



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights September 2023

Vision Statement: *"To Impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"*

2022-2023 Officers: Melissa Palfrey, President; Alaina Reeves, Vice President; Howard Crofoot, Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; and Becky Schambow, Secretary.

2022-2023 Board of Directors: Amy Coffey; Terri Ellis; Mark Essex; Doreen Hlavaty; Jordan Holthaus; and Leon Neuheisel.

Published for Members October 2, 2023 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2023

BUSINESS MEETING: - September 1, 2023

Attendees: There were 26 members (*and no guests*) present including: Carley Borcharding; Chris and Paul Budden; Amy Coffey; Howard Crofoot; Terri Ellis; Debra Elvidge; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Bob Hundhausen; Dianne Jentz; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Maxine and Steve Lane; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; Linda Thomas; Amanda Trewin; Ron Weier; and Wayne Wodarz.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m. Members then joined together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

Special Dates Noted:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Hap Daus and Jordan Holthaus – September 3rd;
 - Deb McWilliams – September 4th;
 - Arnie Roper – September 5th;
 - Chris Budden – September 7th.
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
 - John *and Molly* Zuehlke – September 1st (TODAY)
 - Jim *and Tami* Boebel – September 3rd;
 - Deb *and Harvey* McWilliams – September 4th
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Kim Skemp – September 1, 1982;
 - Wayne Wodarz – September 1, 1987;
 - Jerry Schewe – September 1, 1992;
 - Charlie Clark – September 30, 2002;
 - Chad Holstein – September 28, 2016;
 - Mark Haas – September 29, 2018;
 - Priscilla Hahn – September 29, 2018
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Upcoming Month:**
 - Bill's Plumbing and Heating – September 29, 2015;
 - Queen B – September 20, 2016;
 - Heiser Hardware – September 28, 2016;
 - Honkamp, P.C. – September 29, 2018

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Chris Budden, who greeted Dianne Jentz.

Platteville Optimist Club – September 2023 Highlights

- **Breakfast Drawing:** Amanda Trewin and Bob Hundhausen were the two members present, and Jeff White and Pat Moxness-Weier were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in August.
- **Joker Draw:** Mark Essex's ticket was drawn, however Mark cut the 9 of Diamonds.

Announcements / Information Shared:

- **Thank You Notes Received:**
 - The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums: A letter of appreciation for our donation to the Historic Reenactment program.
 - Story Walk Program: A letter of appreciation was received from Carley Borcharding thanking the Club for our donation to the "Story Walks" and books to youth provided at Building Platteville's Halloween and Winter Wonderland events.
- **Bag/Pipe Band:** Terri Ellis noted she would like to have at least four more members for the Bag/Pipe band on Dairy Days. Next and last practice is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 7th at 7:00 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church;
- **Cheese Curd Shift Reminders:** It was noted that shift reminders will be sent out via email today or tomorrow.
- **Update on Gary Engelke:** Maxine Lane reported that Gary who is at Unity Point-Meriter in Madison continues to improve and "is now walking and tube free".
- **Recruitment for SWIS District Lt. Governor:** Maxine reported that the SWIS District Zone 5 is recruiting for someone to fill the SWIS District Lt. Governor position and encouraged anyone interested to apply. The position involves being a liaison between the zone's clubs and the district board.
- **Steve and Deb Elvidge:** Sadly, Deb Elvidge announced that she and Steve will be moving to Dubuque, will miss us, but will be resigning from our club. Deb is meeting with Amy Coffey to hand over Youth Committee information on oratorical and essay contests, Tri-Star Basketball, etc.
- **Shirts for Sale:** Maxine Lane noted she is taking orders for polo shirts with Club logo on them.
- **Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast:** Maxine asked for a show of hands on whether members would be willing to donate food for a breakfast she would like the Club's Community Service Committee to host in the spring to recognize local and county law enforcement personnel.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023: Vice President Reeves reviewed the following highlights from the Board meeting held on August 29, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT: Duane Borgen, Treasurer, submitted the Treasurer's Report for period ending August 31, 2023 noting the balances of Internal and Youth Accounts, which were reported at the Business Meeting. In addition, the following was reported:

