



# Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights May 2024

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 on June 9, 2024 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN MAY 2024

### **BUSINESS MEETING: - MAY 3, 2024**

**Attendance:** There were 31 members and 2 guests present including: Carley Borcherding; Chris and Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Terri Ellis; Dan Engelke; Eileen and Gary Engelke; Mark Essex; Curt and Robin Fatzinger; Linda Fohrt; Beth Frieders; Doreen Hlavaty; Bob Hundhausen; Dianne Jentz; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Maxine Lane; Doug Martin; Michael Miller; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Dorothy Price; Becky Schambow; Joy and Jerry Schewe; Lisa Schmitt; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; Ron Weier; and guests, Beth Flesch and Aaron McVicker.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President B. Hundhausen at 7:00 a.m.

**Guests Welcomed:** Vice President Hundhausen welcomed Beth Flesch, representing Special Olympics, and Aaron McVicker, owner of new "Tidal Wave" business as our guests.

**Grant Check Presentation to Special Olympics:** A grant check for \$300 to Special Olympics was presented to Beth Flesch. Beth thanked the Optimist Club for our donation and reported that the donation will help with transportation costs for athletes to compete at the regional track meet.

**Installation of New Members:** Vice President, joined by sponsors, installed the following new members:

- Dorothy Price, sponsored by Doreen Hlavaty;
- Curt and Robin Fatzinger, sponsored by Dianne Jentz;
- Michael Miller, sponsored by Mark Essex.

### **Special Dates to Remember:**

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Diane and Terry VanNatta – May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
  - Arnie Roper – May 1, 1977;
  - Leon Neuheisel – May 24, 2011;
  - Melissa Palfrey – May 19, 2021;
  - Lisa Schmitt – May 22, 2021;
  - Doreen Hlavaty – May 25, 2021;
  - Deanna Hinderman, Lauren Ganzer, Dianne Jentz, and Amanda Trewin – May 20, 2023.
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Month:** None

### Meeting Activities:

- **Breakfast Drawing:** Robin Fatzinger and Dan Engelke were the two members present, and Howard Crofoot and Barb Stockhausen were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in May.
- **Joker Draw:** Charlie Clark's ticket was drawn, however, he cut the 8 of Spades.

### Announcements – Information Shared:

- **Bob's "Useless Observation":** Vice President Hundhausen provided "useless observation" on his favorite movies he remembered impressed him as a child. He named "The Exorcist" that thoroughly scared him, and "Ground Hog's Day", and related the story line to our creed of "giving so much time to self-improvement".
- **Brat Sale on May 10:** Vice President Hundhausen announced that a brat sale was scheduled for this day from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at his Edward Jones office. Proceeds will go towards the May 17<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing supporting the Grant County Sheriff's Department.
- **Golf Outing on May 17<sup>th</sup>:** A sign-up sheet was circulated requesting volunteers to assist at the Golf Outing.
- **PCA Trail Map:** Was provided to interested members.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT from April 29, 2024:** Highlights of the meeting were presented by Vice President, B. Hundhausen

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Vice President Hundhausen reviewed the Treasurer's Report for period ending April 30, 2024, which included information on the Internal and Youth Account balances.

- Grants Paid in April:
  - CESA 3, for Champion Games - \$500;
  - Platteville Fire Department, for fire safety program - \$175;
  - Family Advocates, donation - \$800
- **Approval:** Vice President Hundhausen reported the Board has made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for period ending April 30, 2024. Seconded by Leon Neuheisel, motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Finance / Administration:**
  - **Dues Report:** D. Borgen reported to the Board that 32 dues statements were sent out. He received notices from 4 individuals who chose not to renew, and 22 payments. There were 6 members who had not yet paid and their names were referred to the Membership Committee for follow-up. *It was noted that two of those 6 had paid since the Board meeting and 4 were still pending.*)
- **Community Service:**
  - **Golf Outing Update – May 17<sup>th</sup>:** Plans are in place for the Golf Outing.
  - **Suggestion for Purchase of Bench for Katie's Garden:** Maxine Lane submitted a suggestion that Club members contribute money for purchase of a bench in honor of the Garden's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be discussed further at the June Board meeting.
- **Membership:**
  - **Membership Changes** reported:
    - Non-renewals: Greg Sieckman on 4-4-24; Darlene Masters on 4-16-24
    - New Members:
      - Curt and Robin Fatzinger – 4-26-24 & Michael Miller on 4-26-24.
      - Dorothy Place - May 3.

