

OPC NEWS

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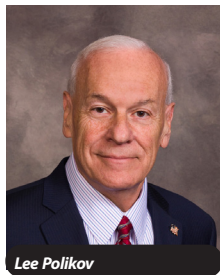
SEE PAGE 2



SEE PAGE 3

July 30 salute for his decades of leadership Sarpy County Attorney Polikov to be Face on Barroom Floor

By Tom O'Connor
Communications
Committee



Lee Polikov

The verdict is in. Sarpy County Attorney Lee Polikov has been found guilty – of being an outstanding member of our community. His sentence is a stiff one – Polikov has agreed to be skewered in a roast at the Omaha Press Club on Thursday, July 30, when he will become the OPC’s 187th Face on the Barroom Floor.

“This is a little out of my comfort zone,” Polikov said, “but I appreciate the Press Club

asking me to do this. I know what an honor it is to be a Face on the Barroom Floor. I am humbled to say the least.”

Polikov, who has worked for Sarpy County for more than five decades and served as Sarpy County attorney for 27 years, is retiring at the end of this year. After the previous Sarpy County attorney was removed for an ethical violation in 1999, Polikov was appointed to serve the remaining three years of the four-year term. He was subsequently elected to serve six more terms. During his tenure, six deputy county attorneys were appointed to judgeships.

An Omaha native, Polikov is a 1966 graduate of Westside High School. He

Continue on Page 4

OPC adds 7 to Hall of Fame



The Omaha Press Club celebrated seven additions to the Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame at a dinner on June 6. From left, front: Julie Anderson, Terri Sanders and Cathy Martin (daughter of honoree Rosalee Roberts). In back: Scott Buer, Ross Jernstrom, Marcos Mora and Chris Allen. For more on the event, see the stories and photos on Page 5. Photo by Gary Willis.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

... OPC will close in July, August during building remodel

This is the “big news” column -- what we have been talking about for more than three years. OPC will be closed during August and September as part of our building’s complete HVAC and plumbing replacement.



Christine Villamonte

Let me get you back up to speed. The former bank building was sold to NUStyle Development. NUStyle buys historical buildings and converts them into downtown apartment living with access to businesses at the same time, like ours.

We will be closed for two months, waiving the third-quarter minimums. You will be able to reciprocate with other clubs during this time.

Construction is difficult but it will be so nice once we are settled back in. Our closing date is July 31, and reopening is scheduled for Oct. 2.

OPC’s reciprocal agreements entitle any full-time member in good standing to visit another club (out of state, not metropolitan). Club visitors must have an introductory

letter for a social visit, food and drink only. Introductory letters need to come from me with your date of visit. Clubs have different rules on dress code, so please inquire. Payment must be made at the end of the visit.

The reciprocal list is part of the July newsletter as well as online. Go to omahapressclub.com/membership and scroll down. This year’s list has been updated, with some clubs no longer around or with limited status (no food/beverage). Other clubs are full service with dress codes enforced and no drop-ins, reservations only.

I can tell you personally how fun it can be going out of town and visiting another club. This is one of the perks of membership. I am always building the reciprocal list, and this month there are nine new clubs. I’ll be excited to hear from our members trying them out.

- Christine Villamonte
Restaurant and Events Manager

OPC Members Mixer: a toast to the next chapter

By Angella Arndt
Communications Committee

Before the Omaha Press Club temporarily closes for the building renovation project, we’re gathering one more time to raise a glass, share a meal, and celebrate the community that makes this place special.

Join us for a Members Mixer on Thursday, July 23, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and include hors d’oeuvres plus your choice of one beer, wine, or non-alcoholic drink. Dinner is not included, but it happens to be 2-for-1 Prime Rib Night — so come hungry and stay awhile!

This event is a great opportunity to support our staff, connect with fellow members, and enjoy one of the club’s longtime traditions before we temporarily close for August and September. During that time, the building will undergo apartment conversion work, along with some updates within the club

Continue on Page 8

Jim Flanery and Kirsten Bernthal Booth

Creighton coaching legends receive warm roast and salute

By Katie Raine Thomas
Communications Committee

The Omaha Press Club hosted an evening of laughter, reflection and celebration on May 13 honoring Creighton University coaching legends Jim Flanery and Kirsten Bernthal Booth as the 186th Faces on the Barroom Floor, while recognizing their combined impact on women's athletics, student-athletes and the Omaha community.

