

December 6, 2024 Business Meeting

Those in attendance included: Clark Anderson, Chris Budden, Paul Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Eileen Engelke, Gary Engelke, Mark Essex, Robin Fatzinger, Linda Foht, Beth Frieders, Doreen Hlavaty, Dianne Jentz, Maggie Kleisath, Lisa Kratz, Doug Martin, Michael Miller, Tom Nall, Alaina Reeves, Jerry Schewe, Joy Schewe, Bob Stephens, Linda Thomas, Ron Weier.

There were no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate this week. Membership anniversaries this month are Kathy Kopp (December 9, 1993), Tom Nall (December 19, 2000), Beth Frieders (December 13, 2005), Bob Weier (December 14, 2012), Becky Schambow (December 12, 2014), and Busch Insurance (December 15, 2015).

Tom Nall greeted Beth Frieders.

Free Breakfast recipients: Breakfasts need to be redeemed in December.

- Present -- Chris Budden and Dianne Jentz
- Not Present -- Arnie Roper and Becky Schambow (second consecutive month)

Ron Weier drew the King of Diamonds

Announcements – Information Shared:

- Bob's Useless Information of the Day -- Bob talked about writers Jorge Luis Borges and Philip K Dick and revolutionist Che Guevara as a backdrop to his "Borges Moment". The moment was Bob arriving in a small Argentinian village on a dark, rainy night at the same time the book he was reading centered on either Borges or Guevara arriving in the same town on a dark, rainy night.
- A sign-up sheet for Santa Calling was circulated.
- A sign-up sheet for Salvation Army Bell Ringers was circulated

Moved by Eileen Engelke, seconded by Beth Frieders, to approve the November business meeting minutes. Passed

Summary of the Board Meeting from December 2, 2024 Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT: Duane Borgen

- Moved by the Board, seconded by Gary Engelke, to accept the treasurer's report. Passed

Committee Update Highlights:

Community Service:

- Salvation Army bell ringing is underway
- Santa Calling will take place next week

Membership:

- Still need some people to help plan a NOW meeting
- Fifth Friday Social in January at noon at Los Amigos
- Start fund to offset new member registration fees?

Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:

- Working on getting website administration straightened out
- Contacting committee members to determine interest in continuing

Fellowship:

- December coordinator is Ron Weier
 - December 13 – Jim Boebel, tour of PHS changes
 - December 20 – Joe Jacquinet, PCA trail improvements
 - December 27 – Celeste Steiner, Director of Platteville Thrift Shop
- Christmas Social on Sunday, January 5
 - First Congregational Church 5:00 – 8:00 pm
 - Catered by Ma's Bakery of Bloomington
 - Cost will be \$15. Some kind of non-alcoholic drink provided.
 - Need commitments by December 28. No refunds after that.
 - Yankee Gift exchange
- Youth Activities:
 - Oratorical and Essay information has been distributed
 - Trying to find a date for Tri-Star Basketball

New Business:

- Funding requests for the Inclusive Playground, Santa Fly-In, & Rollo Jamison / Mining Museum were approved for \$100 with the proviso that the proper grant request procedure be used in the future. This will come from the \$2000 budgeted for such requests
 - WIX website price increased to over \$400. It is due December 22, but Dianne is going to look at other options
 - Consensus to allow checks to be presented at any meeting instead of just the business meeting.
- Moved by the Board, seconded by Tom Nall, to approve the above actions.

December 13, 2024 Meeting

There was no bell to ding, but Bob did have everyone present look at the flag on Gary's phone as Gary led us in the pledge and creed.

The school district provided a continental breakfast. The goodwill donation will be presented to the district. Last time Jim Boebel said the money would be deposited to the student meal fund for those who are behind on payments.

There was no mystery greeter or Joker Draw as we forgot to get the materials before Country Kitchen closed.

Those in attendance included: Clark Anderson, Jim Boebel, Brad Brogley, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Eileen Engelke, Gary Engelke, Mark Essex, Beth Frieders, Bob Hundhausen, Dianne Jentz, Maggie Kleisath, Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Jerry Schewe, Joy Schewe, Gene Weber, Ron Weier, Kim Woodworth.

Birthdays this week are Howard Crofoot and Kevin Haertzen (December 16) and Eileen Engelke (December 19). Wedding anniversaries are Duane and Amy Borgen (December 17) and Doreen Hlavaty and Dorothy Price (December 18).

Announcements

- [Use this link \(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S36o-WF70zJ6i1-Py6AvwDob5iuDQiqbfl1lrlCsME/edit?usp=sharing\)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S36o-WF70zJ6i1-Py6AvwDob5iuDQiqbfl1lrlCsME/edit?usp=sharing) to sign-up for the holiday social.
- An email thank you was received from the Santa Fly-In for our donation.
- Howard thanked those who helped with Santa Calling.

