



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights August 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 September 4, 2023 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN AUGUST 2023

BUSINESS MEETING: - AUGUST 4, 2023

Attendance: There were 23 members present including: Carley Borcharding; Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Amy Coffey; Howard Crofoot; Terri Ellis; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Doreen Hlavaty; Diane Jentz; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Melissa Palfrey; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; and Ron Weier.

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

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Linda Foht, who greeted Ken Kamps.
- **Breakfast Drawing:** Ken Kamps and Maggie Kleisath were the two members present, and Lynn Schlager and Eileen Engelke were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in August.
- **Joker Draw:** Tom Nall's ticket was drawn, however Tom cut the 10 of Clubs.

Announcements / Information Shared:

- **Appreciation Extended from President Palfrey:** President Palfrey thanked members who reached out to her with well wishes while she was recuperating from hip surgery.
- **Thank You:** A thank you note was circulated that was received from the Southwest WI Rainbow Alliance Board of Directors thanking the Club for our contribution.
- **Cheese Curd Sales Event Volunteers Still Needed:** Alaina Reeves reported on shift vacancies still needing to be covered at the Grant County Fair and Platteville Dairy Days. Members were reminded that they can ask their spouses, friends, and family members (*who must be over 18*) to help cover shifts as well. The sign-up sheet was circulated with highlighted shifts that need to be filled.
- **Belated Recognition of Diane Jentz's Birthday and Anniversary:** President Palfrey noted that one of our new members, Diane Jentz's recent birthday and wedding anniversary was missed in prior meeting announcements. Diane's birthday was May 31st, and Diane and her husband Ron celebrated their anniversary on July 31st.

Special Dates to Remember:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Maggie Kleisath – August 5th
 - Jim Boll – August 9th

- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
 - Brad and Jessica Brogley – August 7th
 - Mark and Karen Essex – August 9th

- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Mike Olds – August 12, 1994
 - Diane VanNatta – August 20, 2004
 - Maggie and Steve Kleisath – August 31, 2012
 - Paul Budden – August 20, 2016
 - Chris Budden – August 4, 2017
 - Diane Paynter – August 13, 2019

- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Upcoming Month**
 - Dairy Queen – August 27, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023: President Palfrey reviewed the following highlights from the Board meeting held on August 2, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT for Period Ending July 31, 2023: Duane Borgen submitted the Treasurer's Report for period ending July 31, 2023 noting balances of Internal and Youth Accounts.

- **Noted Grants Paid in July:**
 - \$300 to Grant County Coordinated Services Team
 - \$250 to Platteville Public Library
- **Board Motion to Approve Financial Report:** President Palfrey reported a motion has been made by the Board to approve the July 31, 2023 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Ken Kamps, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance – Administration:**
 - **Bonding – Insurance:** Due to some miscommunication, the bill received for bonding of our Treasurer and alternates came in higher than the \$119 expected. *(The \$119 quoted was actually for bonding of the Board members).* The Board did not feel the Board needed to be bonded, but Treasurer and alternates do.
 - **Board Motion:** President Palfrey reported a motion has been made by the Board “to authorize Duane to negotiate pricing for Treasurer and alternates and pay premium accordingly”. Seconded by Tom Nall, motion carried.
 - **Donation Requests:** Duane Borgen reported that he will be emailing donation request forms to agencies soon. President Palfrey will put the forms on our website so agencies can apply online.
 - **Increase in OI and SWIS Dues:** Howard Crofoot had reported that OI will be raising membership dues by \$3, however this should not affect our current dues collected from our members. Crofoot also noted that SWIS District will be voting on possible increase in their dues by \$2.

