



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights October 2023

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

2023-2024 Officers: Alaina Reeves, President; Bob Hundhausen, Vice President; Melissa Palfrey, Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Becky Schambow, Secretary.

2023-2024 Board of Directors: Amy Coffey, Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Jordan Holthaus, Doreen Hlavaty, and Tom Nall

Published for Members October 31, 2023 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER 2023

BUSINESS MEETING: - October 6, 2023

ATTENDEES: There were 26 members (*and no guests*) present including: Chris and Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Amy Coffey; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Liinda Foht; Beth Frieders; Kevin Haertzen; Doreen Hlavaty; Dianne Jentz; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Maxine and Steve Lane; Doug Martin; Eileen McCartney; Ton Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; and Wayne Wodarz.

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

Special Dates to Remember:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Steve Kleisath – October 8;
 - Terri Ellis – October 9;
 - John Zuehlke – October 10.
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Dean and Vicki Feldman – October 10th
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Ken Kamps – October 1, 1970;
 - Deb McWilliams – October 20, 1995;
 - Ernie Thalman – October 17, 2008;
 - Brad Brogley – October 16, 2015;
 - Sultana Amin – October 21, 2022
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Weber Business Consulting – October 20, 2016;
 - Garvey's Auto Service – October 27, 2016

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** Linda Foht was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Beth Frieders.
- **Breakfast Drawing:** Leon Neuheisel and Bob Stephens were the two members present, and Steve Kleisath and Lauren Ganzer were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in October.
- **Joker Draw:** Libby Sides ticket was drawn, however, she cut the 2 of Diamonds.

Announcements – Information Shared:

- **Get Well to Tim Boldt:** A card was circulated for signatures wishing Tim Boldt well after he had knee surgery this past week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT: President Reeves provided a summary of Governing Board Meeting business conducted at their October 2, 2023 meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Borgen, Treasurer, submitted the Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 20, 2023 noting the balances of the Internal and Youth Accounts, which were reported at the Business Meeting. In addition, the following was reported:

- **Bill Niehaus – Gift:** Bill Niehaus returned our \$100 check Club sent to him for allowing our Club to store the Cheese Curd Trailer on his lot in the summer. Bill indicated it was his donation to the Club.
- **The Platteville School District:** \$100 grant donation to the 8th Grade Celebration was returned stating they did not need it.
- **Motion from Board:** President Reeves reported the Board has made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Charlie Clark, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance / Administration:**
 - **Preliminary Budget Draft with Budget Requests for 23-24 Fiscal Year:** President Reeves reported that a preliminary draft of the budget was shared with the Board. President Reeves noted the Finance Committee had met since the Board meeting to review grant requests and will make their recommendations to the Board at the Oct. 30th meeting. The proposed budget will then be presented to the Membership for final approval.
 - *Noted – the Finance Committee members are: Duane Borgen, Treasurer/Chair; President Reeves; Past President Palfrey; and Howard Crofoot*
- **Community Service:** Nothing to report.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes:**
 - Dairy Queen – Deleted by OI 8-29-23 due to nonpayment of dues;
 - Deb and Steve Elvidge – resigned/deleted on 9-20-23 due to their move to Dubuque;
 - Aaron Kinard – new member – Sept. 22, 2023;
 - Queen B Radio – deleted by OI on 9-29-23 due to non-payment, however, it is hopeful that OI will agree to reinstate Queen B when they receive payment.
 - **NOW Dance Plans:** Lutheran Church of Peace has agreed to allow our Club to use their fellowship hall for a NOW Dance.
 - It was recommended it be a spring-time dance (*i.e. a Spring Fling*), possibly planned/facilitated by the Membership and Fellowship Committees.
 - The dance event would take place of our usual NOW luncheon event.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** Nothing to report.
- **Cheese Curd:**
 - **Committee Recommendation for Donations to Country Club and Pickle-ball Club:**
 - **Motion from Board:** President Reeves reported that the Board has made a motion to donate \$100 to the Country Club (*for use of their kitchen to make batter*) and \$50 to the Pickle-ball Club (*for allowing us to use their shed during Dairy Days*). Seconded by Charlie Clark, motion carried.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Speakers** for October include:
 - **October 13, Dr. Jeff White**, The next chapter of your life followed by “Where is COVID”? -*coordinated by Maxine Lane;*
 - **October 20, Dr. Tammy Evetovich**, UW Platteville Chancellor, Let's get to know the Chancellor - *coordinated by Maxine Lane;*
 - **October 27, Jeff Gard**, UW Pioneer Basketball Program – *coordinated by Tim Boldt*
 - **Annual Installation and Awards Banquet held Sept. 24, 2023:** President Reeves provided report on awards.

