



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights August 2024

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

2023-2024 Officers: Alaina Reeves, President – Bob Hundhausen, Vice President – Melissa Palfrey, Past President – Duane Borgen, Treasurer – Becky Schambow, Secretary

2023-2024 Board of Directors: Amy Coffey, Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Jordan Holthaus, and Doreen Hlavaty.

Published for Members September 2, 2024 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN AUGUST 2024

BUSINESS MEETING: - AUGUST 2, 2024

ATTENDEES: There were 28 members and 1 guest present including: Tim Boldt; Carley Borcharding; Chris and Paul Budden; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Dan Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Bob Hundhausen; Dianne Jentz; Ken Kamps; Aaron Kinard; Maggie Kleisath; Lisa Kratz; Maxine Lane; Doug Martin; Michael Miller; Leon Neuheisel; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Joy and Jerry Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ron Weier; Wayne Wodarz; and guest, Stephanie Saager-Bourrett.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President A. Reeves at 7:00 a.m. She then led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

Guests to Welcome: President Reeves welcomed Stephanie Saager-Bourrett, from Platteville Historic Reenactment as our guest.

Grant Check Presentation: A grant check of \$350 to Platteville Historic Reenactment was presented by President Reeves to Stephanie Saager-Bourrett. Stephanie expressed her appreciation for Club's donation on behalf of the Historic Reenactment Committee and program. She noted that continued donations such as the Club's, encourages them as it helps them to see the value in what they do. The Reenactment is in their 25th year and was reported to attract thousands of students and adults. She was pleased to announce that they will have some new features at the upcoming Dairy Days Reenactment event.

Special Dates to Remember:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Eileen Nickels – August 3;
 - Maggie Kleisath – August 5th;
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Brad and Jessica Brogley – August 7th.
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Mike Olds – August 12, 1994;
 - Diane VanNatta – August 20, 2004;
 - Maggie and Steve Kleisath – August 31, 2012;
 - Paul Budden – August 20, 2016;
 - Chris Budden – August 4, 2017;
 - Diane Paynter – August 13, 2019.
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Upcoming Month:** None

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Maggie Kleisath, greeting Libby Sides.
- **Breakfast Drawing:** Jerry Schewe and Tim Boldt were the two members present, and Charlie Clark and Steve Kleisath were the two members not present, whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in June.
- **Joker Draw:** Dan Engelke's ticket was drawn for a chance to win the Joker Draw, however, he cut the 10 of Clubs.

Announcements – Information Shared:

- **Volunteers Still Needed for Cheese Curd Sale Events:** President Reeves noted that there are still many shifts open, needing volunteers. The sign-up sheet was sent out via email and members can sign up on-line. President Reeves noted that members can ask adult friends and family to help if they would be interested.
- **Donated Shirts:** Doug Martin brought some Optimist shirts to the meeting to give away to interested members.
- **Produce:** Maggie Kleisath brought some fresh produce items to give to interested members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT of JULY 29, 2024 MEETING: Highlights of the July 29, 2024 Governing Board meeting were presented by President Reeves.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

President Reeves reviewed the Treasurer's Report submitted by Treasurer, Duane Borgen for period ending July 31, 2024, which included information on the Internal and Youth Account Balances.

- **Grants Paid in July:**
 - Grant County Coordinated Services - \$300;
 - Platteville Sports Boosters - \$100.
- **Motion for Approval:** President Reeves noted the Board has made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Chris Budden, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance / Administration:**
 - **Dues:** Duane Borgen reported to the Board that a long term member has not yet paid his dues that were due April 1st. Duane added that the Member had been contacted by Charlie Clark, Membership Committee Co-chair, and told Charlie he intended to pay it. Terri Ellis, Membership Committee Co-chair, will contact the member again.
 - **Acquisition of Club Credit Card Follow-up:** Duane Borgen reported he had consulted with a representative from Mound City Bank who suggested the Club apply for a Club Credit card verses a debit card or using Pay-pal. President Reeves noted that the Club could then pay for our website and Zoom accounts via a Club credit card verses someone's personal card.
 - **Motion for Approval:** President Reeves reported that the Board has made a motion to authorize Duane to apply for a Club credit card. Seconded by Maxine Lane, motion passed.
 - It was noted that Duane was asked to develop a policy relative to who will be authorized to use the credit card(s) that will include check out and tracking protocols.
 - **Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2024/2025:**
 - **Emails are being sent:** It was reported that Duane will be sending emails to the recipients awarded grants last two years advising them of protocols and timeline for grant submissions for consideration in Club's upcoming budget.
 - **Application:** The grant application will be on our website so applicants can submit applications on-line.
 - **Finance Committee Meeting(s):** President Reeves reported that Finance Committee meetings will be scheduled to begin budgeting processes.

