

# OPC NEWS

VOLUME 136 • NUMBER 89 MARCH 2025 WWW.OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM



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## Mayoral debate March 11 at OPC

**F**ive people have announced their candidacy for Omaha mayor, and all five have agreed to participate in a primary election debate March 11 at the Press Club.

**Terry Brewer** has served as a pastor at New Covenant Church of Christ in Omaha for 28 years. He is a Marine Corps veteran and a 17-year steward for Teamsters 554.

**John Ewing** has been Douglas County treasurer for 17 years. Ewing also had a 24-year tenure in law enforcement with the Omaha Police Department.

**Jasmine Harris** is a policy and advocacy director for RISE, a Nebraska non-profit that supports criminal justice reform.

**Mike McDonnell** is a former Nebraska state senator. McDonnell also was a former chief of the Omaha Fire Department.

**Jean Stothert** is the incumbent seeking her fourth term. She is the first woman to hold this office.

The primary election is April 1, and the two top vote getters in the primary will com-

pete in the general election May 13.

The debate is sponsored by the Press Club and the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha. The moderator will be WOWT reporter/anchor Brian Mastre.

WOWT will livestream the debate from noon to 1 p.m., March 11, on the following platforms: WOWT.com; First Alert 6 News smartphone app; 6 News WOWT Facebook page; and First Alert 6 YouTube channel.

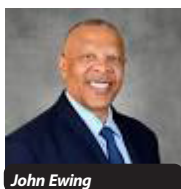
WOWT also will air a recording of the debate the following day, March 12, on COZI channel 6.2 and Cox channel 120 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A recording of the debate will remain available indefinitely on WOWT's YouTube channel.

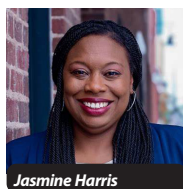
Parking for debate guests is suggested at the DoubleTree garage. It is free for OPC members who should bring their tickets to the club for validation.



Terry Brewer



John Ewing



Jasmine Harris



Mike McDonnell



Jean Stothert

## All OPC members invited to New Member Reception on March 13

**A**ll members of the Omaha Press Club are invited to a New Member Reception at the club. While the event is designed to help new members learn more about the Press Club and how to be more involved, it is open to all OPC members.

The event is Thursday, March 13 from 4:30-6 p.m. The cost is \$10, which includes hors d'oeuvres, a drink ticket, and a raffle ticket. Social time and networking will be from 4:30 to 5 p.m. The presentation and raffle drawing will begin at 5 p.m.

OPC committee chairs will introduce their committees and provide an overview of how to get involved in their committees. Members can also network with other OPC

members and board members.

The raffle ticket will enter attendees to win a \$50 Omaha Press Club gift card. Registered attendees who check in prior to the raffle drawing will be eligible to win. The drawing will be held between 5 and 5:15 p.m., and ticket holders must be present to win.

Reservations can be made online at the OPC website or by calling 402-345-8008. If reserving online, choose "Make an Event Reservation" and then select "March 13 New Member Reception (\$10)" from the "Event Name" menu.

Questions about the event? Email Hunter Samuels at [hsamuels@rmhcomaha.org](mailto:hsamuels@rmhcomaha.org).

## At CWS, the hits just keep on coming

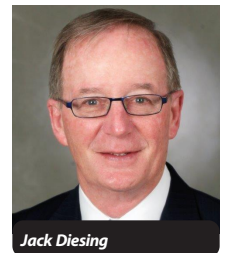
By Connie Winkler  
Education Committee

**W**hat does it take to make the men's College World Series successful? The CWS team will detail their year-round efforts and enthusiasm at the Noon Forum on March 20 at OPC.

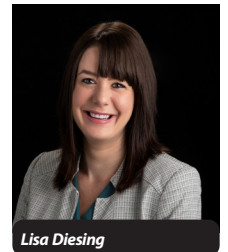
Sharing that intense preparation will be CWS's John D. "Jack" Diesing Jr., chairman, president and treasurer, along with executive director Amy Hornocker, and Lisa Diesing of the board's executive committee.

