PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE TO PHOENIX CLUB MEMBERS

I am proud and appreciative to assume the role of president of our club. Thanks to all that voted for me. I am humbled for the great opportunity to support you all. I have some pretty big shoes to fill, as Craig has put his heart and soul into the club and there is much for me to learn. I have been approached by many of you offering assistance and am grateful for any help and advice I can get. Please feel free to make yourself heard. Every little bit helps.

Going forward this year I look forward to doing what I can to continue making the Phoenix Club a place where everyone can enjoy themselves with family and friends.

This cannot be done without help from all of you in getting involved by volunteering your time in some way as much as you can afford. It doesn’t take much to make an impact, and your help in one way or another will make things run more smoothly, as it relieves the load on the folks that are regular contributors. For instance, put a cook crew together and see how much enjoyment you get working together as a team. From experience, the time flies by and you can be proud you are making a difference.

Please be creative and diligent in helping us reduce costs and finding additional sources of revenue. If you have an idea, don’t think that it will not be considered. Get your friends in the club and see what $60/year gets them. I have brought people in that sign up then and there. The atmosphere is warm and friendly. We have an excellent staff in the kitchen and behind the bar. The great food and drinks are tasty and reasonable.

DUES!! Please take the time to pay 2018 dues as soon as possible. Everyone remember that February 28th will be here before you know it.

Members - $60.00
Spouses - $20.00
Widows - $15.00

Late fees begin March 1st and grow quickly.

The general membership meetings on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 PM of each month need better attendance from you all. It doesn’t take much of your time. They are generally no more than 30 minutes long. You can take your beverage of choice downstairs and get a better idea of what is going on, or present something to be considered. There is a designated time for “new business”, and who knows, you may have the next great opportunity for consideration!

Last, but certainly not least, are the two open positions that have been filled in our leadership team. I am proud to announce that Lisa Linden has accepted the position of Vice President effective immediately. You may know Lisa in that she puts on our Thursday night Trivia Challenge. Please take the time to welcome her. Also, Don Clemen has been elected by his board member peers to be chairman.

Thanks to everyone that made 2017 successful. May it continue into the new year.

Sincerely,
Dan Duncombe
President
MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT, CRAIG BONIFAS

FINAL NOTICE TO PAY YOUR DUES
BY FEBRUARY 28th

As always the last day to pay your 2018 dues will be Wednesday February 28th. After that date any dues that are paid late will encore fines attached to them. These fines all go to the kids Christmas party at the end of the year. WE DO NOT SEND OUT NOTICES TO PAY YOUR DUES. We figure once you get a new calendar for the new year you know that your dues are due! We accept dues through the mail as well so you don’t have to come out in cold weather if you don’t want. Make sure you always write your key card number on your check and always keep you receipt.

$60 for Members
$20 for a spouses card
$15 for a widows or widowers card

Way back in mid November we had our yearly club elections. The result of which is as follows.

Club President Elect for 2018 ….Dan Duncomb
Vice President for 2018…no one ran and therefore a VP will be appointed by the Board of Directors after or during the first board meeting of the year.
Recording Secretary for 2018 …Betty Chandler
Financial Secretary for 2018 …..Jon Wullbrandt
Elected to the Board of Directors for a 3 year terms are Don Clemen, Wayne Biles and Jimmy Miller with John Stumpf getting a 2 year seat on the board to fill in for a resigned board member.

Good Luck to the Club, the officers, board members and all members for the coming year!

Back at the beginning of December the club hosted our annual Children’s Christmas Party. The were approximately 75 children in attendance plus their parents and lots of grandparents too. The little people came to entertain and Mrs. Santa was there to pass our elf hats to all the kids. She also read them a story before Santa himself showed up to delight the little ones with his questions as they all posed for photos. It was truly a delightful day thanks to all the volunteers that show up to make all the magic happen. The children’s Christmas Party is put on by the clubs Vice President Timmy White. So on behalf of Timmy I would like to thank everyone who came to help. All the people in the kitchen who served pizzas and appetizers and lunch for the kids. Thank you to all of Santa’s helpers that passed out gifts. Thank you to Joan Dodson and to Mike Lundgren and special thanks to our Club Manager Jules Owen who did all of Santa’s Shopping and organizing and for all the cookies.

Once again I would like to thank Yogi and Carry Smith for taking on the Bears Tailgate Parties this fall. The Bears team didn’t give us much to cheer about this year but tailgate parties give us the chance to win or lose together at the club. Plus there is plenty of good food along with your favorite libation. Our good friend Popeye, John Miles is usually involved with the tailgate parties as well but Popeye has had personal health issues to contend with for the past several months. He is missed more than I can mention in this newsletter. Popeye is and has always been a very good friend of The Phoenix Club. It’s difficult for many of us not to have him around and be involved as we have always know him. Our very best goes out to Popeye in dealing with your health. You are very missed sir and you have loads of good thoughts and prayers coming your way.