- **Community Service:**
 - **Party in the Park – July 20th:** Howard reported the event was successful. President Palfrey reported that Amy Coffey was chosen and recognized as our Club's Volunteer of the Year.
 - **Parade Entry and Bag/Pipe Band Update – Dairy Day Parade September 9th:**
 - Terri Ellis and Joy Schewe are working on decorating bags for the Bag/Pipe band. Mark Essex will be obtaining PVC and metal piping. Volunteers willing to be in the Bag/Pipe band are asked to attend a rehearsal at First English Lutheran Church on Monday nights at 5:00 p.m.
 - Maxine Lane is making arrangements to have our Charter Members Ken Kamps and Tom Jonas ride in a convertible in front of the Bag/Pipe band.
 - **Donation of 1 Book to Neal Wilkins & 1 to Westview:** President Palfrey reported that Carley Borcharding has a large supply of Story Book Walk (*posters*) in storage at her home and would like to donate one to each of the Platteville elementary schools. Board approved this gift with the suggestion that Carley's picture be taken as our Club's leader of this program presenting them to a representative(s) from the schools.

- **Suggestion for Park Clean-up:** D. Borgen asked H. Crofoot (*Platteville's Public Works Director*) if the City still had the "Adopt a Park" program. Borgen suggested that Club may want to form a group to assist with Smith Park cleanup. Crofoot noted City crews are working on clean up, but will follow up on this.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes Noted:**
 - Melby Funeral Home & Crematory – reinstated 7-18-23
 - Lisa Kratz – New Member – 7-14-23 – inducted on July 21st.
 - Darlene Masters – *who had joined in April* was also officially inducted on July 21st
 - **Optimist International Incentive for New Members:**
 - OI has an incentive program for recruitment of new members between July 1st and Sept. 30th. Members were encouraged to attempt to help recruit new members to our Club.
 - **September 29 – There will be a 5th Friday Social Meeting:** Terri Ellis is making arrangements for this to be held at Glenda's Restaurant.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** President Palfrey extended her appreciation to Chris Budden, who has been keeping the website updated during Palfrey's absence.
- **Cheese Curd:**
 - **Volunteers Still Needed:** For cheese curd sales events, particularly at the Grant County Fair.
 - **Supplies:** Have been ordered / received; perishable items like cheese have been ordered;
 - **Sign Repair:** President Palfrey and Alaina Reeves have been working on redesigning the Club's a-frame sign that is used to promote our club and post costs of items being sold at the cheese curd events. Design will be sent to Signs-To-Go for printing. Cost will come out of budgeted trailer maintenance account.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Speakers Noted for August – recruited by Tom Nall:**
 - August 4th Business Meeting
 - August 11th – Kathy Marty – Grief Share
 - *Also on Aug 11th – Noon Informational Meeting at A & W*
 - August 18th – Lynn Raley – Scuba Diving
 - August 25th - Tom Nall & Kevin Haerten – "Coin Collection"
- **Youth Activities:** Amy Coffey indicated there was nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Suggestions from Maxine Lane for activities / events that the Board consider** (*tabled from 2-28-23*): Will be referred to the Community Service Committee for consideration.
- **Membership Application & Induction Protocols:** OI representatives have not responded to request for recommendations on Induction Processes. After discussion, the Board concurred that new member inductions will not be made until dues payments have been received. Attempts will be made to conduct the inductions during Business or regular Friday morning meetings, however, if the early morning meeting time does not work, new members can be inducted at a noon meeting by a Board member. If inducted at a noon meeting, the Secretary must be advised so it can be noted in Board / Business minutes.
- **Election of Officers and Directors for 23-24 Fiscal Year:** Members listed below had agreed to run for / assume positions on the Governing Board for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to begin October 1, 2023. President Palfrey called for further nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations.
 - **Board Motion:** President Palfrey reported that the Board has made a motion to recommend the following members be elected as Officers and Directors for the upcoming 23-24 fiscal year. Seconded by Beth Frieders, motion carried unanimously. Those elected are as follows:
 - President – Alaina Reeves
 - President Elect (*Vice President*) – Bob Hundhausen
 - Past President – Melissa Palfrey
 - Officers:
 - Treasurer – Duane Borgen - *Appointed by A. Reeves - President*
 - Secretary – Becky Schambow - *Appointed by A. Reeves - President*

