



ROOSTER CALL

'Second Time Around'

Platteville Optimist Club



Established 1968

Vision Statement

"To impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"

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BECKY'S BYTES

Greetings Everyone!



It gives me great pleasure to Congratulate Past President Wayne Wodarz, the Board, and all members of our Club for a successful 2017-2018 fiscal year. At the SWIS District Conference held in Sun Prairie on February 16th, our Club was presented with several awards, most importantly a "Distinguished Club Award" for the second year in a row.

I want to say how proud and thankful I am to have witnessed our Board, Teams (*aka Committees*), and members growing together and working towards our mission of being "Friends of Youth".

Acknowledging some of our activities of the last three months:

- We had an awesome Holiday Party, thanks to our tremendous "Fellowship Team";
- We celebrated Optimist International's 100th Anniversary by:
 - Posing for and submitting an aerial "100" picture with Club members and UW-Platteville's Wrestling Team;
 - With some assistance from Mary and Greg Sieckman's Thrivent fund, we funded a new activity, planned and coordinated by our Youth Team. We took JOI members and friends to a "Dubuque Fighting Saints Game";
- We contributed \$2000.00 to "Legion Park's Event Center" project; and \$1000.00 to the "Platteville Museums";
- We awarded Dylan Pink a check for \$150.00. Dylan was our winner of the "Oratorical Contest" where five outstanding youth provided presentations on the topic of "Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality";
- We awarded Camryn Lindell a check for \$150.00. Camryn was our winner of the "Essay Contest";
- Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Mary Sieckman and Chris Budden, our website is awesome. Our weekly "Rooster Call" minutes are posted regularly, and the site contains lots of great information about our Club. I'd highly suggest you check it out.
- Our Teams' have been busy creating "Standard Operating Procedures". I believe this documentation of responsibilities and activities will help Teams mentor new members, and old in being successful.

We have an exciting quarter ahead of us with opportunities for member involvement. Activities will include:

- Coordinating and facilitating our "TriStar Basketball" youth event scheduled for March 23rd;
- NOW (*New Optimists Wanted*) Event scheduled for April 13th.
 - Please invite one or more individuals to come to this event to hear how they could join us in continuing our mission. We would receive a Distinguished Club award for a third consecutive year if we recruit at least 18 additional members, but more importantly, we would serve at least 35 additional youth for every member gained, and that is something we can all be extremely proud of.

Thank you all for your Optimism, and continued support of our fantastic Club.

Sincerely, Becky

New Members Welcome Wagon

It is always a pleasure when we welcome new members into our Optimist Club! In January we had the opportunity to extend a welcome to a new Friend of Optimists.



Tim Zauche
Financial Planner, Thrivent Financial



Thank You For Your Service

One of our least favorite things is losing a member. We extend heartfelt thanks to Angie Udelhofen, Jim Schneller and Rob Bell as they have found it necessary to terminate their membership.

It goes without saying, their support and service to our club has made a positive impact to our community and our youth. Thank you all for your time, talent and service to our Club and our Youth.

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Mike Olds

Mike's son, Spencer, was named Teen of the Week in January. School activities include soccer and international club. Spencer plans to attend UW-P as well as UW-Eau Claire to pursue a career as a travel nurse. Congratulations Spencer!

Melby Funeral Home reaches out to Belmont School

January, 2019

Belmont Schools received five trees, three oak and two maple back in October, thanks to the partnership of Melby Funeral Home and Northwoods Casket Company. In years to come, these trees will provide shade, may be the subject of children's drawings and paintings or serve as a "safe zone" for a friendly game of tag during recess.

This is the first planting Melby Funeral Home has planned for the area.

Hat's Off to Matt

WHEN YOU LOOK AT A FIELD OF DANDELIONS, YOU CAN EITHER SEE A HUNDRED WEEDS, OR A THOUSAND WISHES.

Congratulations to Janelle Davis

Janelle's daughter, Eliana, was recently announced as the winner of the Wisconsin State Firefighters Association 2019 Fire Poster Contest. Eliana's theme was 'Every Second Counts, Plan 2 Ways Out' Eliana is a seventh grade student at PMS. Congratulations Eliana!

Membership Update



We Need Your Help!
Since our Optimist year end, September 30, we are down 3 members.



2019 Dime-a-Day Campaign

(submitted by Jerry Schewe, CFR)

Thank you to the twenty-eight members who generously participated in our annual Dime-a-Day campaign. The total contributed was just under \$1,300 when taking into consideration the multiple levels that one can contribute. This is the most we have had since our initial campaign in 2016. Your support directly impacts our club and the Platteville Community. All scholarships awarded for the essay contest and oratorical contest come from the Optimist International Foundation. The Foundation is partially funded by member donations, such as Dime-a-Day. The Foundation also defrays the cost for Tri-Star Basketball, Tri-Star Soccer and many other youth programs. We easily see well over thousands of benefits each year.



