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



Becky Schambow, President
Dan Engelke, President Elect
Wayne Wodarz, Past President
Tom Nall, Vice President
Duane Borgen, Treasurer
Maxine Lane, Secretary
Directors

Tim Boldt Chris Budden
Pat Moxness Tim Murphy
Mary Sieckman Ernie Thalmann

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

## Platteville Optimist Weekly Bulletin – March 8, 2019

Attendance: 22 Members – Tim Boldt, Carley Borcherding, Duane Borgen, Laura Brown, Charlie Clark, Hap Daus, Dan Engelke, Gary Engelke, Beth Frieders, Kevin Haertzen, Dennis Helbing, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Jerry Schewe, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Gene Weber, Wayne Wodarz.

<u>Guests:</u> Our speaker, Olivia Conklin was welcomed by President Elect, Dan Engelke, who was leading our meeting in the absence of President Schambow.

Mystery Greeter: Kevin Haertzen experienced a feeling like none before as he shook hands with Tim Murphy, a/k/a, the one we know and lovingly refer to as 'Father Murphy'.

**<u>Birthdays/Anniversaries:</u>** None to acknowledge today,

<u>Joker Draw:</u> Carley was holding the lucky ticket when announced by guest speaker, Olivia. Carley won the standard \$2.00, drawing the jack of diamonds.

Mail/Thank You Notes/Club Acknowledgements: None to share with members this morning.

## **OLD BUSINESS/REMINDERS:**

<u>Bob Weier Update:</u> President Elect, Dan Engelke shared with the members he had visited Bob and together they watched the Wisconsin Badgers defeat the Iowa Hawkeyes. Bob's sense of humor is good, he had a couple of his normal 'clever' remarks and though he is wounded, he is making progress. Charlie Clark had also visited Bob as had Leon Neuheisel. President Elect Engelke encouraged members to get permission from Pat Moxness, Ron Weier or other family members prior to making a visit to see Bob.

<u>Tri-Star Basketball:</u> T Boldt reminded members the date is March 23 at UW-P Bo Ryan Court. Volunteer signup sheet was circulated as more help is needed.

<u>NOW Luncheon:</u> C Clark handed out forms to members who did not have one, requesting up to three names of guests that could be invited to our luncheon on April 13. C Clark stated names could be turned in to a member of the committee (himself of Tom Nall) as soon as possible.

<u>Summer Social Event:</u> F Nall reminded members of the request to RSVP regarding a possible golf outing as a summer social. This was in the March newsletter and it was requested to reply to Linda Thomas on or before March 15.

<u>Tasty Treat from Ernie:</u> Those of us at the table with Ernie Thalmann, had a look of suspicion when having finished his breakfast, he asked Linda, our waitress, for a plate and sharp knife. Just what was Ernie up to? To our surprise he had brought with him a sample of prize winning cheese from his place of employment. Cheese was called Queso Panela and of course very tasty. Ernie said it is even better when you cut into bite size pieces and drop into hot oil. This is a must try!

**Program:** Charlie Clark introduced our speaker today, Olivia Conklin from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. A last minute substitute for Amy Studden, Olivia did an outstanding job and provided a very informative presentation.



Prior to her current career, Olivia was an "Army Brat" as she referred to herself. She served as a flight attendant and for a period of time, flew to and from war zone area in rescue of service personnel.

She acquired her political science degree and works as a Business Services Consultant. Olivia and Amy cover a 10 county area in Wisconsin and Olivia works primarily out of the Janesville Office. The DVR works with all ages of disabled to gain employment, retain a job and to even get a better job. Something so simply as what is referred to as soft skills training, are critical in the training process for the disabled.

- Applying for a job
- Proper way to ask for time off
- Consistently showing up on time
- Showing up for work everyday

In meeting with the business sector, Olivia encourages the hiring of disabled individuals. Statistics have proven them to have a higher retention rate, outstanding attendance and often times satisfied with the job they are initially trained to do for quite some time, even though other opportunities are presented to them.

Time was allowed for Q & A.

Weekly Speakers: Thank you to Charlie Clark and Ron Weier for serving as our speaker coordinator for March.

March 15: Brigid Reimann and FFA Officers

March 22: Dr. Ray Sloan – Exploring the wonders of Peru

March 29: George Smith, Retired UW-P Professor – His collection of music

Thank you to Maxine Lane for coordinating our April speakers.

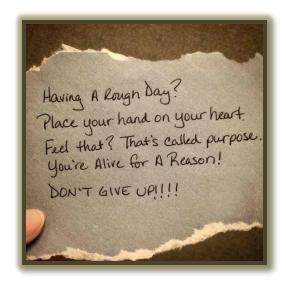
**April 5:** Business Meeting

April 12: Sally Stead and Kelly Hubbard – The bond of adoption. Special Guest: Blakley Hubbard

**April 19:** Oratorical and Essay Winners – will recite/read their entry

April 26: Kelly Sponsler, Middle School Optimists (JOI Club) – what's shakin with the JOI Club?

Minutes taken and drafted by Maxine Lane



## Just in case you are interested!

Watch here for future items of interest. To post, send email to <u>msmacy105@yahoo.com</u>

Items for sale, looking to buy, member social outings, etc.