Jack and his father, John D. Diesing Sr., were honored as OPC's 98th Face on the Barroom Floor in September 2004. It was Diesing Sr., of the Brandeis department stores, who in 1950 brought CWS to Omaha's former Rosenblatt Stadium. Now played at Charles Schwab Field, CWS 2025 begins June 12.

The Forum lunch, at \$19 per person is served at 11:30 a.m. with the program and Q&A at noon to 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome, especially non-OPC members. Reservations can be made on the Press Club website; click on reservations for all events (right side RSVP tab) or call the club at 402-345-8008.



Jack Diesing



Lisa Diesing



Amy Hornocker, CWS executive director

**OPC QUARTERLY MINIMUM PERIOD ENDS MARCH 31**

# Optimism and Opportunity for the OPC in 2025

**By Gary Willis**

Communications Committee

Officers were elected for 2025, club operations were reviewed for 2024 and Steve Villamonte provided delicious hors d'oeuvres that were enjoyed by those attending the Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting on Jan. 16.

## **Outgoing President Robert Meyers, Ed.D.**

It has been a privilege to serve as club president in 2024 and to work with dedicated and efficient board members who strive to continue to make the Omaha Press Club the premier membership in the area.

It is the effort of this group of leaders who ensure the programs provided to our membership remain high quality and the club continues to operate in the interest of both our members and the public at large. Of course, the other key part of the success equation lies with Executive Director Steve Villamonte, Restaurant and Events Manager Christine Villamonte, and our dedicated staff: Bill, Ron, and Michael. I also extend my appreciation and thanks for the service of outgoing board members Dale Erwin, who has provided excellent leadership as treasurer, and Gary Willis, both of whom have served for several years.

Helping the club function effectively is the responsibility of the committees, and I want to recognize the leaders for their work as committee chairs: Communications – Gary Willis and Angella Arndt; Education – Bob Meyers; Executive Committee – Angella Arndt, Jeremy Maskel, Dale Erwin; Face on the Ballroom Floor – Roger Humphries; Hall of Fame – Hunter Samuels; Marketing and Membership – Bridget Weide Brooks. I invite interested people to join a committee, as increased committee membership helps lighten the load for all committee members.

Last year offered some challenges, as does every year, but we are pleased to have received some improvements in regard to entry to the club. In the evenings, we are now able to come to the club by taking the elevator from the parking garage to the main floor, where we can access two dedicated express elevators to the 22nd floor.

As most of you know, last year we learned that the building was for sale, leading to questions and concerns about our continued presence in our current location. We later learned that the building is set to be purchased by NuStyle Development. Their intent is to convert the building to apartments, and they seem interested in maintaining the Omaha Press Club in its current location.

2025 promises to be an exciting and interesting year for the club. I welcome the new board members Joshua Gear and Rod Howe and thank the holdover board members for their continuation of service.



OPC President Mike McKnight addresses the 2025 Annual Meeting.

## **Executive Director Steve Villamonte**

Sales for 2024 were down from 2023 year-end. Part of that was due to some holiday parties not happening as in years past. Business has been sporadic, and it has made it difficult to run according to budget. The club has always struggled in getting members to come to dinner in the evening. For lunch, we never know when members are going to come, and more often guests are not making reservations.

Steve performs his bookkeeping duties at home after hours, and Christine also continues to work in the kitchen daily at lunch in the pantry. She still juggles all her event planning and the customers' needs, often working hours after the club closes.

The most significant improvement we have made this year is not a purchased improvement. It is the recent dedication of elevator service for the club and the move out of the Central City Garage.

## **OPC Foundation**

No report.

## **Finance**

### **Dale Erwin**

We have had a steady year, considering the uncertainty of remaining in the building. Top line revenues are down 10%, but membership dues have slightly increased year after year from 2019. Social clubs have declined across the country, but we have been able to remain steady. QuickBooks has been a challenge but is something that must be used due to the high cost of club software.

The club is in a good spot financially, and thanks go to the board of directors and Steve Villamonte for their financial responsibility.

Dale said as he steps off the board as

treasurer, he is happy to see that the club will have a whole new source of income with the potential tenants from NuStyle that will be housed in the building.

