March 16 Noon Forum

Project Harmony to tell how it tries to prevent child abuse

By Angella Arndt
Communications Committee

A team from Project Harmony will speak at the OPC Noon Forum on March 16. Opened in Omaha in 1996, the child advocacy center’s mission is to end child abuse and neglect.

Law enforcement, medical professionals, and social services work collaboratively in one location, communicating and coordinating care as a team. Project Harmony provides response, prevention, and early intervention services.

The organization annually serves more than 5,000 children in the community.

The Noon Forum presentation will focus on Project Harmony’s Missing Youth and Anti-Trafficking programs. The Omaha Police Department’s Missing Person Unit collaborates with Project Harmony to identify youth at risk of being sex trafficked. The unit takes preventative steps to reduce high-risk behavior that leads to trafficking and assists those being trafficked so they may get out.

Project Harmony’s Anti-Trafficking Youth Services Program identifies and serves high-risk youth and youth survivors of sex trafficking.

Three speakers will participate in the OPC forum:
• Angela Roeber, senior director of communications, has more than 18 years of marketing and communications experience, primarily in the nonprofit industry. She plays an integral role in planning, directing, and coordinating Project Harmony’s marketing and communication efforts.
• Sgt. Brett Schrage, Omaha Police Department -- Missing Person Unit, is a 13-year OPD veteran. His unit oversees missing person investigations and juvenile sex trafficking cases.
• Taylor Newton, program manager of Anti-Trafficking Youth Services, has been with Project Harmony for six years and helped establish the program he manages. Lunch service for the Noon Forum begins at 11:30 a.m. for $19 per person. The program starts at noon and concludes at 1 p.m. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations. Or email opcchristine@gmail.com. Reservations must include an OPC member number or credit card. Non-members are welcome.

Radio pals primed to dial up heat on Face honoree Lundy

By Elaine Allen
Communications Committee

Steve Lundy’s radio buddies will put him on the “Hot Seat” during OPC’s 171st Face on the Barroom Floor on Wednesday, March 15.

KFAB Radio’s Scott Voorhees will be the evening’s emcee. KFAB’s Gary Sadlemyer and KAT 103.7 FM’s Gina Melton, who has been Lundy’s morning show co-host for 19 years, will roast the man whose been a local radio fixture for all but two of the past 46 years.

Matt Tompkins, former KFAB talk show host and now with Two Brothers Creative, will round out the list of Lundy’s roasters.

Lundy started his career as a news reporter and DJ on his hometown radio station in Fremont, Nebraska, while attending Midland University.

Following graduation in 1978, Lundy worked overnight and then middays at 590 AM/WOW Radio in Omaha. His next career move was as host of the afternoon show on 1290 KOIL. In 1984, his first morning show aired on Lite 96 FM, and he’s been sleep-deprived ever since.

Lundy spent two years during the late ’80s as a Top 40 KKRD host in Wichita, Kansas, but returned to the Omaha airwaves to host “The Breakfast Flakes” on Sweet 98 FM. He worked in talk radio for K Kar in Omaha and KLIN in Lincoln for 13 years.

For the past 19 years, Steve and Gina have won multiple Country Music Association (CMA) awards for their morning show on KAT 103.7/KXKT-FM, which has also twice won CMA’s Radio Station of the Year.

In addition to his radio career, Lundy has been a dedicated volunteer, actively involved in multiple Omaha charities, organizations and his church, Christ Community. He’s also
Communications Committee
By Gary Willis

Officers were elected for 2023, club operations were reviewed for 2022 and Steve Villamonte provided hors d’oeuvres that were enjoyed by those attending the Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting on Jan. 12. The word must be getting out about Steve’s hors d’oeuvres, because attendance was up for the meeting.

Outgoing President Hunter Samuels

Hunter said being the club president has been a lot of fun and while the year went by far quicker than it should have, we also accomplished a lot. Over the past year, we embarked on strategic planning setting our visions of what the club should look like several years from now. We went through a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats), identifying things we do well, what we could improve on and what opportunities we should be taking advantage of by setting some benchmarks and goals.

In order for the Omaha Press Club to become a downtown destination for community and connection over the next several years, we have to make decisions now to help reach that end. Things are changing constantly in the restaurant industry, and the only way to survive is to be willing to adapt and evolve. We must be nimble and responsive to circumstances, even those out of our own control. This is something that Steve and Christine and the entire staff have embraced, picking up new skills and wearing more hats than any human head should ever wear, because that’s what’s been necessary.