- **Community Service:**
 - **Party in the Park Update – July 25, 2025:**
 - **Thank you to those who volunteered:** President Reeves extended appreciation to those who volunteered, with special thank-you to Maxine Lane for her guidance in making arrangements.
 - **Event was success:** It was reported that the Club ran out of hotdogs early on in the event.
 - **Volunteer of the Year Award:** President Reeves acknowledged Mark Essex, noting he was awarded the Club's "Volunteer of the Year" for his dedicated service to our Club.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes:** None
 - **July 12 Informational Meeting Attendance Report:** No report of any attendance.
 - **5th Friday Social Meeting:** Scheduled for August 30th at Los Amigos at noon.
 - **Name Tags:** Requests have been sent to OI for new member tags three times – no response. Looking into finding a local vendor who could make them.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** Nothing to report.
- **Cheese Curd:**
 - **Committee met evening of July 29th:** President Reeves noted the Committee met this week and that shift volunteers are still needed. Members were sent another email with the sign-up sheet so they can sign up online. They were encouraged to recruit adult family and friends to sign up to help cover shifts. Other than gaining volunteers, plans and supplies are in place.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Speakers for August:** Recruited by Mark Essex were noted as follows:
 - August 9th – Sue Leamy-Kies - Autobiography on her life as a teacher
 - August 16th – Bob Woodward – The Changing Media Landscape
 - August 23rd – Jackie Varholic – Christmas for Kids
 - August 30th – Melissa Wersinger – Volunteer Coordinator for the Mississippi River Museum
 - **Annual Award and Installation Banquet:** Committee will meet to begin planning event to be held on/about September 29th.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Setting Event Planning Time-Line:** President Reeves noted the Committee will soon begin to develop a time line for event planning in consideration of school schedule and activities, especially the Essay and Oratorical Contests and the Tri-Star Basketball Tournament. Jerry Schewe then noted the topics of the upcoming Essay and Oratorical Contests as follows:
 - **Essay** – “How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success”.
 - **Oratorical** – “How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times”.
 - **Bike Rodeo – Follow-up:**
 - **Prior Suggestion:** In follow-up to suggestion to coordinate the Bike Rodeo with Southwest Health's Berry Fest, concerns were noted regarding the size of crowd and traffic, both of which would be prohibitive. Other options are being researched.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Officers for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year:** President Reeves reported on the status of the following Officer and Director positions for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - **President:** B. Hundhausen has agreed to become the Club President.
 - **Vice President:** T. Ellis volunteered to run for the position of Vice President/President Elect.
 - **Treasurer:** D. Borgen has agreed to continue his appointment as Treasurer.
 - **Secretary:** Jerry Schewe has volunteered to be appointed to the position of Secretary.

- **Director – Open Positions:**
 - **Tom Nall’s Resignation:** T. Nall resigned from the Board, effective 7-31-24.
 - Tom noted it has been a great pleasure and honor to serve on the Board, but responsibilities and personal reasons prevent his ability to continue.
 - Tom encouraged Board members to “look to the future and not the past”. President Reeves thanked Tom for his dedicated service to our Club.
 - **Doreen Hlavaty – 1st term ends 9-30-24:** D. Hlavaty consented to run for a 2nd term.
 - **Jordan Holthaus – 2nd term ends 9-30-24:**
 - **Director Positions Needing Replacement:** At this time, President Reeves noted that we need three members to volunteer to fill the Director positions including replacements as follows:
 - One year term to fill Ellis’ remaining Director position as she steps into the Vice President position;
 - One to replace Tom’s position – would be a two year position;
 - One to replace Jordan Holthaus’ position – would be a two year term.