## **Education Committee Robert Meyers, Ed.D.**

The Education Committee presents a one-hour program of various topics to the Omaha community and is most appreciative of KIOS-FM (91.5), as it continues to record and replay our events.

The committee meets the first Thursday of the month, with programs generally scheduled on the third Thursday of the month. 2024 included nine Noon Forums. While attendance remains a concern, the committee continues to strive to bring outstanding programs to our members and the public at large.

During 2024, we were able to continue to provide outstanding programs to the Omaha community and beyond, starting in January with an explanation on the valuation process by Douglas County Assessor Walt Pepper. In February, the CEO and president of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Heath Mello, shared his views on the directions and goals of the organization. Douglas County Sheriff Aaron Hansen talked about his first year last March. The Project Harmony team, Angela Roeber, Sgt. Brett Schrage, and Taylor Newton, discussed their missing youth and anti-trafficking programs. Hector Anchando presented information about the Omaha Blues Society (with music by Anchando and two high school student blues artists) in May. June featured Amy Rummel, who gave an update on the Joslyn Museum addition. Martie Cordaro discussed

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the Omaha Union and Storm Chasers and plans for a new stadium. November featured a talk and book signing by former Secretary of State Allen Beermann. Of special interest was a debate between Rep. Don Bacon and Tony Vargas as they competed for Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District in October.

The Education Committee is looking forward to an exciting year ahead, beginning with a presentation by the Omaha Public Schools superintendent, Matt Ray. February featured a presentation by Coach Suzie Fritz, Jaali Winters, and Jordan Larson of the LOVB-Omaha pro volleyball team. March's forum will feature Jack Diesing, Lisa Diesing, and Amy Hornocker, who will share information about Omaha's College World Series. March will find us also hosting an Omaha mayoral primary election debate, while in April, we hope to host a general election mayoral debate. In May, information about Nebraska's project to expand broadband services will be presented.

As you can see, the Education Committee is composed of dedicated members who work hard to find topics of interest for Press Club members and the public at large. Members of the Education Committee are Angella Arndt, Bob Coate, Rod Howe, Gary Kerr, Jeremy Maskel, Mike McKnight, Lori Sinovec, Keith Station, Gary Willis, Connie Winkler, and John Wyvill. The committee extends special thanks to the Communications and Marketing Committees for their assistance in advertising the Noon Forums. Thanks also go out to the OPC board members for their support and all OPC members and members of the community who support the Noon Forums.

### **Marketing/Membership Bridget Weide Brooks**

Our committee encompasses both marketing and membership, and we tackle a variety of wide-ranging tasks throughout the year to support the club.

The top priorities for 2024 were:

- Help organize and execute the 2024 Hall of Fame event – which we did successfully on Saturday, June 8, inducting seven new members.
- New member onboarding. We held new member receptions on March 7 and Sept. 5. They were great opportunities for new members to network and learn more about opportunities to get involved in the Press Club.
- Membership materials and website updates and conduct a monthly checkup on the OPC website to ensure updated information

and send out emails about club events. We updated the OPC membership applications and OPC membership benefits document.

The committee helps with organizing hospitality volunteers for key OPC events, including Face on the Barroom Floor events. The hospitality volunteers assist in directing attendees to the club for events, checking in attendees, and directing them to seat locations.

The priorities for 2025 were to be identified at the February meeting. We have lots of ideas but need more member involvement to execute on some of them.

The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except in July and December.

I'd like to thank our committee members; Angella Arndt, Allen Beermann, Chad Bishoff, Liz Boothby, Roger Humphries, Danielle Jensen, Dr. Robert Meyers, Hunter Samuels, Keith Station, Tali Washburn, and Gary Willis. We'd also like to recognize members who help with our hospitality outreach, including Woody Bradford, Gil Cohen, Liz Hruska, Chris Christen, Kurt Keeler, Mike McKnight, Marie Meyers, Anne Walsh, and Connie Winkler.

We'd love to have you join the committee or volunteer to help when hospitality requests are sent out. Contact Bridget Weide Brooks to join the committee or volunteer to help when hospitality needs assistance.

