Radio host Steve Lundy will be March 15 Face on the Barroom Floor

Steve Lundy, longtime radio personality and co-host of “Steve and Gina in the Morning” at KAT 103.7 FM, will become the Omaha Press Club’s 172nd “Face on the Barroom Floor” on March 15.

Jeff Koterba on Feb. 16
Cartoonist Koterba to speak at Forum

Jeff Koterba, the Omaha Press Club’s “Face on the Barroom Floor” artist and an award-winning cartoonist whose work has appeared in more than 800 newspapers, will be the featured speaker at the Feb. 16 OPC Noon Forum.

For 31 years, Koterba’s cartoons were a mainstay on the editorial pages of the Omaha World-Herald. Since leaving the World-Herald, he has taken his cartoons to Patreon, an online subscription platform.

His original drawings have flown on space shuttle Discovery and have been exhibited internationally.

Entertainment Weekly called his memoir “Inklings” “a powerful and moving portrait of an artist.” A two-time TEDx speaker, he often discusses how Tourette’s Syndrome is connected to his creative process. He’s also a two-time finalist for a Heartland Emmy.
experience and view in town. I know it has been said before, but you truly get out of an organization what you are willing to put into it. Don’t hesitate to become involved. You will meet a lot of wonderful people and truly appreciate everything the club has to offer.

I look forward to continuing the important work we started last year and serving as this year’s president. Let’s make this another great year at the Omaha Press Club.

Koterba story; continued from page 1

Award.

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

‘AstroClay’ Forum
Reset for April 13

Clayton Anderson’s talk on the future of the SAC Museum and his career in space has been pushed back to April 13.

Nebraska’s astronaut from Ashland is looking forward to the Noon Forum -- and revisiting his Face on the Barroom Floor award from November 2010.

Last year Anderson took the CEO helm at the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum, as it emerged from the pandemic and aligned with NASA’s latest space launches. He will share the museum’s future and his own space adventures and return to greater Omaha.

Steve Lundy story; continued from page 1

Steve has spent 43 years in commercial radio and the past 16 years at KAT 103.7 in Omaha.

Perhaps the biggest moment in his career was receiving two ACM (Academy of Country Music) awards for Radio Personality of the Year - Medium Market.

Look for more details, including the list of roasters, in the March newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

...2022 again was both stressful and successful

As I commented at the Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting on Jan. 12, I wish we could have just one year of minimal stress and less chaos! 2022 was a busy year for our core OPC staff — Michael, Bill, Ron, Christine and me. We do not have consistent daily diners to maintain a larger staff. Like many restaurants nationwide, we had to continue to adapt due to the hardships of COVID. Fear of not making payroll has kept me in a very conservative mode. This conservative approach has helped our bottom line. Once again it was a tough year in terms of physical work.

One reason we are not back to normal levels of business is because FNBO has opened a cafeteria on the 17th floor of the South Tower, and this has slowed our lunch business. At this point, we do not have the revenue to pay both a chef and a sous chef, which is what we had prior to the pandemic.

During 2022, we paid the position of chef a higher hourly wage than usual, but our normal candidates are in much higher paying jobs with much less responsibility. Currently, we are operating with Christine and myself with help from our core staff to run the kitchen. It is always the goal that the customer does not know you are short-staffed in the kitchen.

Christie and I take care of much of our bookkeeping duties at home after hours. Talking with my peers and vendors, we are in the norm for the industry. And despite the current state of staffing, the restaurant has had success. Credit goes to events that are the mainstay of our operations.

The club had a good financial year with a positive bottom line, although the numbers were down from the pre-pandemic years.

Our books also show multiple member accounts that have had no activity since the pandemic exploded in early 2020. The club’s Membership/Marketing Committee felt the best way to approach the problem was to communicate in bulk with a letter. The letter went out, with the goal of getting past-due accounts paid and recruiting past and delinquent members back to the club.

This has turned out to be a good effort so far, with over $2,000 in payments since the letter went out at the beginning of January.

A small number of members are choosing to retain the membership.