Hunter said as a board we accomplished a lot, but we still have a lot of work to do. While his term is ending, he will continue to oversee the long-term strategic planning efforts.

Executive Director Steve Villamonte

Steve wished we could have just one year of minimal stress and less chaos. 2022 was a busy year for the five core OPC staff: Michael, Bill, Ron, Christine and Steve. Like many restaurants nationwide, the club had to continue to adapt to the hardships of COVID. The opening of a FNB cafeteria on the 17th floor of the South Tower has slowed the lunch business. At this point, it is not possible to afford to pay a chef and a sous chef. This was a luxury the club had prior to the pandemic. Despite the current state of staffing, the restaurant had good success. The special events have been the mainstay of the operations.

The club had a good financial year that had a positive bottom line, but down from the pre-pandemic years. There are multiple member accounts that have had no activity since COVID. The Marketing and Membership Committee sent a letter out with the goal of getting past-due accounts paid and recruiting past and delinquent members back to the club. Money has come in from the past-due accounts, and a small number of inactive members are choosing to retain their membership.

The club made numerous improvements in 2022. Some of them include a new PA system and two new microphones, with Bob Coate volunteering to serve as sound engineer for large events. Also installed was a new wine cooler, microwave, a new projector with a large screen for sporting events, movie nights, media and videos for Face events.

Steve gave thanks to the Lauritizens, our landlord, and all the volunteers and building engineers who continue to go above and beyond to make the club successful.

Thanks also went out to Hunter Samuels, who had the vision to help board members and management to constantly work toward moving the club forward and in the right direction.

OPC Foundation

The OPC Foundation report was given by Chris Christen. She stated that the fall campaign for the Rudy Smith Scholarship has raised over $21,000 for the endowment of $35,000 to be given every year.

Part of the success of this campaign was from Viv and John Ewing agreeing to be campaign chairs. A kick-off event by special invitation was held in the fall. This event was underwritten, which allowed for 85 guests to attend. Chris thanked those that have already contributed and encouraged those who have not to consider contributing.

Finance Dale Ervin

Dale reported that he meets with Steve to look at financial goals for the upcoming year. Emphasis was put on revitalizing stale accounts. This is business in which a service was provided but no funds were received.

The Marketing and Membership Committee did an excellent job issuing letters to the holders of stale accounts, and there has been some success. Another financial goal is to focus on paying down our debt. Our large events allow dollars to come in, and money will be used to reinvest in the club. Plans are underway to make strategic investments on replacing aging equipment. These delayed investments in equipment were due to COVID.

Education Committee Dr. Robert Meyers

The Education Committee has been pleased with the programs presented the past year. The committee is appreciative of the relationship with KIOS-FM (91.5), as it continues to record and replay the Noon Forums. The committee meets on a regular schedule on the third Thursday of the month. Attendance has been a concern, and the committee realizes the continuing impact the pandemic has had on participation. Employees moving away from the center of Omaha and the opportunity for potential attendees to work from home have been factors in the low attendance. Despite the challenges, the committee continues to strive to bring outstanding programs to the membership and the public at large.

January started with former Nebraska Gov. and U.S. Senator Ben Nelson speaking about his new book, “Death of the Senate.” In February, newly named Nebraska Assistant Volleyball Coach Kelly Hunter provided insights in what turned out to be a thrilling year for the Husker team. Kristyna Engdahl shared progress on the Riverfront Development and downtown Omaha’s future in March.

As always, politics played a key role in the forums, with the OPC partnering with WOWT and the League of Women Voters to host an April debate between congressional candidates Tony Vargas and Alisha Shetlon. In May, Mayor Jean Stothert shared information about the start of her new term and activities taking place in Omaha. Buey Tut shared information about Aqua Africa’s mission to bring clean water to the region as well as promote democracy to the people.

July and October featured leaders from the University of Nebraska Omaha. Chancel-
to limited resources, we will be sticking with
the three priorities identified, unless we get
more help.

Communications
Gary Willis & Angella Arndt

The committee meets monthly except July to plan the OPC newsletter. The issue for July/August covers two months. Thanks
go out to Don Summerside, our copy editor
who compiles all the information, and Sandra
Tursi, graphics editor. We are so fortunate
to have proof readers Bridget Weide Brooks
Elaine Allen, and Tom O’Connor.

