

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

MEETING 7:00 A.M.

EVERY FRIDAY AT TAKE 2 RESTAURANT



SECOND TIME AROUND



MESSAGE FROM MAX

My second column and my message is as sincere as my first message in December.

I recently attended my first Optimist Leadership Conference, and an Optimist member from the Monroe Club and former Club President, said to me that when you get down to your last six months, you will discover there is so much you want to accomplish and you simply will not have time. I'm finding that to be exact to the point.

If you believe in what you are doing, you have to work at whatever it is to be successful. It is not going to 'just happen' without applying effort. I am working at and doing my best as President for the benefit of Platteville Optimist Club and the youth we serve. I came away from the conference with a new favorite quote to live by... "There is nothing that can take me down." Now, on to my message!

I worked at securing a Second Vice President for our Board and as you have and/or will read we have been successful in filling that position. I believe, without a doubt, each and every one of our members is capable of serving as an officer and/or Board Member. Thus my message....

We are a short 6 months before we again will need to fill three Board positions and that of Second Vice President. I make this awareness now as historically it has been a proven fact it just doesn't happen immediately. When searching to fill the position of Second Vice President, I made personal contact with several members. Hopefully you remember our conversation and perhaps will step forward and take a more active role in your club. I want the new administration to take on the responsibilities of President and First Vice President with a full team to help them continue to build our membership, identify Platteville Optimist as an outstanding leadership civic group in the community and most importantly, carry on in providing both personal and financial support to the many youth and youth activities we serve in and around our community.

Optimistically Energize Your Involvement



FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

After many months of pursuit to fill our administrative team with a Second Vice President, our task has been accomplished. Kevin Haertzen, starting his term on the Board in October, has stepped into the position of Second Vice President. This move created a vacancy on our Board, and I was pleased when Fern Nall volunteered to return to the Board. Fern previously served on the Board from 2012-2014. Howard conducted the Installation Oath to Kevin and Fern at the meeting on Friday morning, January 16.



DIME-A-DAY

With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children.

Can You Spare a Dime A Day?

We put out the challenge and you responded! We established a goal of having 26 members participate and it is my pleasure to report we had 28 for a total donation of \$1,235.50 to the Optimist International Foundation. I am pleased to acknowledge Charlie Clark, Ernie Thalmann, Ron Weier, Bob Weier, Ken Kamps, John Dutcher, Mike Olds, Gary & Eileen Engelke, Deb McWilliams, Diane VanNatta, Arnie Roper, Steve & Maggie Kleisath, Doug Martin, Terry Vaassen, John Urness, Leon Neuheisel, Duane Borgen, Tim Boldt, Tom & Fern Nall, Becky Schambow, Terry Ellis, Kevin Haertzen, Jerry Schewe and Steve & Maxine Lane.

OPTIMISTS OUT and ABOUT

White Elephant Gift Exchange

January 16, 2015, 22 members and spouses/friends enjoyed an evening social, hosted by Bob Weier. Following cocktails and a social from 5:15 to 6:15, everyone enjoyed a pasta dinner of lasagna and chicken fettuccini, Italian salad, garlic bread and a light and tasty pistachio salad. No meal is complete without dessert and needless to say, we were not short on dessert. We were provided a choice of three and many enjoyed a taste of each. A light and tasty lemon pudding torte, cream puff delight and butter pecan caramel/butterscotch dessert on a crust of vanilla wafers. Enough with the meal....enjoyed by all!

The evening continued with the highlight of exchanging gifts and finding out who would house "the shell lamp" a/k/a 'Shelly' for the next year. The lucky recipient needs little introduction!! It was very early in the gift exchange that Tom was to take his turn and the rest, as they say, is history! A great evening with great friends!



3rd ANNUAL EUCHRE ~ BOARD GAME SOCIAL Saturday, April 11, 2015

Place: First English Lutheran Church (dining hall)

Time: Cocktails (byob) / Dinner – 6:00 to 7:30

Cards/Games: 8:00 to 10:00

Cost: \$10.00 per person (excluding invited guests)

Includes: beef stew–salads–relishes–
desserts & prize fee

Anyone choosing to bring/share a favorite
snack/appetizer would be welcome to do so.

Contact Bob Weier rfweier5@gmail.com to sign up.

Watch email for additional details and reminders.

TRI-STAR BASKETBALL

Our 2015 event is scheduled for Sunday, March 29 on Bo Ryan Court, UW-Platteville. Set up from 11:30-12:00, contestants sign in 12:00-12:30 and the contest will run from 12:30-2:00. Many hands make light work and we are still in need of several volunteers. If you can help with this program, please contact Duane Borgen at 348-9741. Your reward is seeing the delight on the faces of the contestants!! Thank you to Duane for once again serving our youth by coordinating our Tri-Star Basketball. Your commitment does not go unnoticed!!



