



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights July 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 July 30, 2023 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN JULY

BUSINESS MEETING: JULY 7, 2023

ATTENDEES: There were 25 members present including: Carley Borcharding; Charlie Clark; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Eileen and Gary Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Doreen Hlavaty; Bob Hundhausen; Dianne Jentz; Maggie Kleisath; Clinton Langreck; Doug Martin; Eileen McCartney; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Mary Ann Shurson; Libby Sides; and Bob Stephens.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Past President Howard Crofoot at 7:04 a.m. Members then joined together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

Installation of New Member: Past President Crofoot inducted Clinton Langreck as our newest Club member. Past President Crofoot was Clinton's sponsor.

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** There was not a Mystery Greeter assigned so Past President Crofoot honored Bob Hundhausen with the mystery ticket for his support of the 5K run held on the 4th of July. *(It is noted that Bob's Edward D Jones Office supported the run along with Alaina Reeves, Ben Reeves & Brad Mootz's Edward D Jones businesses).*
- **Joker Draw:**
 - **Check to Gary Engelke:** It was noted that Gary Engelke received a check for \$316 for winning the Joker Draw at the meeting on June 30th.
 - **Joker Draw:** Tom Nall's ticket was drawn by Clinton Langreck, however Tom cut the 3 of Hearts.
 - **Breakfast Draw Winners:** Clinton Langreck and Mark Essex were the two members present, and Wayne Wodarz and Alaina Reeves were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in July.

Special Dates to Remember: Past President Crofoot provided a report on the following special July dates.

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Leon and Madge Neuheisel – July 11, 1970
- **Membership Anniversaries in July:**
 - Virgil Pufahl – July 1, 1975;
 - Jim Boll – July 1, 1976;
 - Carley Borcharding – July 24, 2017;
 - Mike Hahn – July 31, 2017;
 - Jim Boebel – July 24, 2019.

- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries in July:** None

Announcements / Information Shared:

- **Party in the Park – Thursday, July 20th:** A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to assist with grilling hotdogs and serving the hotdogs, ice cream and milk at Party in the Park on July 20th. Maxine Lane reported that a large grill is being provided for our use by Delta 3, hot dogs are being donated by Walmart, milk is being donated by Dick Loeffelholz, and committee will be attempting to get donations for ice cream and buns.
- **Cheese Curd Sales Events – Grant County Fair & Dairy Days:** Becky Schambow reported Alaina Reeves has developed an on-line signup sheet for members to sign up to work shifts at the Grant County Fair and Dairy Days events. These will be posted online soon.
- **Update on Steve Elvidge:** B. Schambow reported that Steve had surgery in Iowa City on July 5th. The surgery went well and he is home. He and Deb are anxious to get back to normal and return to meetings soon.
- **Update on President Palfrey:** B. Schambow reported that President Palfrey had hip surgery last week. Melissa reported to Schambow that “ice packs and physical therapy are her life”, but she is recuperating well.
- **Thank You Received from Badger Boys State Student:** A thank you letter was received and circulated from Dreyton Deglow thanking the Club for support of his attendance at Badger Boy’s State.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOARD MEETING CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2023: Past President Crofoot reviewed the following highlights from the Board meeting held on July 3, 2023.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

- **Period Ending 6-30-2023:** Past President Crofoot reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for period ending 6-30-23 that was submitted by Club Treasurer, Duane Borgen.
 - **Noted Grants Paid in June** consisted of:
 - \$500 to Inspiring Community from donations to the Inclusion Playground;
 - \$250 to Optimist International Foundation;
 - **Board Motion to Approve Financial Report:** Past President Crofoot reported a motion has been made by the Board to approve the June 30, 2023 Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Gary Engelke, motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS: Past President Crofoot noted he and Vice President Reeves will fill in for President Palfrey while she is recovering from surgery.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance / Administration:** Duane Borgen reported to Board.
 - **CD:** Club CD becomes due in July and will need to be cashed in.
 - **Bonding:** Treasurer and alternates are now bonded.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Party in the Park – July 20:** As noted above, the committee has been planning to serve hotdogs, ice cream and milk on behalf of the Club at the Chamber’s event honoring community volunteers.
 - **Club’s Volunteer of the Year to be recognized:** B. Schambow reported that President Palfrey submitted her nomination of a Club Member to be honored as our Club volunteer of the year at this event.
 - **Float Entry for Dairy Days Parade:** Plans to promote our Club at the Dairy Day parade on Saturday, September 9th include:
 - **Float:** that will feature promotion of the programs we support;
 - **Bag-Pipe Band:** Coordinated by Terri Ellis that will feature volunteer members wearing decorated bags over their heads and playing metal and/or PVC pipes & singing our Optimist Cheese Curd song.
 - **Charter Members:** as available riding in Ernie Thalmann’s convertible.
 - **Motion from Board for approval of \$200:** Past President Crofoot reported that the Board has made a motion to allow up to \$200 from the Joker Draw Fund for expenditures of decorating the float and Bag-Pipe Band expenses. Seconded by Charlie Clark, motion carried.
- **Membership:**
 - **Induction Report:**
 - Dianne Jentz and Lauren Ganzer were inducted on June 2nd;