Thank you to Timmy & the White Crew for steak and homemade soup in December. I think this must be everyone’s favorite of all the steak night we have as we sold out of the 100 steaks on hand within the first 45 minutes. I don’t think there was a drop of soup left either of the 4 different kinds we had. It was a busy night for the club and a successful event and that is always a good thing!

Christmas Day at the Phoenix Club found us with lots of happy people full of the Yuletide cheer. Thank you to everyone who came out to have our homemade Tom and Jerry’s in the morning. We did get a white Christmas for 2017 after all. Our Tom and Jerry crew consisted of Don & Kris Schleining as well and Yogi AKA Mark Smith. Don Clemen, John Armstrong and Lennie Williams. Our Morning bartenders were Cindy Fitzpatrick and Heather Smith.

Many thanks to Miss Lisa Linden for bringing back fun on a Thursday Night in December. Lisa hosted Trivia each night on Thursdays in December which was also held years ago. Yes, learning can be fun but not as much fun as winning. For an encore trivia game please come to the club the evening of Thursday January 11th and catch the trivia fever yourself.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the holiday break will be over and Monday Night Bingo back in first gear. Thank you to Board Member Margie Thorgensen and Lori Arndt for working the bingo table each Monday. Thank you also to our faithful callers Ron Bennett and Rich Glessner as well as everyone who comes to bingo to help check wining numbers on cards. You are the people who make this work.

If you were in the club at Christmas time then you probably noticed the charming poinsettia plants on the tables and at the bar, Thank you to Andrea Carroll for the plants and extra holiday cheer.

I have had the honor of being the Club President for a number of years. How can I possibly thank the faith that the membership has given me throughout my terms here. Thank you to all the volunteers including the many employees who have done extra SO MANY times to help the club out. Special thank you to our club manager Jules Owen for being so easy to work with and always being available when she is needed.

See you all in the funny papers

Craig F Bonifas
HAPPY 125TH BIRTHDAY

In this year of 2018 The Phoenix Club turns 125 years old. Founded in 1893 our humble gathering place has seen many an era come and go. In 1893 Grover Cleveland is sworn into office as the 24th President of the United States. There were just 46 states at that time. In 1893 Chicago was host of the Worlds Fair also known as the Columbian Expedition introducing the first ever Ferris Wheel. In 1893 the crash of the New York stock exchange began the great depression. In 1893 Ulysses S. Grant is born. Nabisco Foods invented Cream of Wheat in 1893 and motion pictures were just getting started in 1893. The Wright brothers have not made their first flight yet. The Panama Canal is not yet finished and World War One was still 21 years from starting. Disneyland, Mount Rushmore and the Hoover Dam had not even been thought of yet.

The Phoenix Club members have seen our establishment through 125 years. Some of the best of times as well as some of the worst. How many businesses in Aurora can say they have been around for so long. Most every social club in Aurora can make the same claim and it’s something to be proud of. The Phoenix Club is so much more than a place to come to lift a beer or glass of wine. It is a place where friends come to meet. It’s a place where families get together to reunite, eat and talk. It’s a place to relax and forget your troubles after a bad day or to celebrate a good day.

People often forget that our club contributes and gives back to our community as do all the social club in Aurora. We offer the lower level of our club to charities having fund raiser. Our parking lot is as always available to St Joseph Church and School to be used as overflow parking for their events. Once every November our club is venue for “The Wrapping Party”. A local organization that gives holiday gifts to the under privileged in our community. All the toys and cloths are brought into the club to wrap and organized for distribution. Each year the club donates $1000 for a non repeating scholarship. Twice a year Phoenix is host to an in club blood drive that is open to the public. The Phoenix Club also contributes to organizations like... Boys Little League Baseball Boys Legion League Baseball Girls Softball Special Olympics The Wayne Biles Golf Outing American Heart Association The Dolan & Murphy Fund Raiser St. Joseph Octoberfest Fundraiser Annunciation Church & School Fund Raiser Collect toys each year for the Marines “Toys for Tots Program” Costello Syndrome The ALS Association

The Phoenix Club members never shy away from a worthy cause. We are all part of something bigger than ourselves and the best way to show this is by giving back to our community. Not because we have to or because its required of us from some IRS status but for the simple reason of it’s the right thing to do. The Phoenix Club is a place we can all be proud of. The generation before us handed the institution down to us and it’s our obligation to make sure we turn it over to the next generation,

HAPPY 125th BIRTHDAY PHOENIX CLUB

SAYING GOOD BYE TO A GOOD GUY

In the early month of January 2018 we, The Phoenix Club have lost a very good member and friend. John” Popeye” Miles lost his battle with cancer on January 3rd. Popeye has never been one to give up a fight easily so you can bet he did his best in trying to win this one. It seems everyone knew Popeye and even though he was a member in many clubs his heart belonged to The Phoenix Club. He served as Chairman of the Board for many years at the club. He also co hosted many events with his good buddy Yogi. Including a long lived fish fry crew, chicken and smelt night, Bears tailgate parties, Wii Bowling tournaments and summer golf outings. The club won’t be the same without him.