- **April 12, 2024 Informational Meeting Attendance Report:** T. Ellis reported that she and Deanna Hinderman attended.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Friday Meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>:** It was noted that this Social Meeting will be held at noon at Los Amigos.
- **Members Getting Awards at State:** It was reported that two of our members are receiving awards at the State Main Street Association. Deanna Hinderman will receive the “Community Champion” award, and Eileen Nickels will be receiving the “Main Street Hall of Fame”.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** No report.
- **Cheese Curd:** It was reported the Committee met on May 1<sup>st</sup> and have begun to plan for our Club’s cheese curd sales this summer.
- **Fellowship/Weekly Programs:**
  - **Speakers for May coordinated by Maxine Lane were reported as follows:**
    - May 10<sup>th</sup> – Sheriff Nate Dreckman – Grant County Sheriff
    - May 17<sup>th</sup> Patti Cullen, Ben’s Hope – Suicide Awareness
    - May 24<sup>th</sup>, Mike, JoAnn & Mitchell McNett – Farm Accident Miracle
    - May 31<sup>st</sup> – Doug McKinley, Chief, and Josh Grabandt Lieutenant – Platteville Police Dept. – Update on Crime in our Community
  - **Possible Donation to A Speaker’s Program:** It was reported that the Board discussed a question presented to them by Maxine Lane on whether or not the Club would consider donating to a speaker’s program. It was noted that a grant had been provided to the named program in this fiscal year. Consensus of the Board was that speakers can be advised that applications for grants are made available on our website and can be submitted for consideration in the yearly budgeting process.
- **Youth Activities:**
  - **Tri-Star Basketball District Contest:** It was reported that 15 of our local contest winners went on to compete at the district level. Board was aware that two had placed at the district, but had no information about the others.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **President’s Goal Update:** It was reported that President Reeves has asked Board members to provide their thoughts/recommendations relative to grant donation guidelines/process.
- **Banner on Main Street:** No response was received relative to question if our Optimist Club could be featured on one of the new banners being put up on Main Street.
- **Creed Banner:** Appreciation was extended to Mark Essex for repairing one of our Creed banners.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Request to Sponsor New Club “Charter Fee” in Prairie du Chien:** Maxine Lane had submitted a request to sponsor a new club at Prairie du Chien. It was reported that Linda Thomas was very instrumental in working with citizens of Prairie du Chien, which is Linda’s home town.
  - **Motion:** Vice President Hundhausen reported a motion had been made by the Board “to provide the \$350 charter fee for the new club sponsorship, to be paid from Joker fund”. Seconded by Linda Foht, motion carried. *It was noted that the payment is dependent on a final decision made by people in Prairie du Chien.*
- **New Fire Department Capital Campaign:**
  - **Motion:** Vice President Hundhausen reported that the Board had made a motion “to donate \$500 at this time, payable from the miscellaneous fund, with an additional pledge of \$4500 to be paid out over the next four years to the Capital Campaign for the new fire department”. *(Note – for a total \$5000.)* Seconded by Ron Weier, motion carried.