Set against the backdrop of one of Omaha's most enduring traditions, the evening brought together former players, colleagues, family members, university leaders and longtime supporters to celebrate two careers that helped shape the modern era of Creighton athletics.

Emceed by former Creighton Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen, the program balanced lighthearted roasting with heartfelt appreciation, a hallmark of the Face on the Barroom Floor tradition.

Rasmussen opened the evening by reflecting on the importance of local journalism and community institutions before turning his attention to the night's honorees, who together have accumulated more than four decades of leadership in women's athletics at Creighton University.

The first roaster, Brad Bernthal, Booth's brother, offered both humor and insight into the leadership qualities that have defined her career.

"Coach Booth is a very stable genius," he joked, referencing the detailed list of topics she had instructed him not to mention during his remarks. Beyond the laughs, Bernthal described Booth as a leader who gives clear direction and surrounds herself with talented people.

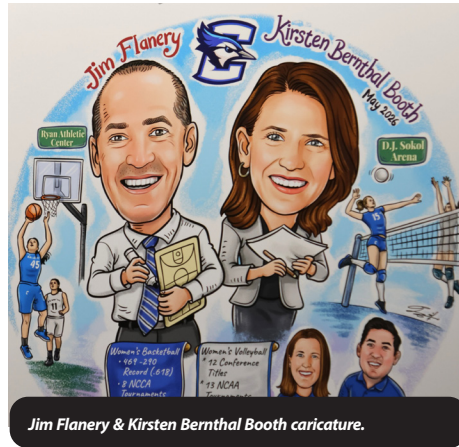
"She bet on herself," he said, recalling the skepticism that surrounded her hiring at age 27. "She knew she was ready."

As the program unfolded, one theme emerged repeatedly – Booth's youthful appearance when she first arrived at Creighton. Former players and assistants recalled officials frequently mistaking assistant coaches for the head coach, with one speaker joking that referees often had to be directed toward "the small petite lady in the polo shirt who looked like the athletic trainer."

Rasmussen later delivered one of the evening's most memorable lines, telling the audience, "Twenty-two years as a head volleyball coach has aged her dramatically. She

now looks like she's 21."

Booth's longtime assistants, Brian Rosen and Angie Oxley Behrens, shared stories spanning more than two decades of coaching together, poking fun at everything from Booth's technology skills to her insistence on proper pronunciation of her full name.



Jim Flanery & Kirsten Bernthal Booth caricature.



Jim Flanery and Kirsten Bernthal Booth with the 180th Face on the Barroom Floor. Photo by Keeler/Christen.

The crowd also enjoyed stories about her unwavering loyalty to Pickleman's sandwiches, her preference for the Voxer messaging app, and her determination to have "Bernthal" included on every name badge. Beneath the humor, however, their stories painted a picture of a coach who trusted her staff, empowered those around her and built a culture that extended far beyond wins and losses.

Meanwhile, Flanery found himself the target of equally relentless teasing. One of the biggest laughs of the evening came when a roaster turned Flanery's college basketball career into an auction.

"Let's start with how many points Flanery scored in his college career at Creighton. Do

I hear 350? Do I hear 150? Do I hear 50?... Do I hear zero?" As hands slowly rose around the room, the punchline landed perfectly.

The crowd laughed again when stories resurfaced from Flanery's days portraying Billy Bluejay, Creighton's mascot. "He used to talk to us about the skin rashes he would get from the cheap outfit," one speaker recalled.

Others joked about Flanery's reputation for being frugal, his unconventional basketball game, and even his decision not to recruit future superstar Caitlin Clark. "He didn't think Caitlin Clark fit his system," one roaster deadpanned, drawing another wave of laughter from the audience.

As with many Face on the Barroom Floor celebrations, the evening moved effortlessly between humor and reflection. Despite the jokes, speaker after speaker returned to the qualities that earned both coaches the honor.

Omaha Lancers President Mike West praised Rasmussen's ability to identify exceptional coaching talent and highlighted the trust Rasmussen placed in both Flanery and Booth early in their careers.

Several speakers reflected on the cultures both coaches built inside their programs – cultures rooted in accountability, teamwork and personal growth.

The tone shifted toward reflection during remarks from Rasmussen, who spoke about what truly distinguished both coaches throughout their careers.

"Regardless of the level of success of their teams in any particular year, it was always obvious when you watched their teams play that the players loved what they were doing and they loved who they were doing it with," Rasmussen said. "By improving the condition of one, we improve the condition of all."