- Directors:
 - o Terri Ellis
 - o Mark Essex
 - o Tom Nall
 - o Jordan Holthaus
 - o Amy Coffey
 - o Doreen Hlavaty
- **Noon Meetings:** It was confirmed that “Informational Meetings” will be held on the second Friday of each month at A & W. Minutes are not taken at these meetings. As noted above, if new member inductions are performed at these meetings, inductions need to be done by a Board member and reported to the Secretary. President Palfrey volunteered to oversee these meetings, with Terri Ellis being her alternate.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing brought forward at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Toast at Breakfast Meetings:** Paul Budden noted that many members do not eat both slices of toast served with our breakfast meals and suggested that to avoid waste we suggest to the Chad Holstein (*Country Kitchen owner & Optimist Member*) that this gets cut to one piece. Consensus was this was a good idea.

CONCLUSION:

- **Next Board Meeting Date:** August 29, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom
- **Next Week’s Speaker:** Friday, August 11th - Kathy Marty – Grief Share
- **Noon Informational Meeting:** Friday, August 11th at A & W
- **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Leon Neuheisel, seconded by Tom Nall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – August 11, 2023

There were 29 members and 2 guests present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Creed:** Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Samantha Charles, Librarian at Neal Wilkins School, and Kathy Marty, speaker.
- **Presentation of Story Book Walk posters to Samantha Charles by Carley Borcharding:** Carley presented Club’s donation of Story Book Walk posters to Samantha Charles, Librarian at Neal Wilkins School. Samantha thanked the Club for this donation.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Doug Martin was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Maggie Kleisath.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** *None*
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
 - Amanda Trewin *and husband Scott* on August 15th;
 - Maggie and Steve Kleisath on August 17th.
- **Joker Draw:** Maggie Kleisath's ticket was drawn, however she drew the six of Diamonds.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Get Well Card for Paul Budden:** A card was circulated for signatures and will be sent to Paul Budden who is hospitalized at Southwest Health in Platteville.
 - **Get Well Card for Gary Engelke:** A card was circulated for signatures and will be sent to Gary Engelke who is hospitalized at Unity Point – Meriter in Madison.
 - **Grant County Fair Cheese Curd Sales:**

- **Thank you to Steve & Maxine Lane:** Becky Schambow extended her appreciation to Steve who has volunteered to help Tim Murphy with trailer set up and picking up curds. Appreciation also was extended to Maxine who is helping to recruit volunteers needed to help fill shifts and mixing of batter due to Gary and Paul's illnesses.
- **Entry Tickets for Fair Week:** Becky will be purchasing entry tickets for the fair for volunteers needing them. It was noted that those volunteering on Wednesday & Thursday will not need tickets as there is no entry fee. On Friday, volunteers who are age 62 and over will get in free until 4:00 p.m. On Sunday, Military, Veterans, Fire, Police & EMS will have free entry, with appropriate i.d.
- **Bag / Pipe Band:** Members were encouraged to volunteer to be in our Optimist Bag / Pipe band on Dairy Days. Practice will again be the upcoming Monday night at 5:00 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church.
- **Noon Informational Meeting:** Members were reminded that the meeting will be held today at A & W.
- **Speaker for Next Week – August 18th:** Lynn Raley, who will be talking about her Scuba Diving experiences.
- **Today's Speaker:** Kathy Marty – Grief Share Program – recruited & introduced by Tom Nall.

Kathy Marty was introduced by Tom Nall who noted Kathy is the Coordinator for the GriefShare Program sponsored through the Community Evangelical Free Church in Platteville. She has been a facilitator for this program for nearly twenty years. Tom noted his appreciation for this program in helping him to deal with his grief over his loss of Fern (*wife and missed Optimist Club member*).

Kathy began her presentation by explaining that often grieving people receive a lot of support from individuals after their loved ones pass, but as time goes on, that wanes. She noted that grief periods are different for different people and that those experiencing grief should not be rushed.

The GriefShare program is an international organization formed to help those who have lost someone. The program is open for any participants who are age 18 years of age and older.

