



# Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights April 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 May 6, 2024 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN APRIL 2024

### **BUSINESS MEETING: APRIL 5, 2024**

**Attendance:** There were 30 members and 1 guest present including: Tim Boldt; Carley Borcharding; Chris and Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Amy Coffey; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Terri Ellis; Dan Engelke; Eileen and Gary Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Kevin Haertzen; Dianne Jentz; Maxine and Steve Lane; Doug Martin; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; Linda Thomas; *and guest Jim Nelson.*

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President, Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m. Attendees then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

**Guests to Welcome:** President Reeves welcomed Jim Nelson, from CESA 3 as our guest.

**Grant Check Presentation to CESA 3:** A grant check for \$500, made out to “CESA 3” was presented to Jim Nelson. Jim thanked the Optimist Club for our donation. Jim reported that on May 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:30 a.m. the district, made up of 31 schools, will hold their “Championship Games” for the 30<sup>th</sup> year. The event will be in Boscobel and competitors will be primarily students with special needs. The event typically has between 1000 to 1200 people in attendance.

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

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
  - Leon Neuheisel – April 9<sup>th</sup>;
  - Diane Paynter – April 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Ernie and Shirley Thalmann – April 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Membership Anniversaries in April:**
  - Lynn Schlager – April 7, 1999;
  - Ronal Holl – April 17, 2003;
  - Mary Sieckman and Linda Thomas – April 16, 2017;
  - Jeff White – April 28, 2017;
  - Jordan Holthaus – April 14, 2018;
  - Penny Droessler and Alaina Reeves – April 30, 2019;
  - Darlene Masters – April 16, 2023
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries in April:** Family Pet Hospital – April 30, 2019

#### **Meeting Activities:**

- **Mystery Greeter:** Tim Boldt was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Bob Stephens.

- **Breakfast Drawing:** Gary Engelke and Dianne Jentz were the two members present, and John Zuehlke and Deanna Hinderman were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in April.
- **Joker Draw:** Beth Frieders' ticket was drawn for a chance to win the Joker Draw, however Beth cut the King of Hearts.

#### **Announcements – Information Shared:**

- **Thank You Received From:** A note of appreciation was received from the Platteville Board of Education for Club's grant of \$250 towards the "Ben's Hope Program."
- **Zone Oratorical Contest:** Jerry Schewe noted he still needs one volunteer to assist with the Zone Oratorical Contest on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at WI Bank and Trust. Howard Crofoot volunteered.
- **Next Week's Speaker, April 12<sup>th</sup>:** President Reeves reported that next week's speaker will be Paul Budden, at which time he will talk about the Fundraising Campaign for the new fire department.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – APRIL 1, 2024:** President Reeves provided a summary of the Board Meeting conducted on April 1, 2024

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** President Reeves provided information on the Treasurer's Report for period ending March 31, 2024 submitted by Duane Borgen which included reports of Internal and Youth Account balances.

- Grants Paid in March included:
  - Family Connections - \$1000
  - Platteville Middle School – Ben's Hope - \$250
- **Donation to Club:** It was reported that Bob Hundhausen made a donation of \$300 to the Youth Account from his Joker Draw winnings.
- **Approval:** President Reeves reported a motion was made by the Board to "approve the report". A second was made by Dan Engelke and motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** President Reeves provided highlights of the Committee Reports.

- **Finance / Administration:**
  - **Dues Notices:** D. Borgen reported that he recently sent out 32 dues notices.
  - **Platteville Fire Department Donation:** D. Borgen noted that the Club had received a grant request and budgeted for \$175 for this fiscal year for "Fire Prevention Education" for children.
    - The recent request for donation to National Fire Safety Council was for the same program, so we will not need to make a second donation.
- **Community Service:**
  - **A list of Suggested Activities/Projects were received from Maxine Lane after attending Optimist meetings in Alabama:** Tom Nall, as Board's Committee Liaison, will be contacting Maxine to discuss her suggestions further for possible future budgeting and planning.
- **Membership:**
  - **Membership Changes:**
    - Caroline Sawyer – FOO member – deleted for non-payment by OI on 2-29-24;
    - Eileen McCartney – resigned from membership on 3-15-24;
    - Mary Ann Shurson – resigned from membership on 3-20-24.
  - **Spring Fling NOW Event – April 20 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.:**
    - Approximately 80 names of individuals have been sent invitations. RSVPs are due by April 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - Members were advised they could still sign-up and should contact Charlie Clark or Terri Ellis.
  - **"Spring In to Optimism" OI Incentive Program:** OI will waive new member processing fee for new members signed between March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
  - **Suggestion to Give New Members a T-Shirt:** Maxine Lane made this suggestion.
    - This is being referred to the Membership Committee for consideration and budgeting.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:**
  - **Calendar on website:** Calendar has been updated with speaker information.