- **Noted Awards were Presented as Follows:**
 - Optimist of the Year – Tim Boldt;
 - Outstanding Member of the Year Award – Tom Nall;
 - Chuck Thalmann Service Award – Maggie Kleisath;
 - President’s Citation – Leon Neuheisel;
 - Outgoing President Award – Melissa Palfrey
- **Appreciation Noted:** Linda Thomas, Fellowship Chair, A. Reeves and D. Hlavaty, Board members, were noted for a great job planning and implementing the banquet.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Scholarships for 24:** President Reeves reported a letter was received from Platteville High School questioning whether or not our Club would be providing scholarships this year to members of the Class of 2024. The Board concurred that we would follow same amounts and policy as in prior year. The Awards Night is scheduled for May 6.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to discuss

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Committee Chair/Liaison:** President Reeves reported the following Board members agreed to serve as the Liaison (*or chairs*) of the following committees:
 - Finance – Duane Borgen, Treasurer, Chair;
 - Community Service – Tom Nall, Liaison. *Member, Maxine Lane, will continue to be Chair,*
 - Membership – Terri Ellis, Chair; will continue to Co-Chair with *Member, Charlie Clark,*
 - Publicity – Melissa Palfrey, Chair;
 - Cheese Curd – Jordan Holthaus, Chair
 - Fellowship – Mark Essex, Liaison with Doreen Hlavaty
 - Youth – Amy Coffey, Chair.
- **Membership Recruitment for Committees:** President Reeves will be sending out an email with descriptions of committees and a link for members to sign up on-line for committees they may be interested in serving on. Members were encouraged to sign up for only one committee. It was noted that the Publicity Committee is looking for member(s) who have website experience and both the Membership and Community Service Committee would like more members.
- **Policy on Demographic Information & Roster Information:** This policy was reviewed with Board members and it was noted that per policy, Board members can have access to the roster, but they can only use members’ demographic information for Optimist business. Members’ information is not to be shared with non-Board members without member(s) consent. A question was raised on whether or not members can use their personal contact base for contacting members. This was felt to be okay, if they have relationships as friends with those members.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Monday, October 30, 2023

OTHER BUSINESS FROM MEMBERSHIP:

- **Noon Meetings:** A question was raised relative to attendance at newly offered noon meetings and whether or not the meetings have been successful in recruiting new members? President Reeves reported that attendance has not been taken, but meetings she’s attended have had about five people in attendance. In some instances, those attending were those who are unable to attend morning meetings, but in other cases, they are people who attended the morning meeting. It was suggested that the facilitators (*primarily Melissa Palfrey and Terri Ellis*) be asked to monitor and provide report to the Board.
- **Update on Gary Engelke:** Maxine Lane reported that Gary continues to make progress and with therapy, a full recovery is expected. He and Eileen have been staying at Lane’s home, but it is anticipated they will be able to return to their own home on Sunday, October 8th. Maxine stated that Gary and Eileen would welcome visitors.

CONCLUSION:

- **Next Week – October 13th:** President Reeves noted that Past President Palfrey will be facilitating the meeting due to Reeve’s travels to attend her sister’s wedding.

- **Speaker at 7:00 a.m. Meeting** - Dr. Jeff White will be speaking on “The next chapter of your life”, followed by “Where is COVID”?
- **Noon Informational Meeting** – will be held at A & W.
- **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Maxine Lane, seconded by Paul Budden, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - October 13, 2023

There were 33 members present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Past President, Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Speaker Welcomed:** A member and also our guest speaker, Dr. Jeff White was welcomed.
- **Appreciation to Wayne Wodarz:** Thanks to Wayne Wodarz for filling in for Maxine Lane in introducing our speaker and also taking minutes. Maxine was to cover for Club Secretary, Becky Schambow; however, did not feel comfortable coming to the meeting with a cold.
- **Installation of Aaron Kinard:** Accompanied by sponsor, Wayne Wodarz, new member, Aaron Kinard was installed by Past President, Palfrey.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Jerry Schewe was greeted by Mary Ann Shurson.
- **Special Dates this upcoming week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** None
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:** Dr. Jeff White and wife Amy, celebrate a wedding anniversary on October 14
- **Joker Draw:** Joy Schewe’s number was drawn, however she cut the Queen of Spades.
- **Announcements/Items Discussed:**
 - **Congratulations to Jordan and Karina Holthaus:** A card was circulated for Jordan and Karina Holthaus congratulating them on the birth of their daughter.
 - **SWIS Conference Oct. 7, 23 Review:** Jerry Schewe reported the district is looking at a \$2 increase in dues per Ol. He also stated the focus on behalf of the SWIS Governor for 23-24 will be Respect for Law.
 - **Review of Accounts:** Club Treasurer, Duane Borgen is looking for three volunteers to conduct the annual review of accounts. Jerry Schewe will prepare a report covering the review and verifying financials.
 - **Committee Sign Up:** Members were encouraged to sign up for committees. Descriptions and sign up will be sent via email. Members can respond to President Alaina Reeves or Becky Schambow.
 - **Thank you from Bakary Saidykhen:** for the opportunity to speak on Sept. 22, 2023.
- **Upcoming Speaker:** Dr. Tammy Evetovich, UW Chancellor will join us on October 20.
- **Today’s Speaker:** Member, Dr. Jeff White was invited as our speaker by Maxine Lane. We heard about “The next chapter of your life ‘Aging’ in addition to a brief update on Covid.” Time was allowed for questions while Dr. White gave points on aging healthy.
 - **Exercise** – 30 minutes/day, 5 times/week will extend lifetime. Adding weight lifting, bowling, golf, etc. will also be helpful.
 - **Nutrition** – try to eat the amount of calories that you will burn per day. Smaller portions more frequently can be helpful rather than large meals.
 - **Cognitive Stimulation** – mental health is very important on aging. Puzzles, games, videos...challenge your brain!
 - **Social Engagement** – Friendship is a large predictor and helper in living a longer life. Optimistic attitude is huge. Optimists are in great shape!