- Amanda Trewin was inducted at the regular morning meeting and Deanna Hinderman was inducted at the informational noon meeting on June 9th;
- New Members' Inductions Planned: *Clinton Langreck's today*, and Darlene Masters on July 21st.
- **Withdrawal and Cancellation of Memberships:**
 - Lynne Parrott withdrew her membership application for personal/health reasons.
 - Melby Funeral Home and Crematory's FOO membership was deleted by OI on 6-20-23 for non-payment of dues.
- **Application & Induction Processes:** Past President Crofoot reported that B. Schambow has contacted OI representatives to gain recommendations from them relative to best practices for application and induction processes. Response is pending.
- **Now Report:** T. Ellis reported to the Board that she's in final stages of completing the NOW report to be sent to OI.
- **Recruitment of New Members:** Members were encouraged to continue to invite friends and acquaintances to learn about our Club.
- **Noon Meetings to Accommodate Those Who Can't Do Mornings:** Past President Crofoot reported that if we continue to have noon meetings in our next fiscal year, Board members will be asked to assist with leading these as upcoming President Alaina Reeves will not be able to attend both morning and noon meetings regularly.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **July Speakers:** Coordinated by Bob Hundhausen.
 - July 14 – Bill Mitchell, Artist & President/Owner of Rountree Gallery
 - *Noon Informational Meeting will also be held at A & W on July 14*
 - July 21 – Clint Langreck, new member and City Manager
 - July 28 - Dave Allen, former Optimist – Life in Retirement – Finding Purpose
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Books for Babies:** Crofoot reported that funds donated in memory of Fern Nall are now being used to purchase "Books for Babies".

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Suggestions from Maxine Lane for activities / events that the Board consider:** Continues to be tabled as President Palfrey was not present to present her thoughts.
- **2023-2024 Vice President / President Elect – Officers:** Bob Hundhausen has volunteered to run for this position.
- **2023-2024 Board Directors:**
 - Deb Elvidge does not feel she will be able to fulfill her term at this time. Amy Coffey has consented to continue in her place;
 - Eileen Engelke has volunteered to run for term (to replace L. Neuheisel);
 - **One More Volunteer Needed to Run for Director Position:** preferably a male to fill H. Crofoot's position. If interested in running for a Director's position, please contact President Palfrey or Becky Schambow.
- **Next Week – July 14th Meetings:**
 - **7:00 a.m. – Speaker:** Bill Mitchell, Rountree Gallery
 - **Noon:** Informational Meeting at A & W

OTHER BUSINESS: Nothing brought forward.

CONCLUSION:

- **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Eileen Engelke, seconded by Eileen McCartney to adjourn the meeting at 7:45. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – July 14, 2023

There were 34 members and 2 guests present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Alaina Reeves at 7:02 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Victoria Hundhausen, and Bill Mitchell (*speaker*)
- **Mystery Greeter:** Becky Schambow was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Steve Elvidge.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Week:** Gary Engelke – July 15th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Week:** Pat & Bob Weier- July 20, 2019
- **Joker Draw:** Ron Weier's ticket was drawn, however, he cut the 9 of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Party in the Park –** Volunteers are reminded to show up at 3:30 p.m. for set up. Members were encouraged to come & wear Optimist shirts to show support of our Club.
 - **Noon Informational Meeting Today at A & W**
 - **Grant County Fair & Dairy Days Cheese Curd Sales:** A sign-up sheet was circulated for members to sign up to cover shifts at the cheese curd sales events. A link was also sent out via email for volunteers to sign up electronically.
 - **Still Seeking Someone to Run for Board of Director's Position:** Members were advised that Club still needs member(s) (*preferably a male to replace Howard Crofoot*) to run for Board of Directors position(s). Members were advised to let Becky Schambow know if you have questions and/or are interested. Tom Nall responded he would be willing to run.
 - **Thank You Received:** A thank you letter from Grace Stombaugh, Scholarship Recipient was circulated.
- **Speaker for Next Week July 21:** Clinton Langreck – Optimist Member & City Manager
- **Today's Speaker: Bill Mitchell, Rountree Gallery –** recruited & introduced by Bob Hundhausen.