- **Cheese Curd:**
  - **Upcoming Planning Meeting:** J. Holthaus reported the Committee will meet in April.
  - **Supplies:** Leftover supplies from last year's cheese curd sales may be used by the Community Service Committee for their planned Golf Outing. Replacement costs incurred for supplies used will be expensed to Community Service.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
  - **Speakers for April:**
    - April 12<sup>th</sup> – Paul Budden – New Fire Department Capital Campaign. After the meeting, interested members can go to the current Fire Department where Paul will provide a tour.
    - April 19<sup>th</sup> – Members will meet to tour new Family Advocates Building where they will have donuts and beverages.
    - April 26<sup>th</sup> – Kim Woodward – Picking Up & Fixing Bikes while in St. Louis
- **Youth Activities:**
  - **Essay Contest Update:** Nuzaira Rabbani won 1<sup>st</sup> place and was awarded \$150 from our Club. Essay was submitted to District.
  - **Oratorical Contest – March 25<sup>th</sup>:**
    - Nuzaira Rabbani, a Platteville student won 1st place and our Club's \$150 award.
    - Halle Furrer, a Saint Rose School student won 2<sup>nd</sup> place and was awarded \$100.
    - Winners are eligible to go to the Zone contest.
  - **Tri-Star Basketball – March 23<sup>rd</sup>:**
    - There were 84 contestants competing at the event
    - Winners in each age group received trophies and are all eligible to compete at the District level.
    - All participants received a certificate.
  - **Bike Rodeo Update:** It was decided to forego this event this year. It will be planned and budgeted to be held in spring of 2025
  - **Discussion on Concerns with Planning/Facilitating Youth Events:**
    - Charlie Clark was present at the Board meeting and addressed issues that were experienced in planning and facilitating the Essay and Oratorical contests.
    - Some of these concerns were also noted in planning/facilitating the Tri-Star basketball contest.
    - It was suggested that the Youth Committee meet in early fall to develop a timeline for planning the events to ensure appropriate notices, etc. get out in a timely manner.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Country Kitchen – Follow-up:** Becky Schambow met with Chad Holstein and noted the following:
  - Chad has made some changes to the small and large rotation of breakfast menus;
  - With the implementation of the sign-up sheet and these changes, Chad did not feel there needed to be any further changes at this time.
- **Banners on Main Street:** In follow-up to a suggestion that we see if a banner could feature our Club, Bob Hundhausen is being asked to contact someone who may be able to answer this.
- **Suggestion for Club Donation towards Maria Schmitt's Girl Scout "Gold Award" project:** Two members suggested the Club donate to Maria Schmitt's fund to purchase benches for Abing Field. It was felt that members could donate directly to the project if they so choose. It was also suggested that the Club could have a "donation bucket" that could be used to pass around if members choose to donate to speakers' agencies/causes.
- **Fifth Friday Social Meeting Attendance Report – March 29<sup>th</sup>:** T. Ellis reported that one member attended with her.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Is scheduled for Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

### **ANY FURTHER BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS:**

- **Golf Outing – May 17<sup>th</sup>:** Maxine Lane indicated the Community Service Committee is facilitating a “Golf Outing” to benefit Grant County Sheriff’s Association. Proceeds will be put towards the “Honor Guards” new uniforms. Maxine noted that the SWIS Governor has named May as “Law Enforcement Appreciation Month”. Committee is getting donations of food items and sponsorships. She encouraged people to help by golfing, donating cookies/bars, or volunteering to work at the event.
- **Suggestion for July’s Celebration of 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kathie’s Garden and Fire Station Foundation Fundraiser:** Maxine Lane suggested the Club members consider contributing to a combined donation fund for purchase of a bench to be placed at Katie’s Garden. It was also noted that we need to keep in mind that our Fire Department is requesting donations to their building campaign. No actions were taken at this time.
- **Noon Informational Meeting:** Will be held at A & W on April 12<sup>th</sup> for those unable to make the morning meeting and/or choosing to attend at a later time.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Dan Engelke, seconded by Eileen Engelke, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 a.m. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted by:**  
Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING – APRIL 12, 2024**

*There were 28 members and no guests present.*

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President 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.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Dan Engelke, who greeted Leon Neuheisel.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Mark Haas – April 15th
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Chris & Paul Budden – April 14
- **Joker Draw:** Chris Budden’s ticket was drawn; however, she drew the ten of Clubs.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Posters for Golf Outing on May 17th:** Maxine Lane handed out posters for members who might be willing to take to businesses, etc. for posting in promotion of the event.
  - **Spring Fling NOW Event – April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Plans are in place for the event and it was noted that Maxine Lane will be the guest speaker talking about membership in Optimist.
  - **Noon Informational Meeting at A & W:** Reminder was provided regarding the noon meeting that will be held April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Next Week’s Meeting (April 19<sup>th</sup>):** Club members will meet at 7:00 a.m. at Family Advocates for a tour of their new facility.
- **Today’s Speaker:** Paul Budden – Platteville Fire Department’s Capital Campaign

Tom Nall recruited and introduced our Club Member, Paul Budden, who today was speaking to members about the Fire Department’s plans for a new building and the Capital Campaign for same.