- **Bonding of Treasurer and Alternates:** Borgen noted he paid the additional amount (*in addition to \$119 paid previously*) to bond the Treasurer and alternates. Borgen had checked to see if the overall cost would be cheaper if we reduced the bond amount from \$50,000 to \$25,000, but the savings would have only been \$34 so it was not felt to be beneficial.
- **Grants Paid in August** included:
 - Platteville Sports Boosters - \$100;
 - Friends of the Rollo and Jamison Museums - \$350.
- **Motion from Board for approval:** Vice President Reeves reported the Board has made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Paul Budden, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance / Administration:**
 - **Lifetime Member Dues:** Vice President Reeves reported that the Board has made a motion to increase the "Lifetime Membership" dues to \$75. It was further noted that the Lifetime Membership dues had not increased last year when the regular and spouse member dues were raised. Motion was seconded by Ken Kamps, and motion carried.
 - **Application for Donation Requests:** Vice President Reeves reported that the "Donation Request Forms" are now available via our website. This is a new platform for donation requests which will allow the Financial Committee to have everything streamlined, such as dollar amount, how many kids it will help, Platteville residents vs. Non-Platteville residents, etc. The deadline for donation requests is set for Sept. 15.

- **Committee Chair Recommendations for Budget:** Committee Chairs were reminded to submit their suggestions for their Committees' budgets to Duane by Sept. 19.
- **Finance Committee Meeting:** It was reported that the goal is to have the Finance Committee meet by the end of September to prepare a proposed budget for fiscal year 23/24.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Dairy Day Parade Plans:**
 - Bag/Pipe Band – as noted above – would like more volunteers;
 - Our Club banner will be carried by Amy Coffey's son Jamison and his friend in front of Ernie Thalmann's convertible, being driven by Charlie Clark. Our Charter members Ken Kamps and Tom Jonas will be riding in the convertible.
- **Membership:**
 - **Inquiries about Club:** It was reported that the Committee may be developing something to hand out during Dairy Days to people inquiring about joining the club.
 - **Valentine's Day NOW Event:** Committee will be discussing the idea of having a Valentine's Day NOW event/dance instead of doing a NOW event in the Spring.
- **Publicity - Newsletter(s) & Website:** Recognition was given to Chris Budden for posting pictures of speakers, check presentations, etc. on our website's blog.
- **Cheese Curd:**
 - **Report on Grant County Fair Results:** Gross revenue for the fair was reported with notation that sales were less than last year. The same amount of cheese was sold so the Committee is assessing contributing factors for the decrease in gross revenue.
 - **Plans for Dairy Days – Sept. 8th to 10th:** Tim Murphy and Steve Lane plan to set up the trailer on Thursday, Sept. 7th. Shift assignments are in place and supplies have been ordered.
 - **Suggestions:** Committee Chair, Jordan Holthaus suggested that we increase the cost of soda and water and offer ranch dressing. These will be discussed by the committee for possible changes next year.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Speakers for September –** Coordinated by Mark Essex include:
 - September 8 - Jessica Brogley - Children in Agriculture;
 - September 15 - Timothy Ingram - Art & Bicycles;
 - September 22 - Bakary Saidykhan - Bicycles to Africa program;
 - September 29 - Kent Scheuerell: Grant County History.
 - **Annual Awards & Installation Banquet:** The Committee will be getting together soon to plan the annual banquet. Suggested dates were Sunday, October 1st or October 8th. The committee will determine if there will be a discount on meals for those volunteers who worked as volunteers at cheese curd sales events.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Essay and Oratorical Info:** As noted above, Amy Coffey is meeting with Deb Elvidge to transfer over all the information for youth events.
 - **Citizens Academy:**
 - Club received some money during Covid from SWIS District with intentions of our Club facilitating a "Citizens Academy" for youth in collaboration with local emergency services. Committee may discuss budgeting for this with intent to offer during the youth activities off season.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Directors Terms Clarified:** In follow-up to discussion on Director's terms and review of Bylaws, the Board determined that Board members appointed/replacing terms of other members would fulfill those terms and then could be eligible for another term if they choose to run.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting Day Change:** Due to some conflicts with Board member(s) availability to attend Board meetings on Tuesday mornings, the Board discussed and agreed to meet on the Monday before the first Friday of every month (*instead of Tuesdays*)

CONCLUSION:

- **Next Board Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2023 at 7:00 a.m.
- **Next Week – September 8:**
 - **7:00 a.m. Meeting:** Speaker – Jessica Brogley - Children in Agriculture;
 - **Noon – Informational Meeting:** will be at A & W.
- **Sept. 29, 2023:** As this will be the 5th Friday in a month, there will be a Social Meeting at noon at Glenda's Tamales & Moore, 50 S. Oak Street in Platteville.