- A hat was passed to collect money to be given to our weekly servers.
- Speaker coordinators are still needed for May and October.

Bob's Useless Fact was about Christmas. Kwanzaa began in the 1960s, and many people don't like to celebrate it because it is a "made up" occasion. Early Christians did not celebrate birthdays, but they did honor a person's passing. That started to change in 336 AD when December 25 was chosen to honor Christ's birth with food, drink and presents. This date was chosen because it was close to the winter solstice, which was celebrated by pagans. It was hoped that a celebration of Christmas would stem off the drop in Christian members and lead to more pagans converting to Christianity. So, in a way, Christmas is a "made up" occasion.

Next week's speaker will be Joe Jacquinot, and he will be speaking about PCA trail improvements and possible expansions.

School superintendent Jim Boebel highlighted the various areas of the high school that were affected by the recent remodeling and then Brad Brogley and Jim led members around the school to further explain the changes.

December 20, 2024 Meeting

A small, but talkative, group was dinged to order at 7:01 by vice president Terri Ellis, who also led us in the pledge and creed.

Those in attendance included Clark Anderson, Chris Budden, Paul Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Robin Fatzinger, Beth Frieders, Diane Jentz, Maggie Kleisath, Jerry Schewe, Joy Schewe, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Gene Weber, and Ron Weier.

Joy Schewe was mystery greeted by Terri Ellis.

Charlie Clark drew the Jack of Hearts.

Phil Swift has a birthday on December 23 and Curt and Robin Fatzinger will be celebrating their anniversary on December 21.

Announcements

- Use this link (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S36o-WF70zJ6i1-Py6AvwDob5iuDQiqbfl1lrlCsME/edit?tab=t.0>) to sign-up for the holiday social before December 28.
- A holiday card and money were presented to our servers. Their diligence is greatly appreciated.
- Speaker coordinators are still needed for May and October.

In keeping with Bob's tradition of imparting some useless fact to the membership, Terri presented some information about the Oreo cookie. According to a survey that Kraft conducted, a person is easy going and confident if the cookie is bitten. A dunker equates with an energetic and adventurous person. Finally, a person is sensitive and trendy if the cookie is twisted before being eaten.

There will be a meeting next Friday (December 27). Celeste Steiner will be updating us on the Platteville Thrift Shop.

Joe Jacquinet and Don Francis presented information on the current project to expand the Platteville Community Arboretum (PCA) along the abandoned railroad bed between Valley Road and Eastside Road. The project would involve the purchase of 12 acres and would require raising about \$200,000.

December 27, 2024 Meeting

The meeting began at 7:00 with Amy Coffey leading everyone in the pledge and creed.

Those in attendance included Clark Anderson, Chris Budden, Paul Budden, Amy Coffey, Hap Daus, Mark Essex, Curt Fatzinger, Robin Fatzinger, Bob Hundhausen, Dianne Jentz, Kathy Kopp, Michael Miller, Tom Nall, Becky Schambow, Jerry Schewe, Joy Schewe, Libby Sides, Bob Stephens, Linda Thomas, and Ron Weier.

Mark Essex mystery greeted Clark Anderson.

Joy Schewe drew the eight of clubs.

New Year's baby Robin Fatzinger has a birthday on January 1 and Mike and Priscilla Hahn are celebrating their anniversary today (December 27).

Announcements

- Use this link (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S36o-WF70zJ6i1-Py6AvwDob5iuDQiqbfl11IrlCsME/edit?tab=t.0>) to sign-up for the holiday social before December 28.

Next week is our monthly business meeting. The January 10 speaker will be Brad Brogley and some PHS student members of the Educators Rising Club.

Bob's weekly useless fact was, by his own admission, all over the place before he tried to tie it together at the end. *Platoon*, starring Charlie Sheen and directed by Oliver Stone, won the 1987 Best Picture Oscar. Also nominated was *The Mission*, starring Robert DeNiro and Jeremy Irons. *The Mission* is about Spanish Jesuits trying to protect a remote South American tribe in danger of falling under the rule of pro-slavery Portugal following the 1494 Papal decision on how to divide the New World. Central to the story was the Iguazu Falls, a Brazilian waterfall area that features 257 separate waterfalls. The Devil's Throat, also known as "Garganta del Diablo," is in the middle of this area and was used for *Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skulls*. Bob visited this area about 15 years ago.

Today's speaker was Platteville Thrift Shop director Celeste Steiner, who spoke about the Thrift Shop's history, mission, and grants. The Thrift Shop began in 1972 and presents monthly grants to area non-profit organizations. They are always looking for volunteers, even if it was only for part of one day per week.