The remarks drew attention to what many in attendance viewed as the true legacy of both coaches – not simply championships, but relationships. Rasmussen noted that their players understood every member of a team mattered and that success was built through collective effort, adding, "Think about how much better our families would be, our communities would be, our businesses would be if we approached life that way."

The highlight of the evening came with the unveiling of the commemorative artwork recognizing Flanery and Booth as the 186th Faces on the Barroom Floor. The illustration depicts both coaches inside Creighton's Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena,

Continue on Page 3

surrounded by symbols of their careers and accomplishments.

Flanery is shown coaching from the sideline with clipboard in hand, while Booth is pictured observing a volleyball match as one of her players attacks the ball at the net. The artwork also highlights their extensive achievements.

Booth, who led the Creighton volleyball from 2003 to 2024 and now serves as president of business operations for LOVB Nebraska volleyball, captured 12 conference championships, 13 NCAA Tournament appearances, National Coach of the Year honors and induction into the Omaha Sports Hall of Fame.

Flanery, who has guided Creighton women's basketball since 2002, has compiled a career record of 469 victories, eight NCAA Tournament appearances, conference championships in both the Missouri Valley and Big East Conferences, and a WNIT championship.

In their acceptance remarks, both coaches emphasized gratitude rather than accomplishments. Booth thanked her family, former players, assistants and colleagues while jokingly responding to some of the evening's stories.

Flanery reflected on the mentors and friendships that shaped his career, crediting Rasmussen for helping him grow as a coach and leader.

"He didn't always give me what I wanted, but he always gave me what I needed," Flanery said. He also offered one of the night's most meaningful tributes to Booth, saying, "What she does better than anybody I've ever seen is she gets people to believe in themselves."

The evening concluded with a standing ovation and a reminder that while wins and championships may fill record books, the true measure of a coaching career is often found in the people impacted along the way.

For Flanery and Booth, their induction onto the Omaha Press Club's historic floor and walls recognizes not only what they accomplished, but how they accomplished it.

As one speaker noted during the evening: "Championships may define seasons. Relationships define legacies."

And few have built legacies quite like Jim Flanery and Kirsten Bernthal Booth.

OPC's 88th Face on the Barroom Floor Former chairman/CEO of Union Pacific, Dick Davidson, dies at age 84

By Tom O'Connor
Communications Committee

One of the legendary leaders of the Union Pacific Railroad, Richard "Dick" Davidson, died May 31 at the age of 84. Davidson, who lived in Naples, Florida at the time of his death, was honored in 2002 by the Omaha Press Club as the 88th Face on the Barroom Floor.

Davidson was named chairman and chief executive officer of Union Pacific in 1997. He retired as CEO in 2006 and as chairman in 2007. He is credited with shaping the modern railroad by expanding its footprint and advancing its technology.

"Dick dedicated his life to railroading, working his way up from brakeman to CEO," said Union Pacific CEO Jim Vena. "He loved this industry, believed in railroaders and set a standard for leadership that still guides Union Pacific today."

In his Face on the Barroom Floor caricature by artist Jim Horan, Davidson is depicted as the engineer at the front of a speeding Union Pacific locomotive. In the background, the new Union Pacific headquarters building in Omaha can be seen.

Born on Jan. 9, 1942, in Allen, Kansas, Davidson was raised on a family farm by his mother, Thelma, after his father, Richard, died when Davidson was only 6 years old. Without his father around when he was growing up, Davidson had to learn early the values of self-reliance and hard work.

To help pay for college, he entered the railroad business at the age of 18, working as a brakeman/conductor on nights and weekends with the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

After graduating from Washburn University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966, Davidson accepted a position in Missouri Pacific's management training program and rapidly rose through the organization. In 1968, at the age of 26, he became a superintendent and was transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana. He continued climbing the ranks, serving as assistant general manager in Kansas City and becoming vice president of operations at the St. Louis headquarters in 1976.

When Union Pacific merged with Missouri Pacific in 1982, Davidson became vice president of operations for the combined railroad. He served in a succession of expanding leadership roles before being elevated to president and CEO of Union Pacific Railroad in 1991. He was named chairman and CEO of Union Pacific Corporation six years later.

During his tenure, Davidson oversaw the

acquisitions of Chicago & North Western Railway and Southern Pacific Railroad. The Southern Pacific merger nearly doubled the size of Union Pacific and expanded the railroad's reach in the West and South, but absorbing the struggling railroad created operational challenges.