Tom noted that Paul worked in construction was then was employed by the City of Platteville in the streets department for 18 years. Paul’s passion and dedication to the Fire Department extends over an almost thirty-year history with the department. He has been a truck captain, an assistant chief, and the department’s training officer. He was a lead instructor for the “Citizens’ Academy Program” and a Fire Instructor at Southwest Technical College.

Paul began his presentation by stating “I hate fund raising”, but because of his passion he is committed to the Capital Campaign.

He reported the current fire facility, which is sixty years old, was assessed for its ability to meet the needs of the Fire Department, both in providing a safe working environment for the firefighters and providing service to the public. The study found that the current facility has inadequate turnout and decontamination spaces for firefighters as well as a lack of storage space for gear, equipment and trucks.

Not having adequate space required for an expanded facility, it was determined that the current location was not sufficient for expansion. After evaluating options, it was determined the new facility would be constructed on the decommissioned O. E. Gray Elementary School. The new facility will not only provide for expanded space for fire department needs, but will have seven dorm rooms for sleeping in the event the City would go to a paid department. In addition, those dorm rooms could be used for police officers or snow plow operators who live in other communities, but have to stay in town in times of severe weather. Other features that the new facility will provide will include a decontamination unit with a filtering and a safe drainage system enabling the department to extract smoke/chemicals from turnout gear. The facility will have a “training tower” that will be used to train firefighters in: confined space entry; ladder practice; search and rescue; physical fitness; and be used for drying out hoses.

The new fire station has an estimated cost of \$14.5 million, of which \$7 million is to be covered by a federal grant. An additional \$6 million will be provided through the budgets of the fire district partners of 7 townships and the City of Platteville. The remaining \$1.5 million must be generated through donations and grants.

Those members wanting to tour the current facility were invited to meet Paul at the building following the meeting.

Donations can be made payable to: ICI (*Inspiring Community, Inc.*) Fire Department Project and mailed to PO Box 503, Platteville, WI 53818.

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

**Meeting notes recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING – APRIL 19, 2024**

*There were 32 members and two guests present.*

*There were also three representatives/speakers present including Darlene Masters, Director of Family Advocates, Melissa Palfrey, Assistant Director (and Club member), and Laine McLennan, Family Advocates staff member.*

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:04 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Included Joyce Clark and Michael Miller.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Jerry Schewe, who greeted Libby Sides. *(It was noted that the Joker Draw was unavailable this morning, so Libby will be provided with a ticket and chance to win at next week’s meeting.)*
- **Grant Check Presentation:** The Club provided a grant check in the amount of \$800 to Family Advocates for their Youth Camp Program. Darlene Masters thanked the Club for our support and reported the youth summer camps program involves four camps, each for different age groups. In addition to outdoor activities, the program involves classroom training on setting boundaries and healthy relationships.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Member Birthday this Upcoming Week:** Penny Droessler – April 23rd

- **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
  - Eileen and Thomas Nickels – April 25<sup>th</sup> and Libby and Wayne Sides – April 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Main Street Banner Project:** A note of appreciation was received for Club's contribution towards this project.
  - **Spring Fling:** Members were reminded of the event occurring on April 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Church basement
  - **Golf Outing – for support of Grant County Deputy Sheriff's Association:** It was noted that members should watch for email from Maxine Lane who is recruiting Optimist members to help with the event scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Speaker(s) for Next Week – April 26<sup>th</sup>:** will be Kim Woodworth, speaking about "Picking Up and Fixing Bicycles."
- **Today's Speakers:** Darlene Masters and Melissa Palfrey were today's speakers, providing information about the history and services of Family Advocates.

Family Advocates originated a little over 40 years ago. With use of a power point, they showed pictures of the old convent on Court Street that the agency had used since 1989. That facility only had 5 to 7 bedrooms, with little space for training, kitchen needs, etc.

Family Advocates operates by acquisitions of grants and donations and they received an American Rescue Plan Act grant in the amount of \$3.5 million to enable building of their new building. There is also additional acreage adjacent to the building which will have solar panels. Darlene and Melissa both are involved with applying for/acquisition of grant funding and donations.