NO OTHER BUSINESS was brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Carley Borcharding, seconded by Chris Budden, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – September 8, 2023

There were 30 members and 3 guests present

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guest Welcomed:** Jessica Brogley (*speaker*), Aaron Kinard, and Karen Essex were welcomed by Vice President Reeves.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Vice President Reeves was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Tom Jonas, noting he is a Charter Member who is in town today and will be riding in a convertible in the Dairy Day parade with fellow Charter Member Ken Kamps.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Melissa Palfrey – September 10th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
 - Charlie and Joyce Clark – Sept. 8th;
 - Darlene and Jason Masters – Sept. 11th;
 - George and Diane Byykkonen – Sept. 14th
- **Joker Draw:** Howard Crofoot's ticket was drawn, however, he drew the Ace of Hearts.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Annual Installation and Awards Banquet – Sunday, Sept. 24:** A sign-up sheet for the banquet was circulated and Vice President Reeves noted it will be available on-line. She also explained that those who sign up and later finding they need to cancel, would be expected to pay for their meal(s) if they cancel after the final sign-up date.
 - **Thank You Notes Received from:**
 - **Platteville Public Library:** for our donation to the "Summer Reading Program".
 - **Optimist Ol:** for our year to date giving of \$250 and lifetime giving to date of \$19,385.18.
 - **Dairy Day Cheese Curd Sales:** Vice President Reeves advised members if they volunteered to work and didn't get a shift reminder, they should contact Alaina or Becky Schambow.
 - **Bag/Pipe and Parade Reminder for Volunteers:** Terri Ellis advised that those members who are going to be in our Club's entry for the parade should be at our assigned location in area six between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m.
 - **Noon Informational Meeting Today at A & W:** A reminder was given that the meeting will be held at noon today. Charlie Clark has volunteered to be the facilitator.

- **Committee Budget:** Committee Chairs/Liaisons were reminded that their Committee requests for the 23/24 fiscal year budget are due to be sent to Duane Borgen, Treasurer, by September 19th.
- **Shirts for Sale:** Maxine Lane advised members she is still taking orders for polo shirts.
- **Speaker for Next Week – September 15th:** Timothy Ingram – Art and Bicycles
- **Today’s Speaker:** Jessica Brogley – Children in Agriculture – recruited and introduced by Mark Essex.

Jessica is the newly hired “English Language Learner” teacher for the Platteville School District. She serves students in the middle school and high school. Previously she was a high school English teacher, communications instructor at Southwest Technical College, and most recently worked for 8 years in the School of Education at UW Platteville. Today she shared with members, the importance of supporting our English language learner population in the Platteville community and talked briefly about means used to help these students.

Jessica noted that her conversion to this new position was a major life change for her, having taught high school English for many years. She started in her new position a few days before school started and “just loves what she is doing”. She felt there is an amazing diversity in our district and noted how dynamics have changed, with an increase in school enrollment and classes that are offered.

Jessica noted that there are at least 13 different languages spoken in various homes in our district. She reported that in the school year of 2019-2020, there were approximately 20 students where English was not their first language. In 2021-2022, this rose to 28; in 2022-2023 this rose to 45; and since September 2023 it has risen to 78 students. She felt the increase is largely due to families wanting to move here because “it’s a safe place to be”.

Jessica ended her presentation by thanking the Club for all we do for our community.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 8:00 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

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WEEKLY MEETING – September 15, 2023

There were 25 members and 2 guests present

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guest Welcomed:** President Palfrey welcomed Tim Ingram (*speaker*) as our guest. *Mike Miller, another guest, arrived later to hear the presentation.*
- **Mystery Greeter:** was President Palfrey, greeting Doug Martin.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Mike Hahn and Amanda Trewin on Sept.15;
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Joker Draw:** No winner today as the Jack of Spades was cut.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Cheese Curd Dairy Days Sales Report:** Gross sales amount for Dairy Days event was reported, noting that sales were higher than in prior year. Combined gross sales for Fair and Dairy Days also ended up being higher than in prior year.
 - **Annual Award and Installation Banquet – September 24th:** It was noted that today at 8:30 a.m. is the last day to sign up. Those signing up who worked a Cheese Curd will get \$10 off of their meal cost.
 - **Committee Budget Recommendations:** Are due to Duane Borgen by Sept. 19th.
- **Speaker for Next Week:** Bakary Saidykhan - Bicycles to Africa program

- **Today's Speaker: Tim Ingram – Art and Bicycles** – recruited and introduced by Mark Essex

Tim Ingram has been a member of the community since 2000 when he purchased the bike shop and renamed it Momentum Bikes.