Davidson responded with major investments in capital projects, modernizing the company's technology infrastructure and decentralizing operations. Union Pacific emerged stronger, and the operational framework Davidson put in place endured long after his retirement.

Davidson's contributions to American industry were widely recognized. He was inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, named to the Kansas Business Hall of Fame and the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame, and honored as Kansan of the Year by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas. He was named Railroader of the Year in 2003. He also received an honorary doctorate from Washburn University.

In addition to his positions at Union Pacific, Davidson served as chair of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, a director at Creighton University, and a member of the boards of the Kroger Company, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Capitol Visitors Center. He also served as chairman of President George W. Bush's National Infrastructure Advisory Board.

Davidson, who lived in Naples with his wife, Trish, was a loving husband, father and grandfather. A celebration of life will be held at a future date.



Richard "Dick" Davidson

earned his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

As Sarpy County attorney, Polikov leads one of Nebraska's most comprehensive and professionally staffed county attorney offices. The office includes 26 attorneys who staff 10 courtrooms and specialize in the prosecution of felony and misdemeanor cases, juvenile justice matters, and child support enforcement. Several attorneys also practice civil law, providing legal counsel and guidance to elected officials, county departments and county staff.

More than 50 professional support staff members provide the investigative, administrative and operational foundation that allows the office to serve Nebraska's fastest-growing county with efficiency, professionalism and integrity.

Throughout his career, Polikov has been recognized for his innovation, leadership, and a steadfast commitment to ethical, community-focused prosecution, including pioneering Nebraska's first courthouse facility dog program to support victims and witnesses during the justice process.

Polikov built a reputation for hiring good people, keeping them, and letting them excel, while bringing fairness, steadiness, and institutional memory to the office. He once said, "Nobody can come in and extort me to make a decision. If you allow that once, when does it stop?"

A military veteran, Polikov is a graduate of UNL's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program for the U.S. Army. His commission was the Infantry Branch, and he was granted an educational delay when he was transferred to the Military Intelligence Branch and promoted to first lieutenant. When the Vietnam War ended, he completed his eight-year military commitment by serving six years in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Ready Reserve.

A law school program allowed him to work with the Lincoln Police Department as a sworn officer assigned to the Detective Division. After his law school graduation, Polikov was recruited by Sarpy County Sheriff Pat Thomas to become his chief deputy. He held this post for 26 years during which he helped grow the office from 23 staff members to more than 200.

In Polikov's 53 years at Sarpy County, the county has more than tripled its population, going from 70,000 in 1973 to more than 212,000 today. In 2011, the Omaha Storm Chasers opened Werner Park in Sarpy County, thanks in large part to the work of

Polikov who was one of the key negotiators in helping Sarpy County become the home for the minor league baseball team.

In addition to the Storm Chasers, other attractions in Sarpy County include Fontenelle Forest, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Schramm Park State Recreation Area, Omaha National Cemetery, Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Vala's Pumpkin Patch & Apple Orchard.

In 2022, Polikov was honored by the Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce as the Elected Official of the Year, a public recognition for his work in making a meaningful difference in the community.

In honoring Polikov, Karen Gibler, president of the Sarpy Chamber, spoke on behalf of the selection committee by saying, "Lee is often relied upon for his calm, thoughtful and 30,000-foot approach to issues. His tenure and accomplishments in the office are unmatched."

The Sarpy Chamber Government Affairs Group lauded Polikov for his involvement in innovative initiatives, including Teen Court, Alcohol Diversion, Mental Health Diversion, Wellness Court, Werner Park and the Sarpy County Wastewater Agency.

They also recognized him as an integral force in support of mental health services for those who encounter the criminal justice system, an effort that ultimately helps reduce recidivism.

Polikov accepted the award in front of more than 400 people. His reaction was predictable, as he found a way to shift the credit to others. "It's an honor to be recognized this way," he said. "The award really belongs to the staff. I've been fortunate to hire good people and keep them. I get credit for the outstanding job they do, and I'm proud to work with this County Attorney's Office."

Polikov has served more than 20 years as a voting member of the National District Attorneys Association in Washington, D.C., including a three-year term as vice president, where he helped shape national prosecutorial policy, federal legislative priorities, and professional training standards for prosecutors nationwide. He also served two terms as president of the Nebraska County Attorneys Association, representing prosecutors across the state and guiding legislative, criminal-justice, and professional initiatives that strengthened Nebraska's justice system.