Our committee includes Elaine Allen,
Todd Andrews, Anne Walsh, Hunter Samuels
and Angella Arndt who faithfully report on
club events. Roger Humphries, Kurt Keeler
and Gary Willis also pitch in to photograph
the events. As you can see, there are a lot of
moving parts to put the monthly newsletter
together.

The Communications Committee also
lends a hand to the OPC Hall of Fame
Committee when needed. Todd Andrews has
done an excellent job as emcee for the Hall of
Fame. He is also gracious enough to handle
the press releases for the Noon Forums.

And we can’t thank Christine Villamonte
enough for lending her support and attending
our meetings when she is able.

Hall of Fame
Roger Humphries

Roger thanked the committee and every-
one who stepped up and came together to
make this such a successful event.

We inducted six people into the Omaha
Press Club Hall of Fame in 2022. Those
honored at the September event: John Chap-
man – WOWT; Jim Denney (posthumous)
- Omaha World-Herald; Paul Hammel –
Nebraska Examiner, Omaha World-Herald;
Bill Kelly – Nebraska Public Media; Anne

Walsh – Union Pacific Railroad, and Dave
Wingert – Boomer Radio.

A special thank-you goes out to Todd An-
drews for being our emcee for the program.

The OPC Hall of Fame was created in
2008 to honor individuals who have made
notable contributions to Omaha journalism
and who have shown exceptional leadership,
courage, or contributions to the broadcast,
print and online news and media industries.

Face on the Barroom Floor
Roger Humphries

The committee met several times in 2022
and took on the task of cleaning up the
nominee list. Roger emphasized that you do
not have to be on the committee to nominate
someone.

The committee customarily
meets with all the inductees for
lunch and explained what the Face
event is all about and to make this
a fun evening for them. Several
members of the committee traveled
to Lincoln to meet with Gov. Rick-
etts for his event due to him being
unable to meet at the club. We were
able to roast Othello Meadows after
his event originally scheduled for
2020 had to be postponed due to
COVID.

We started out the year with
Symone Sanders in February, Dr.
Jeffrey Gold in April, Otis XII in
September and Othello Meadows and
Gov. Ricketts in November.

The committee selected five candidates for
2023 starting off with Steve Lundy in March.

Strategic Planning

There was no formalized report. The board
has been going through planning and will
have a report in 2024.

Incoming President
Angella Arndt

Angella said she is honored to serve as
president of the Omaha Press Club. She re-
lected on her first visit to the club in the late
1970s and how the club has held a special
place in her heart.

She thanked Hunter Samuels for his
leadership last year. He tirelessly worked
with board members to create a vision and
strategic plan to position the club for long-
term success.

Angella said with any organization, suc-
cess depends upon the generosity of those
donating their time and talent. There is so
much that happens behind the scenes, and it
is important to recognize those who work so
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**Who is ready for spring?**

The sun is smiling longer each day, and the views are spectacular at the club. You might not be seeing green yet, but with St. Patrick’s Day soon to come, the green will be here soon enough.

At the club on Friday, March 17, the St. Pat’s lunch and dinner buffet will feature corned beef, boiled cabbage, roasted potatoes, green brownies and green beer. Green attire is optional as we will not pinch you (no touching policy).

I claim Irish heritage, so St. Pat’s is a favorite time of year with the corned beef roasting in our Alto-Shaam oven overnight, making the meat so tender you can cut it with a fork. Please call us for a reservation.

Other seasonal events at the club include Lenten lunch specials every Friday until Easter without those fish-fry crowds waiting in line.

The Easter buffet is a family favorite falling on April 9 this year. Why cook when you have so many options to choose from with two Easter settings, 10 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.? Dress up or just dress enough and enjoy libations, culinary delights, and live music to relax you.

Lent is always a challenge on abstinence. Bacon, for example was not a good choice for me – particularly when it comes out of the oven at 10:15 every morning. Who knew that one thing could be so hard to give up? Let’s just say that the pickle jar was not big enough for every dollar I donated to my kids when I broke the Lenten vow.

The wedding season is upon us, and there’s no better place to celebrate rehearsals and the Big Day itself than at your club. We can accommodate 225-240 guests, with smaller spaces available to customize to your size. If you or maybe a relative/close friend have recently gotten engaged, consider the Omaha Press Club this summer and fall. I have planned as little as two months out, as well as years in advance. I help guide the bride and groom to realize their vision of a perfect day from start to finish.

Years later, I often am privileged to relive the memories with the bride, groom, families and guests. Many return to town to visit and have lunch or dinner. Many remain club members and build more memories. There have even been a couple of mother and then daughter wedding rehearsals here.

