

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

CURRENTLY MEETING 7:00 AM FRIDAYS AT COUNTRY KITCHEN, HWY 151, PLATTEVILLE, WI

Friday, April 29, 2016

Attendance: (Members) Ron Weier*, Ken Kamps*, John Urness*, Maxine Lane*, Steve Lane* Wayne Wodarz*, Howard Crofoot, Bob Weier*, Gary Engelke*, Beth Frieders, Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel*, Duane Borgen, Kevin Haertzen*, Tim Boldt, Becki Schambow, Fern Nall, Tom Nall*, Ernie Thalman, Virg Pufahl, Bob Stephens, Dan Engelke*, Guy Stead.

Duane Borgen introduced Troy Ludlum and his son Lucas, who took first place (Gold Medal) in the 8 year old category at the District Tri-Star Basketball event in Mukwonago earlier this month.

*wore Optimist attire.

Mystery Greeter: Tim Boldt shook the hand of mystery greeter Duane B. at just the right time, giving Tim a free Joker Draw ticket.

Luck of the Draw: The excitement was obvious as the ticket number belonging to Bob Weier was read. The excitement was short lived as he was unable to draw the winning joker.

Business Meeting:

- ** Birthday wishes were extended to Tom Nall (4/29), Jim Olds (4/30) and Bob Weier (5/2).
- ** Congratulations were in order for Diane VanNatta, celebrating a wedding anniversary on May 3.
- ***President Weier stated he, Wayne Wodarz and Ken Kamps will be helping the Noon Optimist Club with their bike rodeo on April 30th from 9:00 to 11:00.
- ** President Weier stated the Platteville Area Optimists were organizing a Soccer Skills program for June 4.
- ** Howard Crofoot updated the membership on the Camp Hometown Hero Fundraiser with the tubes of candy that was organized by the UW-P Optimist Club. Between the donations received from the candy tubes and sale of brats, a total of \$530.00 was raised.

Program:

Leon introduced **Steve Elvidge**, a former Art Teacher at Platteville and Lancaster, a school counselor in Hazel Green, and now the creator of beautiful art objects from 'somewhat' ugly gords! It was a pleasure



Duane Borgen, chairperson for the local Tri-Star Basketball event, with SWIS District Gov. Howard Crofoot, Lucas Ludlum, gold medal winner in the 8 year old category at the district level competition, and his father, Troy Ludlum.

to welcome Steve Elvidge and marvel at what he could do with a gord.

Steve took us through the planting to harvesting/drying/cleaning to his eventual beautification. His interest started somewhat because of his background as an art teacher, followed by seeing the gord sculptures at craft/art shows. Steve explained that depending on what image/appearance you desire on the completed piece of gord art dictates what product you use in your designing process.

Steve brought with him several gords that he had designed and explained what process he used to create the final appearance. His samples included whimsical design, birch wood, leaves, jewelry and chimes. All were absolutely beautiful. He sells at Farmers Market and craft shows throughout the area.



Guest presenter Steve Elvidge and host Leon holding art pieces created by Steve from gordes.

Howard then introduced a returning guest speaker, **Karen Kurt**, Platteville City Manager, who gave us a quick update on the city's busy summer. Members were given a brochure covering the projects along with hearing the verbal update from Karen. She covered the Library Block project, expansion of Steve's Pizza, now going to a 2 story construction vs a 3 story, talked about the Bonson Street Construction and the hope this would be completed by the time of Party in the Park and stated a committee has been formed to consider several proposals on the former Pioneer Ford Site. Karen welcomed and responded to questions from membership.

Upcoming Speakers:

5/13 - Kim Heinrichs, talking about writing/publishing her book "Who's Got Lilly's Swimsuit?"

5/20 - Rita Udelhoven, Owner, Mindful Solutions Counseling and UW-P Psychology Instructor

5/27 - Hannah Campbell-Gustafson, Director, Grant County Family Promise

Minutes recorded and submitted by Maxine Lane; edited for "Rooster Call" by Charlie Clark.