One of the accomplishments Polikov is most proud of is serving on the committee that made the Omaha National Cemetery possible in Sarpy County. He continues to serve as a longtime board member of the Midlands Community Foundation, an organization that supports philanthropic,

educational, and community-driven programs that benefit Sarpy and Cass Counties and the surrounding region.

He also served as chair of the Donor Recruitment Committee for the American Red Cross for a number of years, and his commitment to community partnerships has helped expand local resources for families, youth and vulnerable populations.

Polikov's wife of 50 years, Terry Calek, also brings an impressive resume to the Face event. She held public relations positions at InterNorth (later became Enron), Valmont Industries and the Mutual of Omaha Companies. She was a senior vice president in public affairs at Mutual and also did promotional work for the musician Chip Davis, who was recognized in 1989 as the OPC's 42nd Face on the Barroom Floor.

Roasters for the Polikov event will include two past Faces on the Barroom Floor and an OPC Hall of Fame member. The slate will feature:

Emcee – Bob Batt, retired executive vice president, Nebraska Furniture Mart (Face No. 124, 2010);

Jeff Davis, retired sheriff, Sarpy County;

Jay Lerner, president and founder, The Lerner Company;

Rose Ann Shannon, retired news director, KETV (member of the OPC Hall of Fame);

Martie Cordaro, president, Omaha Storm Chasers (Face No. 179, 2024); and

Gil Cohen, executive vice president of sales and marketing, Omaha Magazine.

FACE ON BARROOM FLOOR – LEE POLIKOV

WHEN: THURSDAY, JULY 30:

5:30 P.M. – RECEPTION;

6:30 P.M. – DINNER;

8 P.M. – ROAST

COST: \$90 FOR OPC MEMBERS;

\$100 FOR NON-MEMBERS

RSVP: The event is open to the public.

CALL THE OPC AT 402-345-8008.

MEMBERS CAN CHARGE TO THEIR OPC ACCOUNT. NON-MEMBERS NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.

DRESS IS BUSINESS CASUAL.

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Ph: 213-625-2211
laac@laac.net

Quail Lodge Resort & Golf Club
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Carmel, CA 93923
Ph: 866-675-1101
quailodge.com

The Tower Club
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Oxnard, CA 93036
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topatowerclub.com

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denverpressclub.org

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Indianhillssc.com

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embassyclub.com

Des Moines Embassy Club West
520 Market St.
W. Des Moines, IA 50266
Ph: 515-244-CLUB
embassyclub.com

Council Bluffs Country Club
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Council Bluffs, IA 51501
Ph: 712-366-0525
cbccountryclub.com

Illinois

The Decatur Club
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Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-429-4200
thedecaturclub.org

Kansas

The Petroleum Club of Wichita
Nations Bank Building
100 N. Broadway, Ste. 900
Wichita, KS 67202
Ph: 316-262-6471
petroleumclubwichita.com

Minnesota

University Club of St. Paul
420 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Ph: 651-222-1751
universityclubofstpaul.com

St. Paul Athletic Club
Downtown Clubhouse
340 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Ph: 651-291-7722
thespac.com

Missouri

The University Club of MU
University of Missouri
704 Conley Ave.
Columbia, MO 65211
Ph: 573-882-2586
uclub.missouri.edu

Saint Louis Club
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St. Louis, MO 63105
Ph: 314-726-1964
Stlclub.com

Mississippi

The Great Southern Club
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Gulfport, MS 39501
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greatsouthernclub.com

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fremontgolfclub.org

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lochlandcc.com

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Continue on Page 8

Seven journalists enter OPC Hall of Fame

By Anne Walsh
Communications Committee

Seven outstanding journalists were inducted into the Omaha Press Club's "Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame" on June 6. A time-honored tradition since 2008, the Hall of Fame honors individuals making notable contributions to Omaha journalism, showing exceptional leadership, courage or contributions to the broadcast, print, and online news and media industries.

Todd Andrews, director of integrated communications for the Salvation Army of Omaha, emceed the 18th annual event. Organized by HOF Chair Mike McKnight and OPC past presidents Bridget Weide Brooks and Gary Willis, hospitality support was provided by Marketing Committee members Liz Hruska, Ruby Barnes-Heyward, Keith Station, Bob Caniglia and McKnight.