Bill Mitchell was introduced as a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Lancaster, WI. He exhibits his work regionally and nationally. He is currently the Gallery Director at Rountree Gallery in Platteville, which is a community run, non-profit gallery with regional and national exhibits. Bill also serves as an appointed member of The Wisconsin State Arts Board.

Bill's involvement with nonprofit organizations goes back three decades starting with the Chicago Artist Coalition, Windy City Arts and Midwest Ecological Landscape Association. Bill studied/received a BFA and MFA, with teaching assistantship, from Northern Illinois University.

With video, Bill provided information about Rountree Gallery, noting both the main level and second floor have five different exhibits each year. The Gallery hosts work by artists of all levels, including recognized artists, UW-Platteville student artists, and non-professionals. The Gallery also offers periodic classes.

The Gallery started in 1979 at UW-Platteville as a senior project. In 2018, Bill and his wife purchased the current building at 120 W. Main where the Gallery resides now. Besides the Gallery, they also lease space on the 2nd floor for a yoga studio.

You can see some of Bill's artwork on the PCA Trail.

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

WEEKLY MEETING – July 21, 2023

There were 30 members and 1 guest present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Alaina Reeves at 7:04 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Bob Hundhausen was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Tim Boldt.

- **Guests Welcomed:**
 - Erin Isabell – Platteville Public Library
 - Darlene Masters & Lisa Kratz – New Members
- **Presentation of Check for Summer Public Library Program:** A donation check was presented to Erin Isabell who thanked the Club for our donation.
- **Induction of Darlene Masters and Lisa Kratz:** Vice President Reeves inducted Darlene and Lisa as new members to our Club. Darlene's sponsor was President Melissa Palfrey, and Lisa's sponsor was Terri Ellis. *Sponsors were not present.*
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Jim Boebel – July 24th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Arnie & Jan Roper – July 26
- **Joker Draw:** Tom Nall's ticket was drawn, however he cut the Queen of Hearts.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Membership:**
 - OI reinstated Melby Funeral Home & Crematory on 7-18-23;
 - Membership Application submitted by Lisa Kratz who was installed at the meeting.
 - **Thank You to Volunteers and Those Who Showed up for Party in the Park:** Vice President Reeves thanked those who volunteered and showed up to support the Club on July 20th.
 - **Optimist Volunteer of the Year Recipient was:** Amy Coffey was nominated by Club President, Melissa Palfrey, and received our Club's nomination for "Volunteer of the Year". Amy was commended on her willingness to volunteer and serve our Club in many ways over her first year of membership.
 - **Signup for Cheese Curd Sales:** Signup sheet was circulated with encouragement for members to sign up for some still open shifts. Members can also sign up on-line.
 - **T-Shirts for Sale:** Optimist t-shirts have been ordered. There were extra shirts ordered and if members want one and haven't placed an order, they should contact Maxine Lane.
- **Speaker for Next Week – July 28 -** Dave Allen, former member, "Life in Retirement – Finding Purpose"
- **Today's Speaker:** Clinton Langreck – Optimist Member & City Manager, recruited by Bob Hundhausen, and introduced by Howard Crofoot.

Clint Langreck grew up in Neilsville, WI, which he noted was a small, farming community. Speaking further about his history prior to coming to Platteville he talked about his military service in the Army, where he served in Iraq. His service was very impressionable to him as it is where he felt he learned about the importance of having a strong government.

He continued his service as a National Guard "Candidate Officer and Trainer" at UW-Madison. In 2019 Clint was honored to attend a ceremony honoring Staff Sergeant Travis Atkins as Travis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic acts during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since arriving in Platteville and assuming his position as the City Manager, Clint noted he's learned that the citizens of Platteville are ambitious. He noted the many positive things the City has accomplished in recent years, including: the Pickleball Court; Industrial Park developments; Inclusive Playground; and now moving forward to building a new fire station.

He noted that Platteville has inspiring people and organizations who lead, "including Optimists" who do things that add to the vibrance of our community.