Chris Budden then volunteered to run for the one year term, and Dianne Jentz and Michael Miller volunteered to run for the two remaining two year terms.
 - **Foundation Representative to SWIS District:** Jerry Schewe agreed to continue as Club’s Foundation Representative.
 - **Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors:** Jerry Schewe made a motion nominating the above named individuals as Directors and Officers for the 2024-2025 Board. Jerry noted that the positions of Treasurer and Secretary are appointed by the President, thus not needing to be part of his motion. Seconded by Howard Crofoot, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Doug Martin’s Parents Celebrated 75th Anniversary:** President Reeves was pleased to acknowledge that Doug’s parents recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. Doug added that they are doing well and still living at home.

CONCLUSION:

- **Next Board Meeting:** The usual meeting date was scheduled to be Sept. 2nd, however, it was noted that is Labor Day, so meeting is being rescheduled to Tuesday, Sept. 3rd.
- **August 9th Speaker:** Sue Leamy-Kies – Autobiography of her “Life as a Teacher”.
- **Noon Informational Meeting – August 9th** at A & W
- **Motion to Adjourn:** A motion was made by Dan Engelke, seconded by Dianne Jentz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - AUGUST 9, 2024

Attendance: There were 26 members and one guest present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bob Hundhausen at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Sue Leamy Kies (*speaker*)
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Mark Essex, who greeted Libby Sides.

- **Special Dates to Remember this Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** Jim Boll – August 9th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
 - Mark and Karen Essex – August 9th
 - Amanda and Scott Trewin – August 15th
- **Joker Draw:** Libby Sides' ticket was drawn, however she cut the 5 of Hearts.
- **Useless Information from Vice President Hundhausen:** Always entertaining, Vice President Hundhausen provided the members with a story. He noted he'd been on a fishing trip with Ron Weier and looked into the sky and saw many stars including a "big diamond" in the sky with four points that went "sheech". He tied this in by asking members if they knew about the "Fermi Paradox". He explained that the paradox is named after an Italian Physicist who felt that with so many trillions of galaxies, there is no convincing evidence of alien life or technology within our solar system. Bob concluded by saying that we may be unique, so we should be kind to each other.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Noon Informational Meeting today at A & W**
 - **Volunteers Desperately Needed for Cheese Curd Sales:** Vice President Hundhausen noted that volunteers are still needed, especially for Friday and Saturday evenings. Ken Kamps volunteered to make calls to members who have not signed up.
 - **Entry Tickets:** will be purchased for those volunteers who will need them to get into the fair and Becky Schambow will make arrangements to deliver them. She noted:
 - If members have passes, they are asked to let Becky know;
 - Admission is free on Wednesday and Thursday;
 - Friday is free admission for seniors (*age 62 and older*) from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.;
 - Sunday is free admission for Military, Vets, Police, Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement with ID from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
 - **Annual Installation and Award Banquet – September 29:** Doreen Hlavaty announced that the Fellowship Committee is planning our banquet, which will be held Sept. 29th at the Platteville Golf and Country Club at 4:30 p.m. for cocktails with program and meal beginning at 5:30. Cost will be \$20 per person, or \$10 for those who volunteered at the cheese curd sales.
 - **Member Picnic:** Doreen also reported that the Committee is planning a picnic that will be held at her home on October 19th, with 20th being the rain date. More information will be forthcoming.
 - **Chamber of Commerce – Farm to Table Dinner:** Wayne Wodarz reported there are still tickets available at the Chamber for this event occurring tonight (Aug. 9th).
 - **Triology at Five Flags on Sept. 21:** Charlie Clark shared that the group "Triology" will be performing at Five Flags.
- **Next Week's Speaker – August 16th** - Bob Woodward, from Woodward Communications will be talking about "The Changing Media Landscape."
- **Today's Speaker:** Sue Leamy-Kies was with us today to talk about her autobiography of her life as a teacher documented in the book she wrote entitled "My Homecoming Dance". Sue was recruited and introduced by Mark Essex.

Sue is a retired high school English teacher, and enjoys spending time with family and friends, growing flowers, kayaking, walking in nature, cooking, eating good food, listening to music, reading and writing books.

She has published poetry, essays, movie reviews, and short stories. In 2011 her play *Back* about a disabled veteran was chosen for performance by the Center for Applied Drama and Autism for their One-Act Play Festival. Sue is also a volunteer at the Platteville Arboretum.

Sue began her presentation by thanking the Optimist Club for inviting her to speak.

Sue noted she always enjoyed stories, having a mother who read to her every day. She always loved a good story on TV as well, and noted *Lassie* and *Gun Smoke* as being favorites. She stated people can learn from stories, which help us see other ways and allow us to travel to other ways of life.

