

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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PAGE 1

BECKY'S BYTES



When I agreed to assume the position of President of our Optimist Club, obviously my age was hindering my judgement, as I wasn't thinking that I'd need to write an article for our quarterly newsletter so please bear with me.



First of all, I want to thank all of you for instilling your unguided confidence in me. Let it be known, however, that a leader is only as good as the team, and I'm proud to say, we have a tremendous team.

Together we accomplished so much last year. We celebrated our 50th year of serving our youth and community, having too much fun at our Bi-Centennial Banquet and taking first place in our Dairy Day Parade Non-profit entry. We raised and contributed \$5000 towards the Legacy Gift purchase of a Tot Slide to the Platteville Family Aquatic Center in honor of our 50th Year. We raised \$19,037.46 in our cheese curd sales in spite of some wet weather at the fair. We received an additional \$1100 in revenue for our purchase and sales of Fund Crazz tickets. In my mind, our most successful accomplishment in our last fiscal year was the all-time high in our membership, ending our fiscal year with ninety individual memberships and twenty-three Friends of Optimists. This equates to serving 35 youth for every member, resulting in a whopping **3955** kids.

Looking forward to this upcoming year, we have fun and exciting times ahead. Our Fellowship Committee is in the process of planning our Annual Holiday Party, which will take place on January 11, 2019. I hope you will be able to attend so we can kick the year off with some great food, fellowship, and lots of laughs.

This year commemorates Optimist International's Centennial Year providing individuals and our club opportunities for awards and acknowledgement. You can receive an individual award by sponsoring a new member, participating in a club project and submitting a testimonial / "Optimist Story" to Optimist International. I challenge you all to work with me to enable us to receive the "Centennial Distinguished Club" award, which means we need to exceed requirements of being an Honor Club by netting an additional ten in our membership, building a new adult club, and donating an additional unrestricted \$100 contribution to the Foundation. Together we can do this!

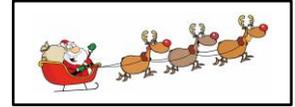
As we've heard, "many hands make light work". Our first challenge is to recruit new members. We need to ensure that 'our good works' for 'our kids' continues for years to come. Please invite your friends, neighbors, teachers, hair dressers, co-workers, etc. to join our team and work together to make this our best year ever. Be involved in any way you can to continue supporting our great mission of "Bringing out the Best in Kids".

I sincerely wish you and your family the Happiest of Holidays and look forward to a great year ahead.

Becky, President

Wayne Willkomm joined our club in September, 2018. Graduating in 1966 from UW-Platteville with majors in Applied Mathematics and Chemistry, he is originally from Cassville, and now lives in Glen Haven and Florida. He spent thirty-three years in the aerospace/defense industry in various engineering and management roles. In 1999, he became full time farmer/land steward, has implemented milk vending machine projects in twenty-one southern Wisconsin high schools and manages special breed beef rotational grazing operations. Wayne does take time to play, enjoying fast pitch softball, sports car racing, water skiing, downhill snow skiing, sail boat racing, genealogy and bow hunting and is currently pursuing writing activities.

New Members Welcome Wagon



Karen Kurt became a member on September 24, 2018. As a speaker on occasions, Karen is familiar with our Club and also our members. It was a pleasure to finally welcome her as a member. Serving as the Platteville City Manager since July, 2015, Karen has a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University in Ithaca NY and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Minnesota State University-Mankato. Karen is no stranger to the tristate area. Her parents were originally from Cascade IA and Karen spent her early childhood in Dubuque. Karen volunteers with the Rotary Club of SW Wisconsin, Family Promise of Grant County and the Casa Program at UW-Platteville.

It was a pleasure to welcome Mark Haas, on September 29. Mark and his wife Joan, have three daughters, and seven grandchildren. Mark and Joan have lived in Platteville since getting their degrees at UW-P. The majority of Mark's career was as a sales manager at McGraw-Hill in Dubuque, followed by a 5 year stint owning a small business in Madison. Mark is currently marketing legal services and identity theft protection. Mark and Joan like to spend time traveling, with the grandchildren, spending time with family camping, hiking and tubing the Grant River.