Because his father was born in New Diggins and was raised in Benton, Tim has always had a close relationship with the area. He can remember at the age of 8 coming to Platteville to buy his first fishing pole with his birthday money at a store on Main St. in Platteville.

Tim has been passionate about bicycling since 1976, and enjoys sharing cycling with others. He mostly cycles through the mid-west, but has also cycled in Costa Rica and Mexico.

Tim noted he had always wanted to have a bike shop in a small community and continues to enjoy servicing his community, but now has been enjoying making art work with all the parts we would normally have thrown away.

Today Tim brought several of his creations including clocks and lamps made from recycled bike parts. Many incorporated marbles into their design and all were extremely unique. His art creations can be seen at "Timothy Ingram Arts", 35 W. Main in Platteville.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 8:00 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – September 22, 2023

There were 29 members and 1 guest present

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guest Welcomed:** President Palfrey welcomed Bakary Saidykhan (*speaker*) as our guest.
- **Mystery Greeter:** was Maggie Kleisath, greeting Linda Thomas.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Robert Stephens – Sept. 23rd
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
 - Deanna and David Hinderman – Sept. 23rd;
 - Tim and Kathy Murphy – Sept. 26th
- **Joker Draw:** Dan Engelke's ticket was drawn, however, he cut the Ace of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **President's Comments:** President Palfrey encouraged members to be involved in children's programs in our community, whether that be programs of our club or other entities.
 - **Sample of Being Involved:** Maxine Lane noted she makes hats and burp clothes and provides these to Southwest Health for newborns at their facility.
 - **Annual Award & Installation Banquet Reminder:** President Palfrey reminded those who signed up that cocktail hour begins at 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 5:00 p.m. Award presentations and installation of 23-24 Board members will follow.
 - **Membership Dues:** Members were reminded that membership dues are due by October 1st.
 - **Thank You from Dylan Pink:** Wayne Wodarz presented a thank you note from Dylan Pink, (*prior oratorical winner*) and his parents, indicating his appreciation for the opportunity to participate and utilize his scholarship award for his education at Southwest Technical College.
 - **New Member:** President Palfrey was pleased to announce that as of today, Aaron Kinard is the newest member of our Club. He will be officially inducted at a later date.
 - **Polo Shirts:** Maxine Lane announced that today was the last day to order polo shirts.
 - **Update on Gary Engelke:** Maxine Lane reported that Gary has been discharged from the hospital and he and Eileen are temporarily staying at Steve and Maxine's home. He is able to have and enjoy visitors for brief periods of time (*not to exceed one hour*).

- **Speaker for Next Week - Sept. 29:** Kent Scheuerell – Grant County History
- **Today's Speaker: Bakary Saidykhan – Bicycles to Africa Program**, recruited and introduced by Mark Essex.

Bakary Saidykhan is from Gambia, in West Africa. He came to Wisconsin in 2010 to visit a friend from Gambia. He met his wife Joely in 2011 and they were married in 2012. He has lived in America ever since and has completed the long and complex process to become a United States Citizen. Bakary currently works as a custodian at the Rountree Commons here in Platteville.

Bakary's presentation today was relative to his involvement with sending bicycles, bedding and other essential items back to his home country to help those in need.

With video, Bakary showed the geographic location of Gambia, which is the smallest country in West Africa and covers less than 4000 square miles. He showed pictures of the grass and mud huts that people live in in his home town of between 600 and 800 people.