It's "all about" what we're "all about"

2015 ESSAY CONTEST

It is a pleasure to again acknowledge and thank Gary Munson for taking on the role of Chairman for our 2015 Essay and Oratorical Contest. An update from Gary. . .



"Optimism Should be a Priority" is the topic in this year's essay contest. Twenty-seven area students accepted the challenge and submitted essays. Of the twenty-seven essays that were submitted, there was one entry from Lancaster High School, one from Platteville High School with the remaining twenty-five essays coming from students at the Platteville Middle School. The students are competing for two local prizes of \$100.00 each. In addition, the local winners' essays will be submitted to the district to vie for one-of-three college scholarships. The top prize being \$2,500.00.

The essay contest is a big undertaking, and planning begins in December. Our club combines with the Noon Optimists to coordinate efforts. Leading the project again this year for the Noon club was Christine Storlie.

Question: What do you get when you combine creative teaching with a wonderful opportunity?

Answer: You get a large group of students entering this year's Optimist Essay Contest. The motivators behind the Middle School response were the seventh and eighth grade reading/language arts teachers, Jackie England, Deborah Elvidge, Caitlin Rosemeyer, Jay Gesin and Sarah Droessler. They recognized the value of the contest for their students and found ways to incorporate it into their already packed curriculums.

In the eighth grade, teachers got their students engaged by offering choices. Instead of assigning a single topic for an essay, the students were given a choice of five topics, one of which qualified for the Optimist essay contest. As a result, almost a fourth of the eighth grade entered.

2015 Essay Contest Results:

1st Place – Ben Trewin, Platteville Middle School
Representing the Optimist Noon Club

2nd Place – Rachel Ihm – Lancaster High School
Representing the Optimist Morning Club

3rd Place – Rachel Emendorfer, Platteville High School
Representing the UWP Optimist Club

The essay contest is just another example of how Optimists are providing opportunities for youth. Students not placing in the top three were recognized for their efforts with participation certificates. Thanks to Fern Nall for being a judge again this year and thanks to all members for their support.

WELCOME WAGON

We continue to work on successfully meeting our goal, set at one of our initial Board Meetings, to grow our club by four new members during the 2014-2015 term. It is my pleasure to say we have some catching up to do on new member introductions.



***It is with Optimistic Enthusiasm
We Welcome
Becky ~ Laura ~ Kathy ~ Dennis***

Becky Schambow joined our club in December, 2014 after being invited as a guest speaker. She was very impressed by the purposes of our club and was pleased to be invited to become a member.

A Platteville native, Becky attended MATC in Madison after graduating from Platteville. Returning to her roots in Platteville, Becky has been employed by Southwest Health since 1975. Over the years, she has been afforded many opportunities for growth with SWHC, managing various departments and serving as Southwest's Safety Director. As a result of the growth at SWHC and an increase in safety and emergency preparedness regulations, in October, 2013 Becky's responsibilities as the Director of Safety and Risk Management became her primary focus.

When not working, she enjoys spending time with friends, loves walking with her dog, Higgins, and what she cherishes most is traveling to spend time with her children and grandchildren. Her daughter, Nicole and son-in-law, Curt, have two children and live in Waunakee. Becky's son, Brett and daughter-in-law, Kim, also have two children and live in Libertyville, IL.

Becky is a founding member of SAFE Grant County Coalition and a member of Peace Lutheran Church Belmont.

PROMISE YOURSELF

On February 6, Laura Pederson was installed as a new member, sponsored by Gary Engelke. Raised in NE Ohio, Laura graduated with a BS in Nutrition & Dietetics from Kent State University. A mother of two adult children, Zeke and Max, Laura relocated to Platteville from Minnesota, having accepted a position as Director of Food & Nutrition at Southwest Health Center.

Laura has spent years in scouting and 4H. While married, she along with her children and then husband ran a Boy Scout Camp in Minnesota. They assisted thousands of campers through their summer and winter resident and day camp programs. She still loves the outdoors! Her interests include camping, bicycling (she even owns a tandem), hiking, Bible study, reading, spur of the moment road trips and cooking. Laura is involved with the Food Pantry and recently accepted the position of Secretary on the Board.

Welcome Wagon (continued)

In December, 2014 we had the pleasure of having Kathy Hottenstein speak at our Friday morning meeting, sharing information on Family Advocates of Lafayette County. It is now our pleasure to welcome her as a member of Platteville Optimist, joining on February 27. Kathy is a retired Platteville Police Officer, having worked for the City of Platteville for 28 years. She obtained her private investigators license in 2011 and owns her own private investigation business. Kathy has also been a school bus driver for over 34 years, which she continues yet today.