### **Hall of Fame Hunter Samuels**

The OPC Hall of Fame event was held June 8 when seven journalists were inducted. Those honored at the event: Marcia Cady – KMTV, WOWT; Vonn Jones – KETV; Josefina Loza – Omaha World-Herald, UNO's The Gateway; Ray Metoyer (posthumous) WOWT, National Association of Black Journalists; Roger Prai – KMTV; Jim Quinn (posthumous) United Press International, Midlands Business Journal; and Tom Shatel – Omaha World-Herald.

We had a great showing for our 16th annual induction ceremony, emceed by Todd Andrews. Thanks go out to everyone who was a part of the committee in deciding on the honorees, as well as those who nominated folks, and the crew in charge of making the event itself such a huge success.

We'll be opening the call for 2025 Hall of Fame nominations soon, so be on the lookout for that on the website and newsletter.

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, online news, and media industries.

### **Communications Committee Angella Arndt and Gary Willis**

The committee meets monthly except July to plan the OPC newsletter. The issue for July/August covers two months. Functions of the committee include editing and proofreading article submissions from volunteer contributors, writing articles from event flyers, press releases, follow up on story and photo assignments and submissions from other Press Club committee chairs and members. In addition, the committee creates and secures appropriately licensed graphics to accompany submissions (especially menus) to make publications more appealing and writes event wrap-ups and/or takes photos at Omaha Press Club events.

The Communications Committee also lends a hand to the OPC Hall of Fame Committee when needed.

Thanks go out to Don Summerside, our copy editor who compiles all the information, and Sandra Tursi, design and layout editor. We are so fortunate to have proofreaders Tom O'Connor, Don Summerside, Bridget Weide Brooks, Anne Walsh, and Hunter Samuels. We are also thankful for the committee members, Joshua Gear, Anne Walsh, Hunter Samuels, Todd Andrews, and Angella Arndt, who faithfully report on club events.

Roger Humphries, Kurt Keeler, and Gary Willis also pitch in to photograph the events.

We welcome Daisy Hutzell-Rodman to the committee, and we are still looking for members who enjoy writing to help cover the events we have throughout the year. Contact Angella or Gary for further information.

I also am grateful for the proofreading of the flyers by Rod Howe that announce upcoming events at the club.

And we especially appreciate Christine Villamonte, who wears so many different hats at the club, for lending her support and attending meetings when she is available.

### **Face on the Barroom Floor Roger Humphries**

The Face on the Barroom Floor Committee met twice last year to review the constantly evolving list of Face nominees. We are in the process of locking down our future Faces for 2025.

In 2024, the committee put forth the following Face nominees and as you can imagine, they did not disappoint. We started with Mike McKnight on May 4, John Heaston on May 31. John passed away that very morning and after a discussion with his family, the decision was made to honor his

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# Volleyball Shows Omaha the LOVB

*Newest pro team boasts local legends while supporting the community.*

**By Hunter Samuels**

Communications Committee

**E**ven in an ice storm, Omahans will find a way to celebrate volleyball.

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, the Omaha Press Club hosted a panel discussion featuring some stars from Omaha's newest professional volleyball team, playing in League One Volleyball (LOVB). Head coach Suzie Fritz was joined by a pair of names familiar to volleyball fans in the state: Jordan Larson and Jaali Winters.

The trio braved the icy roads to share some insights on the new league, the growth of volleyball, and what they're doing to keep that growth on an upward trend.

Larson made her mark on the sport in locales near and far, growing up in Hooper, Nebraska, playing at the University of Nebraska, winning four Olympic medals in London, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, and Paris, then playing professionally in Puerto Rico, Russia, Turkey, China, and Italy. Of returning to Nebraska, Larson said, "It's an honor... to come home and be 45 minutes from my hometown. It's really special for me to be back here."

Winters grew up in Ankeny, Iowa before

playing her college games just down the street from the Press Club, for Creighton University, where she was a four-time All-American. She said, "When I graduated, it wasn't even a thought to be able to come back to play in the U.S. I thought I'd be overseas for my entire career."