- **Update on Covid:** It being 8:00 a.m., Dr. White gave a brief update on COVID, stating it is still active and of concern and encouraged everyone to get the new shot.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 8:05

Recorded by: Wayne Wodarz, typed by Maxine Lane, on behalf of Club Secretary, Becky Schambow

WEEKLY MEETING – October 20, 2023

There were 28 members and 2 guests present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Dr. Tammy Evetovich, (*speaker*) and Victoria Hundhausen were welcomed.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Diane VanNatta – October 22nd;
 - Carley Borcharding – October 25th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Ron & Jan Weier - Oct 26
 - **Special Birthday – Ken Kamps – 90th Birthday on October 28th:** President Reeves announced that Charter Member, Ken Kamps, would be celebrating his 90th birthday on October 28th. As he will not be at our next meeting where we could acknowledge this special date, the members sang him the whole birthday song (*as opposed to our usual shortened version*). All wished him a very happy birthday.
- **Joker Draw:** Joy Schewe's number was drawn, and she gave her husband Jerry the opportunity to draw the Joker. Jerry, however, ended up with the King of Clubs.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Sympathies to Emmily Dreessens:** A card was circulated for signatures to be sent to Dan & Emmily Dreessen in sympathy for the loss of Emmily's grandmother
 - **Optimist of the Year Award Presentation to Tim Boldt:** Tim was not able to attend the Awards Banquet held in September, but was honored today by President Reeves on behalf of Past President Melissa Palfrey with the "Optimist of the Year Award".
 - **Presentation of Appreciation Certificate to Chad Holstein – Country Kitchen:** President Reeves presented a certificate of appreciation to our member (*and Country Kitchen owner*) for supporting our cheese curd events with a donation. President Reeves also reported that appreciation certificates were sent or delivered to the following businesses for their support to our cheese curd events:
 - Advance Auto Parts;
 - Holthaus State Farm;
 - Allegiant Oil in Lancaster;
 - Bill Niehaus – Niehaus Plumbing & Heating;
 - Platteville Country Club;
 - Platteville Area Pickleball Association.
- **Volunteers – to conduct Review of Accounts:** President Reeves reported that Duane Borgen, Treasurer, was still seeking two more members to assist Jerry Schewe with conducting the "Annual Review of Accounts". Dan Engelke and Dianne Jentz volunteered.
- **Speaker for Next Week, October 27th:** Jeff Gard, UW Pioneer Basketball Program
- **Today's Speaker:** Dr. Tammy Evetovich, was recruited and introduced by Maxine Lane.

Dr. Tammy Evetovich was appointed the 15th Chancellor at UW-Platteville this past spring. Previously she served as the Interim Chancellor for about one year and the role of Provost for two years at UW-Platteville. Chancellor Evetovich's priorities include student success and providing experiential learning opportunities that prepare students to be active and engaged members of our communities. She believes students can be successful in many ways, but if we are supporting their growth mentally, physically, intellectually, and socially, graduation rates, career preparation, and personal goal attainment will naturally follow.

Dr. Evetovich first noted she was thrilled and honored to be with us today. She provided some personal history, noting she grew up on a farm in Nebraska, the youngest of five kids, which instilled in her an appreciation of the mid-west and rural areas. Her husband, Mark, is the Principal at Shullsburg Schools and together they have two children, a daughter who is a physical therapist, and a son who is working on his MBA.