The HOF Nominating/Selection Committee members included McKnight, Willis, Barnes-Heyward, Steve Jordon, Josh Gear, Rod Howe and Allen Beermann. Sponsors were Roger Humphries Photography and Image Building Communications, with invitations and programs designed by Jon Brooks. The honorees are:



Chris Christen with Chris Allen

CHRIS ALLEN – UNO SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, UNO TELEVISION AND KVNO

Chris Allen is professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska Omaha School of Communication, retiring in 2023 after a 27-year career. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Iowa State University, then taught at the University of North Dakota for 5 1/2 years before beginning doctoral studies at the University of Missouri. He came to UNO in 1996 after earning his Ph.D. in journalism at Missouri.

Beginning his broadcasting career at age

17, Dr. Allen was a radio news reporter and news director, a television assignment editor and newsroom supervisor, and executive producer of The Omaha News for more than 15 years. From 2010 to 2019, he worked with colleagues in Afghanistan to increase teaching capacity and bring new programs to universities in Kabul and Balkh. He taught journalism in Oman on a Fulbright award in 2011-2012. From 2000 to 2023, he taught Global Media Communication at UNO, leading groups of students to visit London each May.

Dr. Allen served on the Omaha Press Club's board of directors from 2009 to 2023, becoming president in 2011. He was a board member of the Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association for more than 30 years and is a past president. He received the Mitchell Charnley Lifetime Achievement Award from MBJA in 2025.

In 2014, he was named general manager of UNO Television and president of The Knowledge Network of Greater Omaha from 2014 to 2021. Appointed general manager of KVNO Classical Radio in 2019, he held that position, along with his work at UNO Television and in the classroom, until his retirement.



Bob Glissmann with Julie Anderson

JULIE ANDERSON - OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Julie Anderson has reported for the Omaha World-Herald since 1988, except for one year in the mid-2010s when she served as a communications specialist with Westside Community Schools. She currently covers the "growth" beat, a mashup of development and city government that also rolls in her previous medical and utilities beats. A native of Minnesota, Anderson graduated from Iowa State University and is married to former Omaha World-Herald photographer Jeff Beiermann. They have two adult sons, Will and Ben.



Marcos Eduardo Mora Barrientos with Tony Aguilera

MARCOS EDUARDO MORA BARRIENTOS – CASA DE LA CULTURA, EL PERICO, SPANISH YELLOW PAGES

Marcos Eduardo Mora Barrientos is a third-generation Mexican American from one of Omaha's most prominent Mexican families, la familia Barrientos, whose impact on the arts and community dates to 1925.

A graduate of Omaha South High School and the University of Nebraska Omaha, he was part of the Goodrich Program. Mora Barrientos became a pioneer in bilingual media publications with his cousin, John Barrientos, through ABM Enterprises, a leader in Spanish marketing. While in college, he launched Nebraska's first Spanish Yellow Pages and the bilingual newspaper El Perico, expanding access and representation for the Latino community.

In 2005, he founded the Barrientos Scholarship Foundation in honor of his grandfather, providing more than \$300,000 in scholarships to Nebraska students. For more than a decade, Mora Barrientos mentored youth in mariachi music, helping preserve cultural traditions through education and performance. His group, Mariachi Luna y Sol, earned the Omaha Entertainment Award for Best Live Ethnic Group in 2007. He also performed for former Mexican President Vicente Fox and his wife, Martha Fox, in 2008.

In 2012, Gov. Dave Heineman and the Nebraska Latino Commission recognized his contributions to the arts. In 2023, Mora Barrientos received the Henry Fonda Award, the state's highest tourism honor. For more than two decades, Mora Barrientos has helped lead Cinco de Mayo Omaha into one of Nebraska's largest cultural events, while continuing to serve on numerous boards supporting economic development, education and community growth.

Continue on Page 7



Jim Reding with Scott Buer

SCOTT BUER – KETV

Involved in journalism virtually his entire life, Scott Buer started in 1972 on his high school newspaper. In college, he worked in public radio at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, interned at KMOX Radio, and later served as general manager of a student-owned radio station at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Buer intended to stay in radio, but when handed a wind-up Bell & Howell camera in journalism school, he fell in love with photojournalism, serving as an undergraduate teaching assistant during his senior year.

After graduation, he worked for a year at KCRG in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Arriving at KETV in January 1980, Buer was quickly promoted to chief photojournalist, as the station still primarily shot film.

Active in the community during his 47 years at KETV NewsWatch 7, Buer helped launch both Omaha and Sarpy County Crime Stoppers and supported advocates leading efforts to bring cameras into Nebraska courtrooms. He continues working at KETV, shooting and editing news while mentoring a new generation of reporters, photographers and multimedia journalists.



