “Most of you are keenly aware of the exact moment when Mike’s consciousness leaves your topic and settles into something else. Who knows what trumped you, and frankly, who cares? The fact of the matter is, it’s over. My advice is just to stand up and exit the area, even if you are in mid-sentence. He won’t notice because he’s already on the phone.”

Lisa Yanney Roskens, chairman and CEO of Burlington Capital, and daughter of Mike and Gail, said she was not aware of her unusual upbringing until she was older. “In kindergarten, I had no idea that other children didn’t spend the days leading up to the start of school making a list with their father about goals for the coming year.”

While in high school, she thought her father had a good command of the English language because he helped her with essays.

Continue on Page 3
OPC’s history: continued from Page 1

In Omaha in the 1880s, there were five daily newspapers. By 1937, only the Omaha World-Herald remained. As newspaper numbers shrank, so did the attempts to maintain a press club.

But the advent of radio broadcasting in 1923 and television in the early ’50s produced a resurgence in news gatherers. And so in 1955, a handful of people organized what is today’s Omaha Press Club.

Wayne Bradley, the club’s first president, remembered: “In 1955 a few of us thought we might start a chapter of Sigma Delta Chi (the honorary journalism fraternity). But we lacked members and money, so we started a Press Club.”

As the late Judy Horan reported in a 2005 OPC history, the 1955 club became legal with a constitution and bylaws. Dues were set at $5 a year, plus a $5 initiation fee.

Bradley pushed for the club’s start with the support of World-Herald photographer John Savage. Steve Murphy and Jim McGaffin of WOW Radio-TV also were among the founders. Dottie Sater of WOW, who became Press Club president in 1959, wrote the club’s first newsletter.

Judy Horan recounted that the founding members established as their club’s mission: “To promote excellence in communications and media professions through fellowship, education and advocacy of freedom of information.”

In addition to those noble pursuits, a tradition of fun was quickly established with the first Press Club Show in 1957. The dinner-dance was held at the Birchwood Club at Redick Avenue and Minne Lusa Boulevard. Also in 1957, the club established a scholarship with a $50 grant. Since then, more than 400 students from Creighton, UNO and UNL have benefited from scholarships. Just this year alone, the OPC Foundation awarded 19 scholarships and fellowships totaling $45,500.

For years, Press Club members met in breweries, bars and the old streetcar in John Savage’s backyard. The late Frank Scott, OPC president in 1971, recalled the search for a permanent home.

“But we just didn’t have any capital or credit,” he said. “Then (club member) Howard Silber came to me with the word that he had mentioned our desire for facilities to . . . John Lauritzen at First National Bank.”

In 1971, First National was erecting a 22-story building at 16th and Dodge Streets. OPC members met with the bank president, John Davis, and other First National representatives to discuss opening a restaurant on top of the new building.

According to Judy Horan’s history, banker Davis said a Press Club restaurant could not succeed with media members only. However, if the Press Club could obtain 1,000 associate members at annual dues of $125, the bank would lend the club the money to start a restaurant.

The club, led by businessman John Godfrey, came up with the 1,000 names within 90 days. Many were signed up at the Press Club Ball in February 1971.


Savage, who retired from the World-Herald and became a state senator, worked tirelessly to get the club established. He served as OPC president in 1956-57 and became the new facility’s first fulltime executive director, earning the title “founder of the Omaha Press Club.”

Among the other founders, Frank Scott also later served as executive director. Charter members and others guiding the club in its early years included Dottie Sater, Ed Schafer, Jim McGaffin, Steve Murphy, Jim Clemon, Dave Hamer, Bill Drake, Pat Hall, Mary Lou Anderson, Howard Silber and Bill Ramsey. They were the vanguard of 66 OPC presidents piloting the club from 1955 into the present day.

Fifty years of ‘Faces’

Along with the 1971 opening of the restaurant, the OPC that year introduced “the Face on the Barroom Floor,” a satirical tribute to newsmakers.

