From astronaut to CEO: Anderson giving SAC Museum a new lift

By Connie Winkler
Education Committee

Nebraska’s favorite—and only—astronaut is bringing a big lift to the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum in Ashland.

On Feb. 16 at the OPC Noon Forum, Clayton Anderson, the museum’s new CEO and onetime NASA spacewalker, will tell how the museum is re-igniting after the pandemic and discuss America’s latest space missions, including a return to the moon and eventual launches to Mars.

As a Smithsonian Museum affiliate, the SAC Museum aims to become the Midwest’s preeminent aerospace educational museum.

In November 2022, the SAC Aerospace Museum received a “Center of Excellence” grant from Nebraska children’s groups.

February Forum speaker

Annual Meeting will be Jan. 12

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan. 12, 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, Hunter Samuels, and the OPC’s executive director, Steve Villamonte, plus the annual reports from committee chairs.

Also on the agenda is the election of 2023 club officers, including:

President: Angella Arndt, freelance writer
President-Elect: Dr. Robert Meyers, Retired
Treasurer: Dale Ervin, First National Bank
Secretary: Jeremy Maskel, Omaha Public Schools
Immediate Past President: Hunter Samuels, Ronald McDonald House
Board members up for election:
Todd Andrews, Salvation Army
Roger Humphries, Roger Humphries Photography
Liz Hruska, Retired
Mike McKnight, WOWT
Gary Willis, Retired

Board members continuing their terms are Allen Beermann, Woody Bradford, Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Tom Shatel and Taina Evans.

For those who wish to vote but are unable to attend the meeting, a proxy ballot is on page 2. Please mail the ballot to the Press Club or email it to opcchristine@gmail.com.
to bring hands-on, engaging space-based STEAM (science, technology, engineering arts and mathematics) learning to the state, especially for before/after school and out-of-school time programs.

Anderson – himself a sometime professor – explained: “To be developing a ‘STEAM in Space’ workbook that ties NASA missions into hands-on content – that will ultimately touch every student in Nebraska – is exactly what we should be doing.”

Anderson retired from NASA in 2013. Beloved at the OPC, Anderson is the club’s 127th “Face on the Barroom Floor,” which was celebrated Nov. 19, 2010.

Reservations for this special Forum can be phoned to 402-345-8008 or emailed to Christine at opcchristine@gmail.com. Non-club members are welcome, too.

Welcome again to the Press Club, “Astro-Clay.”

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Hunter Samuels
OPC President

I’ve lived through decades’ worth of years, and yet, every year, the holidays arrive and I stare at the calendar the same way Pythagoras’ peers looked at his theorem: “That can’t be right.”

And yet, here we are at the beginning of a new year once again. But as this year begins, my year as Omaha Press Club president is ending.

It’s been a treat to serve the club in this role, so I want to thank all of our members for granting me this honor. Steve, Christine, and the entire OPC staff have once again put in a ton of effort to ensure 2022 was a successful one, accommodating many, many events and constantly solving problems before anyone could even notice a problem existed in the first place.

All of that, plus the talented committees planning and coordinating countless events all year, along with the work done – and still being done – by the board of directors that should help to set up the club for many years to come.

I’ll be sharing more comments on the year that was at our upcoming annual meeting (Jan. 12, mark your calendars!) and I look forward to seeing more of you there. I’m also incredibly excited for Angella Arndt to begin her term in the president’s chair, as she’s going to be a tremendous leader for our board, guiding us through the next phase of our strategic plan, helping usher us toward achieving more great things in the future.

In the meantime, I’ll still be on the board, and if you ever have any questions or would like to get more involved in the club, I’m available at hsamuels@rmhcomaha.org.

Once again, thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as president, and I hope you’ll continue to take advantage of everything the Press Club has to offer.

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OPC MEMBER PROXY BALLOT

Members not attending the annual meeting on Jan. 12, may vote by returning the proxy ballot below to reach the Omaha Press Club by 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11. See instructions below.

OFFICERS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board members continuing their terms:
Allen Beermann, Woody Bradford, Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Tom Shatel, Taina Evans

Officers and board members assume office on Feb. 1, 2023

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. 11.

NOTE: If you plan to attend the annual meeting, do not return this proxy ballot.
The Omaha Press Club will be closed from Monday, Jan. 16, through Saturday, Jan. 21, reopening on Monday the 23rd.

Meanwhile, it’s not too early to make reservations for two OPC signature dinners in February. The quarterly Winemaker’s Dinner will be Friday, Feb. 10. The annual Valentine’s Day dinner will be Tuesday, Feb. 14. Check the menus on this page for details.

Many thanks to all who continue to dine at the club and a Happy New Year to all.

Thank you! See you at your club!

Steve L Villamonte Sr. CEC, BS
Executive Director
Omaha Press Club

The Santa Brunch has been a beloved tradition for decades at the Omaha Press Club. Pictured with Santa and Mrs. Claus at last month’s party are Stacie Hamel with grandchildren Eleanor, Beau and Zooey. Photo by Roger Humphries.