Rob McCartney and Andrew Ozaki

ROSS JERNSTROM – WOWT, KETV

A 1979 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism, Jernstrom began his career at KHAS-TV in Hastings before returning to Omaha. In November 1979, he joined KETV/Channel 7, where he served as a weekend sports anchor-

reporter for 15 years. During this time, he hosted "Maverick Football" for a decade and earned the Nebraska Broadcasters Award for Best Sportscast and Best Sports Story in 1993.

In 1994, Jernstrom moved to WOWT/Channel 6 to produce and anchor "Sunday Sports Extra," the first 30-minute sports program of its kind in Omaha. The show won nine Nebraska Broadcasters Association awards during its 15-year run, including honors for Best Sportscast. Jernstrom also produced specials covering the College World Series, the Olympic Games, and several Husker football-season previews and bowl previews. Following Dave Webber's retirement in 2009, Jernstrom was named sports director at WOWT. In this role, he anchored the 5, 6 and 10 p.m. broadcasts, ultimately winning five Associated Press Regional Broadcasters Awards for Best Sportscast, alongside numerous honors for live reporting.

Throughout his 41-year career, Jernstrom became a strong advocate for prep athletics. His work was recognized statewide with the 2003 Outstanding Service Award from the Nebraska High School Athletic Directors Association; the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the NSAA; the 2018 Media Person of the Year award from the Nebraska Coaches Association, and the 2020 Sports Media Person of the Year award from the Omaha Sports Commission.

Beyond the anchor desk, Jernstrom helped establish the Omaha Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. He remains active in the metro area, serving as a speaker and emcee for organizations and events such as the Boys Town Booster Banquet, Kicks for a Cure, Millard Public Schools Foundation, the Westside Scholar-Athlete Banquet, and the Omaha Sports Hall of Fame.

After retiring from television in August 2020, Jernstrom transitioned into education, inspiring the next generation of storytellers. As a journalism adviser at Westside High School, he mentors students in sports journalism, Warrior Television (WTV) and live broadcasting. Under his guidance, students have earned national- and state-level recognition, including Nebraska Broadcasters Association awards for podcasting and sports reporting.



Paul Keating with Cathy Martin, daughter of honoree Rosalee Roberts

ROSALEE ROBERTS (POSTHUMOUS) – OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS, BOZELL, CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE SERVICES, KETV, ROSALEE ROBERTS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rosalee Roberts received her Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, from Duchesne College of the Sacred Heart in 1965, and began her career with small advertising agencies. From 1969-1973, she served as promotion manager, public affairs assistant, and on-air talent for KETV. She later spent more than 20 years at Bozell & Jacobs, rising from public relations director to partner of Bozell Worldwide.

From 1995-1998, Roberts held the dual role of vice president of community relations and development at Children's Hospital and executive director of Children's Hospital Foundation. She then established her own firm, Rosalee Roberts Public Relations. Before retiring and while maintaining a limited client list, she joined Omaha Performing Arts as public relations director.

An accredited fellow in public relations through the Public Relations Society of America, Roberts held several leadership positions, including becoming the fourth woman and second person from the Midwest elected national president.

She was a member of the Omaha Federation of Advertising and the Omaha Press Club, and served on numerous boards and committees. Roberts received many professional honors, including recognition as one of the top 25 women in public relations, the Key to the City of Omaha, Woman of Distinction, Woman of the Year, and Career Achievement awards.

Continue on Page 6



TERRI SANDERS, OMAHA STAR

Terri Sanders serves as chief executive officer and publisher of the Omaha Star, the nation’s longest-running Black newspaper founded by a Black woman and a cornerstone institution in Omaha since 1938.

As the fifth publisher and third owner, Sanders has provided distinguished leadership that has strengthened the newspaper’s

readership, revenue and community reach, while preserving its historic mission.

Under her direction and exceptional stewardship of this landmark publication, the Omaha Star continues as a trusted voice for North Omaha. A respected platform for community news, cultural preservation and civic engagement, it reflects Sanders’ enduring contributions to journalism and community leadership.

Photos by Gary Willis.

Washington

The Collective
400 Dexter Ave. N
Seattle, WA 98109
206-247-7190
Invitedclubs.com

Wisconsin

Madison Club
5 East Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53703
Ph: 608-255-4861
madisonclub.org

CANADA

Ranchmen’s Club
710 13 Ave. S. W.
Calgary, AB
T2R 0K9

PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

Members Mixer story; continued from Page 1

space itself. We look forward to welcoming everyone back this fall when the Omaha Press Club reopens in October.