The local program has four facilitators and meetings are held every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. for a 13 week period during the months of February to May and then September to December. The next session starts on Sept. 13th.

The sessions are self-contained and participants can join at any time. There is a \$20 fee which helps cover cost of participant guides provided.

Kathy shared written materials including a handout on "How to Help Grieving People", a brochure about the local program, and a handout on "Helping Grieving Children".

CONCLUSION: The meeting concluded at 8:00 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – August 18, 2023

There were 32 members and 2 guests present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **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 of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Stephanie Saager-Bourret, Platteville Historic Reenactment, and Lynn Raley, Speaker.
- **Presentation of Check to Stephanie Saager Bourett:** President Palfrey presented club's donation check of \$350 towards the Platteville Historic Reenactment program. Stephanie thanked the Club for our support.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Dan Engelke was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Howard Crofoot.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** *None*
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**

- Kathy and Joe Kopp – August 19th;
 - Virgil and Marcia Pufahl – August 22nd
 - Ken and Lois Jean Kamps – August 23rd
- **Joker Draw:** Steve Lane's ticket was drawn, however he drew the Jack of Diamonds.
 - **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Update on Gary Engelke:** Maxine Lane reported that Gary continues to be hospitalized at Unity Point – Meriter in Madison.
 - **Grant County Fair:** Becky Schambow thanked those who are volunteering at Club's Cheese Curd sales and reported the following:
 - **Wednesday Night's Shift** sales was believed to be the highest amount ever made in one shift.
 - **Thursday Shifts:** sales went well.
 - **Entry Tickets:** Becky distributed gate entry tickets to volunteers in attendance. Other volunteer tickets will be delivered by volunteers and / or Becky. It was noted that Senior Citizens' (*aged 62 and older*) entry is free on Friday until 4:00 p.m. Military, Veterans, Fire, Police and EMS will have free entry Sunday 20th until 4:00 p.m.
 - **Bag / Pipe Band at Dairy Days Parade:** Terri Ellis encouraged members to join the Bag / Pipe band. She encouraged interested participants to come to the next practice on Monday, August 21st at 5:00 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church.
 - **Fund Craz Tickets:** Charlie Clark noted he has tickets for sale for \$20 each.
 - **Speaker(s) for Next Week – August 25th:** Tom Nall, Kevin Haertzen and Paul Budden will be speakers at next week's meeting talking about their hobbies of coin collecting.
 - **Today's Speaker:** Lynn Raley – Scuba Diving

Lynn was recruited to speak by Eileen McCartney and introduced by Mary Ann Shurson.

Lynn began her love of diving in 1975 when she first went snorkeling. Lynn's love of the ocean was evident in video she presented showing pictures of various coral reefs and amazing pictures of beautiful and unusual sea creatures.

Lynn provided education on the importance of maintaining coral reefs, noting that they provide 2.6 trillion dollars per year in benefits. She noted that oceans are now warmer which has adversely affected the reefs. Over fishing, marine debris, dredging, cruise ships, plastics and micro plastics have also damaged reefs. A natural occurring algal bloom called "Red Tide" has become problematic and in 2014 a new disease named "Stoney Coral Tissue Loss" was discovered.

Lynn noted that this July was the hottest month in history and it greatly affected coral reefs. When temperature rises, coral bleaching occurs causing coral to get stressed and even die.

Lynn ended by noting that many attempts are being made to restore reefs, and that the public can help with donations, but also by respecting the shoreline.

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

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – August 25, 2023

There were 24 members and 1 guest present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Past President Howard Crofoot at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guest Welcomed:** Aaron Kinard was welcomed by Past President Crofoot.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Linda Foht was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Chris Budden.

- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Barb Stockhausen – August 28th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Kim & Cindy Skemp – Aug. 30th
- **Joker Draw:** Tom Nall's ticket was drawn, however, he drew the 8 of Diamonds.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Update on Gary Engelke:** Maxine Lane reported Gary is making progress, but will be needing various therapies to gain strength, etc. With her phone, Maxine recorded a video with present Club members wishing him well that she then sent to Gary.
 - **Update on Fair:** Becky Schambow again thanked the volunteers for making our Cheese Curd sales at the fair a success. She noted we sold out of curds on Saturday night. The same amount of curds had been ordered that were sold in prior year, but unfortunately sales were less than last year, which may have been contributed to some waste of curds and perhaps filling trays too full.
 - **Update on Dairy Day Entry:**
 - **Bag/Pipe Band:** Joy Schewe noted that more volunteers are needed and the next practice is scheduled for Thursday, September 7th at First English Lutheran Church; time to be determined.
 - **Charter Members:** Our Club's Charter Members, Ken Kamps and Tom Jonas have agreed to ride in a convertible in front of our Bag/Pipe band in the parade.
 - **Banner:** Amy Coffey volunteered to carry the Club's banner with her son at the parade.
- **Next Week's Meeting:** September 1st – Business Meeting
- **Today's Speakers:** Tom Nall, Kevin Haetzen, and Paul Budden - Coin Collecting

Needing no introductions, Club members Tom Nall, Kevin Haetzen and Paul Budden shared information about their passion of coin collecting.

Tom began explaining his hobby began 25 years ago. His presentation focused primarily on different equipment that is helpful to the collectors. He provided handouts on various coins, and samples of things he uses including: white gloves to protect the coins; magnifying glasses of different powers; and reference books for grading coins; and yearly "Red Books" identifying US coins. Tom also had samples of coins in his collection in various individual cases.

Kevin's focus of coin collecting is that of "mint sets". He started this hobby in 1967 and has most years' mints since that time. Mint sets began to be offered in 1947 and with the exception of two years, have been made available each year. Providing a video presentation, Kevin provided a chart with information on different coins and their value. Video also showed how mint set packaging has changed over the years. Value of sets lies with the uncirculated mint sets being packaged in their original holder.

Paul's collection was entirely different than that of Tom and Kevin. Paul began his collection in 1979 and he attributes his interest to his military career and visits to various foreign countries. His collection contained foreign coins and bills from 153 different countries. His oldest coin of 1604 is from Scotland. Paul did note that collecting foreign money isn't as expensive as collecting US monies. Paul ended the presentation by advising members "they should never put money in the bank". He went on to explain that as a child he kept coins in a band-aid can and was concerned that his siblings might take his collection so he buried them in a road bank in their back yard. Later, the bank was graded by a road crew and the coins were gone which confirmed his recommendation that "you should never put your money in a bank".

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 8:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Hap Daus – September 3rd;
- Jordan Holthaus – September 3rd;
- Debra McWilliams – September 4th;
- Arnie Roper – September 5th;
- Christine Budden – September 7th;
- Melissa Palfrey – September 10th;
- Mike Hahn – September 15th;
- Amanda Trewin – September 15th ;
- Robert Stephens – September 23rd.

SEPTEMBER – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- John Zielke and wife Molly – September 1st;
- Jim Boebel and wife Tami – September 3rd;
- Debra McWilliams and husband Harvey – September 4th;
- Charlie Clark and wife Joyce – September 8th;
- Darlene Masters and husband Jason – September 11th;
- George Byykkonen and wife Diane - September 14th;
- Deanna Hinderman and husband David – September 23rd;
- Tim Murphy and wife Kathy – September 26.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Kim Skemp – September 1, 1982;
- Wayne Wodarz – September 1, 1987;
- Jerry Schewe – September 1, 1992;
- Charlie Clark – September 20, 2002;
- Chad Holstein – September 28, 2016;
- Mark Haas – September 29, 2018;
- Priscilla Hahn – September 29, 2018.

SEPTEMBER - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS:

- Bills Plumbing and Heating – September 29, 2015;
- Queen B Radio – September 20, 2016;
- Heiser Hardward – September 28, 2016;
- Honkamp, P.C.– September 29, 2018.