A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

... Thanks to you, OPC survives and thrives

By Angella Arndt
OPC President

When you think of the Omaha Press Club, what comes to mind? For me, it is so much more than a gathering place. I am proud to be part of an organization that inspires fellowship, promotes excellence in journalism, celebrates newsmakers from Nebraska, and provides fabulous dining experiences.

As a member of the Omaha Press Club, are you taking advantage of all the club has to offer? Events are always happening, and the wide variety ensures there is something for everyone to enjoy. The time-honored “Face on the Barroom Floor” events, holiday buffets, winemaker dinners, Thursday prime-rib dinners, and other special events are a few opportunities to experience fine dining, excellent service, and fantastic views.

And the club is open for lunch Monday through Friday and dinner Thursday through Saturday for your dining pleasure. If you are hosting a private event, you can rent the club at no charge as a member. Upcoming events this month include an Easter Brunch Buffet, Noon Forum featuring Clayton Anderson, and the Annual Scholarship Brunch. Stay tuned for special events coming up every month.

As I think about all the restaurants that Omaha has lost over the past few years, it is hard to believe we have lost many icons. The Omaha Press Club has endured when so many others across the country have closed their doors, and this is only possible with the great staff, board and committees working hard to create enjoyable experiences.

Our members are also an essential part of the club’s success. If you have recently joined the club, welcome and thank you to our existing members. You are part of a historical organization, and we appreciate your membership and support.

If you want to become more involved in the club, consider joining a committee. Whether your interest lies in writing, marketing or education, you will have an opportunity to network, showcase your talents, and contribute to the success of the club. For more information, email omahapressclub@gmail.com or contact a board member or committee chair listed at the end of this newsletter.

Next time you visit the club, take an opportunity to look at some of the faces hanging on the walls. If you listen carefully, you may hear echoes of laughter from some memorable roasts. Or at least appreciate the contributions of the individuals depicted in the caricatures and know you are among some amazing company.

See you at the club!

Smith Scholarship will highlight awards brunch

The first Rudy Smith Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student of color during the Omaha Press Club Foundation’s Scholarship Brunch on Saturday, April 22. The scholarship is named after the late Rudy Smith, longtime Omaha World Herald photographer and the paper’s first Black journalist.

Smith’s family and friends funded the scholarship for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) during a very successful OPCF annual campaign. According to OPCF Treasurer Mike Holmes, more than $35,000 has been raised for this scholarship since mid-November 2022.

Fifteen other journalism and advertising scholarship recipients from UNO, UNL and Creighton will receive $2,500 awards during the brunch, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Omaha Press Club. Foundation President Brian Norton and Past President Henry Cordes will award the scholarships.Chris Allen, UNO School of Communication professor and KVNO/UNO Television general manager, will be the featured speaker.

Recipients and their parents are invited to attend. In addition, OPC members and the public are welcome to attend. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations.

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

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 preeminent 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
Koterba’s talents cover more than cartoons

By Angella Arndt
Communications Committee

Jeff Koterba, award-winning cartoonist and the Omaha Press Club’s Face on the Barroom Floor artist, spoke at the Feb. 23 Noon Forum.

Koterba spent 31 years at the Omaha World-Herald as an editorial cartoonist. His work has appeared in over 800 newspapers and flown on Space Shuttle Discovery. Koterba joked that his own Face on the Barroom Floor caricature, drawn by Jim Horan, was looking down upon him, sort of judging him.

An Omaha native, Koterba’s interest in drawing started at a young age. He and his dad would get the World-Herald’s early Sunday edition on Saturday nights. He would pore over the cartoons and draw his own based on what he was seeing. His dad disapproved of his copying, telling him it was a sin not to be original. Being 5 or 6 at the time, Koterba would decide to quit. After a couple of hours, his passion for being creative outweighed the criticism from his father, and he persevered, creating his own characters. He said it wasn’t until he was in the third grade that “I learned that original sin had nothing to do with my copying.”

Koterba continued drawing in high school and college, eventually creating sports cartoons for the Kansas City Star before joining the World-Herald in 1989. Since his departure from the World-Herald, he has continued his work as a cartoonist, among other pursuits.

Koterba’s talents are not limited to drawing. He is also a writer, musician, painter and sculptor. His memoir, “Inklings,” details his journey as a cartoonist and his love of family. He writes music, sings and plays in a swing band, Prairie Cats.

He maintains a studio at Pottawattamie Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (PACE), where he paints and sculpts. At PACE, Koterba created the world’s first exhibit of cartoons about the pandemic. “It was about 100 cartoons formed in the shape of a maze to reflect how we were all feeling during the pandemic.”

KVNO, Omaha’s classical music radio station, features Koterba on Wednes-day mornings. Koterba said that he appreciates the opportunity to be part of a wonderful team and play wonderful music. “It’s a place where we discuss music, kindness and uplifting things.”

