

# 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 31, 2020**

**Attendance:** **29 Members:** Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Beth Frieders, Kevin Haertzen, Mike Hahn, Priscilla Hahn, Dennis Helbing, Bob Hundhausen, David Jones, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey (foo), Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Greg Sieckman, Mary Sieckman, Guy Stead, Bob Stephens, Matt Tyc, Wayne Wodarz, Tim Zauche (foo).

#### **Guests:**

- Jack Rasmussen and Nick Nelson (speakers)
- Steve Chandler (guest of Mike Hahn)

**Mystery Greeter:** Wayne Wodarz was our Mystery Greeter who greeted Tim Boldt.

#### **Anniversaries:**

- Jim and Judith Boll on February 2nd

**Birthdays:** None

**Joker Draw:** After a couple of last week's tickets were drawn (tisk tisk, Charlie), our guest speaker Nick Nelson drew Bob Hundhausen's ticket. After drowning his biscuits and gravy in pepper and sriracha sauce, Bob drew a 3 of clubs. Yay for us! The pot continues to grow.

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

- Platteville Board of Education acknowledged our donation of \$300 towards meals for needy students, \$100 towards Junior Prom, \$200 towards the MS Homework Club, and \$400 towards needy students and families.
- Platteville Optimist Club will be presented with a certificate in honor of 30 consecutive years as a Platteville Regional Chamber member at the 57th Annual Celebration & Arthur T. Virtue Awards Night. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at the Belmont Convention Center in

Belmont. Social hour begins at 5:00 pm with dinner and program to follow. **A group photo will be taken at 5:30pm!**

- Wayne Wodarz noted he had seen Jim Boebel at a meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> and that Jim seemed to be doing well after having a kidney transplant in December. We hope Jim will be able to join us again soon.
- Tim Boldt won the sippy cup award. Way to go Tim!
- Charlie Clark is selling raffle tickets on behalf of Father Jim Murphy of Ss. Anthony & Phillip in Highland. Talk to him for more details on this fantastic gambling opportunity.



### **Old Business / Reminders:**

- Friday January 31st was the last day to participate in our Dime-A-Day campaign.

### **Program:**

Becky Schambow introduced our speakers today, noting they are students at UW-Platteville who have been conducting an unusual study on “Flying Squirrels” since the fall of 2019.

Jack Rasmussen is in his final semester of classes at UW-Platteville, where he is majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology. In 2016 Jack graduated from St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI with a degree in Economics. Jack worked as an Inventory Analyst for two years before deciding to come back to school to pursue a degree in Biology. Jack is from Galena, Illinois.

Nicholas Nelson is also in his final semester of classes at UW-Platteville, where he is majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology and a minor in Environmental Science. Nick spent a summer in Utah with the Division of Wildlife Resources where he gained valuable experiences. Nick is from Richfield, Minnesota.

Jack and Nick had some intriguing information to share about the study of *Glaucomys volans*, or Southern Flying Squirrels. They began their research in the fall and chose this subject due to their knowledge of the species' presence on campus. A prior UW-P student, Julie, discovered their presence on campus while working on her final project.

Some facts about the squirrels:

- Nocturnal species, only in North America
- Use cavities in trees as roosts
- Are omnivores
- Have skin membranes (patagium) to glide through the air
- Found in temperate to sub-temperate deciduous and mixed forest (oak, maple and birch)
- Protected species in Wisconsin.

Their study objectives included identifying their roost sites, determining the home range of flying squirrels, and document their movement and behavior patterns. They studied the area surrounding Pioneer Rd, Southwest Rd, and south of UW-Platteville's Southwest parking lot. After trial and error with Tomahawk and Sherman live-traps, they found success in using wooden weasel boxes with Sherman live-traps. They had game cameras set up to document their captures. Once captured, they collared them with Holohill PD-2C radio collars to track their location and movement.

As of Friday, January 31st, they had been tracking the flying squirrels for 16 days and 7 nights. They have caught 4 males and observed some additional non-collared squirrels. They have discovered 8 roost sites. Although they tend to be solitary organisms, they observed more than one squirrel utilizing the same cavity, which is known to occur in the winter.



Nick and Jack commented on how the squirrels are fairly small - smaller than regular squirrels, almost more like chipmunks. They shared that the squirrels can typically fly 30-40 feet, and are most vulnerable when crawling on the ground. They did find one squirrel who was going to areas not typical of their behavior, and this is something they'd like to keep researching.

So far, their accomplishments include:

- Gathering data to create a home range map of where these squirrels reside on the UW-Platteville campus (and for some, in our very own backyards)
- Observed movement and habitat use patterns
- Recently documented a presence at the "M" mound on January 14th

Nick and Jack ended their presentation with a special thanks to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW-P, and to the homeowners of Platteville.

### **Upcoming Speakers:**

- ***February 7<sup>th</sup> is our Business Meeting***
- **February 14: Junior Optimist Club Update and Review of Optimist Website**
- **February 21: Linda Hahn & Kris Wolf - Grant County Cancer Coalition**
- **February 28: Kelli Miller - Platteville Library**
- **March 13 - Melissa Palfrey, Family Advocates**
- **March 20 - Road Trip to Gro Alliance, Cuba City, Host: Jim Schweigert**
- **March 27 - Jenna Phillips, Platteville Farmers Market**

**Highlights of Meeting Recorded by: Alaina Reeves**