As Judy Horan related in a history of the club, the force behind the “Face” idea was the late World-Herald columnist Robert McMorris. He turned to a World-Herald colleague, artist Jim Horan (husband of Judy), to create the “Face” caricatures.

The first “Face,” installed on the Press Club floor in November of 1971, was Mayor Gene Leahy, followed a few months later by Cornhusker Football Coach Bob Devaney.

Last month, Mike Yanney became the 166th “Face on the Barroom Floor” in what has long been the Omaha Press Club’s signature event.

The Yanney caricature was the first “Face” drawn by noted editorial cartoonist Jeff Kotekra. Since the “Face” events began back in 1971, only three other artists have been involved. Jim Horan drew 160 of the “Faces” before retiring two years ago. He was followed by Wayne Scaly, who did three “Faces.” Tom Kerr did the remaining two “Face” caricatures – those of Gerald Ford and Horan himself.

Yanney: continued from Page 2

and speech writing, but soon discovered he stumbled over a few key words.

“Like ‘little.’ Let’s build a little park. Have any of you been called into his office to work on a little project?” asked Lisa. “Another word, a ‘few.’ Let’s invite a few people over. Let’s get a few turkeys in the backyard. Does anyone in Omaha not see turkeys in their own backyards as a result of the few turkeys he experimented with 40 years ago?”

Yanney traveled to the Soviet Union/Russia more than 150 times during his business career, and hosted Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin on a tour of the Nebraska Sand Hills in 1977. He and his business partners once owned eight companies with thousands of employees there, said Kelly, but since 2007 has not operated in Russia.

“An exceptional businessman, an international one, he’s been extolled, worked in the Soviet Union under surveillance from the CIA, served on 15 corporate and international boards, yet his greatest achievements are overshadowed by his interest in helping people,” said Nelson. “The spark that Mike and Gail put in this community, this state and this nation is fantastic.”

Unveiling his first caricature for the Omaha Press Club, editorial cartoonist Jeff Kotekra called the experience humbling and an honor. His illustration depicts an impeccably dressed Mike wearing an Aksarben crown, holding a fishing rod while sitting atop the WoodmenLife Tower with Gail, Lisa, Bill, grandchildren Charles and Mary, and Walter Scott. Explaining that Mike and Gail live on the tower’s 28th floor, Kotekra added that Mike’s “done so many things, it’s tough to get them all in.” Included are the little red vegetable wagon, farm silos and Russian onion domes, as well as the many organizations supported by the Yanneys. The Woodmen’s peregrine falcons fly with a banner listing his other honors, including the Horatio Alger Award.

Finally, the 166th “Face” had his say, and in typical fashion, it was brief and insul- free. After praising emcee Kelly’s work on his book (commissioned by Lisa), Yanney said:

“Every one of us in this room are very lucky people. We didn’t pick our parents, we didn’t pick this country, and think of how lucky we are today. It’s a democracy that’s unparalleled in any place in the world, and every one of us should thank God every day that we are in this really great country. I thank all of you, you really have touched me tonight. God bless you and have a safe trip home.”
First Amendment Night honors Hagel, Beermann

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” – the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

Freedom of the press is a key to our democracy, and the First Amendment was celebrated Oct. 23 at the Omaha Press Club.

Past OPC President Tom Shatel came up with the idea to “bring the press back to the Press Club.” A sizable committee of past presidents, board members and OPC members planned and executed the event. It was originally planned for 2020 but had to be rescheduled due to COVID-19.

The evening started out with singer Raven Hunt delivering a beautiful rendition of “America, the Beautiful.”

Emcee Gary Sadlemyer stated that since the Press Club had to postpone the 2020 event until a second year, “we should honor two people, Chuck Hagel and Allen Beermann.” Sadlemyer introduced Beerman by telling the crowd that “Allen does not have an enemy in the world; they are all dead.”

Beermann, the retired secretary of the Nebraska Press Association, then came forward to introduce his good friend, former U.S. Sen. and Secretary of Defense Hagel, and marveled how two farm kids could make it to Omaha on the 22nd floor.