**Winemaker's Dinner**
Friday, Feb. 10, 2023 • 6 p.m.
Members $75 • Non-Members $100 (Tax Included)

- **Appetizer**
  - Maryland Crab Cakes Choron
  - Wine

- **Amuse**
  - Shrimp Spinach Artichoke Dip with Lavash
  - Wine

- **Salad**
  - Classic Thunderbird in a Parmesan Croustade
  - Wine

- **Sorbet**
  - Tomato
  - Wine

- **Main Course**
  - Monterey Encrusted Roasted Tenderloin
  - Garlic Buttered New Potato
  - Haricots Verts
  - Wine

- **Dessert**
  - Gateau Riche French Chocolate Mousse
  - Wine

**Valentine's Dinner**
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023 • 6 p.m.
Members $75 • Non-Members $100 (Tax Included)

- **Appetizer**
  - Brie Pear & Apricot

- **Amuse**
  - Clam Chowder

- **Salad**
  - OPC Thunderbird

- **Sorbet**
  - Strawberry

- **Entrées (choose one)**
  - **Beef**
    - Filet Mignon Maître d’Hotel & Madeira
    - Garlic Duchesse Potato
  - **Seafood**
    - Alaskan King Salmon Beurre Blanc
    - Risotto
  - **Poultry**
    - Chicken Marsala
    - Roasted Rosemary New Potato
    - Chef’s Vegetable on all

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

**PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS**

**Santa Brunch always a holiday treat**

The Santa Brunch has been a beloved tradition for decades at the Omaha Press Club. Pictured with Santa and Mrs. Claus at last month’s party are Stacie Hamel with grandchildren Eleanor, Beau and Zooey. Photo by Roger Humphries.

**OPC will close for a week**

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**Villamonte story; continued from page 1**

and provide a good option for dining for our members. Now is the time to look at our future events, or just plan a regular time to dine at the club.

Many thanks to all who continue to dine at the club and a Happy New Year to all.

Thank you! See you at your club!

**Steve L Villamonte Sr. CEC, BS**
Executive Director
Omaha Press Club
2022 - 2023 Officers

Hunter Samuels
President
Ronald McDonald House

Angella Arndt
President-Elect
Freelance Content Contributor

Dale Ervin
Treasurer
First National Bank

Jeremy Maskel
Secretary
Omaha Public Schools

Roger Humphries
Past President
Roger Humphries Photography

Board of Directors

(2021-2023)

Dr. Chris Allen
Treasurer
UNO

Liz Hruska
Salvation Army
Retired

Mike McKnight
WOWT
Retired

Dr. Robert Meyers
WOWT
Retired

(2022-2024)

Allen Beermann
Houghton Bradford Whitted
Retired

Woody Bradford
Image Building Communications

Bridge (Weide) Brooks
Omaha World-Herald

Tom Shatel
MHA, RN Healthcare Consultant

Communications Committee

Don Summerside • Gary Willis
Roger Humphries • Tom O’Connor
Bridget (Weide) Brooks • Hunter Samuels
Todd Andrews • Jon Brooks • Angella Arndt
Anne Walsh • Sandra Tursi • Elaine Allen

Committee Chairs

Communications
Gary Willis, Angella Arndt

Education
Dr. Robert Meyers

Executive Committee
Hunter Samuels, Angella Arndt, Jeremy Maskel and Dale Ervin

“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Roger Humphries

Hall of Fame
Roger Humphries

Marketing / Membership
Bridget (Weide) Brooks

OPC Foundation

TRUSTEES

Henry Cordes
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Brian Norton
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Steve Jordon
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Mike Holmes
Treasurer

Josh Bucy
Past President

Sara Ammon (402) 957-0795
Galen Lillethorup (402) 953-7427
Tom Becka (402) 397-6155

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.

DINNER
Thursday - Saturday
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

Executive Director
Steve Villamonte .. opedirector@gmail.com

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

Office .......................... 402-345-8587
Restaurant ........................ 402-345-8008
Website .......................... omahapressclub.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Sandra Tursi .................. Graphics Editor
Tom O’Connor ............... Proofreader
Don Summerside ............. Copy Editor

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

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

OMAHA PRESS CLUB OFFICE STAFF

Daisy Hutzell-Rodman.........President
Sean McGuire .................. Secretary
Todd Murphy.............President Elect
Todd Murphy.............President Elect

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Omaha World-Herald

Taina Evans                              MHA, RN Healthcare Consultant
Allen Beermann                     Retired
(2022-2024)

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Bridget (Weide) Brooks  • Hunter Samuels
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Tamsen Butler  ................................................................  Editor
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Submissions for the February issue are due on or before Jan. 20.

Reminder!
Winemaker’s Dinner
Friday, Feb. 10
Six-course dinner
with wine pairings
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Members $75, non-members $100

Tuesday, Feb. 14
Valentine’s Dinner
Members $75, non-members $100

Thursday, Feb. 16
Noon Forum
SAC Museum CEO
Clayton Anderson
11:30 a.m. lunch, $19
Noon to 1 p.m. program

Thursday, Jan. 5
(and every Thursday)
Prime Rib Night
5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12
Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m. social
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. meeting

Sunday, Jan. 15-
Sunday, Jan. 22
Club closed