It is always special to welcome the spouse of a member, and we were able to do that when Priscilla Hahn joined our club on September 29. Born and raised in Madison, Priscilla graduated from UW-Eau Claire with an elementary education and special education teaching certification. She taught special education in McHenry IL as well as PHS, serving as assistant girls' basketball coach at both locations. Priscilla and Mike met at PHS, have been married 37 years and have three adult sons. In 1990 Priscilla was hired as the learning specialist in Student Support Services at UW-P, from where she recently retired after 28 years. She is still adjusting to retirement. Her plans include finding time to read, play piano and ping pong, volunteer, learn new crafts, travel, attend musical concerts/plays and embrace lifelong learning.

On October 3, we welcomed Ann Kroncke as our newest member. Ann lives in Platteville and teaches Biology at PHS. She has experience frying cheese curds as she helped with the Monroe Optimists. Hearing about the number of scholarships given by Optimists, she was happy to help. As a teacher she sees first hand young people grow/mature and hears about their plans after high school. Ann is single, has two sisters, Martha and Ruth and enjoys hiking and kayaking with her nieces.

It is also a pleasure to welcome Bridgid Reimann who joined on September 24. Bridgid is an Ag Teacher at PHS.

Welcome new Friends of Optimist



Doug Rogers



Pastor Mike Short
FELC



Bel-Aire



As we enjoy the opportunity and excitement in welcoming new members, there comes a time

when we also bid farewell. We will miss Pam Stark and Gary & Lu Jones. Thank you for the time you served our Club and our youth.

*Awards and Installation
2018-2019*



*Congratulations
Ken Kamps
President's Citation*



*Congratulations
Tim Boldt
Optimist of the Year*



*Congratulations
Steve Lane
Outstanding Member
of the Year*



*Congratulations
John Urness
Chuck Thalmann Award*



*Thank You
2017-2018 President
Wayne Wodarz
presented with a logo
embossed portfolio*



*Thank You Charlie Clark
for your sense of humor!
'One of a kind' award to a
guy who likes to
Monkey Around!*



*Thank You Terri Ellis
for your musical talent
and leadership in our
Dairy Day's 1st Place*



Your 2018-2019 Board of Directors





Submitted by: Jerry Schewe
 Club Foundation
 Representative

Annual Dime-a-Day Campaign

Optimist International, through the Optimist International Foundation, supports many youth projects held during the year. For several years our members have been supporting the Optimist Foundation through the Dime-A-Day fund. Quite simply, members contribute 10¢ per day for the entire year (\$36.50 total) allowing the OIF to continue supporting these projects and assist with the development of new programs. Supported projects include:

- *District Oratorical scholarship
- *World-wide Oratorical scholarship
- *District CCDHH scholarship (Communication Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
- *Junior World Golf
- *Club grants for new projects within a community
- *Program development
- *Regional Oratorical scholarship
- *District Essay scholarship
- *District Tri-Star Basketball

Each of the past two years we have had 26 members contribute over \$1,100. Three years ago we had 30 members contribute over \$1,400. ***I put the challenge to the membership that this year we meet or beat the numbers from three years ago.*** Join me in donating \$36.50, a Dime-A-Day that makes a difference in the lives of youth.

In advance, the Optimist Foundation thanks you for your generous donation. You can either bring your check to a Friday morning meeting or send it to me at 860 Jefferson St., Platteville WI 53818. All checks will be sent to St. Louis in late January or early February.



2018-2019 Optimist International Essay Contest
 Club event January/early February, 2019

***“When all the world’s problems are solved,
 is Optimism still necessary?”***



2018-2019 Optimist International Oratorical Contest
 Club event January/early February, 2019

“Is there a fine line between Optimism and reality?”



Thank you to our panel of Judges:

Essay Contest:

Mark Haas, Mary Sieckman, Priscilla & Mike Hahn

Oratorical Contest:

Sally Stead, Angie Boldt, Barb Daus + 1 more

Both local and district awards are presented. District Essay winner is eligible for a \$2,500 scholarship. Top three in the District Oratorical Contest qualify for \$2,500, \$1,500 or \$1,000 scholarships as placement is determined.



DATE: Saturday, March 23, 2019

TIME: 12 Noon – 2:00 PM

PLACE: UW-P Bo Ryan Court

Come join the fun as we watch our future Basketball All-stars compete in dribbling, shooting and passing competition. This is one of those events that help you realize why we do what we do. District competition is scheduled in Mukwonago on April 13 so our local event in advance helps the families going to district plan ahead. Thank you to Tim Boldt for making these arrangements. Signup sheet will come in March.