Sue became a non-traditional student at UWP after several years farming with her husband. She said she took a creative writing class that made her want to write and tell stories. She wrote down things about her teaching at Platteville High School. She noted that the Academy of Science, Arts and Letters was instrumental in giving her the idea to take stories from her teaching experiences at PHS.

With the encouragement of friends that she's met with for three years every Wednesday evening, she began to put her stories into a book and sent it out to publishers. After many rejections, she stated WI Writers' Association showed interest in publishing her book. She quoted Mark Twain who stated "if I'd have known what work it was to write a book, I wouldn't have tackled it".

For the remainder of the meeting, Sue read and thoroughly entertained members with excerpts from her book.

CONCLUSION: The meeting closed at 7:48 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - AUGUST 16, 2024

Attendance: There were 24 members and 1 guest present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Bob Woodward (*speaker*) and Carter Cushman.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Bob Hundhausen was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Chris Budden.
- **Special Dates to Remember this Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** None
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
 - Maggie and Steve Kleisath – August 17th;
 - Kathy and Joe Kopp – August 19th;
 - Virg and Marcia Pufahl – August 22nd
- **Joker Draw:** Doreen Hlavaty's ticket was drawn, however, she drew the ten of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed**
 - **Special Gatherings:**
 - **Annual Awards and Installation Banquet – Sept. 29:** The Fellowship Committee is making plans for this event and sign-up will be circulated and sent out soon.

- **Picnic at Doreen Hlavaty's and Dorothy Price's Home – Oct. 19:** Doreen and Dorothy are planning to have a picnic at their home in the country for Club members.
- **Update on Fair Cheese Curd Sales:** Tickets for those volunteers needing gate entry were handed out. Tickets for those needing, but not present will be delivered today.
- **SWIS Convention:** Jerry Schewe reported on his attendance at the convention:
 - **National Principal Month:** Jerry noted that October has been named “National Principal Month”.
 - **District Officers:** Maureen Crombie has been named as the SWIS District Governor for the upcoming year. Howard Crofoot has been named as the Secretary Treasurer.
 - **First Member Sponsorship Pins:** Jerry returned with recognition pins for Mark Essex, Dianne Jentz, and Doreen Hlavaty who recruited their first members.
 - **Dime-a-Day Pins:** Were received for Arnie Roper and Curt and Robin Fatzinger's donations.
- **Next Week's Speaker – August 23rd:** Jackie Varholic – Christmas for Kids
- **Today's Speakers:** Bob Woodward, was recruited and introduced by Mark Essex. Topic – The Changing Media Landscape

Bob Woodward retired from his position as Publisher of TH Media and the Telegraph Herald on January 1st, 2024. He is now the Director of Journalism Philanthropy and College Student Partnerships. His focus is raising money from individuals, companies and foundations to support local reporter positions at the newspaper. He also works with higher education institutions to bring interns onboard to explore new and different kinds of content, platforms and audiences.

Bob noted that 70% of ad spending goes to digital sources like Google, Facebook and Amazon. This has adversely affected consumers receiving and being informed of local news with every reporter losing 250 to 300 stories per year. Many independent newspaper owners have had to “sell out, close up, or buck up” resulting in the U.S. losing an average of 2 ½ newspapers every week.

Bob and his cousin now focus on supporting local journalism through the "Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque" where tax-deductible donations help maintain the public service of news reporting.

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque works in the same way Platteville's Fire Department Foundation Committee works with Inspiring Community here in the Platteville Community. The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is the 501C3 so that donations going through them are tax deductible. Funds for supported reporter positions are invoiced monthly to the Foundation and pay directly for reporter salaries and benefits.

The Telegraph Herald Media is almost totally employee-owned through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. No money comes with strings or control over content. Bob and his cousin Tom are two of the largest personal donors to the funds. Every reported position generates between 250 and 350 local, accurate news stories per year. Consumers can help by: subscribing to the TH; advertising in the TH paper, online and digital options; and considering contributions to the support fund and endowment fund.

Bob's passion to ensure provision of quality local news in our area was evident. He noted that local journalism is not like most other “businesses”; it is an important public service.

