

Currently Meeting 7:00 AM Fridays at Country Kitchen, Hwy 151, Platteville, WI



"To Impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"

Platteville Optimist Weekly Bulletin – Friday, May 11, 2018

Attendance: 31 Members – Tim Boldt, Carley Borcherding, Duane Borgen, Paul Budden, Chris Budden, Peggy Compton, Dan Engelke, Gary Engelke, Beth Frieders, Kevin Haertzen, Ken Kamps, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Marilyn Mead, Gary Munson, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Virg Pufahl, Becky Schambow, Greg Sieckman, Mary Sieckman, Bob Stephens, Barb Stockhausen, Linda Thomas, John Urness, Gene Weber, Bob Weier, Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz.

Mystery Greeter: Fern Nall was the designated 'greeter' this morning, greeting Chris Budden.

Joker Draw: Mr. Lucky, Bob Weier, was holding the ticket number when called, drawing the 7 of Hearts.

Announcements:

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None to celebrate this morning.

<u>Trail of Tales:</u> Update by C Borcherding, sharing new brochures on the 2018 schedule and window posters for anyone who could put up in a place of business.

50th Anniversary: President Wodarz summarized recent updates:

*Tot slide delivered to the Platteville Aquatic Center,

*Working with Luke Peters for dedication date,

*Invitations were forwarded on Monday, May 7, with rsvp to Maxine

<u>SWIS District Conference Recap</u>: Governor Gary reported that 14 youth participated in the District Oratorical Competition at the WI Dells. Attendees numbered approximately 120 with members, students and student families. Governor Gary stated it was again an excellent turnout for the 3^{rd} quarter conference.

<u>Officer/Board Member Update:</u> President Wodarz summarized the Administrative Team for 2018-2019 as follows: President, Barb Stockhausen, First VP, Becky Schambow, Second VP, Tom Nall, Secretary, Maxine Lane, Treasurer, Duane Borgen, and new Board Members, Pat Moxness and Chris Budden. We still need one Board Member. President Wodarz thanked Tom Nall, Pat Moxness and Chris Budden for sharing their time and talent on the Board of Directors.

<u>PHS Scholarship</u>: President Wodarz will present on behalf of the club on Monday, May 14th. Following the presentation, at the next membership meeting, he will share the name of the recipient.

Program: Maxine introduced our speaker for today, Kate Koziol, an Economic Development Specialist with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, serving five counties in the region. In that role she also serves as the Executive Director of the Platteville Business Incubator and as Richland County's contracted part time economic developer. She is married to a soon-to-be-retiring Chicago Firefighter and has two above average 20 something kids.

Kate applied for the position of Executive Director with the announcement that Ed White was leaving his position. One of several applicants, she was the selected applicant and assumed her role just a little over a year ago. Maxine stated that Kate is herself an entrepreneur, starting, building and finally selling her own business in the Chicago area.

Kate stated that the Incubator is currently at 87% capacity. There are currently 20 businesses within the Incubator, which is a 26,000 square foot building, and 17,000 square feet is used with the current tenants. In her role, Kate serves as a resource for the tenants, making available information and/or outside contacts to help them become successful businesses, especially in areas that are not the tenant's strong points. She stated she likes to think of herself as a coach for research. She has a passion for seeing real things created by real people. One of her primary goals is to build businesses within the Incubator that will

remain locally. She referred to these businesses as 'Homegrown'.

Kate made mention of the upcoming Incubator Fest, scheduled for Thursday, May 16 from 5:00-7:00, hoping many of the Optimists will attend. There will be food, refreshments, entertainment and tours of the tenants who chose to participate. This is an opportunity for the community to learn and experience what the Incubator really does for the community as well as the tenants.

Time was allowed for many questions.

Weekly Speakers:

Thank you to Maxine Lane for coordinating our May speakers.

May 18 – Laura Gutierrez, Secretary WI Dept. Safety & Professional Services – Heroin in our Communities

May 25 - Ellen Warren, Clarity Clinic - Educating the community on health issues