The new facility is manned 24 hours per day and provides shelter to victims of domestic abuse for both female and males. Pets of those families are also allowed. The victims' initial stay can be 45 days during which time they are expected to seek employment and housing. The 45 days can be extended to 90 days with an application for extension, but the agency must see that they are applying for jobs and working towards independence.

In addition to providing housing, the agency provides outreach programs as well to assist victims. This even includes volunteers that help children with academics.

The staff consists of 8 day and 4 night staff members, in addition to some volunteers. Their training consists of: on-line programs; hands on training in the facility; and State agency training programs. Staff members are also cross-trained and the agency provides internships.

Members then split into groups and were provided a tour of the new facility.

**Conclusion:** The tour was concluded about 8:10 a.m.

**Meeting Notes Recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING – APRIL 26, 2024**

*There were 30 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.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Linda Thomas, who greeted Jerry Schewe. In addition to Jerry being provided with a free ticket for the Joker Draw, Libby Sides was provided with a ticket as she was the person greeted last week, but did not receive her ticket.

- **Guests Welcomed:** Included Curt Fatzinger, Michael Miller, and speaker, Kim Woodworth.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
    - Tom Nall – April 29
    - Tim Murphy – April 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Bob Weier – May 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
    - Melissa and Levi Palfrey – April 26<sup>th</sup>
    - Jordan and Karina Holthaus – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Joker Draw:** Ron Weier's ticket was drawn, however, Ron drew the two of Hearts.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Brat Sale for benefit of "Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums":** sponsored by Bob Hundhausen/Edward Jones – at 2 Insight Drive – from 11-1 today.
  - **Golf Outing – May 17<sup>th</sup> - needs volunteers to assist:** contact Maxine Lane if you are willing to volunteer to help or bake cookies or bars for the event.
  - **President Reeves gone May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** President Reeves noted she will not be in attendance at next week's Business Meeting, and thanked Vice President Hundhausen who will facilitate in her absence.
  - **Platteville Guide publication:** Wayne Wodarz expressed appreciation for Optimist's advertisement participation in this publication from the Chamber.
  - **President Reeves to Speak to Platteville High School Seniors:** President Reeves noted she has been invited to speak to seniors at their banquet in May. She asked if anyone has suggestions, she could share with the younger generation, to please let her know by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Next Week's Meeting:** May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the scheduled Business Meeting.
- **Today's Speaker:** Kim Woodward, whose topic was "Picking Up & Fixing Bikes" while in St. Louis, was recruited and introduced by Tom Nall.

Tom introduced Kim by noting Kim is a retired truck driver who worked for a kitchen cabinet and counter top company. Kim also ran his own remodeling hauling business for 25 years. Kim is happily retired from both.

Kim and his wife Barb have been married for 45 years and have three grown children and grandchildren. They moved to Platteville from Missouri 4 years ago to be near family. Tom noted Kim enjoys reading, baseball, and riding and working on bikes.

Beginning his presentation about his love of bikes, Kim first thanked the Club for the invitation to speak at today's meeting.

Kim stated that growing up, his dad taught him how to work on bikes. Being the youngest of five children, Kim didn't get his first new bike until he was 14 and that bike was a Schwinn 10 speed that he got for Christmas. Kim stated he had hung out often at the Schwinn shop and watched them work on bikes. With humor, he told the story of that Schwinn bike when his mother caught him taking it apart so he could put it back together when there wasn't anything wrong with it. He kept that bike for 30 years.

He brought and showed a Fuji bike that he had found in someone's trash that he pulled out and refurbished and noted he is currently looking for an old Stingray bike to fix up for his grandkids to ride.

His passion in finding old bikes and restoring them was evident and his stories very interesting.

**Conclusion:** The meeting concluded at 7:50 a.m.

**Meeting Notes Recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in MAY 2024**

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

- Bob Weier – May 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- Becky Schambow – May 22<sup>nd</sup>;
- Dan Dreessens – May 28<sup>th</sup>;
- Dianne Jentz – May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES in MAY:**

- Jordan and Karina Holthaus – May 1<sup>st</sup>;
- Diane and Terry VanNatta – May 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- Alaina Reeves and Jeff McDonald – May 20<sup>th</sup>;
- Barbara Stockhausen and John Adams – May 26<sup>th</sup>;
- Hap and Barb Daus – May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **MAY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Arnie Roper – May 1, 1977;
- Leon Neuheisel – May 24, 2011;
- Melissa Palfrey – Mya 19, 2021
- Lisa Schmitt – May 22, 2021;
- Doreen Hlavaty – May 25, 2021;
- Deanna Hinderman, Lauren Ganzer, Diane Jentz, and Amanda Trewin – May 20, 2023

**MAY - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:** *None*