



# OPTI-NEWS



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## OPTIMIST CLUB OF PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

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*Serving the Plainfield Community and its youth since 1954*

Affiliated with Optimist International and the Indiana South District

Indiana South District Theme:

“Give of Yourself For The Kids”

April 2010

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### Club Meetings

6:30pm, Thursdays

“Plainfield Elks Lodge”

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 664,  
Plainfield, IN 46168

### Club Web Site:

[www.optimistindiana.org/  
Clubs/Plainfield](http://www.optimistindiana.org/Clubs/Plainfield)

### Officers & Directors:

**President: John Reel**

**Pres.-Elect: Pat Spray**

**Vice-Pres.: Dawn Wickham**

**Past-Pres.: Walter Lemke**

**Sec./Treas. Mike Woodward**

**Director: Dennis Middleton**

**Director: Rick Shaw**

**Director: Rusty Diemer**

**Director: Andy Tice**

**Director: Rob Mongell**

**Director: Brian Dilger**

### April Programs:

(All Club meetings at Plainfield Elks Lodge)

**Apr. 15** – Partner’s In Education Program.

**Apr. 18** – Board Meeting.

**Apr. 22** – Guilford Township Trustee **Mick Hickam** will be the guest speaker.

**Apr. 29** “Super Thursday”. Former Pacers Trainer **David Craig** will be our very special guest speaker.

### President’s Message...

Greetings to all!

After a couple of bad weather Thursdays, we are on our way back to some very interesting meetings the next three weeks.

First is one of our outstanding programs as we pay tribute and honor a teacher and staff member from each of our Plainfield Schools. **Bill Verhonik** will be our MC for the evening as he has done an outstanding job as Partner's in Education Chairman. Hope you can all attend.

The following week, **Mick Hickham**, Guilford Township Trustee will give us an update on the status of our great "Hummel Park" and the long range possibilities of local Township Trustees positions.

And then we have **David Craig**, former Indiana Pacer Team Trainer. **Rick Shaw** has arranged for Dave to come out to speak to us Thursday the 29th.....this would be a great night to bring your youngsters (for those not practicing or playing that evening).

Mike Woodward and myself have been making a daily check on the new park and both of us feel the town will make the deadline date and we will be able to hold our first games at the new park immediately after our league wrap up. (The soccer building is ready for equipment to be installed and the baseball building is close behind.)

Please watch the local paper for current status of the soon to be "CHALLENGER BASEBALL FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN" This is going to be a program our club can be very proud of .

That's it for now...please, pretty please, try to make the next three meeting as each are very special.

PS - We need someone to man the Baseball concession stand this Thursday (while I attend the Partner’s In Education program) and all day on Saturday April 24 (District meeting). I will have it all set for you to monitor the operation and you will have team parents manning the windows. Please contact me. Otherwise we may have to close it down for the evening/day.

JR

***“To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.”***

## 2009-10 Committee Chairs:

Baseball Co-Directors:

Dale Copeland & Travis Nichols

Spring Soccer Director:

Brian Dilger & Paul Hrbek

Fall Soccer Director:

Brian Dilger & Paul Hrbek

Football Director:

Dennis Middleton

Cheerleading Director:

Shelly Vemengo

Tri-Star Soccer:

Sandi Layton

Tri-Star Football:

Mark Hagee

Tri-Star Basketball:

Rob Tejchma

Junior Golf:

Mike Woodward

Youth Appreciation Week:

Rusty Diemer

Respect For Law Week:

Jim Spencer

Respect For Law Camp:

Jerry Fishel

Firemen's Appreciation:

Wes Bennett

Partners In Education:

Bill Verhonik

Oratorical Contest:

Andy Tice

Essay Contest:

Mike Woodward

Senior Scholarships:

Susan Cloe

Needy Family Christmas:

Greg & Jill Baker

Boys State Sponsorship:

Carl Smith

Youth Clubs:

Jr. Optimist Club (PCMS):

Dawn Wickham & Joan Effinger

Octagon Club (HS):

Mike Woodward & Carrie Farris

Plainfield Junior Miss Program:

Dawn Wickham

Publicity

Travis Lansberry

Finance

Mike Daugherty

## April Birthdays:

Apr. 03 – Alan Eller

Apr. 06 – Mike Woodward

Apr. 06 – Randy Vanderbush

Apr. 07 – Travis Nichols

Apr. 11 – Gary Lux

Apr. 17 – Todd Sprinkle

Apr. 20 – Gary Satterfield

Apr. 24 – Charlie Hardin

## April Meetings .....

**Apr. 15** – Our annual **Partners in Education** Banquet will be held at the Elks Lodge. Program Chair **Bill Verhonik** is arranging a very special evening. **Mary Giesting**, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, Plainfield Community Schools, will be the keynote speaker. This event recognizes and honors a teacher and a staff support person from each school in Plainfield. The doors will open at 6:00 PM and the program will begin with the meal at 6:30 PM.

**Apr. 22** – **Mick Hickham**, Guliford Township Trustee will give us an update on the status of our great "Hummel Park" and the long range possibilities of local Township Trustees positions.

**Apr. 29 – "Super Thursday"** – Mr. **David Craig** will be our very special guest speaker. Mr. Craig served as Trainer for the Indiana Pacers for 35 years. In that time, he distinguished himself as one of the best athletic trainers in sports because of his professionalism, knowledge, work ethic, organizational skills and personality. He also served in a management capacity with the Pacers.

His athletic training education began as Junior at West Lafayette High School where he began working under Purdue University's Ward "Pinky" Newell, widely regarded as the father of modern day athletic training. That schooling continued for Craig as an undergraduate at Purdue and during summers, he worked camps for the NFL's Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings. Craig joined the Pacers prior to the start of the 1970-71 season and was part of two ABA Championship teams which he sites as "very important" moments in his career.

During his years with the Pacers, Craig was justly honored with numerous appointments and Awards. He was the first President of the Indiana Athletic Trainers Association and in 1993 won the organization's "Professional Clinician/Athletic Trainer of the Year" Award. In 1995, he was inducted into the IATA Hall of Fame. He has also served as Chairman of the National Basketball Trainers Association Executive Committee and was named the 2002-03 Joe O'Toole NBA Athletic Trainer of the Year.



## Special Needs Optimist Club.....

What started as a desire to sponsor a Baseball Program for kids with "special needs" who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in an organized baseball program, has developed into the desire of parents and other volunteers who want to serve these kids, to form a new Optimist Club. That Club (which would be sponsored by our Club) would have the *single purpose* of serving these kids in not only a baseball program, but potentially in other programs as well. The goal is to officially organize the Club on April 27. For more information, contact Club President **John Reel**, or **Jackie Parrish** (jackie356@aol.com), who is serving as temporary Chair of the pre-organizational meetings.

## Dues reminder...

Club dues statements for the period April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 were mailed recently. If you have not already done so, please return your payment as soon as possible. The Club must pay dues in advance to Optimist International and the Indiana South District for all members on the Club roster as of September 30.