We’re expecting many longtime members to attend the mixer, making this a wonderful evening for conversation, memories, and celebrating what the club means to all of us. Have a colleague, friend, or fellow journalist you’ve been meaning to introduce to the club? Bring them along — there’s no better way to experience the Omaha Press Club than a night like this.

Can’t attend? You can still show your support. During the two-month closure, our staff will be without their regular work, and donations are a meaningful way to let them know how much they are appreciated. Every contribution helps.

Go to: <https://fs7.formsite.com/villa/form4/index>

Select “Give a Bonus to the OPC Staff” and follow the prompts to designate your gift. You may pay online or have the amount added to your OPC member account. Or you can make a cash contribution at the July event.

We look forward to seeing you on July 23. Here’s to the Omaha Press Club — and to an exciting reopening this fall.

Face on the Barroom Floor

Sarpy County Attorney
Lee Polikov
Thursday, July 30, 2026
Members \$90
Non-members \$100

Thursday, July 30, 2026
Members \$90
Non-members \$100

Hors d’oeuvres
Canapes

Salad
OPC Thunderbird Salad

Dual Entrée
OPC Signature Filet Maitre D Butter
Chicken Diane
Parmesan Risotto Arancini
Asparagus Citron

Dessert
OPC’s Signature Chocolate Mousse
Framboise

KFAB Wine Dinner

Friday July 17, 2026
6 p.m.
Members \$90
Non-members \$100

Appetizer
Antipasto
Wine

Amuse
Grilled Alaskan King Salmon
on a Tomato Basil Cream & Arugula
Wine

Salad
Classic Thunderbird
Parmesan Croustade
Wine

Sorbet
Key Lime

Entrée
Classic OPC Steak Diane
Duchess Roasted Garlic Potato
Asparagus Remoulade
Wine

Dessert
OPC Signature Chocolate
Mousse Framboise
Wine

2026 - 2027 Officers

Joshua Gear
President
Lozier Corporation

Keith Station
President-Elect
Mayor's Office

Hunter Samuels
Treasurer
Ronald McDonald House

Jeremy Maskel
Secretary
Omaha Public Schools

Mike McKnight
Past President
WOWT

Board of Directors

(2025-2027)

Todd Andrews
Angella Arndt
Rod Howe
Roger Humphries
Liz Hruska
Dr. Robert Meyers

Salvation Army
Freelance Content Contributor
Retired
Roger Humphries Photography
Catalyst Public Affairs Analyst
Retired

(2026-2028)

Allen Beermann
Woody Bradford
Bridget Weide Brooks
Todd Lemke

Retired
Houghton Bradford Whitted
Image Building Communications
Omaha Publications

Communications Committee

Don Summerside • Gary Willis • Josh Gear
Roger Humphries • Tom O'Connor • John Fey
Bridget (Weide) Brooks • Hunter Samuels
Todd Andrews • Angella Arndt • Anne Walsh
Sandra Tursi • Elaine Allen • Katie Raine Thomas

Committee Chairs

Communications Gary Willis, Angella Arndt
Education Dr. Robert Meyers
Executive Committee Joshua Gear, Jeremy Maskel,
Mike McKnight and Hunter Samuels
"Face on the Barroom Floor" Roger Humphries
Hall of Fame Mike McKnight
Marketing / Membership Bridget (Weide) Brooks

OPC Foundation

	TRUSTEES
	Henry Cordes
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Tom Shaw
Treasurer

Lei Guo
Secretary

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



Every Thursday
Prime Rib Night
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, July 3
Saturday, July 4
Independence Day
Club closed

Friday, July 17
KFAB Wine Dinner
6 p.m. social, 6:30 dinner
Members \$90, non-members \$100

Thursday, July 23
OPC Member Mixer,
Staff Appreciation
5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
\$20

Thursday, July 30
Face on the Barroom Floor
Lee Polikov

5:30 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Members \$90, non-members \$100

August, September
Closed for HVAC, plumbing remodeling
No quarterly minimums

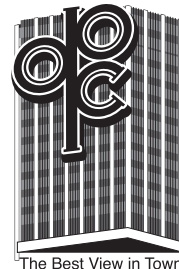
Friday, Oct. 2
Club reopens

Hours of Operation

1620 Dodge St., Omaha NE 68102

LUNCH
Tuesday-Saturday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed Mondays

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



OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

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

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Restaurant 402-345-8008
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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

**Submissions for the September issue
are due on or before August 20.**

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.