Beermann noted that Hagel would cross party lines to put country first and ahead of politics. Republican Hagel served as secretary of defense from 2013-2015 under Democratic President Barack Obama. Hagel is the only Vietnam War veteran and the first enlisted combat veteran to serve as secretary of defense. Hagel also served two terms in the Senate from 1997-2009.

Hagel discussed his time in the Senate and the friendships he made. He recalled that when he became a senator, he took an oath of office, not to the president or a political party, but to the Constitution. He talked of his strong commitment to the First Amendment and what the press represents. Hagel stated that “we would not have a democracy without the press.”

Hagel closed by recalling that he first announced his candidacy for the Senate at the Omaha Press Club. He added that he thought that OPC would also be the appropriate place to announce his retirement. Hagel is a former “Face on the Barroom Floor,” and his caricature was prominently displayed behind him at the podium. As soon as he finished his speech, the caricature fell to the floor!

Beermann, on behalf of the Omaha Press Club, presented Hagel with a blown glass artwork designed by John Shelton, a premier glass blower from England who specializes in early American designs. The Queen of England came to the Jamestown 400th anniversary celebration in 2007 along with President George W. Bush. Shelton was asked to make glass-blown gifts for them and an additional one. That additional glass was presented to Hagel.

Lynn Rex, executive director of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, introduced her close friend Beermann, who was also honored by the Omaha Press Club on First Amendment Night.

Beermann was born and raised on a farm in Dakota County and went on to earn a J.D. degree from Creighton University School of Law. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. Beermann served as Nebraska secretary of state for 24 years. He then led the Nebraska Press Association for 25 years and also hosted the national convention of the National Newspaper Association in Omaha. He was inducted into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame in 2018.

Roger Humphries, president of the Omaha Press Club, presented Allen with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the OPC.

After receiving his certificate, Allen surprised his wife, Linda, with an anniversary ring. It is an exact duplicate of Princess Diana’s engagement ring. Allen and Linda Beermann celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May.
November a memorable month at OPC

By Roger Humphries
OPC President

What a great month November was for the club. Not only did we welcome our new “Face on the Barroom Floor” artist, Jeff Koterba, to our members, we had several outstanding major events.

Michael Yanney’s “Face on the Floor” event attracted more than 200 guests, who had a wonderful evening listening to the roasters speak about Yanney. Mike was very humble in his acceptance of his “Face” likeness, drawn by longtime editorial cartoonist Koterba, who was an Omaha World-Herald mainstay for 31 years. Yanney and his wife, Gail, were quite pleased with the caricature and Koterba’s artistic creation of his life story.

I would like to thank roast emcee Mike Kelly and Tom O’Connor, along with the Face on the Floor Committee, for all their help in making this event such a success. I must also thank the hospitality volunteers for their continued support in making sure our guests are greeted and made to feel welcome by our club. Without them, the events would not run so smoothly.

There was another notable November event, which combined two occasions: the annual Past Presidents Dinner and the 50th anniversary of the club’s opening atop the First National Bank Building. Many thanks go out to the committee members who put this on and especially to anniversary organizers Angella Arndt, Anne Walsh, Chris Christen and Kurt Keeler, emcee Gary Sadlemyer and crooner Glenn Prettyman for their entertaining review of Press Club history. Attending members and guests received a nice keepsake: a brandy snifter glass commemorating the 50th anniversary.

A busy time is in store for the Face on the Floor Committee as they and I work on two more “Faces:” Otis XII (Douglas Otis Wesselmann), currently the radio host of “Morning Classics” on KVNO, to be honored on Feb. 24, and Dr. Jeffrey Gold, chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, to be saluted on April 28.

And last but certainly not least, many thanks to Steve and Christine Villamonte and their staff for such an amazing job they do day in and day out for our club and its members.

Wishing you “Happy Holidays” and may all your wishes and dreams come true!
Grassroots passion is a neighborhood winner

By Connie Winkler
Education Committee

It was all about the red-and-white yard signs urging “Save Yates” that sprouted around Omaha last year, pushing to preserve the old Yates School for a re-imagined community center. The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) used the signs to spread the message, as a funding tool, and as a hammer on the Omaha Board of Education to “Save Yates” from developers.