*Making friends and fans. From left: Jaali Winters, Savannah Hockenberry, Maggie Garton, and Jordan Larson. Photo by Roger Humphries.*

But it's not just about being close to home. Winters emphasized that she joined LOVB Omaha to play "at the highest level. It's about playing with and against the best, and that really is what our league is offering here."

While Fritz doesn't have the same history with the state as her players, she did say, "There's no better community to [see volleyball grow] than a place like Omaha, Ne-

braska." She also acknowledged that LOVB is focused on giving back to the cities in which the teams play. "We're working hard to serve our community and be a great volleyball team, and have it be bigger than volleyball."

LOVB Omaha is taking that approach not just in the community, but also in its practice gym. Larson credited Fritz with fostering a caring culture: "We do this thing every day, which I fell in love with. It's called Love Share." She explained that for 15 minutes before each practice, an athlete or coach has an opportunity to talk about anything they want. "It allowed us to get to know, not just the athlete, but the person."

League-wide, LOVB connects with its local LOVB junior volleyball clubs, establishing an integration that sets up the sport for long-term sustainability. And while the inaugural LOVB season features teams in six markets, Fritz has no doubt the league will expand: "I don't think there's any question it'll get bigger from here."

Omaha plays home matches at a pair of local sites, either Liberty First Credit Union Arena or Baxter Arena, with the regular season ending in early April. Most matches can also be streamed online. For more information, visit [lovb.com](http://lovb.com).

## **OPC story; continued from Page 3**

life and legacy by going ahead with the Face event. The family was incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to do so with many of John's family and friends. The Sept. 19 Face event featured Martie Cordaro, and rounding out the year on Dec. 5 were Rick and Carol Russell.

I would be remiss if I did not take the time to thank the Face committee members for their input and support. We also added two new members this year, Andee Hoig and Hunter Samuels.

I would like to thank Steve, Christine, and the Omaha Press Club staff for all their hard work in making the Faces such a great event for the club and the Omaha community.

Remember, you can nominate anyone you think would be a prospective Face on the Barroom Floor honoree through the club's website.

## **Strategic Planning Hunter Samuels**

Even as the club faced uncertainty in 2024, we still wanted to make sure our

new members were being welcomed, so we continued our semiannual New Member Welcome Reception in March and September. The most recent reception had a fantastic turnout, with more than 20 people in attendance.

And to give you an idea of the impact of this event, Joshua Gear attended our first New Member Welcome event back in 2023, and he has been elected to the board of directors. This is a big part of our organization's long-term sustainability, bringing more new members into the fold, introducing them to committee chairs, and learning how we can make their membership more fulfilling and valuable.

Looking forward to 2025 and thankfully beyond, we're excited to continue those events, while also beginning to discuss our next moves in regards to the new ownership and new prospective members, ensuring the Omaha Press Club continues to be a destination for years to come.

## **Incoming President Mike McKnight**

The uncertainty of 2024 has made way for

optimism and opportunity in 2025. How lucky we are that NuStyle Development is purchasing the building. Todd, Mary, and Greg are from the area and well respected in the apartment conversion field. Plus, being local they know the Omaha Press Club is part of downtown Omaha's DNA. They promise to do their best to limit disruptions for the club during the construction process, possibly hitting its stride in midsummer.

The opportunity will be for club membership growth when the apartments are complete, and tenants start moving in. We'll talk about recruiting ideas later. But who wouldn't want to come home and say, "Instead of making dinner tonight, let's go upstairs for a pop, Thunderbird salad and prime rib – Steve makes the best."

I also want to thank Dr. Robert Meyers for his leadership in guiding the OPC board through the initial stages of change in building ownership and keeping the OPC top of mind. You can tell the former coach and school superintendent knows how to keep the eye on the ball.



# Mastre will succeed Knicely as WOWT evening co-anchor

By **Daisy Hutzell-Rodman**  
Communications Committee

**O**mahans learned in early February that one of the nicest, longest-serving news anchors is retiring — and by mid-February, they learned that another familiar face will come through their TV sets at the anchor desk.



