



THE JACKSON JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Jackson Michigan Optimist Club
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Weekly meetings on Thursday, 12:15 pm, at the Optimist Ice Arena,
1200 West North Street, Jackson MI; Call 517-783-2664 for information.

Check out our website www.optimistclubofjackson.org

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President's Corner: Junior Golf Championship Chairman, Jason Coker, informed us that two of our tournament winners went to the National Championship at the PGA National course, in Florida. Kelsey Murphy is from Plymouth and Alexis Thurman is from Ann Arbor. We wish them both well. Good luck, girls!

I wish that our women members could join us more often. We miss their enthusiasm, effort, and ideas.

The list of volunteers for the "garage sale" was a little thin, but, there was a pretty fair amount of traffic and sales for the three day duration. We plan to have a committee take this project on, next term. It has a great deal of potential.

Gary Hess paid a "bragging buck" to tell us about his trip to Annapolis, Md., last week. He and Sandy delivered their son, Alex, to the US Naval Academy for induction and the beginning of his naval career. What a marvelous experience for them, and a whole new world for Alex.

Program: Today's speaker was Robert Grover. Bob is a labor relations lawyer. He has represented businesses, government entities, schools, and individuals in court and at bargaining tables. Interestingly, union membership has been on the decline for years. Membership is 12% nationally, but Michigan's manufacturing base has kept the number near 20%.

Of those in unions, State and local government workers are at 35% and 44%, respectively. The numbers for education are skewed because non-union charter schools are part of the total. Public schools are, pretty much, unanimously unionized. Members don't like to use the term "union" because their roots are in the National Education Association. The Michigan Education Association and the Detroit Federation of Teachers are bargaining agencies, and are "unions," none the less. Customary three year contract agreements have shrunk to one and two years, as the result of uncertain funding at the state and local level.

Teacher strikes are uncommon in Jackson. One in 1989 lasted for 13 days. Another in the 70's lasted for 4 hours. It was interesting to learn that, if one side says of the other, "they won't bargain in 'good faith,'" this usually means that one won't give into the demands of the other. Evidently Judge Russ Noble had had enough of that and forced the sides to hammer out an agreement over a beautiful July weekend, while he went up north. They didn't like it but "got it done." Some negotiators, such as Sue Schwab, were routinely difficult to deal with. Bob came to the table, for Columbia Schools, giving them a number of items on their wish list to move things along. Schwab refused to accept even those items, preferring to the chagrin of everyone to go over everything. Things got so bad they had to bring in another negotiator. Schwab was given a "non-negotiating" job in Lansing, away from personal contact.

Mr. Grover has probably been involved in most of the major bargaining issues in Jackson. He provided a lot of information and insight into a complicated process.

Thoughts and prayers: Frank Denbrock, Tony Raduazo and Kathy Sauber are those about whom we share concern. Get well and get back to us.

HOUSKEEPING: On July 26 meet at the Trinity Wesleyan Church parking lot and Special Days Camps 30th anniversary. We will help them set up and park cars. The whole process should not last more than a few hours. A sign-up sheet is being circulated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

John Knibloe	7/03
Frank Denbrock	7/06
Barry Chambers	7/10



By the way:

The week's winners are as follows;

The Loudmouth-President Jack Tornga

The Mummy-Tom Slater

The 50/Don Trapp

The other 50/Tom Slater

The next free lunch-Jack Tornga

Speaker schedule:

July 17: No meeting

July 24: Doug Hanson, Golf Jackson

July 31: No meeting

Trivia time: On October 8th, 1871 the largest fire in the history of the U.S. occurred. You may remember the tune, "One dark night, when we aere all in bed. Old Mrs. Leary lit the lantern in the shed." The Chicago fire was a big one, but not the biggest. Do you know about the huge fire that happened to occur on the very same day, elsewhere?

EXIT LAUGHING:

A young man saw an elderly couple sitting down to lunch at McDonald's. He noticed that they had ordered one meal, and an extra drink cup. As he watched, the gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half and counted out the fries, one by one, until each had half of them. Then he poured half of the soft drink into the extra cup and placed that in front of his wife. The old man then began to eat, and his wife sat watching, her hands folded in her lap.

The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal for them so that they didn't have to split theirs.

The old gentleman said, "Oh no. We've been married 50 years, and everything has always been and will always be shared, 50/50."

The young man then asked the wife if she was going to eat, and she replied, "It's his turn to use the teeth."