



# Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights April 2023

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

**2022-2023 Officers:** Melissa Palfrey, President; Alaina Reeves, Vice President; Howard Crofoot, Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; and Becky Schambow, Secretary.

**2022-2023 Board of Directors:** Amy Coffey; Terri Ellis; Mark Essex; Doreen Hlavaty; Jordan Holthaus; and Leon Neuheisel.

Published for Members April 30, 2023 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN APRIL 2023

### **BUSINESS MEETING: Friday, April 7, 2023**

**Attendance:** There were 20 members and 2 guest attending including: Tim Boldt; Carley Borcharding; Paul Budden; Howard Crofoot; Terri Ellis; Dan Engelke; Eileen and Gary Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Maxine and Steve Lane; Tom Nall; Melissa Palfrey; Becky Schambow; Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; and guests, Darlene Masters and Bob Lowe.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Palfrey at 7:00 a.m. Members then joined together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

**Guests to Welcome:** President Palfrey welcomed guests and presented them with our Club's donation checks as follows:

- Robert Lowe, City of Platteville Parks and Recreation Director, was welcomed and presented with donation checks for “Every Child Plays” and the “Family Aquatic Center”. Bob thanked the Club for our donations to these programs and explained that the donations are used to help children in need be able to participate in city youth activities.
- Darlene Masters, Director of Family Advocates, was welcomed and presented with Club's donation check. Darlene thanked the Club for our donation and explained the funds will be used to offset costs of the summer camp for children in their program. She noted that the four-week program (*1 day per week*) helps children learn about setting boundaries, having healthy relationships, being responsible, etc. while doing fun activities.
  - Donations to Family Advocates: In response to a question from a member, Darlene and President Palfrey noted that almost any home items, except wall hangings and knickknacks can be donated to Family Advocates.

### **Meeting Activities:**

- **Mystery Greeter:** Tim Boldt was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Libby Sides.
- **Joker Draw:** Paul Budden's ticket was drawn; however, he drew the Queen of Clubs.
- **Breakfast Draw Winners:** Robert Stephens and Terri Ellis were the two members present, and Emmily Dreessens and Doug Martin were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in April.

**Special Dates to Remember:** announced by President Palfrey and included:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
  - Leon Neuheisel – April 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Diane Paynter – April 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
  - Ernie and Shirley Thalmann – April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1972
  - Chris and Paul Budden – April 14, 2007

- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
  - Lynn Schlager – April 7, 1999
  - Ronald Hull – April 17, 2003
  - Greg and Mary Sieckman, and Linda Thomas - April 16, 2017
  - Jeff White – April 28, 2017
  - Jordan Holthaus – April 14, 2018
  - Penny Droessler, Eileen McCartney, Alaina Reeves & Barb Deis – April 30, 2019
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Upcoming Month**
  - Family Pet Hospital – April 30, 2019

#### **Announcements:**

- **Membership Committee Needs Additional Members:** The Membership Committee is seeking interested members to be on their committee. If interested, please contact Terri Ellis or Charlie Clark, Co-chairs.
- **SWIS District Conference – May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>:** President Palfrey encouraged interested members to sign up on the SWIS District website for the SWIS District Conference to be held in Wisconsin Dells on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Bob McFadden, OI President may attend Club Meeting:** It was noted that Bob McFayden may attend our Club meeting on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> on his way to the Dells for the SWIS Conference.

**Installation of Libby Sides:** President Palfrey officially installed Libby Sides as our newest Club member. Her sponsor, Linda Foht assisted in the installation / presentation. Libby was welcomed by the members.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Tuesday, April 4, 2023:** President Palfrey reviewed the following highlights from the Board meeting held on April 4, 2023.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** President Palfrey reviewed the Treasurer's Report for period ending 3-31-23 that was submitted by Club Treasurer, Duane Borgen.

- **Motion from Board for approval:** President Palfrey reported a motion has been made by the Board to accept the report as printed. Seconded by Eileen Engelke, motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Finance / Administration:** D. Borgen reported to the Board that he recently sent out notices for those owing dues to 26 members, 13 have paid and he hopes remainder will pay soon
- **Community Service:**
  - **Story Book Walk Schedule:** At the time of the Board meeting H. Crofoot reported he did not know whether or not the Parks & Recreation Board approved the placement schedule, however since that time they have approved the schedule. The event schedule will be posted on our website
  - **Bike Rodeo / Night Safety Event Update:** Tabled as have not heard from Boy Scouts.
  - **Chair of Community Service:** Maxine Lane has volunteered to serve as Chairperson. H. Crofoot will be the Board Liaison. Maxine asked that any members having ideas for Community Service activities submit them to her.
- **Membership:**
  - **First 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Meeting:** 8 people participated in the first 5<sup>th</sup> Friday social luncheon meeting on March 31 at Los Amigos, two of which were prospective new members. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Friday meeting will be held on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, tentatively planned at Gloria's Restaurant (*formerly Elks Lodge*).
  - **Membership Changes:** PBII had paid their FOO membership dues late and subsequently OI added them back as new FOO as of March 1, 2023.
    - **Motion by Board:** President Palfrey reported that the Board has made a motion to approve this new FOO membership. Seconded by Maxine Lane, motion carried.
  - **NOW Event – May 20:** Phil Swift has agreed to speak at the event. President Palfrey encouraged others to volunteer to speak as well. Members are encouraged to submit names of prospective members and attend with their nominees