Brian Mastre

John Knicely — the 50-year TV news veteran who co-anchors the First Alert 6 newscasts at 5, 6:30, and 10 p.m. — announced his retirement Feb. 1. On Feb. 21, Brian Mastre was named his successor.

Mastre has been a reporter and anchor since graduating from Southwest Minnesota State University (then Southwest State Uni-

versity) in 1991 — and he's spent all but six of those years at WOWT.

He has been known in the community as a trusted journalist, and has excelled at writing, and airing, hard-hitting investigative reports that expose health or business problems, highlight government dealings, and bring people news they need to know. One such story aired on Christmas Eve 2024, when Mastre reported on Kevin Fair, who won a U.S. Supreme Court case over \$588 in overdue taxes but soon after suffered further financial hardships when he had a stroke and needed a wheelchair ramp.

Mastre's attention to detail and investigative skills have been noted by his peers, as he has received two Heartland Emmy Awards and several Regional Edward R. Murrow



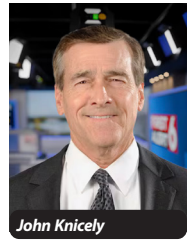
Erin Sullivan

Awards. A highlight of his career was being the first Omaha broadcaster to win a National Edward R. Murrow Award for Outstanding Journalism, for a story on a senior softball league in south Omaha.

Mastre is also involved in the Omaha Press Club, where he is known as the moderator for political debates, such as the mayoral debate scheduled at noon March 11. This event is hosted by the OPC and the League of Women Voters in Omaha.

With this promotion, Mastre will co-anchor with Erin Sullivan the evening newscasts on First Alert 6 Sundays through Thursdays, starting March 16.

The Omaha Press Club congratulates Mastre on the promotion.



John Knicely

## Broadcasters will honor OPC President McKnight

By **Don Summerside**  
Communications Committee

**O**PC President Mike McKnight, longtime investigative reporter for WOWT Channel 6, will be inducted on Aug. 12 into the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.



Mike McKnight

Also selected for induction at the NBA convention in La Vista are radio legends Dave Wingert of Omaha and Dale Johnson of Lincoln, and Dennis and Kathi Brown, husband-wife owners and operators of Chadron radio stations KCSR-AM and KBPY-FM.

McKnight joined WOWT-TV in 1977. He has received regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and an Eric Sevareid Award, as well as numerous awards from AP, the NBA, Omaha Press Club, among others.

A one-man watchdog team, McKnight has taken on big business, government agencies, sketchy contractors, and others with a knack for gathering evidence and righting wrongs with professionalism and integrity.

The Hall of Fame honor also recognizes

McKnight for being on the ground floor in establishing courtroom camera access in Nebraska.

With an on-air resume covering 60 years and still counting, Wingert has touched numerous radio audiences with his energy, wit and infectious personality.

While his career includes stops in Kansas City, Seattle and 10 years in national syndication as "Dave 'Til Dawn," Wingert made Omaha radio his home through his presence on KQKQ, KGOR and KLTQ before becoming the morning host in 2016 on "Boomer Radio" — KOBM-FM — where he continues to entertain "Wingy" fans.

In a Nebraska radio career spanning 51 years, Johnson spent his early years as an announcer in Holdrege, Kearney, Omaha and Grand Island, then Johnson moved to Lincoln where he was KFOR news director for 38 years. He joined Nebraska Public Me-



Dave Wingert



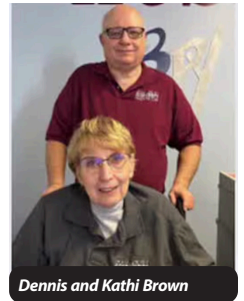
Dale Johnson

dia in 2023, where he currently serves as morning host and news reporter.

Johnson's ability to build trust with interviewees has allowed him access to Nebraska's biggest newsmakers, earning numerous industry awards. In 2005, he was the only Nebraska media member to accompany Gov. Dave Heineman on a trade mission to Cuba.

The Browns of Chadron met while working at a Colorado radio station. Sharing a passion for radio and a dream of ownership, their 1991 purchase of KCSR-AM in Chadron saved the station from going under. Strongly focused on community service, Dennis and Kathi grew KCSR through a dedicated team of local employees that paved the way for them to buy KBPY-FM in 2011.