**A reminder to members:** Late fees are in full motion, with options to pay bills on time in multiple ways.

- Our website: omahapressclub.com, top right corner RSVP – follow the prompt for payment options. You must know your member number and the amount to pay. Note: This procedure is processed through Pay Pal; a fee applies.
- Call us with a credit card number; we will process your bill manually (3% processing fee). You can also place your card on file for automatic processing of your balance each month.

**Easter Buffet**

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Adults $28.50 • Children $16

**Carving Station**

Prime Rib of Beef
Whiskey Pepper-Glazed Ham

**Entrées**

Chicken Bourguignon
Lemon Pepper Butter Baked Tilapia
Eggs Benedict
Lyonnaise New Potato
Biscuits & Sausage Gravy
Seasonal Vegetable
Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Buttermilk Pancakes

**Salad Display**

Thunderbird Salad, Chef Salad, Creamy Dill Cucumber Salad, Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs, Smoked Salmon, Chaud-Froid, Continental Fruit Display
Continental Cheese Display

**Desserts**

Fresh-Baked Cream Puff Profiteroles, Sticky Buns, Chocolate-Dipped Driscoll Strawberries & Homemade Coffee Cake, Cheesecake

**St. Patrick’s Day Buffet**

Saturday, March 17, 2023

11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Members $20

**All-You-Can-Eat Buffet**

Fresh Corned Beef
Boiled Cabbage
Irish New Potatoes
Dark Rye Bread & Butter

**Dessert**

Frosted Brownie
Beverage

$2 Green Beer

**PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS**
Blast off: Astronaut CEO Clayton Anderson

By Connie Winkler
Education Committee

Nebraska’s favorite – and only – astronaut has brought a big lift to the SAC Museum in Ashland. On April 13 at the Noon Forum, the new CEO and 30-year NASA spacewalker will tell how the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum is re-igniting after the pandemic and along with the U.S.’s latest space missions and future launches to Mars.

As a Smithsonian Museum affiliate, SAC aims to become the Midwest’s pre-eminent aerospace educational museum. Into its 25th anniversary, SAC unites both its Cold War heritage and ties to local STRATCOM to the future of outer space … underscoring how our past shapes our future.

In November the museum received a “Center of Excellence” grant from Nebraska children’s groups to bring hands-on, engaging space-based STEM 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 ‘STEM 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.”

Beloved at OPC, Anderson is the club’s 127th Face on the Barroom Floor, which was celebrated Nov. 19, 2010.

Born in Omaha and raised in Ashland, Anderson spent 30 years at NASA, with 167 days in space, living on the International Space Station for five months in 2007. Helping to build the space station, Anderson had six spacewalks and accumulated days to rank him in the top 40 for all-time spacewalk records.

He retired from NASA in 2013. Since then he’s been professor of practice in aerospace engineering at Iowa State University.

Anderson’s remarkable career has been chronicled in a recent documentary by the Nebraska Educational Television (NET) entitled “Homemade Astronaut.”

Reservations for this special forum are at 402-345-8008 or email Christine at opcchristine@gmail.com. Open to non-members, too, the lunch is $19 and begins at 11:30 am, with the talk and Q&A from noon to 1 pm. OPC provides two hours free parking for members at the DoubleTree Hotel garage.

FACE ON THE BALLROOM FLOOR
STEVE LUNDY

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15
5:30 P.M. SOCIAL, 6:30 P.M. DINNER
8 P.M. ROAST AND FACE UNVEILING
COST: $75 FOR OPC MEMBERS,
$85 FOR NON-MEMBERS
RESERVATIONS: 402-345-8008

Lundy story; continued from page 1

a singer, having performed solos with the USAF Heartland of America Band and with the late Marvin Hamlisch at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts.

Lundy is a member of the inaugural class of the Nebraska Radio Personalities Hall of Fame. He was given the “Key to the City” of Lincoln and also was given the honorary title of “Admiral of the Great Navy of Nebraska” by then-Gov. Ben Nelson.

Steve and his wife, Terri Steyer, have four children (and their wonderful spouses), six grandchildren and three grand-doggies!
2022 - 2023 Officers

Angella Arndt
President
Freelance Content Contributor

Dr. Robert Meyers
President-Elect
Retired

Dale Ervin
Treasurer
First National Bank

Jeremy Maskel
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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

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G. K. "Doc" Mott
Past President

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.

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