2022 improvements:
• The restaurant has a new public address system that is phenomenal! Bob Coate has volunteered to man the system as sound engineer for large events. He did our last two Face events, and they got better each time. He will be able to monitor them from behind the curtain from now on.
• We have two new microphones and new stands.
• We changed our contract and received a new dish machine for half the price of the previous contract.
• New wine cooler.
• New microwave.
• We purchased a new 8’ x 8’ kiosk with OPC logos for the background to stage and advertise recorded events.
• The restaurant purchased a new projector and large screen for sporting events, movie nights, OPC show nights, media, and videos for Face events. The plan is to install it in the next few weeks.
• We purchased two new countertop induction ranges with high-end sauté pans.

The thank-you list is long:
Thanks to “Employees” including Christine Villamonte, Michael Fryer, Ron Holmes, Bill Ziegmann, Roger Humphries and David Overholtzer.

Thanks to volunteers, including Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Dale Ervin, Gary Willis, Allen Beermann, Liz Hruska, Angella Arndt, Dr. Robert Meyers, Chris Allen, and the entire board and all the committee workers. I want to thank Traci & Vidal, two of the building engineers who continue to go above and beyond in support of the club and, of course, our landlord the Lauritzens.

It is because of all the volunteer time that the restaurant continues to have success and remain in business.

Special thanks to the 2022 president, Hunter Samuels, who had the vision to do a SWOT analysis of the operation to help identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. This was a significant effort to help board members and management to move the club forward and in the right direction. With the analysis, we can always reflect on the results to work toward another goal each
Nominations are now open for the selection of inductees for the 2023 OPC Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame. Nominees may be living or deceased and must have been working journalists who made notable contributions to broadcast, print or new media journalism. They must have shown exceptional leadership, courage or contributions to the news industry. They will have worked in the Omaha area during their career; or they may have had a reasonable career in the area before going elsewhere.

Your Name:  
Phone Number:  
I nominate (name):  
Check here if the journalist is being nominated posthumously:  
Tell us why the person should be inducted into the OPC Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame (attach a separate sheet if necessary).

Nominations sought for OPC Hall of Fame

Villamonte story; continued from page 2

time one is met. Hunter has been easy to work with and quickly learned how we have been affected by the pandemic.

Events the key to success:

Following is a list of our current recurring events that help make us successful. Our goal should be to increase these regular events.
• Hall of Fame
• Five “Face on the Barroom Floor” events
• Four Winemaker’s Dinners
• OPC Foundation Scholarship Brunch
• New Year’s Eve
• Valentine’s Dinner (sometimes twice!)
• St. Patrick’s Day Buffet
• Mother’s Day Brunch
• Santa Brunch
• Father’s Day Grill
• Congressional Debates
• Monthly Noon Forums
• Monthly Committee Meetings
• Wedding Receptions
• Rehearsal Dinners
• Holiday Parties

Respectfully submitted, and see you at the club!

Steve Villamonte B.S. C.E.C.  
Executive Director  
Omaha Press Club
2022 - 2023 Officers

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President  
Freelance Content Contributor

**Dr. Robert Meyers**  
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Retired

**Dale Ervin**  
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First National Bank

**Jeremy Maskel**  
Secretary  
Omaha Public Schools

**Hunter Samuels**  
Past President  
Ronald McDonald House

**Board of Directors**

**(2022-2024)**  
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Woody Bradford  
Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
Tom Shatel  
Taina Evans  
Retired  
Houghton Bradford Whitted  
Image Building Communications  
Omaha World-Herald  
MHA, RN Healthcare Consultant

**(2023-2025)**  
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Liz Hruska  
Roger Humphries  
Mike McKnight  
Gary Willis  
Salvation Army  
Retired  
Roger Humphries Photography  
WOWT  
NP Dodge Real Estate

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Anne Walsh  
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Elaine Allen

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**Education**  
Dr. Robert Meyers

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

“Face on the Barroom Floor”  
Roger Humphries  
Roger Humphries

**Marketing / Membership**  
Bridget (Weide) Brooks

**OPC Foundation**

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Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
John Chapman  
Chris Christen  
Chris Machian  
Melissa Matczak  
Tracie McPherson  
Peggy Nupperecht  
Matt Wynn  
Maria Mennon  
Wendy Townley  
Adam Tyma

**Newsletters Committee**

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

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

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

**OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF**

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

Office  
Restaurant  
Website .......... omahapressclub.com

**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.