

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

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

Vision Statement: *"To Impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"*



2019 – 2020 Officers and Board of Directors

Dan Engelke, President; Wayne Wodarz, Past President;
Tom Nall, President Elect; Tim Boldt, Second Vice President;
Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Becky Schambow, Secretary

Board of Directors

Chris Budden, Steve Lane, Tim Murphy, Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel & Linda Thomas

Friday, January 10, 2020

Attendance: 31 members –Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Peggy Compton, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Penny Droessler, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Gary Engelke, Beth Frieders, Kevin Haertzen, Mike and Priscilla Hahn, Jordan Holthaus, Dave Jones, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Tom and Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Diane Paynter, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Rod and Linda Thomas, Wayne Wodarz, Tim Wood

Guests:

- Holly Clendenen and Dennis Cooley (*speakers*)

Mystery Greeter: Jordan Holthaus greeted Mike Hahn for another chance at the Joker Draw.

Anniversaries: None

Birthdays: President D. Engelke noted that Alaina Reeves will be celebrating a birthday this week on the 13th.

Joker Draw: Holly Clendenen drew the magic ticket held by Dave Jones. He drew the 2 of hearts, but he was one card away from the Joker. As some might say, he is just a little off...

Mail /Thank You Notes /Club Acknowledgements / Special Announcements:

- We received a Thank You card from the Platteville Holiday Project.
- We also received a Thank You from the Food Pantry for our \$300 donation.
- Jim Boebel is recovering nicely, and he sent us a thank you for the card, well wishes and Optimist emissary Charlie Clark.

Old Business / Reminders:

- Holiday Party: President Engelke reminded those who signed up that our Holiday Party this coming Sunday, January 12th will start at an earlier time of 2:00 p.m. so we can be done in plenty of time for the Packers' playoff game!
- Dime-A-Day: We are asking Optimists to donate a "dime-a-day" \$36.50 (or \$36.60 for leap year) to the Optimist International Foundation in January. You can drop off checks made out to the OI Foundation to Duane at any meeting or send to Jerry Schewe. OI Foundation provides the scholarship money for Oratorical and Essay contests, Junior Golf and other projects.
- Arnie Roper donation: Long time member Arnie Roper is donating proceeds from sale of his sports card collection to the Platteville Optimist Club. If you want sports memorabilia and want to help the Club at the same time, this is a great way to do it.

New Business: Nothing applicable at this time.

Program:

Becky Schambow welcomed and introduced Holly Clendenen and Dennis Cooley from Southwest Technical College as our speakers.



Holly is the Executive Director of the College Advancement, Foundation and Real Estate Foundation at Southwest Tech. Dennis Cooley serves as Public Relations Manager in College Advancement. Dennis and Holly are members of the College's Economic Impact and Outreach Development and Planning strategic priority team, which was the group responsible for today's presentation.

They did an excellent job in a tag team effort to talk about Southwest Technical College and its economic impact to the five-county region they serve (Grant, Lafayette, Iowa, Richland & Crawford). They had a pre-test that they passed to members asking them about 5 technical questions that were answered in the survey and one question as feedback.

Question 1 said that the total economic impact of SWTC is \$159.3 million which supports 2,996 jobs directly and indirectly in the five-county region.

Question 2 was a tricky one. The percentage of SWTC graduates employed in the region has dropped from 64% in 2016 to 54% in 2018. The answers for 2016, 2017 and 2018 were all on the test. Never fear, 93% of the graduates are employed within the first year of graduation.

Question 3 said that over a working lifetime, a SWTC graduate will earn approximately \$327,600 more than if they only had a high school diploma.

Question 4 was to match the median wages with the top three programs offered by SWTC.

Nurses - \$27.79, Electrical Power Distribution - \$24.00 and Physical Therapist Assistant - \$23

Question 5 said that they have 140 in student housing. 8 more beds are being built in 4 apartments by their own Building Trades students. Students living in housing are 25% more likely to graduate.

Question 6 was asking for feedback on what SWTC could do to increase the economic impact in our community.

They spoke about the upcoming space in the Ruxton Apartments building for more programs in Platteville starting this summer. They answered a lot of questions. One item that came out was that over 400 volunteers from businesses serve on advisory committees for each of their programs. This is how they keep current on what employers need from the SWTC graduates they hire. They encouraged us to try to eliminate the stigma from years past that only students who aren't "good enough" for a 4-year degree go to a Technical College. Many students need options to encourage their lifelong learning process and this is an affordable way to start.

Dennis invited everyone to a tour and lunch at their campus with a ticket. Anyone not attending today can go to www.swtc.edu to schedule a tour.

Thanks for the informative talk!

Upcoming Speakers:

- January 17th: Dan Rohrbach – CEO Southwest Health
- January 24th: Bob Hundhausen – How Elections Affect the Market
- January 31st: Jeffrey Huebschman (*Advisor*); Jack Rasmussen & Nick Nelson (*UWP Students*) – Research project on “Flying Squirrels”
- February 14: Junior Optimist Club – *speaker name(s) pending*
- February 21: Linda Hahn & Kris Wolf - Grant County Cancer Coalition
- February 28: Kelli Miller - Platteville Library

Highlights of Meeting Recorded by: Howard Crofoot