Clint noted he appreciates how Platteville's City Council engages with each other, and feels that it is the Council's job to represent the community and lay out the goals and visions. He feels it's his job as City Manager to work with staff to determine what it takes to implement those goals and visions.

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

WEEKLY MEETING – July 28, 2023

There were 21 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 Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Sarah Digman, and Dave Allen (*speaker*):
- **Presentation of Check as donation to Grant County Coordinated Service Team (CST) Resource Fair:** Vice President Reeves presented the Club's donation check to Sarah Digman from Grant County's CST to be used for their Resource Fair. Sarah thanked Club for our donation and explained that CST is part of the County's Social Services Department. They work with children and families as a whole, addressing areas of need and support. The Resource Fair has grown remarkably and features games, a light meal and treats and is open to all families. Back packs with school supplies are given to children at the fair.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Tom Nall was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Joy Schewe.
- **Special Dates to Remember:** There were no birthdays or anniversaries noted for this upcoming week
- **Joker Draw:** Howard Crofoot's ticket was drawn, however he drew the 7 of Hearts.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Volunteers Still Needed for Cheese Curd Sales:** Vice President Reeves noted that volunteers were still needed to fill shifts at upcoming cheese curd sales events. She mentioned that the Club now has insurance that allows adult family members, friends, and children to work at this event and encouraged members to ask individuals such as these if they'd be willing to sign up to help fill in gaps.
 - **Letter from OI and Award Patch for our 2023 Now Event:** A letter was received from OI recognizing the success of our NOW event. An award patch was received as well for our banner.
 - **Need Speaker Suggestion for Friday, August 18th:** Vice President Reeves noted that Tom Nall (*speaker recruiter for August*) is asking for suggestions to fill an opening for a speaker on August 18th. Members then provided some suggestions and those member(s) and Tom will follow-up.
- **Next Week – August 4th:** It was noted that our Business Meeting will be held next week.
- **Today's Speaker: Dave Allen- former member – "Life in Retirement – Finding Purpose"**

On behalf of Bob Hundhausen (*speaker recruiter for July*) Becky Schambow introduced Dave Allen as our speaker.

Dave grew up in Livingston, WI and was a graduate of Iowa Grant High School. He went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree at UW-Platteville, and then Masters Degrees from UW-Platteville and UW-Madison.

Dave worked in the Platteville Public Schools for 37 years as a Middle School Science Teacher, then the Middle School and Elementary Principal, and ultimately the District Director of Instruction. He worked at CESA 3 in Fennimore for 9 years as the Director of the New Teacher Support Group and worked for the State Principals Association. Dave has also been an Adjunct Lecturer at UW-Platteville.

Dave and his wife Sarah who now reside in Madison have three children, five grandchildren, and another one on the way.

Dave's presentation was both entertaining and informational, starting out his story as a young boy who was raised in a small farm community with a strict father and a mother who helped educate and develop his faith. He talked about "special people" throughout his youth and life that helped shape his life. He spoke of his 8th grade

science teacher who turned him on to academics. He commended his high-school principal who encouraged him and others stating “you are what you are becoming”.

After talking about the many special people in his life, including his wife, and talking about his successful work and personal experiences, he ended by talking about retirement and his need to find a new identity. He learned that “meaning and purpose doesn’t come from serving self”. He now spends time working with and serving seniors and noted life is about finding ways to serve, which in turn gives purpose.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS’ SPECIAL DAYS in AUGUST

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- Eileen Nickels – August 3;
- Maggie Kleisath – August 5;
- Jim Boll – August 9;
- Barb Stockhausen – August 28.

AUGUST - MEMBERS’ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Brad Brogley *and wife Jessica* – August 7;
- Mark Essex *and wife Karen* – August 9;
- Amanda Trewin *and husband Scott* – August 15;
- Maggie and Steve Kleisath – August 17;
- Kathy Kopp *and husband Joe* – August 19;
- Virgil Pufahl *and wife Marcia* - August 22;
- Ken Kamps *and wife Lois Jean* – August 23;
- Kim Skemp *and wife Cindy* – August 30.

AUGUST - MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Mike Olds – August 12, 1994;
- Diane VanNatta – August 20, 2004;
- Maggie and Steve Kleisath – August 31, 2012;
- Paul Budden – August 30, 2016;
- Chris Budden – August 4, 2017;
- Diane Paynter – August 12, 2019.

AUGUST - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dairy Queen – August 27, 2019