Beyond a commitment to local news, weather, high school sports, and more, Kathi has helped countless businesses grow through advertising solutions. Dennis has been a tireless advocate for radio broadcasting on Capitol Hill and is a three-time chairman of the NBA board of directors.



Dennis and Kathi Brown

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

**H**appy St. Patrick's Month!

Help support the green in all of us even if you're not Irish. Although the official March 17 St. Patrick's Day falls on a Monday this year, Omaha's downtown parade will be held on Saturday, March 8. Our St. Pat's Buffet will be on Saturday, March 15, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Join us for all-you-can-eat corned beef and cabbage. The marinated and slow-roasted cabbage and potatoes feature a pickling of barley pearls and seasonings to entice your taste buds. You can throw in a nice Riesling/Pinot Noir wine, but beer is the spoken language. A dram of your favorite liquor could encourage you to play all night long – as many do.

Our OPC lineup is strong for the next



Christine Villamonte

couple of months. Check the Events listings on the last page of this newsletter for a quick overview. The mayoral primary debate on March 11 will bring the four candidates together, certain to be a newsworthy event. College World Series executives Jack Diesing, Amy Hornocker and Lisa Diesing will discuss preparations for Omaha's summer classic at a Noon Forum on March 20.

A New Member Reception will be held March 13 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. And you do not have to be "new." All members are welcome for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and socializing. Reservations are required for the \$10 event. It's a great opportunity for networking, and you might learn a thing or two.

Lastly this month, the wine will be flowing on Friday, March 28. The always popular Winemaker's Dinner will offer six courses with five pairings. Bring a group of friends or just your S.O.

April is in the middle of Lent, and every Friday we are open for lunch and dinner with some nice seafood selections.

On April 20, our Easter Brunch will offer more than 20 items. From breakfast to brunch to lunch, you can't go wrong. There will be two seatings (10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.) and live music. Be a glutton, as you have earned it!

April 26 is our OPC Foundation Scholarship and Awards Brunch. Last year the foundation awarded 35 scholarships. The best thing about giving back is the expressions of gratitude on the faces of the students.

Come see us soon at your CLUB!

- **Christine Villamonte**  
Restaurant and Events Manager

## PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

### St. Patrick's Day Buffet

Saturday, March 15, 2025

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Members \$22

#### All-You-Can-Eat Buffet

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

#### Dessert

Frosted Brownie

#### Beverage

\$2 Green Beer



### Winemaker's Dinner

Friday, March 28, 2025

6 p.m.

Members \$90 • Non-members \$100

#### Appetizer

Mediterranean Flatbread  
Wine

#### Amuse

Grilled Alaskan King Salmon  
Mostarda Fennel Apple Slaw  
Wine

#### Salad

Classic Thunderbird  
Parmesan Croustade  
Wine

#### Sorbet

Strawberry Kiwi  
Wine

#### Main Courses

Broiled Flank with Demi  
and Charred Walla Walla  
Roasted Fingerling Potatoes  
Haricots Verts  
Wine

#### Dessert

Gateau Riche French  
Chocolate Mousse  
Wine

## John Chapman to be the next Face on the Barroom Floor in April

By Gary Willis

Communications Committee

**J**ohn Chapman, an award-winning reporter closing in on 40 years of covering news and sports for WOWT 6, will become the 181st Face on the Barroom Floor at a dinner and roast in April at the Omaha Press Club.

Chapman, a general assignment reporter by trade, covers stories that change from day to day.

He played a role in covering the recall of an Omaha mayor, the fall of the scandal-ridden Franklin Credit Union, historic floods and storms that changed the lives of hundreds of people in the area, and the invasion of violent street gangs to the metro area.

During the 1990s, Chapman split his time between general assignment reporting duties and the weekend sports anchor desk. Chapman covered the Husker football team when they were dominant, winning back-to-back national championships.

Chapman married his high school sweetheart, Nancy Collins; they have three children and five grandchildren.