## **CONCLUSION:**

- **Next Board Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom
- **Next Week's Speaker – May 10th:** Sheriff Nate Dreckman – Grant County Sheriff
- **Noon Informational Meeting:** Scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at Los Amigos
- **Motion to Adjourn:** Dan Engelke made a motion, seconded by Chris Budden, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 a.m. Motion carried.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **WEEKLY MEETING - May 10, 2024**

**Attendance:** There were 31 members and 4 guests present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Grant County Sheriff Nate Dreckman and Captain Craig Reukauf (*speakers*) and Chief Doug McKinley and Lt. Josh Grabandt from the Platteville Police Department.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Paul Budden, greeting Libby Sides.
- **Special Dates to Remember:** There were no birthdays or wedding anniversaries this upcoming week.
- **Joker Draw:** Curt Fatzinger's ticket was drawn, however, he drew the 7 of Hearts.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Brat Sale:** Members were reminded there was a brat sale at Hundhausen's Edward Jones office from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today; proceeds to go to Golf Outing supporting Grant County Sheriff's Department.
- **Speaker(s) for Next Week – May 17, 2024** - Patti Cullen, Ben's Hope – Suicide Awareness
- **Today's Speakers:** Noting that May is recognized by the SWIS District Governor as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month", she introduced Grant County Sheriff, Nate Dreckman and Captain Craig Reukauf, who Maxine had recruited to speak today.

Sheriff Dreckman acknowledged the week as "Correction Officers' Week" and his appreciation of the staff at the Grant County Sheriff's Office was evident. He noted that recruiting and retention of officers is a struggle across the board with most agencies. His challenges include the fact that officer shortages increase overtime costs as they have to cover shifts.

He reported that the Department goes to colleges in an attempt to recruit, but he stated there are difficulties with the current generation's interest in law enforcement as a career.

Sheriff Dreckman noted that the average age of juvenile's committing violent crimes is currently age 19, younger than the previous average of 23 years of age.

When asked about his feelings of legalization of marijuana, he indicated he was opposed. He stated that many states who have legalized marijuana now have regrets as there have been too many changes to the product, with products getting crossed into other products.

In an effort to support the officers, the department has wellness initiatives, including one day each year where they go to Madison for a class on “healthy minds”. They also participate in peer support teams.

Captain Reukauf, who is a lifelong Grant County resident and is the current Grant County Jail Administrator provided information on the jail. He reported that the jail can house up to 100 inmates and their average population is between 40 and 60. The average stay is two weeks. The jail has 16 employees when fully staffed; 8 male and 8 female. He noted that staffing and retention of jailers is an obstacle. He stated that although law enforcement jobs have challenges, they are rewarding as well.

A big challenge for the jail results from the decrease in mental health facilities, which results in individuals with mental health concerns being placed in the jail until a mental health facility bed would come available.

Some programs provided at the jail for the inmates include: NA and AA virtual meetings; church services; Mindfulness and Recovery programs; GED courses; Workforce Development; and the Huber Program

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

### **WEEKLY MEETING - May 17, 2024**

**Attendance:** 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:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Patti and Terry Cullen (*speakers*) were we welcomed as our guests.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Doug Martin, greeting Ken Kamps.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Becky Schambow, May 22nd
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Alaina Reeves & Jeff McDonald – May 20, 2023
- **Joker Draw:** Chris Budden’s ticket was drawn, however, she drew the 3 of Clubs.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Welcome to Kim Woodworth:** President Reeves welcomed Kim as a new member. Kim will be officially installed at a later date.
  - **Summer Social – Sign up to Attend “Rumors of Fleetwood Mac Concert” – August 1<sup>st</sup> in Madison:** An email has been sent out announcing this social event for the Club. A sign-up sheet was circulated.
  - **Golf Outing May 17<sup>th</sup>:** Members who had volunteered to work at this event were reminded to show up about 10:00 a.m. today.
  - **Sippy Cup Award:** Ron Weier was provided with a sippy cup for having a spill accident.
  - **SWIS District News**
    - **Dues to Increase:** Jerry Schewe reported that it was recently decided at the SWIS District’s Conference that there will be a \$2 rate increase in the SWIS District dues, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. There will be an additional \$2 increase in October 2025.