- **Membership Committee Needs Volunteers:** The Membership Committee is seeking additional members to volunteer to serve on their committee. Please contact Terri Ellis or Charlie Clark (co-chairs) if interested.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** President Palfrey noted changes are in process to convert our website's calendar into a Google Calendar stating she feels this will save us money on our website cost and provide the ability to allow designated Committee Chairs to post their meetings and activities on our website calendar.
- **Cheese Curd:** Committee plans to meet Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
  - **Speaker Coordinators for April - Dan Engelke, Tim Boldt, Tom Nall and Carley Borcharding**
    - April 14 - Bob Hundhausen – President of Building Platteville – Light Programs
    - April 21 - Joe Biba – Creators of Hope Mission (608-778-7621; joeb@joebibaconstruction.com)
    - April 28 - Bob Hundhausen & representatives - PCA Trail
  - **Plans for Oratorical and Essay Presentations:** Oratorical and essay winners will be invited to present at the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **Youth Activities:**
  - **Tri-Star Basketball Update – April 15:** Members who have volunteered to assist at this event should be at UW's Bo Ryan Court at 11:00 a.m.
  - **Zone Oratorical Contest – April 15:** Four local students will be competing at the Zone contest to be held in Darlington. Howard Crofoot volunteered to go to represent our Club.
  - **Art Contest through Optimist International:** OI is sponsoring an art contest for children up to 11 years of age. Information about the contest has been sent to the local schools. Entries are due by May 1.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Suggestions from Maxine Lane for activities / events that the Board consider:** Maxine has sent a list of events/activities she suggested our Club consider. She heard about the activities from Optimists members in Alabama while she was vacationing there. The Board has decided to refer the suggestions to relevant committees for discussion and recommendations.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Donation Request dated 3-1-23 from Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums:** President Palfrey reported receipt of a grant request from the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. In summary, the funds would be used to offset costs of providing tours to Platteville School District students and possibly other schools in Grant County. It was noted their application for funding for this year's budget had been denied as it didn't meet our mission.
  - **Motion from Board:** President Palfrey reported the Board has made a motion to grant \$500, payable from the Youth Account. Motion was seconded by Beth Frieders and passed, with five members being opposed.
- **Deb Elvidge Resignation from Board – Approval of Amy Coffey to fill term until 10-1-2023:** President Palfrey reported Deb Elvidge has requested to step down from her Board Director position and that of Youth Committee Chair due to her husband's recent health concerns.
  - **Motion from Board:** The Board has made a motion to approve Amy Coffey's nomination to fill these positions until October 1<sup>st</sup> (*new fiscal year*) at which time D. Elvidge can decide if she wants to complete the remainder of her first term and / or whether the completion of the term will be completed by Amy or another member. Seconded by Tom Nall, motion carried.
- **Inclusive Play Ground Grand Opening:** The Play Ground Committee has invited the Optimist to grill out at the event utilizing the park's new grills on tentative opening date of May 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Motion from Board:** President Palfrey reported the Board has made a motion to approve up to \$500 from the internal account for purchase of free food, and that a donation jar will be placed for people to donate with the donated money being given back to the Playground's fund with the understanding that we will apply to Kwik Trip for funds to help offset that \$500. Seconded by Carley Borcharding, motion carried.

- **Next Board Meeting Date:** May 2, 2023 at 7 a.m. via Zoom

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS:** None

**Next Week – April 14th**

- Speaker at 7:00 a.m. Meeting – Bob Hundhausen and representatives of Building Platteville
- Noon Informational Meeting – to be held at A & W

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion was made by Dan Engelke, seconded by Howard Crofoot, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully recorded by:  
Becky Schambow, Secretary