The exact date of the Face event will be announced later. Look for more details in the April newsletter or contact the Press Club for further information.



John Chapman

## 2025 - 2026 Officers

### **Mike McKnight**

President  
WOWT

### **Todd Andrews**

President-Elect  
Salvation Army

### **Hunter Samuels**

Treasurer  
Ronald McDonald House

### **Jeremy Maskel**

Secretary  
Omaha Public Schools

### **Dr. Robert Meyers**

Past President  
Retired

## Board of Directors

### (2024-2026)

Allen Beermann	Retired
Woody Bradford	Houghton Bradford Whitted
Todd Lemke	Omaha Publications
Bridget (Weide) Brooks	Image Building Communications

### (2025-2027)

Liz Hruska	Catalyst Public Affairs Analyst
Joshua Gear	Lozier Corporation
Angella Arndt	Freelance Content Contributor
Rod Howe	Retired
Roger Humphries	Roger Humphries Photography

## Communications Committee

Don Summerside • Gary Willis • Josh Gear  
Roger Humphries • Tom O'Connor  
Bridget (Weide) Brooks • Hunter Samuels  
Todd Andrews • Jon Brooks • Angella Arndt  
Anne Walsh • Sandra Tursi • Elaine Allen  
Daisy Hutzell-Rodman

## Committee Chairs

### Communications

Gary Willis, Angella Arndt

### Education

Dr. Robert Meyers

### Executive Committee

Dr. Robert Meyers, Jeremy Maskel,  
Mike McKnight, and Hunter Samuels

### "Face on the Barroom Floor"

Roger Humphries

### Hall of Fame

Dr. Robert Meyers

### Marketing / Membership

Bridget (Weide) Brooks

## OPC Foundation

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President

Melissa Matczak  
First Vice President

Maria Marron  
Second Vice President

Mike Holmes  
Treasurer

Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
Secretary

Henry Cordes  
Past President

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John Chapman  
Chris Christen  
Lei Guo  
Chris Machian  
Tracie McPherson  
Peggy Rupprecht  
Wendy Townley  
Matt Wynn

### TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Elaine Allen  
Steve Jordon  
Howard K. Marcus

**WE'RE ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT [OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM](http://OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM)**



### Every Thursday

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

### Tuesday, March 11

Mayoral Debate  
11 a.m. doors open  
and lunch served  
Noon to 1 p.m. debate  
\$19

### Thursday, March 13

New Member Reception  
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Drink ticket and light hors d'oeuvres  
Reservation required, \$10

### Saturday, March 15

St. Patrick's Buffet  
(Saturday dinner)  
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
\$22

### Thursday, March 20

Noon Forum  
CWS Chairman Jack Diesing  
Amy Hornocker, Lisa Diesing  
11:30 a.m. lunch, \$19  
Noon to 1 p.m. speakers

### Friday, March 28

Winemaker's Dinner  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner  
Multicourse meal, wine pairings  
\$90 OPC members, \$100 non-members

### Thursday, April 18

Noon Forum

### Sunday, April 20

Easter Brunch  
Two seatings  
10 a.m. to noon, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

### Saturday, April 26

OPC Scholarship, Awards Brunch  
10:30 a.m. open, 10:45 a.m. brunch  
11 a.m. program, \$30

## Hours of Operation

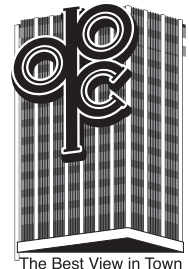
1620 Dodge St., Omaha NE 68102

### LUNCH

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

### DINNER

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



The Best View in Town

## OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

Executive Director

**Steve Villamonte** ..... [opcdirector@gmail.com](mailto:opcdirector@gmail.com)

Restaurant and Events Manager

**Christine Villamonte** ..... [opcchristine@gmail.com](mailto:opcchristine@gmail.com)

Office ..... 402-345-8587

Restaurant ..... 402-345-8008

Website ..... [omahapressclub.com](http://omahapressclub.com)

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Sandra Tursi ..... Graphics Editor

Tom O'Connor ..... Proofreader

Don Summerside ..... Copy Editor

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