Bakary talked about the schools in Gambia noting that tuition fees are paid for boys to attend, but not girls. They do pay for uniforms and supplies for girls, however. When visiting his home country, he noticed that children were walking long distances to school. This prompted him to start a program to collect bikes and transport them via shipping containers to his home community to assist children in getting to school. He currently has about 50 to 60 bikes stored up to provide to children between the ages of 12 to 15. He indicates that a shipping container to transport the bikes would cost \$7000 to \$8000. He does accept donations of bikes or school supplies such as spiral lined notebooks, pens and pencils that he will ship to them.

Conclusion: Meeting concluded at 7:55 a.m.
Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – September 29, 2023

There were 24 members and 1 guest present

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guest Welcomed:** President Palfrey welcomed Kent Scheuerell (*speaker*) as our guest.
- **Mystery Greeter:** was Tom Nall, greeting Libby Sides.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays:**
 - **Belated birthday wish:** Aaron Kinard (*our new member*) on Sept 28th
 - **Birthdays this upcoming week:**
 - Doug Martin – October 2nd;
 - Dan Engelke – October 3rd;
 - Maxine Lane – October 5th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Joker Draw:**
 - **Ticket Drawn at Annual Banquet:** President Palfrey reported Wayne Wodarz drew the 2 of Club's at the Annual Banquet on September 24th.
 - **Today's Winner:** Chris Budden's ticket was drawn, however, she drew the Ace of Clubs.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Presentation of President's Citation Award to Leon Neuheisel:** President Palfrey announced that Leon Neuheisel wasn't able to be present at the Annual Awards and Installation Banquet on Sept. 24th. President Palfrey then presented Leon with the "President's Citation" award for his exemplary service to our Club and community services. Winners of other awards included:

- **Optimist of the Year:** Tim Boldt;
- **Outstanding Member of the Year:** Tom Nall;
- **Chuck Thalman Service Award:** Maggie Kleisath;
- **Outgoing President's Award:** President Palfrey;
- **Chamber "Club's Volunteer of the Year":** Amy Coffey, presented at Party in the Park in July.
- **Other Fun Awards:** Presented by President Palfrey at the Banquet included:
 - **Fourth and Long Award:** Chris Budden "for coming through in a clutch";
 - **Soda Jerk:** Charlie Clark who doesn't drink coffee, tea, or OJ, just soda;
 - **Jeff Gordon Award:** Jerry and Joy Schewe who are "first to race out of meetings, with Joy being the fastest";
 - **Cool as a Cucumber Award:** Alaina Reeves who is known for saying "everything will be fine".
 - **Foodie Award:** Doreen Hlavaty, who when doesn't like what is being served for breakfast, brings her own;
 - **Social Butterfly:** Wayne Wodarz, who always knows what's going on in town;
 - **Champagne Award:** Terri Ellis for her sparkling personality.
- **Get Well card for Tim Murphy:** A card was circulated for signatures to be sent to Tim wishing him well after he had surgery Sept. 28th.
- **Membership Dues are due Oct. 1:** Members were reminded dues are due on Oct. 1st.
- **Noon Social Lunch Today at Glenda's Restaurant:** President Palfrey reminded members that in celebration of the 5th Friday in a given month, a social luncheon will be held at Glenda's Tamales and More.
- **Appreciation from President Palfrey:** President Palfrey extended her appreciation to the Club for the commitment and dedication we have to our youth and community.
- **Appreciation for Notebooks, etc. Provided Bakary Saidykhan:** Mark Essex thanked those who donated notebooks, etc. to prior week's speaker who will be sending them to assist children in his home country of Gambia, West Africa.
- **Next Week - October 6th – Business Meeting**
- **Today's Speaker: Kent Scheuerell – Grant County History** - recruited and introduced by Mark Essex.

Kent is a retired 6th grade teacher who taught 38 years at the Platteville Middle School. While there, he directed many plays and led campfires at outdoor education programs. He's always been interested in local history and had a history degree with a speech minor in secondary education from Loras College, and a master's degree in teaching history and elementary school certification from UW – Platteville.

Kent began his presentation by thanking the Optimist Club for inviting him. He noted his love for the City of Platteville and how much he enjoyed his career of teaching middle-school children. He truly enjoyed his many years of camping experiences at Wyalusing with students, where he helped them produce skits on local history, which on occasion were also shared at local nursing homes.

Always being interested in history, he noted that Elona Kindschi (*now deceased*) was a great influence in his life. He loved hearing about folktale stories she would tell.