I remember a band coming into the club and setting up equipment a few years ago. One of the band members had on a T shirt advertising Popeye’s favorite beer,PBR. Popeye smiled at the guy and said I want that shirt. Five minutes later he was wearing what he liked.

Popeye touched many lives and will be dearly missed. I sure hope the have Pabst Blue Ribbon in heaven or there will be hell to pay. God Bless Popeye.

MONTHLY MANAGER SPECIALS

January 2018

Sunday ..........$1.75 Lite Bottles
Monday...........$1.75 PBRs
Tuesday.........$1.00 Drafts (except Blue Moon & Leinenkugel)
Wednesday...$2.50 Smirnoff & Mixers
Thursday ......Reduced Drink & Pizza Prices
Friday...........$2.50 All Wine
Saturday ......$2.50 Captain & Cokes

February 2018

Sunday .........$2.50 Smirnoff & Mixer
Monday.......$1.75 Coors Lite
Tuesday.......$1.00 Drafts (except Blue Moon & Leinenkugel)
Wednesday...$3.00 Shock Top & IA
Thursday .....Reduced Drink & Pizza Prices
Friday...........$2.50 All Wine
Saturday ......$3.00 Margaritas

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS BUCKET BEER SPECIAL

Any Day the Chicago Blackhawks play get a bucket of 5 domestic beer bottles for only $10.00
Add any pizza for an extra $5.00
The offer is good all day the Hawks play !

SPECIAL EVENTS VOID DRINK SPECIALS
SPAGHETTI DINNER
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD
Mama mia, how about a nice Italian dinner! It’s Italian comfort food in the middle of Winter and you’re invited. So sit down to the table and tuck in a napkin already. You’re nothing but skin and bone….so eat. Timmy White and his pasta mafia will make dinner for us all. Spaghetti with your choice of meatballs or Italian sausage. Plus some nice toasted garlic bread, a bit of salad and you’re good to go. Just $8.00 per person so there should be no squacken about it. However, should you have any complaints we will let you speak with our associates Jimmy (Knuckles) Nunsio and his brother Tony (Short Fuse). They would be happy to take you in the back room and straighten out any unfortunate misunderstandings that may arise during the evening. I’m sure we can all come up with a nice solution that may or may not involve a sack of quick drying cement and a lovely one way ride to the Fox River. Serving time is from 6 to 8pm. It is my strong recommendation that you are not late. Be der . Capisce?

PAINT & SIP PARTY FEBRUARY 24TH
On Saturday February 24th the club will host a Paint and Sip Party. Or is it a Sip & Paint Party? Oh well, either way the outcome is the same. For an evening you get to try your hand at being Rembrandt or Picasso or even Van Gogh. The cost is $25 per person which includes canvas paint and any painting supply. You may want to bring a smock and a few friends for this one. The sipping part of the party can be found at the bar. We hope to have a good group of budding artists for this one. Everyone is invited!

PHOENIX CLUB BLOOD DRIVE
FEBRUARY 24TH 2018 8:00AM TILL NOON
On the morning of Saturday February 24th from 8:00am till noon our club will hosting a blood drive. The nice people from Heartland Blood Centers will be on hand to set up their equipment at the club to take your donation. Heartland notified me in January that they were having a tough time filling spots for blood drives so I told them our group would help. This is a great way to help out the people in our community as Heartland provides blood products to 65 hospitals in the Chicago area. So your blood will go to local hospitals to help those who may be sick or injured. We need donations from men, women, and young adults, at least 16 years of age, who are able to donate with their parents (or with a signed permission slip available at www.heartlandbc.org ). The blood bank is also asking for Red Cell Donations. If you have the blood types of A-, O or B they are in need of your red cells. This process takes about 30 minutes longer then a whole blood donation. There are specific height and weight requirements for red cell donors, so you may want to ask about that when you are making your appointment. Heartland Blood Centers will also have a snack and refreshment center set up for all donors. Each donor will be entered into a raffle to win one of 2 Chicago sports jerseys we are giving away. You can have your choice between Cubs – Sox – Hawks or Bears. To set up an appointment please see the bulletin board in the bar room and sign up for a time slot. A photo ID is required with all donations. Give the gift of life……donate blood at the club on Saturday February 24th from 8:00am to noon. It’s the only gift that actually does come from the heart.