COMMITTEE COMMENTS

A new addition to our quarterly newsletter – **Committee Updates, Dates to Remember, What's Shaken!** In some instances, responses will be requested and we would ask that you provide your input, ideas and suggestions as requested.



PUBLICITY DISPATCH (Max, Mary, Maggie, Chris, Priscilla)

Your publicity/marketing team strives to get the word out about the great things that we do within the community as well as keeping our membership informed about what's happening. That being said, we have two sources of media that the publicity team is excited about; however, we don't seem to get much of a following from our membership.

For several years we have had a website, www.plattevilleoptimists.org that most recently had some major updates, thanks to Chris Budden and Mary Sieckman, with new information and pictures added. There is so much more that we can do to enhance the website; like adding a calendar that will provide members with scheduled events. However, if our members do not access the website, we are not utilizing dollars effectively. We would like to generate views on our website from the public and let potential new members know about our club.

Our other media source is our Facebook page. Our first posting on Facebook was in April, 2017. We currently have 167 followers, which considering the length of time, there is certainly room for growth. We feature our weekly speakers, new members, holiday greetings, community events, youth activities, etc., etc.

We are reaching out to our members, asking that you visit our website and Facebook page and **give us your feedback**. If these two sources of information are not of interest to our members, will the public be interested? RSVP your comments to Priscilla Hahn Priscilla.hahn@gmail.com



FELLOWSHIP CONNECTION (Pat, Joan, Bob, Fern, Linda, Peggy)

A big part of our Club is the interaction and camaraderie we share at social events. Your Fellowship Committee is once again working on an event and need membership input.

BEST BALL GOLF OUTING?

It was suggested we have a Golf outing similar to what the club had in the past. We are trying to establish interest. Please RSVP, on or before March 15 to Linda Thomas at lindalouthomas53@gmail.com indicating your choices. Interested ___yes ___no Will you/guest golf ___yes ___no (1 or both _____)
 Month Preferred (pick 2) May___ June___ July___ August___
 Attend alternative activities/meal, social, etc at the event ___yes ___no



MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH (Tom, Chris, Charlie, Carley, Eileen)

Your membership committee is focused on two efforts this year, [1] looking for ways to increase community awareness, resulting in membership growth and [2] creating a printed resource to help welcome and orientate new members.

The first community awareness project will be attending the TriStar Basketball on March 23. Committee members will be on hand to reach out to parents of participating youth, sharing copies of our brochure to inform them what we do as a community service club and the work we do in support of youth. A special insert will also be included specifically inviting them to consider membership in our club.

The second event is the annual Spring Luncheon, Saturday, April 13 at First English Lutheran Church, 11:00 – 1:00. How can you help? Invite people to enjoy a delicious lunch and learn more about our club. Forward guest names and addresses to Chris Budden cbrown1997@hotmail.com Invitations will be mailed; however, we also ask you to extend a personal invite and inform them of the invitation they will receive. Perspective members attending the luncheon will be offered a \$10 discount on their initial membership dues.

Our final project is a 'New Membership Guide' to not only welcome new members but to also share a variety of information to help them understand what our Optimist Club is all about (traditions, projects, fun at meetings, social events, etc.). Our goal is not only to get new members, but also retain members and have fun for everyone!



Essay and Oratorical Contest 2018 – 2019 (submitted by Maxine Lane)
“When All the World’s Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary”



Well, as an Optimist member....what do you think”

This, my fellow Optimist Members, was the topic for our 2018-2019 Essay Contest, which concluded mid-February. Twenty-nine Platteville Middle School students took on the challenge of putting into words their thoughts and feelings about this concept, using 700-800 words. Bringing this program into the schools provides an opportunity for students to not only earn a \$2,500 scholarship but just as important, if not more so, build their confidence and further develop their leadership skills. Thanks to Mark Haas and Mary Sieckman who served as judges for this event. Unfortunately we can only have two winners, representing both clubs:

- *Camryn Lindell – representing Optimist Club of Platteville
- *Skyler Stone – representing Platteville Area Optimist

“Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality”

Needless to say, the Oratorical is a bit more intimidating, because it involves standing up in front of people??? We were delighted to have five students from St. Rose in Cuba City participate in the 2018-2019 event. Speeches are to be over 4 and under 5 minutes. As we know, throughout life, public speaking comes into play for many, many careers. As Optimists, we are preparing youth for this chapter of their life. Once again, of the five participants, we had two winners, representing both clubs:

- *Dylan Pink – representing Optimist Club of Platteville
- *Leah Mergen – representing Platteville Area Optimist



Books for Babies

The Optimist Books for Babies program is still going strong in 2019. The first 30 Books for Babies packets were delivered to Southwest Health. It is always a pleasure to get a call from the nurses in OB for more books. Looks like they will be as busy this year as last year when our club gave them 114 packets.