In April, 2014, she joined Family Advocates, Inc. as support staff. During that time, the position of the Outreach Crime Victim Advocate for Lafayette County Opened up. She applied and was hired to fill the position in September, 2014.

Aside from work, although this too involves work, Kathy and her husband farm in rural Lancaster where they raise registered Murray Grey cattle.

On February 27, we also welcomed Dennis Helbing to our Club. Watch for his full story in the June newsletter!

FAREWELL IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

As we welcome three new members, we say farewell to two. We received a note from Karl and Michelle Sandry that they are relocating to Barneveld. Members since 2007 and 1998, respectively, they will be greatly missed. We wish them the best of luck and extend an open invitation to visit when in the area.



OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

March

- 03 – Board Meeting 7:00 AM PBII Conference Room
- 08 – Daylight Savings Time Starts (turn clocks ahead)
- 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- 20 – Spring Begins
- 29 – Tri-Star Basketball
- 31 – Board Meeting (April) 7AM PBII Conference Room



April

- 5 – Easter Sunday
- 11 – Euchre/Game Social
- 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 28 – Board Meeting (May) 7 AM PBII Conference Room



May

- 10 – Mother's Day
- 25 – Memorial Day



Please send announcements, events, birthday/anniversary dates to Maxine at msmacy105@yahoo.com for sharing in our newsletter. Your contributions are appreciated.

Publisher: Maxine Lane ~ Editor: Beth Frieders

REALITY or FANTASY

Have you ever found yourself strolling down a narrow dirt path, sparsely covered with mounds of grass? Although you're alone, you feel protected from the light given off from the trees that border both sides of this path. They are not just small trees but seemingly tower with great strength into the high heavens with a blaze of fiery colors. It starts to become more clear, the trees, their glowing light, their movement, where does this path lead?



You're approaching a gentle knoll, the grass covering appears to be of a velvet texture, so soft and gentle to the touch of your bare feet. You recognize the sound of water, a spring fed stream, icy cold water...but wait, it's full of golden little fish. Oh yes, let us not forget the trees, they encircle the pond of golden little fish, providing light and protection.

A gentle tap on my shoulder, I turn and a soft Voice says to me, "Welcome my child, to the Garden of Eden." It becomes more clear now, the trees with their fiery color and protective light, they were angels sent from the heavens.

The fiery color is gone, there is no more glowing light, the movement is still as the timber covering has fallen to cover the cold ground. What becomes of this, why have the leaves gently fallen to blanket the earth? Again, it becomes clear, to provide warmth and protection to the small creatures during the cold. The fiery light that once shown so brightly and gave warmth to the timber remains; however not visible, we believe, as it descends down from the heavens above.



Although not visible, we believe and soon will see as we journey back the familiar path once traveled. The blanket covered ground is once again set free to unearth the glorious colors deadened in the cold. And the trees, let us not forget the trees. They now billow in the wind with the timber now dressed in folds of green. The limbs outstretched hold and protect as did the fallen leaves.



A second tap on my shoulder, so gentle, and a soft Voice says to me, "Good morning my child, it's time to get ready for school." It's familiar, by touch, smell, sound, sight. Behind this voice is the source of my gift of life, my Mother. For thirteen years, She has been my warmth, protection and glowing light...as have the trees to God's nature.



SHARING SPECIAL EVENTS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go Out To . . .

March

05 – John Urness
19 – Jerry Schewe

20 – Terry Vaassen
24 – Wayne Wodarz

April

09 – Leon Neuheisel
29 – Tom Nall
30 – James Olds



May

02 – Bob Weier 22 – Becky Schambow

Happy Anniversary Wishes To Member & Spouse. . . .

March (none)

April

08 – Ernie Thalmann
25 – Eileen Nickels



May

03 – Diane VanNatta
26 – John Adams & Barb Stockhausen

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST

March

1972 – Tom Jonas
1980 – Dune Borgen
1981 – Phil Swift
1988 – Hap Daus
1992 – George Byykkonen
1992 – John Dutcher
1992 – Dean Feldman

1997 – Howard Crofoot
2001 – Bill VanDeest
2005 – Doug Martin
2009 – Ron Weir
2011 – Fern Nall
2013 – Kevin Haerten

April

1974 – Dave Jones
1999 – Lynn Schlager

2001 – John Urness
2003 – Ron Hall

May

1977 – Arnie Roper
1991 – Jan Waite

1993 – Jim Schneller
2011 – Leon Neuheisel

CONGRATULATIONS go out to

Wayne & Julie Wodarz – Daughter, Makayla, was Teen of the Week in January, 2015. She plans on attending Winona State University to major in accounting.

Grandpa and Ella