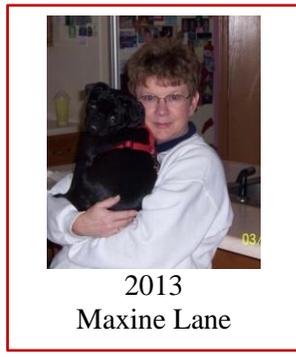


Save the Date
January 11, 2019
Optimist Annual
Holiday Party and
White Elephant Gift Exchange
Elmo Club

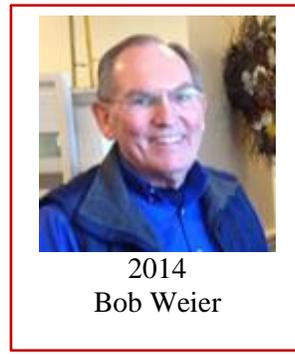
You could join this elite group who has had the honor of displaying our treasured "Shell Lamp" in their homes.



Pre 2013 ??
The Engelke's



2013
Maxine Lane



2014
Bob Weier



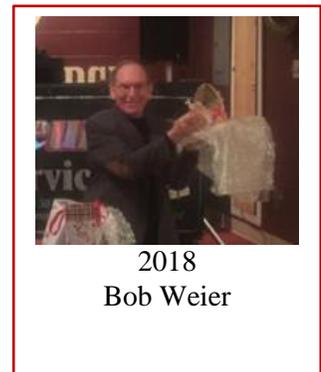
2015
Tom Nall



2016
Joyce Clark



2017
Steve Lane



2018
Bob Weier



Your Picture Could Be Here!!
Attend the Annual
Holiday Party on
January 11, 2019
Elmo Club





Member Celebrations

Happy Birthday

December

- 01 – Virgil Pufahl
- 04 – Priscilla Hahn
- 16 – Howard Crofoot
- 16 – Kevin Haertzen
- 19 – Eileen Engelke
- 22 – Pam Stark
- 23 – Phil Swift
- 27 – Anne Klawiter

January

- 05 – Greg Sieckman
- 08 – Duane Borgen
- 16 – Pat Moxness
- 28 – Charlie Clark

February

- 07 – Steve Lane
- 08 – John Adams
- 12 – Tim Boldt
- 15 – Brad Mootz
- 26 – Beth Frieders



**CONGRATULATIONS
THANK YOU**

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

December

- 1993 – Kathy Kopp
- 2000 – Tom Nall
- 2006 – Beth Frieders
- 2012 – Tim Boldt
- 2012 – Bob Weier
- 2014 – Becky Schambow
- 2015 – Dupaco *

January

- 1987 – Bob Stephens
- 2018 – Joan Bahr
- 2018 – Pat Moxness
- 2018 – Naomi Wells
- 2016 – Delta 3 *

February

- 2009 – Maxine Lane
- 2009 – Steve Lane
- 2015 – Dennis Helbing
- 2018 – Matt Bohlken
- 2016 – PBII *
- 2018 – Rob Bell *

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

Happy Anniversary

December

- 17 – Duane Borgen
- 18 – Dave Jones
- 27 – Mike & Priscilla Hahn

January - none

February – 02 Jim Boll



*Happy Anniversary
to Member & Spouse*



OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

December

- 04 – Board Meeting 7 AM
- 07 – Pearl Harbor
- 08 – Badger Camp Event
- 11-12-13 – Santa Calling
- 21 – Winter Begins
- 25 – Christmas Day



January

- 01 – WELCOME 2019!!
- 02 – Board Meeting 7 AM
- 11 – Post Holiday Party - **Elmo**
- 29 – Board Meeting 7 AM



February

- 02 – Ground Hog Day
- 14 – Valentine’s Day
- 18 – Presidents’ Day
- 26 – Board Meeting



Santa Calling



Getting the right connection across the Inter Continental United States to make that connection with Santa at the North Pole takes talent, and we have all the talent within our membership.

Thanks to the following members many good little boys and girls will receive a call from Santa, adding excitement to their holiday and a priceless memory for moms and dads.

