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 McDonal 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 re-election:
- Allen Beermann, retired
- Woody Bradford, Houghton Bradford Whit
ted
- Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Image Building Communications
- John Christensen, Chancellor Emeritus, UNO
- Taina Evans, MHA, RN

Board members continuing their terms are Chris Allen, Todd Andrews, 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 3. Please mail the ballot to the Press Club or email it to opcchristine@gmail.com.

The batting order has changed, but the fun will be the same for the lineup of “Faces on the Barroom Floor” in 2022.

Moving to the lead-off position this year is national political strategist and commentator Symone D. Sanders, who will become the Omaha Press Club’s 167th “Face on the Floor” on Feb. 24.

She’ll be followed by Dr. Jeffrey Gold, chancellor of the University College of Medicine, who will be “Face” No. 168 on April 28.

Then comes radio host-author Otis XII, whose “Face on the Floor” salute has been rescheduled for Sept. 16.

February honoree Sanders recently left the White House after serving as senior adviser and chief spokesperson for Vice President Kamala Harris during the first year of the Biden-Harris administration.

Omaha native Sanders rose to national prominence in 2016 as the national press secretary for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’ presidential campaign. That same year, she was recognized by Rolling Stone magazine as one of 16 young Americans shaping the election.

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**Santa Brunch a fun time for all ages**

The annual Santa Brunch is a decades-old tradition at the Omaha Press Club. Pictured with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Dec. 19 event are, from left to right: Ainsley, Macy and Jessie Flynn. Their parents are Liz and Matt Flynn.

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**Symone Sanders will lead ‘Face’ calendar in 2022**

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**‘FACE ON THE BARROOM FLOOR’ – SYMONE SANDERS**

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, FEB. 24 – RECEPTION, 5:30 P.M.; DINNER, 6:30 P.M.; ROAST, 8 P.M.
**COST:** $65 FOR OPC MEMBERS; $75 FOR NON-MEMBERS.
**RSVP:** CALL THE OPC AT 402-345-8008. MEMBERS CAN CHARGE TO THEIR OPC ACCOUNT. NON-MEMBERS NEED TO PROVIDE CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.
This is the last president’s column that I will write, as my term ends on Jan. 20. It has been an honor to serve the club as not only the president but also as the chair of the Face on the Barroom Floor Committee. One of the privileges as president was that I was able to attend many of the club’s committee meetings. By attending these meetings, I have found that there are others like me that love the club and work hard to ensure its continued success. These committee members contribute mightily to making the club a destination for community members along with local newsmakers and journalists alike.

I would like to thank all the committee chairs and members that have worked so hard to bring you the fantastic events and this OPC newsletter every month. The year 2021 was challenging (as was 2020 due to COVID), to say the least. However, with the heroic effort put forth by Steve, Christine and their staff, the club has stayed the course. I can say with confidence that the club is well cared for under their leadership.

I also must speak to the support of First National Bank of Omaha and their backing of the club. Their support has been crucial to our survival as a club, and it has been appreciated by me along with the entire OPC Board of Directors.

I am looking forward to seeing what the future brings for our next president, Hunter Samuels, and what he and his new board members will bring to the table (no pun intended).

Thank you all for your support the past year, and I am looking forward to many more years of serving the OPC and you, its members. Do not forget all the privileges you have as a member. Use the club often and help it continue to be one of the finest clubs of its kind in the country.

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**Winemaker’s Dinner**

Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, • 6 p.m.

Members $65 • Non-Members $75

(Tax Included)

- **Appetizer**
  - Brie Pear & Apricot
  - Wine

- **Amuse**
  - Asparagus Bisque
  - Wine

- **Salad**
  - Endive Thunderbird
  - Wine

- **Sorbet**
  - Strawberry
  - Wine

- **Entrée**
  - Filet Mignon Maître d’Hôtel & Madeira
  - Garlic Duchesse Potato & Asparagus Bundle

- **Dessert**
  - Peanut Butter Chocolate Ice Cream Tort
  - Framboise
  - Or
  - Brownie & Driscoll Strawberry

**Valentine’s Day Dinner**

Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, • 6 p.m.

$140 per couple

- **Champagne Toast**

- **Appetizer**
  - Brie Pear & Apricot

- **Amuse**
  - Asparagus Bisque

- **Salad**
  - Endive Thunderbird

- **Sorbet**
  - Strawberry

- **Entrées**
  - (Choose one; pre-selection required)
  - **Entrée I**
    - Filet Mignon Maître d’Hôtel & Madeira
  - **Entrée II**
    - Chicken Marsala
  - **Entrée III**
    - Fresh Alaskan King Salmon Piccata

- **Vegetables**
  - Garlic Duchesse Potato & Asparagus Bundle

- **Dessert**
  - Chocolate Soufflé

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**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.
A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Happy New Year to all as we bring in 2022 with higher hopes than we did in past years!