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

March

- 16 – Zone Oratorical
- 20 – Spring begins
- 23 – TriStar Basketball

April

- 2 – Board Meeting
- 13 – Spring Lunch
- 21 – Easter Sunday

May

- 4/30 – May Board Meeting
- 12 – Mother’s Day
- 27 – Memorial Day

OPTIMIST CREED

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Member Celebrations

Happy Birthday

March

05– John Urness
 19 – Jerry Schewe
 19 – Paul Budden
 23 – Naomi Wells
 24 – Linda Thomas
 24 – Wayne Wodarz

April

09 – Leon Neuheisel
 16 – Dennis Helbing
 29 – Tom Nall
 30 – Jim Olds

May

02 – Bob Weier
 22 – Becky Schambow
 27 – Janelle Davis

Happy Anniversary

March - n/a

April

08 – Ernie Thalmann
 14 – Paul & Chris Budden
 21 – Bob Stephens
 25 – Eileen Nickels

May

03 – Diane VanNatta
 26 – John Adams & Barb Stockhausen
 29 – Hap Daus



Member Awards



Former SWIS Governor, Jeff Kuchenbecker, presented the official Governor’s Green Jacket to Immediate Past Governor, Gary Engelke. During Gary’s year as Past Governor he will serve as OI Ambassador, encouraging clubs to be active in building their membership and clubs to attend the Annual OI Convention, scheduled for June 30 – July 3 in Louisville KY.

Congratulations Gary

District Awards presented by Immediate Past SWIS Governor Gary Engelke at the Second Quarter SWIS District Conference, Sun Prairie, WI

Distinguished Club Award for 2017-2018 (watches for President and Treasurer)

Honor Club Award for 2017-2018

Distinguished Lt. Governor Award – Maxine received a clock

SWIS District Treasurer’s Award – Presented to Duane (plaque)

Henry Steiner Award Presented to Maxine

Framed Print – Recognition of Club budgeting \$500. 00to OI Foundation;

\$365.00 Patch – Club’s donation of at least \$365.00 to OI in unrestricted funds;

\$30.00 Patch / Year Bar – Donations averaging \$10.00 or more/member

Peg Compton – pin for first member recruitment

\$25.00 Check for Youth Account – for having the most members (5)

(plus President) in attendance at the conference.

Optimist Club of Platteville was the only Distinguished Club of the 54 Clubs in the SWIS District.

**CONGRATULATIONS
 THANK YOU**

**for your years of service
 and loyalty to
 Platteville Optimist**

March

1972 – Tom Jonas
 1980 – Duane Borgen (L)
 1981 – Phil Swift (L)
 1988 – Hap Daus
 1992 – George Bykkonen
 1992 – Dean Feldman
 1997 – Howard Crofoot
 2001 – Bill VanDeest
 2005 – Doug Martin
 2009 – Ron Weier
 2011 – Fern Nall
 2013 – Kevin Haertzen
 2016 – Guy Stead

April

1974– Dave Jones (L)
 1999 – Lynn Schlager
 2002 – John Urness
 2003 – Ron Holl
 2016 – Tri-Com, Inc. (*)
 2017 – Brian Brown
 2017 – Laura Brown
 2017 – Peggy Compton
 2017 – Janelle Davis
 2017 – Donna Gavin
 2017 – Mary & Greg Sieckman
 2017 – Linda Thomas
 2017 – Jeff White
 2018 – Cathy Cotter
 2018 – Jordan Holthaus
 2018 – Hannah Rewey

May

1977 – Arnie Roper
 1991 – Jan Waite
 2011 – Leon Neuheisel
 2015 – Brad Mootz

(L) – Lifetime Members
 (*) – Friends of Optimist

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Clips from Post-Holiday Party/White Elephant Gift Exchange



2019 Keeper of Shelly



Elmo Staff



Santa's Helper



Damn Moths

Thanks to our Committee... Pat, Bob, Fern, Peggy, Linda, Joan



Teacher Talk



Mr. Music Man and Joyce



What's Tom doing in the picture??



Party? Who said party!!



Photo Bomber



Who Us? Innocent!



So serious



Wayne's on the loose



Let the fun begin... we're here



Meanwhile...back at City Hall



Plus 1

Don't bother me, I'm after my cherry.



What do you think, ah, one more won't hurt. I think its Doug's turn to buy!



Somebody say Long Island?



Eat?? Why??



Too many olives. He doesn't remember which name is his!



One in every crowd. Sippy Cup awards.



White Elephant Gift