Fans of Koterba may find his work on Patreon, a membership-based online platform. Subscribers get early access to sketches, time-lapsed videos, and cartoons, depending upon the membership level selected. Koterba noted that this platform allows him to send his cartoons out for syndication to newspapers worldwide.

Koterba’s presentation at the Noon Forum featured many cartoons drawn throughout his career. He noted that he occasionally likes to step away from politics. “I like to look for topics we can all relate to in cartoons. I might poke fun or criticize, but I do so with a sense of humanity. I am a big believer that even if we disagree, we can go out and grab a coffee and agree to disagree and leave with a sense of mutual respect.”

Anderson story; continued from page 1

“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 at Iowa State University in aerospace engineering and has authored five books – three for children about space.

Anderson’s remarkable career has been chronicled in a recent TV documentary by Nebraska Public Media 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.
Lundy Face roast a KAT-egorical success

By Hunter Samuels
Communications Committee

I
t’s not often you see the Omaha Press Club filled with denim and cowboy boots.
Steve Lundy was honored on March 15 as the 172nd Face on the Barroom Floor. Guests were instructed to wear attire they’d don for a country concert, and the festive 100 people in attendance were happy to join in the celebration of the gregarious KAT 103.7 personality, with KFAB morning show host Scott Voorhees serving as emcee, and who peppered both the honoree and the roasters throughout the evening.

The first roaster was Gary Sadlemyer, longtime KFAB radio host and the 115th Face on the Floor. He led things off by saying he would keep his remarks short, telling Lundy, “You have a show to sleep through tomorrow. Along with all your listeners.”

Sadlemyer noted that he and Steve have known each other since the late 1980s, when Steve worked at Sweet 98. They got acquainted then, and Sadlemyer called Lundy “a great friend,” adding, “It’s an honor to be here.”

Voorhees then introduced Matt Tompkins of Two Brothers Creative, noting that Tompkins is a “radio icon,” telling him that Tompkins has “been on every single radio station in town. Not for real long, but you’ve worked at all of them.”

Tompkins began by noting he was only there because “they just needed somebody funny up here tonight.” He also explained to the younger folks in attendance that KFAB is a 50,000-watt radio station by saying, “a watt is a unit of electricity. And a radio station is a building stuck in 1985.”

Tompkins continued by noting that his first gig in radio was working for Lundy and his co-host, Gina Melton. Tompkins thanked Lundy and added, “He’s got a golden heart.”

Next up was Melton, who has worked with Lundy for the past two decades, and who said, “I’ve been waiting to do this roast for 20 years.” As Lundy is a big Seinfeld fan, Melton compared her co-host to George Costanza. “You seem to have a knack for failing upwards in life. I mean, this guy has a key to the city of Lincoln, and I won’t even let him hold my lipstick at a concert.”

Melton then asked the crowd to raise their glasses for Lundy for a toast: “As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction.”

Before introducing the Face drawing, Voorhees had a chance to reminisce about when he used to listen to Lundy as a kid, only to eventually work with him just down the hallway several years later. “To be able to work with Steve is an absolute treat.”

Face on the Floor Committee Chair Roger Humphries then took the mic to help unveil the Face, drawn by Jeff Koterba. Some of the highlights as described by Jeff:

“Steve Lundy was born in Crete, Nebraska, but soon enough, the family left for Fremont. On the left side of my drawing, you can see a red pickup truck with one of Steve’s favorite Brooks and Dunn songs, ‘Old Dirt Road,’ blaring on the radio. On the side of the truck is the word, ‘Ex-Cretian’ – a term Steve jokingly uses for his family’s move.

“Eventually, Steve would graduate from Midland University in Fremont with a bachelor’s degree in communication. He’s still a fan and supporter of his alma mater, as we can see by the Midland University logo on his shirt.

“In the distance, the Omaha skyline ignites from the morning sun – after all, Steve has long been an integral part of the morning routine for thousands of Omahans.”

“Finally, we see a musical staff flowing behind him – but this time, in place of musical notes, we see floating-heart notes – symbols of his love and dedication to his wife, Terri, and his family.”

Then Lundy stepped to the podium, where he said, “I never, ever gave a thought that I would be in this position. It’s really humbling.”

Lundy thanked all involved in the event, as well as all the people he’s worked with throughout his many years on the air, and his family, before turning his attention to the roasters.

Lundy said Voorhees is “amazingly crotchety for his age, and seems proud of it.” Although he also added, “I’m only going on what people tell me because I’ve never heard him on the radio.”

On Sadlemyer, Lundy noted the 115th Face’s distinction, saying Sadlemyer had requested that the framed caricature face the bar, “because that’s usually the way Gary is facing.”