- **Banner Patch:** Jerry Schewe presented a patch for our Club's banner that was awarded to our Club for having over 20 members contribute to the Dime-A-Day program.
  - **Maxine and Steve Lane Award as Benefactors:** Maxine and Steve each received the "Benefactor" award from the OI Foundation. The award is given to those who have contributed \$1000 or more to the OI Foundation.
  - **Certificate for Law Enforcement:** Jerry Schewe was given a Law Enforcement Application Certificate which we could present to a law enforcement officer if we chose to do so. The certificate was given to Maxine for further consideration of presenting to an officer.
  - **Gift in Appreciation of Maxine Lane:** Howard Crofoot presented a gift to Maxine on behalf of Bob and Penny McFadden, for Maxine's support in their travels when Bob, former OI President and his wife Penny visited our Club on their way to the SWIS District meeting in 2022.
  - **SWIS District #1:** Jo'El Pearlman was presented an award as Past District Governor in 2023 for the SWIS District having the top increase in new memberships in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- **Football Fund Crazer Tickets:** Tickets are available for purchase from Gary Engelke at a cost of \$20. Of that \$20, \$13 will come back to the Club.
- **Speaker(s) for Next Week – May 24<sup>th</sup>:** Mike, JoAnn and Mitchell McNett – Farm Accident Miracle.
  - **Today's Speakers:** Patti and Terry Cullen, founders of "Ben's Hope", a suicide awareness program, were recruited and introduced by Maxine Lane.

Maxine introduced Patti and Terry, high school sweethearts who married in 1983. Blessed with three children, life was good, however, on November 11, 2014 life as they knew it changed when their son Benjamin took his life by suicide. This became their reason for founding "Ben's Hope" in an effort to fulfill their mission of educating others to aid in suicide awareness-prevention, reduce the stigma of suicide, offer support through their monthly Survivors of Suicide meetings and providing resources and tools for those struggling.

Prior to Ben's death, their family had several sad and traumatic deaths, including: Patti's brother's death at the age of 14 from an auto accident; 2 nephews killed in an auto accident in 1990; a niece who was killed in a motor cycle accident; and the death of a 5-year-old niece from myocarditis. Ben's death caused Patti to go into a depression, however, she felt that God put on her heart that she needed to help others by becoming a Grief, Grace, and Gratitude Specialist. Together with Terry, they have implemented many programs to fulfill their mission.

Patti reported that suicide has become the: 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Wisconsin; the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in ages 10 to 34; and the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause in ages 35 to 54. For every person taking their life by suicide, there are another 25 people who attempt it.

Terry spoke about their initial need for a support group, resulting in traveling to one in Madison. Finding the trips to and from the meetings being taxing, they purchased materials and started a support group locally, naming their program "Ben's Hope". This program provided peer to peer meetings with people who have/are undergoing the same thing. Meetings are held at Mound City's Motor Branch in Platteville. In addition to the support meetings for those grieving, they have meetings for survivors of suicide. They also provide programs in schools, with their target audience being 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They want students to know that many people think of suicide at times, and it's okay to talk about their feelings. They spoke of other programs they provide and information is available on their website of [bens-hope.org](http://bens-hope.org) or on their Facebook page.

Patti has also written a published book entitled "Tears of Love" that is available at Erschen's Flowers and on Amazon.