Such grassroots and clever organizing can bring big changes to Omaha, the November Noon Forum learned from Marie Hélène André and Dr. Adrian S. Petrescu, prime movers and education believers at Gifford Park, and from Kimara Snipes of the South Omaha Neighborhood Association and recently the Omaha School Board.

Two years ago, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) announced it was giving up the midtown Yates School, which had been used for English as a second language (ESL), immigrant learning, and creative programs.

GPNA stepped up: In late 2019 and early 2020 (before COVID), the neighborhood began giving away the signs. But GPNA members launched a letter-writing campaign, including other community leaders and about 15 potential donors. They held dozens of meetings on the Yates proposal, including with the School Board, logging 1,400 volunteer hours.

OPS finally agreed in early 2021. Today, the Yates effort is two-pronged, simultaneously the lobbying began.

Petrescu urged backers that for $5 they could get two and for $10, six signs to share with others. “It was magic math,” he joked, having calculated the printing costs. That bargain both funded three rounds of printing and fanned the signs outside the midtown neighborhood.

Simultaneously the lobbying began.

GPNA's appeal to the School Board for Yates Illuminated, Snipes mused: “They didn't know who they were dealing with.”

From a broader perspective, Snipes shared how to create more community involvement and change, focused on the city’s neighborhood associations:

• Encourage politicians to visit and walk the streets. “Politicians spend money during elections, but I've never seen one in my neighborhood,” said Snipes. “I'd like to show them around.”

• Attract young people with neighborhood associations engaging with local schools, PTAs and students, so that young people see the possibilities of working together to bring change.

• Boost larger community organizing by participating in events like the August national “Night Out” to meet their neighbors and recognize issues.

OPC honors Fryer’s 42 years of service

By Anne Walsh
Communications Committee

As the Omaha Press Club celebrates its 50th anniversary atop the First National Bank Building, there’s a very special person who’s been there almost as long — and who embodies the club’s spirit of camaraderie.

For 42 years, Michael Fryer, 61, has served thousands of members and guests. Having moved from southwest Chicago to Omaha when he was 19, Fryer initially found a job working construction for the city. Then, an OPC server who lived nearby told him about an opening for a busboy — and he was hired Sept. 24, 1979.

One of six children, a sense of family is important to Fryer, and he found it at the OPC. “I love my job; it’s been good to me. Our managers have always taken care of us,” he said.

“Once Betty (Sackett) arranged a surprise limo for my birthday. And when I fell off a ladder and was off work for three months, Steve and Christine (Villamonte) called me every day and brought food. During COVID when we couldn’t work and even now, someone keeps leaving food on my front porch — I think it’s Steve and Christine but they won’t let me know!”

Fryer tries to extend that feeling of belonging to his coworkers and club members. “Once you’re in, you’re always in. I’ve seen people come and go, but I always try to make them stay, make people feel like family,” he said.

When Fryer learns what a member typically orders, “I always try to have it on the table for you — iced tea, lemonade, whatever it is. If I know what you eat, I’ll get it there quickly.”

Having fun is an important part of the job, he said, from April Fools’ Day pranks to teasing in the kitchen. When the club temporarily relocated to the Joslyn Castle in 2008 during renovations at the bank, Fryer said the staff enjoyed hiding from Christine in the historic building’s many rooms. They also became convinced that a ghost — “a good ghost” — occupied the third level.

Teamwork is important, too, and Fryer is quick to acknowledge the constant support of other club staffers. “It’s comfortable, and you do what you want as long as you get the work done. We just roll with it.”

When he’s not at the OPC, Fryer enjoys attending movies with his friends, a passion
Your donations help future storytellers

By Josh Bucy
OPC Foundation President

The constantly changing and challenging media landscape means that aspiring storytellers need help to continue their educations and encouragement to stay in the profession.