**WEEKLY MEETING - April 14, 2023**  
**There were 30 members and 2 guests present**

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Creed:** Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Mike Moran (*speaker*) and Deanna Hinderman
- **Mystery Greeter:** Hap Daus was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Carley Borcharding.
- **Joker Draw:** Beth Frieders' ticket was drawn; however, Beth drew the 8 of Diamonds.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Birthdays this upcoming week:**
    - Mark Haas – April 15<sup>th</sup>;
    - Deb Elvidge – April 18
  - **Wedding Anniversary:** Chris and Paul Budden – April 14, 2007
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Tri-Star Basketball Contest April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Volunteers were reminded to be there by 11:00 a.m.
  - **Noon Informational Meeting April 14<sup>th</sup>:** Members were encouraged to attend and bring guests (*prospective members*) with them. Meeting will be at A & W.
  - **Dave Jones:** It was noted that Dave, a dear, former member of our Club, has been moved to a care facility in Winona, MN.
  - **Katies Garden / Trail Clean Up:** Carley Borcharding announced that clean- up is scheduled for Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. All volunteers are welcome.
  - **The Big Pay Back – Center for the Arts:** Terri Ellis noted that this concert will be held at UW-Platteville tonight and encouraged interested members to attend.
- **Speakers Next Week - April 21st:** Joe Biba – Creators of Hope Mission
- **Today's Speakers: Bob Hundhausen, Wayne Wodarz, Kathy Kopp, and Mike Moran – Building Platteville – Lights Program.**

Carley Borcharding gave a brief introduction of today's program, with Club members Bob Hundhausen, Wayne Wodarz, and Kathy Kopp, also members of the "Building Platteville" program participating in the presentation. Bob, who is the current President of the "Building Platteville" program introduced Mike Moran, noting Mike is very active and devoted to the program.

Kathy noted that the program began in 1993 and they are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The program began in an effort to save the Avalon theatre. The founding members' goal was to set up a revolving loan fund that could be used for gap financing. A community auction was their first big fund raiser.

With video presentation, the group highlighted the many projects they've supported in various ways over the years including, but not limited to: Katie's Garden, in memory of Katie Vaassen; brick campaign for City Park

including Veterans Honor Roll; Arboretum Trail; addition of lane at the swimming pool; and new city holiday decorations (*Christmas lights, flags and flowers*).

Project accomplishments enjoyed by our community members of which Mike is especially involved with include light shows, with inflatable decorations that are set up at Katie's Garden during Halloween, Easter, the Winter Wonderland, and other holiday events. They also partner with our Club's "Story Book Walk" program.

**Conclusion:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

**Recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **WEEKLY MEETING – April 21, 2023** **There were 24 members and 3 guests present**

### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Creed:** Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Joe Biba (*speaker*), Jim Nelson and Sandy Osterhaus
- **Donation Check Presentation to CESA 3:** Jim Nelson was presented with our Club's donation check to CESA 3. He thanked the members for our support, noting that the money is used to offset costs for "Championship Games" which will embark on their 29<sup>th</sup> year this year. He noted that the event is primarily for children / people with special needs, and involves up to 1000 individuals competing. This year's event is planned for May 12<sup>th</sup> in Boscobel.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Joy Schewe was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Ron Weier.
- **Joker Draw:** Doug Martin's ticket was drawn; however, Doug drew the 9 of Spades.
  
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Birthdays this upcoming week:** Penny Droessler on April 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - **Wedding Anniversary:**
    - Eileen and Tom Nickels and Libby and Wayne Sides – April 25
    - Melissa and Levi Palfrey – April 26<sup>th</sup>
  
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Zone Oratorical Winners on 4-15-23:** President Palfrey announced that our local contest winners, Nuzaira Rabbani took 1<sup>st</sup> place, and Maria Schmitt took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, both winning \$250 and going on to District competition
  - **Tri-Star Basketball Updated from 4-15-23:** It was noted there were 28 participants, which was 27 less than last year. The top two winners in each age category received a trophy and all received a certificate. Winners were invited to go to Sun Prairie to compete in the District Contest
  - **Thank You from Bob Lowe – City Parks/Rec Director:** A thank you letter was circulated in appreciation for club's donation.
  - **Emmily Dreessens Officially Installed:** President Palfrey reported that Emmily, who joined our Club in June 2022 was officially installed at the noon Informational Meeting on April 14.
  - **Opening Date for Platteville's Inclusive Playground – June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** It was noted that the official opening date has been set for June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Maxine Lane will be looking for volunteers to assist with grilling and serving at the event. Kwik Trip has granted our Club a \$100 gift card to help offset costs of food/supplies, and Culver's has donated some condiments, etc.
  - **NOW Event – May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Terri Ellis encouraged members to provide names and address information for guests/prospective members to be invited to the luncheon.
  - **Brat Sale for Fire Department:** It was announced that Fidelity Bank is hosting a brat sale for lunch today (*April 14<sup>th</sup>*) to raise money for the new Fire Department.
  
- **Speaker Next Week - April 28<sup>th</sup>:** Bob Hundhausen & representatives of PCA Trail
  
- **Today's Speaker: Joe Biba – Creators of Hope Mission**

Dan Engelke introduced Joe Biba, noting Joe has lived in Cuba City for 23 years, but was born and raised on a farm outside of Boscobel. Joe calls Cuba City home, but still likes to go back to Boscobel to see family and take his son hunting.