Lundy recalled meeting Tompkins for the first time years ago and hearing about all that this young intern was capable of. “Matt has done all that and more in his 33 jobs he’s held in radio in the last eight years.”

Lastly, Lundy thanked Melton, “because this is the first time in our 19 years together where you’ve actually stayed until the end.” He added that Melton has “become one of my closest friends ever.”

He closed by saying that even if he isn’t here in 19 years, his picture will be, thanks to the Omaha Press Club.
BUSINESS FIRST... THEN THE FUN.

The question of the hour may be: “What is this on my bill? I did not go to the club last month.”

Quarterly minimums have been reactivated, with an assessment up to $40 if you have not spent that amount at the club. Minimums by definition are monies required to be spent at our facility over a three-month period.

If we do not see you for a meal, a social or a carry-out totaling at least $40 during a quarter, you will see a charge on your statement. If you are out of town or not otherwise able to get to the club, buy a gift certificate for $40 so you do not lose the money. The quarterly periods are January through March, April-June, July-September and October-December.

How long has it been since we last had quarterly minimums? Our board of directors suspended them when the COVID epidemic erupted early in 2020. With the epidemic ending, the board gave thoughtful deliberation to the minimums before voting to reinstate them. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

Now for the fun. Check out the calendar on the last page for two of our most popular Sunday buffets plus a list of Noon Forums sure to attract your interest.

First on the Forum schedule is the April 13 appearance of retired astronaut Clayton Anderson, now the director of the SAC Museum. He will be followed by the Omaha Sister City Organization on May 12 and Media Futures on June 15. All Forums start with food service at 11:30 a.m. and the speaker from noon to 1 p.m.

Brunches are a staple for many members, with just the two of you or the entire family and friends. Easter is April 9 and Mother’s Day is May 14, with two seatings: 10 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 2-ish. There always is quite a selection of foods to choose from, and of course the views will help everyone celebrate the day. And don’t forget the mimosas and poinsettias (champagne and juice).

Last but not least is Administrative Assistants Day on April 26. Don’t forget all the ones that make your lives so much more organized.

See you at the club!

-Christine Villamonte
Restaurant and Events Manager

PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

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

Mother’s Day Brunch
Sunday, May 14, 2023
Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults $30 • Children $15

Carving Station
Steamship Round of Beef with Horseradish Chantilly & Red Wine au Jus
Old School Pineapple-Glazed Ham

Entrées
Chicken Crepes Supreme
Baked Tilapia Buerre Blanc
Eggs Benedict
Lyonnaise Potatoes • Seasonal Vegetables

A La Carte
Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Pancake Bar

Salad Display
Thunderbird Salad, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs, Imported Cheese & Antipasta, Smoked Salmon Chaud-Froid, Fresh Fruit Display
Pastries • Breakfast Breads • Pecan Rolls

Desserts
New York-style Cheesecake with Strawberries, Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries, Warm Peach Cobbler with French Vanilla Ice Cream
**2023 - 2024 Officers**

*Angella Arndt*  
President  
Freelance Content Contributor  

*Dr. Robert Meyers*  
President-Elect  
Retired  

*Dale Ervin*  
Treasurer  
First National Bank  

*Jeremy Maskel*  
Secretary  
Omaha Public Schools  

*Hunter Samuels*  
Past President  
Ronald McDonald House  

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**Board of Directors**

(2022-2024)  
Allen Beermann  
Woody Bradford  
Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
Tom Shatel  
Taina Evans  

(2023-2025)  
Todd Andrews  
Liz Hruska  
Roger Humphries  
Mike McKnight  
Gary Willis  

**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  

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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**  
Hunter Samuels  

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

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**OPC Foundation**

Henry Cordes  
President  

Brian Norton  
First Vice President  

Steve Jordon  
Secretary  

Mike Holmes  
Treasurer  

Josh Bucy  
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**OUH Press Club**

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*Roger Humphries*  
President-Elect  

*Nancy Hartzell*  
First Vice President  

*Gary Willis*  
Secretary  

*Angella Arndt*  
Treasurer  

*Cynthia Kohnke*  
Past President  

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**Events**

**Thursday, April 6**  
(and every Thursday)  
Prime Rib Night  
5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.  

**Sunday, April 9**  
Easter Brunch  
10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.  
$28.50 adults  
$16 children (3-10 years)  

**Thursday, April 13**  
Noon Forum  
Clayton Anderson  
SAC Museum CEO  
11:30 a.m. lunch, $19  
Noon to 1 p.m. program  

**Saturday, April 22**  
Scholarship Brunch  
10 a.m. social and brunch  
10:30 a.m. program  
$30  

**Wednesday, April 26**  
Administrative Assistants Day  

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**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.  

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**Omaha Press Club Staff**

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**Newsletter Committee**

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

Submissions for the May issue are due on or before April 20.