For more than 60 years, the Omaha Press Club Foundation has been providing scholarships to help future storytellers learn their craft. These scholarship recipients have gone on to media careers not only in Omaha, but nationally as well. Just this year alone, the OPC Foundation awarded 19 scholarships and fellowships totaling $45,500 to students at Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I am excited to share that this year’s scholarship fund campaign will be chaired by the executive editor of the Omaha World-Herald, Randy Essex. A native of Nebraska and a UNL grad, Randy has been executive editor of the World-Herald since January 2020. Randy has had an illustrious career, having spent the past 18 years in editing roles at the Des Moines Register, Detroit Free Press and Cincinnati Enquirer.

The power of the free press is critical to the health of discourse and democracy, and it brings me a lot of joy and hope when I interact with our scholarship recipients. The future is in good hands, but we need your help to ensure that our impact will be sustained. If you are interested in making a contribution to this year’s scholarship fund campaign, please visit www.opcsfscholarships.org, or you can mail your contribution to:

Omaha Press Club Foundation
P.O. Box 4842
Omaha, Nebraska 68104

To those of you who have already contributed to the scholarship fund, thank you for your continued support. Wishing you and your loved ones Happy Holidays!

Steve Villamonte salutes Michael Fryer and his 42 years with the Press Club. Photo by Gary Willis.

Fryer; continued from Page 6

ignited by two club members. “I hadn’t been a moviegoer before; I always stayed at home. But they asked me to go with them, and I still do.” The group attends twice weekly, on discount Tuesdays and on Friday nights. If Fryer has to work an evening event, his devoted moviegoing friends pick him up when his shift ends to take him home.

Fear not, OPC members. Fryer says he has no plans to retire. “I love working, and I love to stay busy. I’m going to always stay here.”

Fryer was honored for his years of service at the 50th OPC Anniversary celebration on Nov. 13. He is the son of Etna Fryer and Robert Williams; his sisters are Billie Williams, Patricia Moore and Wanda Fryer; and his brothers are Bud Fryer and Larry Goyon.

Santa Brunch
Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021
Two Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults $27 • Children 3-10 $15
Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army
For reservations, call 402-345-8008.

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

New Year’s Eve Buffet
Friday, Dec. 31, 2021
6 p.m., $65
Tax & Gratuity not included

Hors d’oeuvres
Continental Cheese & Fruit Display

Salad, Soup
OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad with Sauté Toppings
Peruvian Clam Chowder

Entrées
Prime Rib of Beef au Jus & Chantilly
Chicken Marsala Sautéed in a Sweet Marsala Wine with Mushrooms & Bordelaise
Blackened Tilapia Topped with a Black Bean & Corn Salsa and Lemon Buerre Blanc
Dauphine Potatoes & Asparagus Citron

Dessert Choices
Cherries Jubilee, Brownie a la Mode, Blackstone Cheesecake

Live Music
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.

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

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

Committee Chairs

Communications
Gary Willis

Education
Dr. Robert Meyers

Executive Committee
Roger Humphries, Tom Shatel, Bridget (Weide) Brooks and Dale Ervin

“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Roger Humphries

Hall of Fame
Woody Bradford

Marketing / Membership
Bridget (Weide) Brooks

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Nicole Lindquist 402-559-9149

Don Summerside

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“Face on the Barroom Floor”

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Sara Ammon (402) 957-0795

Daisy Hutzell-Rodman.........President

Todd Andrews • Jon Brooks • Angella Arndt

Anne Walsh • Sandra Tursi

Friday, Dec. 31
New Year’s Eve
Multi-course dinner
6 p.m., $65

Thursday, Jan. 7
Prime Rib Night
5:30 p.m. to close

Thursday, Jan. 14
Prime Rib Night
5:30 p.m. to close

Wednesday, Jan. 20
Ben Nelson
“Death of the Senate”
and book signing
11:30 a.m. lunch, $17
Noon to 1 p.m. speaker

Thursday, Jan. 21
Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m. social
6 p.m. meeting

Thursday, Feb. 24
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Otis XII
Douglas Otis Wesselman

Hours of Operation

LUNCH
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

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Tom O’Connor ………………. Proofreader
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Submissions for the January issue are due on or before December 20.