The club is putting together a full slate for the year, with a package of popular events already filling up: the monthly Noon Forums (including an April political debate to be announced later), weekly Thursday night Prime Rib dinners, quarterly Winemakers Dinners, 2022’s first three “Faces on the Bar-room Floor” (Symone Sanders, Dr. Jeffrey Gold and Otis XII), and the St. Patrick’s and Easter buffets.

To reserve a spot remotely on the OPC website, go to omahapressclub.com, top right corner, RSVP. Pick your event and use your membership number or pay by card. Please see the back page for the 2022 calendar of events.

On the administrative side:
Quarterly minimums will be resumed in the coming months. To remind you of the procedure, every quarter you will need to spend at least $40, or that amount will be billed to you. If a medical issue prevents your use of the club, call us to discuss options.

Also, accounts will again be subject to late fees if the board gives approval to their resumption. Your monthly invoice or statement if past due will have your balance on it. The percentage is not big, but the base fee in the past was $25 - so be forewarned that a penalty on overdue accounts is coming.

These fees have been suspended since COVID disrupted club operations in March 2020. The board will vote on reinstating the fees at the Jan. 20 Annual Meeting.

Here are the current payment options:

1. On the left side of your invoice (not the statement), there is a link to pay.
2. Paysimple.com
3. Call us with a credit card number, and we will process your bill manually. This can also be done automatically each month if we have your card on file.
4. Automated Clearing House (ACH) - Set up with a voided check from your banking account.

OPC validated two-hour parking is available only at the DoubleTree, 16th and Dodge Streets (though you also can park at your own expense at the Central City Garage west of the bank). For DoubleTree parking, we will give you a one-time voucher to scan.

The bank building is locked after business hours, so you will need to buzz the black boxes at the 16th and Dodge street entrance and the tunnel entrance from the Central City Garage. The process is simple: Buzz security and say that you are going to the Omaha Press Club. I also have direct contact with security on weekly and monthly schedules for private events where the doors will remain open.

Hope to see you soon!

Christine Villamonte
OPC Restaurant and Events Manager

By Christine Villamonte

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OCR TEXT:

**OPC MEMBER PROXY BALLOT**

Members not attending the annual meeting on Jan. 20 may vote by returning the proxy ballot below to reach the Omaha Press Club by 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 19. See instructions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICERS</th>
<th>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| President
Hunter Samuels | Allen Beermann |
| Treasurer
Dale Ervin | Woody Bradford |
| Secretary
Jeremy Maskel | Bridget (Weide) Brooks |
| Immediate Past President
Roger Humphries | John Christensen |
| | Taina Evans |

**Board members continuing their terms:**

Chris Todd Andrews, Angella Arndt, Liz Hruska, Mike McKnight, Dr. Robert Meyers

Officers and board members assume office on Feb. 1, 2022

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. 15.

**NOTE:** If you plan to attend the annual meeting, do not return this proxy ballot.
2021 - 2022 Officers

Roger Humphries  
President  
Roger Humphries Photography

Hunter Samuels  
President-elect  
Ronald McDonald House

Dale Ervin  
Treasurer  
First National Bank

Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
Secretary  
Image Building Communications

Tom Shatel  
Past President  
Omaha World-Herald

Roger Humphries Photography  
Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
Omaha World-Herald

"Death of the Senate"  
Monday, Jan. 17

Thursday, Jan. 20  
Prime Rib Night  
5:30 p.m. to close

Communications Committee

Don Summerside • Gary Willis
Jennifer Bull • Karen Way • Tom O’Connor
Bridget (Weide) Brooks • Hunter Samuels
Todd Andrews • Jon Brooks • Angella Arndt
Anne Walsh • Sandra Tursi

Friday, Feb. 11  
Winemakers Dinner  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner
$65 OPC members, $75 non-members

Monday, Feb. 14  
Valentine’s Day  
5:30 p.m. start
$140 per couple

Thursday, Feb. 17  
Noon Forum, SAC Museum  
11:30 a.m. lunch, $19
Noon to 1 p.m. speaker

Monday, Feb. 21  
Presidents Day  
Club closed

Thursday, Feb. 24  
“Face on the Ballroom Floor”  
Symone Sanders  
5:30 p.m. non-host social
6:30 p.m. dinner and roast
$65 OPC members, $75 non-members

Ash Wednesday, March 2  
Lent specials, continuing with
Fish Friday menu specials