She is a firm believer in looking at data to make decisions and noted that under her leadership, there are five key areas of focus at the University including:

- Enrollment, which has declined. They are looking closely at data and she was pleased to report that it has gone up this year and is at 6702.
- Budget;
- Strategic Planning;
- Philanthropy;
- Wellness, both social and occupational wellness.

Dr. Evetovich was pleased to report the addition of UW-Platteville's PA program, being provided in partnership with UW-Madison. She also reported that collaboratively with UW Oshkosh, they have a nursing program where students can do their first three years towards BS degree at Platteville, and then do their 4th year on-line with Oshkosh.

When asked what changes she's made since she was named Chancellor, she reported that she expanded her cabinet, brought in a data expert, and has brought more people to the table to start solving problems.

In conclusion, she stated that she believes UW Platteville needs to partner with the community and she recognizes importance of being out in the community.

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

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – October 27, 2023

There were 24 members and 1 guest present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Jeff Gard, UW Platteville Basketball Coach (*speaker*)

- **Mystery Greeter:** Ron Weier was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Kevin Haerten.

- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Ken Kamps – 90th birthday on October 28;
 - Clinton Langreck – October 29th
 - Gene Weber (*FOO member present today*) – October 30th.
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None

- **Joker Draw:** Ron Weier's ticket was drawn, however he drew the Queen of Clubs.

- **Announcements/Items Discussed:**
 - **Invitation to Attend Focus Group Meetings for Pedestrian/Bicyclists at Platteville Library:** President Reeves reported receipt of an email from Mary Malischke advising the Optimist Club that the City has received a grant to use towards bike and pedestrian safety. The email invited Club members to attend a focus group meeting where Alyssa Schaeffer, Assistant Planner, Southwest WI Regional Planning Commission wants to gain citizen's thoughts on strengths of bike and pedestrian system and places for improvement. The focus group meetings will be held at the Platteville Library on the following dates and times: October 27th from 10-11 a.m. for Seniors 60+; and on November 2nd from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. for all ages.

- **Committee Sign Up:** A sheet containing brief descriptions of Club's various committees was circulated. Members were encouraged to sign up to serve on committees they may be interested in serving on. President Reeves reported that this signup sheet will be sent out to all members via email.
- **Event at Katie's Garden:** Bob Hunhausen announced that the Building Platteville organization has set up Halloween displays at Katie's Garden where children will receive treats and popcorn tonight (Oct. 28th) from 5-8 p.m. and tomorrow night. Books from the Optimist Club will also be given out at these events.
- **Next Week – November 3rd – will be a Business Meeting**
- **Today's Speaker:** Jeff Gard, UW Platteville Pioneer Basketball Coach, recruited and introduced by Club member Tim Boldt, who is also the President of UW Platteville's Booster Club.

Coach Gard has been the Head Basketball Coach for 15 years at UW-Platteville. Coach Gard began his presentation by stating he felt that our Club's beliefs/creed tie in with the UW's basketball program.

Noting that the program started with 30 players at the beginning of the year, the roster is now set at 21. He comically said that the "new hill" probably had something to do with the loss of some of the players. (*The hill team members used in prior years' workouts now has solar panels on it.*) Players work with a strength coach four days each week and practices have been extremely competitive. He noted that only two of the team members will be graduating this year.

Coach Gard was proud to say the team has collectively performed 230 hours of community service, noting they have volunteered at food pantries, Dairy Days, and "Reading with Pioneers" program with Platteville and other local students. He's hopeful that after they graduate, they will take a desire back to their home towns to be involved with their communities. Coach was appreciative of the Community's support at games, noting that thus far there have been 430 season tickets sold, which is an increase over those sold last year. Coach noted that letters will soon go out to fans who may want to provide meals to the team over break.

Upcoming events he highlighted included:

- Friday, November 3rd there will be luncheon at noon at Fidelity Bank where information will be provided about the program;
- Guarding Against Cancer events will take place at WIAC schools as fund raisers for CA research;
- Platteville Pioneers will have a non-conference game with the UW Madison Badgers in 2025 for a "Guarding Against CA" event.
- Monday, November 6th there will be a trick-or-treat event from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Field House.

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

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in UPCOMING NOVEMBER 2023

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Dr. Jeff White – November 7th;
- Brad Brogley – November 9th;
- Emmily Dreessens – November 17th;
- George Byykkonen and Mike Olds – November 18th;
- Doreen Hlavaty – November 19th;
- Joy Schewe – November 24th;
- Mary Sieckman and Linda Foht – November 25th.

NOVEMBER – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Doug and Kathy Martin – November 11th.

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Joy Schewe – November 16, 2015;

- Dan Engelke – November 19, 2015;
- Mark Essex – November 1, 2019.

NOVEMBER - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS ANNIVERSARIES:

- Bel-Aire Home Improvement – November 26, 2018.