With video, many props, and recruiting volunteer members to portray parts, Kent told many folklore stories related to the history of Grant County.

Kent will be doing a presentation on Saturday, October 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the Museum in Lancaster and encouraged people to take their children and grandchildren to the event.

Kent is also happy to make presentations at schools or organizations and can be contacted at: Kent Scheuerell; 608-726-0279 or 608-348-7833; kscheuerell@gmail.com

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 8:10 a.m.
Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ANNUAL AWARDS AND INSTALLATION BANQUET REPORT

Held at Platteville Country Club on Sunday, September 24, 2023

NOTES OF APPRECIATION: Sincere appreciation is extended to Linda Thomas, Fellowship Committee Chair, Doreen Hlavaty, Fellowship Committee Board Co-Liaison, and Alaina Reeves, President Elect for planning and facilitating the 2023 Annual Awards and Installation Banquet. A note of appreciation is also extended to Charlie Clark, MC for the event. There were 43 people in attendance, the food was outstanding, and it was truly an enjoyable evening.

Following supper, a video created by Alaina Reeves, was shown depicting the statistics and pictures from the Club's Cheese Curd sales events in 2023. On behalf of the Cheese Curd Committee, Becky Schambow thanked all those who volunteered to make the 2023 sales events successful.

AWARDS PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT PALFREY:

- **Optimists of the Year** – Tim Boldt;
- **Outstanding Member** – Tom Nall;
- **Chuck Thalmann Award** – Maggie Kleisath;
- **President's Citation** – Leon Neuheisel;
- **Outgoing President Award** – Melissa Palfrey;
- **Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award** – Amy Coffey – *was recognized at the Banquet as receiving our Club's award presented by the Chamber at Party in the Park in July.*
- **Other Fun Awards:** *Presented by President Palfrey at the Banquet included:*
 - **Fourth and Long Award:** *Chris Budden "for coming through in a clutch";*
 - **Soda Jerk:** *Charlie Clark who doesn't drink coffee, tea, or OJ, just soda;*
 - **Jeff Gordon Award:** *Jerry and Joy Schewe who are "first to race out of meetings, with Joy being the fastest;*
 - **Cool as a Cucumber Award:** *Alaina Reeves who is known for saying "everything will be fine".*
 - **Foodie Award:** *Doreen Hlavaty, who when doesn't like what is being served for breakfast brings her own;*
 - **Social Butterfly:** *Wayne Wodarz, who always knows what's going on in town;*
 - **Champagne Award:** *Terri Ellis for her sparkling personality.*
- **OUTGOING PRESIDENT AWARD:** Becky Schambow and Alaina Reeves presented President Melissa Palfrey with their appreciation for her service as President in the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and provided her with the "Outgoing President Award". Of note were President Palfrey's special accomplishments including implementation of noon meetings for those who are unable to attend morning meetings, and for the many improvements she made to our website.

INSTALLATION OF GOVERNING BOARD for FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024: The Governing Board of Officers and Directors were installed by Maxine Lane, representing the SWIS District. The 2023-2024 Board members are:

- Alaina Reeves – President
- Bob Hundhausen – Vice President (*President Elect*)
- Duane Borgen – Treasurer
- Becky Schambow – Secretary
- Melissa Palfrey – Past President
- Amy Coffey – Director
- Terri Ellis – Director
- Mark Essex – Director
- Jordan Holthaus – Director
- Dorothy Hlavaty - Director
- Tom Nall - Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in OCTOBER 2023

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Doug Martin – October 2;
- Dan Engelke – October 3;
- Maxine Lane – October 5;
- Steve Kleisath – October 8;
- Terri Ellis – October 9;
- John Zuehlke – October 10;
- Diane VanNatta – October 22;
- Carley Borcharding – October 25;
- Ken Kamps – October 28;
- Clinton Langreck – October 29.

OCTOBER – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dean and Vicki Feldman – October 10;
- Jeff and Amy White – October 15;
- Ron and Jan Weier – October 26.

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Ken Kamps – October 1, 1970;
- Debra McWilliams – October 20, 1995;
- Ernie Thalman – October 17, 2008;
- Brad Brogley – October 16, 2015;
- Sultana Amin – October 21, 2022.

OCTOBER - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS ANNIVERSARIES:

- Weber Business Consulting – October 20, 2016;
- Garvey's Auto Service – October 27, 2016.