Joe is a Real Estate agent and also has a construction company where they do remodeling and building of new homes.

Joe spoke about “Creators of Hope Mission”, which is a non-profit organization he started in 2017.

Showing videos, he spoke about this organization’s efforts to build homes for the less fortunate, currently working in Jamaica. The very modest homes they build are typically 12 x 14 foot homes with tin roofs. Groups of about twelve volunteers make the trips periodically throughout the year, and he personally goes several times each year. Joe works with a lady in Jamaica to help identify those people who are most in need. Materials they use are purchased in Jamaica, and they also involve the local Jamaican people with the projects as they are expected to build the foundations prior to the teams’ arrivals to build the homes. The organization relies on donations to continue their efforts.

**Conclusion:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

**Recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **WEEKLY MEETING – April 28, 2023**

**There were 28 members and 1 guest present**

### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Creed:** Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Ruth Kaczmarek (*Tom Nall’s sister-in-law*)
- **Mystery Greeter:** Carley Borcharding was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Joy Schewe.
- **Joker Draw:** Doug Martin’s ticket was drawn; however, Doug drew the 8 of Clubs.
  
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
  - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
    - Tom Nall – April 29<sup>th</sup>;
    - Tim Murphy – April 30<sup>th</sup>;
    - Bob Weier – May 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
    - Jordan and Karina Holthaus – May 1<sup>st</sup>;
    - Diane and Terry VanNatta – May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **NOW Event – May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Terri Ellis reported they are still accepting names of people to invite to the luncheon.
  - **Membership Committee Needs Volunteers:** Terri Ellis indicated that the committee needs additional members to volunteer to assist with their efforts and asked anyone willing to be on the committee to let her know.
  - **Inclusive Playground Opening – June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Date has been changed. Donations from local businesses have been received to help Club offset costs of providing food. Several members have volunteered to-date and Doug Martin and Dan Engelke volunteered today to assist.
  - **Tom Nall Moving:** Tom introduced his sister-in-law (*guest*) and noted she’s been very helpful in planning, sorting and packing for his move to a condo in Platteville.
  - **SWIS Conference – May 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>:** President Palfrey noted that Club’s two Oratorical winners (*Nuzaira Rabbani and Maria Schmitt*) won the zone contest and will be presenting at the conference.
  - **Family Advocates Ground Breaking – May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** President Palfrey invited members to attend the ground breaking of their new facility at 305 Eastside Road on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

- **Katie's Garden Clean-up:** Wayne Wodarz thanked those members who came to help on the Chamber's "Katie's Garden Clean-up Day".
- **Next Week:** President Palfrey announced.
  - **Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom
  - **Business Meeting – Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Bob McFayden, OI President will be present.**
- **Today's Speaker: Bob Hundhausen - PCA Trail**

Club member and Past President of the PCA Trail Board needed no introduction. With power point, Bob noted PCA, founded in 2004, is a non-profit organization with over 150 members. Its mission is "to connect the Platteville Community to the Rountree Branch Corridor through recreation, conservation and environmental education". The PCA is truly a community effort. Activities, projects and maintenance are fully-supported by community volunteers, donations and memberships.

Bob highlighted that since PCA's inception, they have completed the following: paved and lighted the three mile trail (cost \$1.67M); funded and installed Country Picnic Area; funded and installed the Dog Park; funded and built the PCA garage; performed trail enhancement; restored habitat; sponsored environmental summer camps; provided information and historical kiosks; supported study of life (fish) and other gardens; installed new trail art in 2020 and 2021; Nutritional World's Outdoor Fitness Center; reached 300+ volunteers supporting PCA; and brought \$1,000,000 in grants to Platteville.

In addition to highlighting many events, Bob was pleased to note partnerships with UW-Platteville' Reclamation Club that has resulted in removal of invasive species from over 90% of the trail corridor as well as other projects.

**Conclusion:** The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

**Recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in MAY 2023**

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

- Bob Weier – May 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- Becky Schambow – May 22<sup>nd</sup>;
- Dan Dreessens – May 28<sup>th</sup>;
- Karla Timmerman – May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **MAY MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Jordan and Karina Holthaus – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021;
- Diane and Terry VanNatta – May 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- Barbara Stockhausen and John Adams – May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1984;
- Hap and Barb Daus – May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1971.

### **MAY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Arnie Roper – May 1, 1977;
- Leon Neuheisel o- May 24, 2011;
- Melisa Palfrey – May 19, 2021;
- Deb Elvidge, Steve Elvidge, and Lisa Schmitt – May 22, 2021;
- Doreen Hlavaty – May 25, 2021

**MAY - FRIEND OF OPTIMISTS ANNIVERSARIES:** *None in the month of May*