- Ron Weier – Tom Nall – Jordan Holthaus – Tim Boldt
- Kevin Haertzen – Dan Engelke – Ernie Thalmann – Phil Swift
- Gary Engelke – Charlie Clark
- Dean Feldman – Howard Crofoot

Thank You Santa’s

OPTIMST CREED

Promise Yourself . . .

- 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.

***Wisconsin Badger Camp
1966 Event
Holiday Gardens Potosi
December 8, 2018***



President Elect, Dan Engelke presents the annual donation to Badger Camp Director, Kaetlyn Carr. We have two tables reserved this year (14 tickets), with free tickets to Optimist Members and a cost of \$66.00 for spouse/guest. Your ticket includes dinner, entertainment and your support of Wisconsin Badger Camp. Contact Maxine if interested, msmacy105@yahoo.com 608.778.7786.

Books for Babies

Update from Fern Nall



Erin Isabell, Manager of the Platteville Public Library Children’s Services, works with Fern to select books that are purchased by the Optimists and are distributed to new parents and their new arrivals at Southwest Health. In addition to the book, the packet includes a brochure and letter from Optimist Club of Platteville.

Our latest purchase was 145 books made in September. To date in 2018, we have made 4 distributions to the hospital, totaling 116 books. The latest report from the OB Department is they are expecting 20 babies per month to be delivered.





MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN
www.registertoring.com
or call 778-2679

Work with a friend and split a two hour shift or commit to your own 2 hour shift. Volunteers are needed. Shifts are available at Piggly Wiggly, Walmart and Farm & Fleet from now through Christmas Eve. Contact info above.

Ring a bell...Help change a life.

2019 SPEAKER COORDINATORS

We are gearing up for 2019 and you can be assured of some upcoming fabulous, informative speakers. It is with many thanks, we acknowledge our coordinators:

Pat Moxness/Joan Bahr, Beth Frieders, Ron Weier/Charlie Clark, Maxine Lane, Paul & Chris Budden, Ken Kamps, Karen Kurt, Bob Weier, Linda Thomas, 'The Tom and Dan Show' (Tom Nall/Dan Engelke), Doug Martin, Gary & Eileen Engelke.

If any member has a suggestion for a speaker, please make contact with one of these coordinators. They are appreciative of all suggestions.



Memory Making Moments



With their permission, it is a pleasure to share with the Optimist Members the engagement and upcoming marriage of Pat Moxness and Bob Weier. Congratulations!!



Congratulations...

To our member, **Janelle Davis** whose daughter, Eliana, is one of five Platteville Middle School students selected by audition to sing with the Wisconsin Middle Level Choir, a choir of 108 singers, representing students from across the entire state. The Wisconsin School Music Association brings Wisconsin's finest school musicians together to work with nationally known conductors in a professional setting.

Congratulations...

To our member, **Mike Olds**, whose son, Spencer, a member of the Platteville/Lancaster boys' soccer team, was one of eleven who were accommodated during a recent awards program. Spencer earned honorable mention.

PIZZA PARTY



The Back Page

Maxine's Annual Christmas Story

My grandma taught me everything about Christmas. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," jeered my sister. "Even dummies know that!"

My grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her world-famous cinnamon buns. Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus!" she snorted. "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad. Now, put on your coat, and let's go." "Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second cinnamon bun.

"Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's. I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobbie Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class. Bobbie Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out for recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough; but all we kids knew that Bobbie Decker didn't have a cough, and he didn't have a coat.

I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobbie Decker a coat. I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that. I didn't see a price tag, but ten dollars ought to buy anything. I put the coat and my ten-dollar bill on the counter and pushed them toward the lady behind it. She looked at the coat, the money, and me. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" she asked kindly. "Yes," I replied shyly. "It's ... for Bobbie. He's in my class, and he doesn't have a coat." The nice lady smiled at me. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat in Christmas paper and ribbons, and write, "To Bobbie, From Santa Claus" on it ... Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobbie Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially one of Santa's helpers. Grandma parked down the street from Bobbie's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Suddenly, Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going." I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his doorbell twice and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobbie. He looked down, looked around, picked up his present, took it inside and closed the door.

Forty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my grandma, in Bobbie Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were: Ridiculous!

Santa was alive and well ... AND WE WERE ON HIS TEAM!