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

### **WEEKLY MEETING – May 24, 2024**

**Attendance:** There were 32 members and 4 guests present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** JoAnn, Mike and Mitchell McNett, (*speakers*), and Roger Engelke were welcomed as our guests.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Maxine Lane, greeting Howard Crofoot.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Member Birthday this Upcoming Week:** Dan Dreessens – May 28<sup>th</sup> and our guest Roger Engelke, Gary's brother.
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
    - Barb Stockhausen & John Adams – May 26, 1984;
    - Hap and Barb Daus – May 29, 1971
- **Joker Draw – And the Winner Is:** Robin Fatzinger's ticket was drawn and she cut the Joker. Congratulations Robin.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Get Well Wishes for Chris Budden:** A card was circulated for Chris Budden, who is recuperating after having shoulder surgery.
  - **Invitation to "Flag Day Celebration" – June 4<sup>th</sup> at Platteville City Park at 5:00 p.m.:** An invitation was circulated inviting members to this celebration, provided by the Elks' Lodge.
  - **Appreciation to those Who Worked/Supported the Golf Outing May 17<sup>th</sup>:** President Reeves related appreciation, noting that the outing raised in excess of \$5000 for support of Grant County Sheriff's Department.
  - **Tickets for Sale for Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums:** Tom Nall announced that he has raffle tickets available for sale for \$20.
  - **Fund Crazr Tickets:** Gary Engelke noted he has Fund Crazr tickets for sale for \$20,
  - **Katie's Garden Fund Raiser:** Bob Hundhausen noted he has tickets for sale through Building Platteville to support fund raiser in celebration of Katie's Garden 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - **Brat Sale for Support of Fire Works:** Bob Hundhausen noted there will be a brat sale on May 31<sup>st</sup> in honor of Bob Middendorf's birthday at Bob's Edward Jones office.
- **Speaker(s) for Next Week– May 31, 2024:** Doug McKinley, Chief, and Josh Grabandt Lieutenant – Platteville Police Dept. – Update on Crime in our Community
- **Today's Speakers:** Recruited and introduced by Maxine Lane were Mike, JoAnn, and Mitchell McNett, speaking about Mitchell's farm accident.

At the age of 12, Mitchell's leg got stuck in an auger and it was about a half hour before his father Mike found him. Mitch ended up being med-flighted to Madison where he spent two months in a hospital. He had 17 surgeries and in the early days, he could hear, but couldn't talk. He spoke about those days wondering "why me" and became depressed.

He then told the story that when John Doyle, Cuba City School Principal, came to visit him, he gave Mitch a speech saying you can look at things as half full, or half empty. This speech was what Mitch said was a "wake up call" and from that day forward, Mitch became more optimistic.

It was one year before he walked again, against odds dictated by his doctor who didn't think he'd ever walk, let alone jog or run, but Mitch conquered all.

JoAnn and Mike spoke about their initial reaction to Mitch's accident including often normal reaction of the "blame game". They gave credit to UW-Madison Hospital that provided a trauma coordinator to them right away. They acknowledged the unbelievable support they received during these trying times from friends and coworkers. Over two months' time, Mitch received over 1000 cards and visitors came every day. Their message, let those who love you fight for you.

Mitch now age 32, finished high school, went on to college originally wanting to be a dentist, but eventually became a mortician and the owner of Casey-McNett Funeral Home in Cuba City. He coaches football and provides inspirational talks to kids often asking them "are you hurt or injured", sending a message that you can often work through pain. He also emphasizes to them that they can "win the day, making the most of it, and that doing little things can lead to big things".

Their message was inspirational and truly related to being "Optimistic" in life.

**CONCLUSION:** The meeting concluded at 7:50 a.m.  
Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING - May 31, 2024**

**Attendance:** There were 27 members and 3 guests present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed: Guests to Welcome:** Chief Doug McKinley and Lieutenant Andrea Droessler (*speakers*) and Victoria Hundhausen.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Bob Hundhausen, greeting Joy Schewe.
- **Special Dates to Remember this Upcoming Week:**
  - **Member Birthdays:**
    - Dianne Jentz – May 31<sup>st</sup>
    - Kim Skemp – June 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
    - Tim and Angie Boldt; Joy and Jerry Schewe; and Mary and Greg Sieckman – all on June 2<sup>nd</sup>;
    - Lisa and Bob Schmitt – June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Joker Draw:** Steve Lane's ticket was drawn, however he cut the 3 of Spades.



- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Presentation of Joker Draw Winning Check:** Robin Fatzinger was presented with a check for \$178 for winning the Joker Draw on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Get Well to Linda Thomas:** A card was circulated for Linda who recently had surgery.
  - **Brat Sale at Bob Hundhausen's Edward Jones Office:** Members were reminded that from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. today, there will be brat sale with proceeds supporting the Fourth of July Fire Works Fund.
  - **CESA 3 –** Note of appreciation for Club's grant donation to Champion Games was circulated.
  - **Noon 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Social at Los Amigos on Main Street today:** Interested members were encouraged to attend this social gathering.
  - **Tickets for Sale for Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums:** Tom Nall again announced that he has raffle tickets available for sale for \$20.
  - **Fund Crazr Tickets:** Gary Engelke noted he has Fund Crazr tickets for sale for \$20,
  - **Katie's Garden Fund Raiser:** Bob Hundhausen encouraged people to buy a rubber duck.
- **Installation of Kim Woodworth:** President Reeves, joined by Kim's sponsor Tom Nall, installed Kim Woodworth as a new member.
- **Next Week – June 7<sup>th</sup>:** Our Business Meeting will be held next Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Today's Speakers:** Chief Doug McKinley and Lieutenant Andrea Droessler were recruited and introduced by Maxine Lane.

Chief McKinley began by talking about the two different divisions of the Platteville Police Department. The first is the Patrol Division, of which Lt. Josh Grabandt oversees. The second is the Support Services, of which Andrea oversees.

As the Lieutenant overseeing Support Services, Andrea oversees the Dispatch Center, is the Evidence Custodian, she supervises two Detectives and four Community Services Officers and is also in charge of records management.

In addition to many cameras located throughout the City, they reported that recently they have upgraded their radio counsels and repeaters. The City's Dispatch Center has redundant capabilities and is connected to Grant County. If one's system goes down, it can be handled by the other.

They were proud to talk about the achievement of becoming an accredited department, which they achieved three years ago. To achieve this, their policies and procedures must be in line with best practices. This accreditation requires an audit every three years. Chief McKinley explained that being accredited enhances the credibility and helps with officers' confidence and their morale.

The Department partners with the school district, providing a Community Resource Officer who goes to the schools and also focuses on community policing aspect. The School District pays for the wages and benefits for that position.

In response to a question about any drug problems in Platteville, Chief McKinley noted "it is here, like everywhere". The Department works closely with the Iowa, Richland and Grant County Drug Task Force.

In response to a question about "what happened to the DARE Program", it was noted that the program was no longer supported primarily due to staffing issues and complications getting time in schools due to school curriculum.

Also discussed were threats involving “active shooters” and Chief McKinley said being prepared and empowering people to have a plan is extremely important. Plan should include “run, hide and fight” if the situation arises.

Finally noted, was the Departments collaboration with the UW Platteville Campus Security Department in which they work and train together.

**CONCLUSION:** The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.  
Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS’ SPECIAL DAYS in JUNE 2024**

### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS:**

- Kim Skemp – June 2;
- Ernie Thalmann – June 9;
- Lauren Ganzer – June 12;
- Lisa Schmitt – June 12;
- Ronald Weier – June 19;
- Dean Feldman – June 21

### **MEMBERS’ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES in JUNE:**

- Tim and Angie Boldt – June 2;
- Joy and Joy Schewe – June 2;
- Mary and Greg Sieckman – June 2;
- Lisa and Bob Schmitt – June 3;
- Amy and Steve Coffey – June 12;
- Clinton and Heather Langreck – June 19;
- Dan and Tammie Engelke – June 20;
- Mark and Joan Haas – June 24;
- Phil and Sandy Swift – June 26;
- Wayne and Julie Wodarz – June 26;
- Maxine and Steve Lane – June 27;
- Lauren and Mitchell Ganzer – June 30;
- Howard and Kathy Crofoot – June 30

### **MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES in JUNE:**

- Eileen Nickels – June 1, 1989;
- Terri Ellis, Gary Engelke, Eileen Engelke, and Tim Murphy – June 11, 2004;
- Bob Hundhausen – June 30, 2019;
- Amy Coffey, Emmily and Dan Dreessens, and Barbara Stockhausen – June 20, 2022;
- Clinton Langreck – June 23, 2023.

### **FRIEND OF OPTIMISTS MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES in JUNE:**

- Melby Funeral Home and Crematory – June 2, 2015;
- Fidelity Bank and Trust – June 22, 2020