Conclusion: The meeting closed at 8:00 a.m.
Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - AUGUST 23, 2024

ATTENDANCE: There were 23 members and 3 guests present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Hundhausen at 7:03 AM.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Members joined together in reciting the Pledge followed by the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests to Welcome:** Jacqui Varholik (*speaker*), Karen Essex and Carter Cushman.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Maxine Lane was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Linda Foht.
- **Special Dates to Remember this Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** Barb Stockhausen – August 28th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:** Ken and Lois Jean Kamps – Aug. 23 (*this date*). A song of celebration was sung for Ken and Lois Jean recognizing 66 years.
- **Joker Draw** Charlie Clark's ticket was drawn, however he cut the 7 of Spades.
- **Bob's "Useless Information":** Bob shared with the members that he had his first job when he was just nine years of age. Growing up in a Seattle neighborhood, consisting mostly of non-English speaking residents, he had 3 paper routes. He would pick up papers by route at the local grocery store, deliver and then return to the store for the second and third routes. Papers were free; however, for Bob he went door to door asking for a quarter for his pay, which was not easy as his customers did not speak/understand English. To Bob, the \$8.00 per week that he earned was a fortune.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Card of Appreciation from Grant County Coordinated Services Team** was circulated for all members to see.
 - **Annual Award and Installation Banquet – Sept 29:** Event continues to be planned and a sign-up sheet will be circulated and/or sent out to members soon.
 - **Report on Cheese Curd Fair Sales:**
 - Committee elected to cancel Saturday's cheese delivery due to rain occurring on Wed & Thursday nights resulting in minimal sales.
 - Good Day on Saturday – sold out at approximately 8:30 p.m.
 - Total 2024 sales for fair = \$17,220.
 - Compared to 2023 sales at fair with sales of \$18,447, the 2024 Fair sales were down by \$1227.
 - Expenses are still pending receipt of bills.
 - **Shirts & Posters:** Wayne Wodarz brought shirts and Dairy Day posters for those interested.
- **Next Week's Speaker – August 30, 2024:** Melissa Wersinger – Volunteer Coordinator for the Mississippi River Museum
- **Today's Speaker:** Jacqui Varholik, was recruited and introduced by Mark Essex.

Jaqueline "Jaquie" Varholik became a volunteer for Christmas for Kids - Southwest WI in November 2023 and joined the Board of Directors as the Head of Fundraising in February 2024. She works and lives in Platteville with her husband and 2 children, who are all volunteers and donors for the organization.

Christmas for Kids – Southwest WI was founded in 2021 just after the height of the COVID 19 Pandemic when founders, Hannah & Clint Miller, & Amandalyn Jerrett, of Grant County saw struggling families who were either in areas that didn't have holiday giving programs or they were not accepted by the ones that did exist. The three founders created a Facebook group and with the help of a handful of volunteers were able to provide Christmas gifts for 54 children.

Their Mission is to be able to help as many families as they can within reason, with hopes of giving the children receiving from their program a Christmas they deserve. Their Mottos is "Every Child Deserves A Christmas".

Since that first year (2021), the organization has experienced amazing growth from their grass roots beginning. In 2023, over 100 volunteers contributed varying degrees of time, talents, gift and monetary donations. The group underwent the 501(c)3 application process and gained their nonprofit status in May of 2023. During the 2023 giving season they were able to help 303 children from 128 families in Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Crawford Counties.

Various fundraisers are held in all four counties and the organization hopes to raise \$90,000 this year.

Jacque shared the following information with the attendees:

- Website: christmasforkids-southwestwi.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristmasforKidsSouthwestWI
- Facebook Volunteer Group (Santa's Helpers): www.facebook.com/groups/621295725963074
- Jacqueline Varholik, Head of Fundraising:
 - fundraising@christmasforkids-southwestwi.org
 - 608-331-0871

Conclusion: The meeting closed at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Recorded by: Maxine Lane, Acting Secretary

Becky Schambow, Club Secretary, acknowledges appreciation to Maxine Lane for recording notes from the meeting.

WEEKLY MEETING - AUGUST 30, 2024

ATTENDANCE: There were 20 members and 1 guest present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guest Welcomed:** Melissa Wersinger (*speaker*)
- **Appreciation Extended:** President Reeves thanked Vice President Bob Hundhausen for leading last week's meeting.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Doug Martin, greeting Bob Stephens.
- **Special Dates to Remember this Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:**
 - Curt Fatzinger – August 30th;
 - Hap Daus and Jordan Holthaus – September 3rd;

- Deb McWilliams – September 4th;
- Arnie Roper – September 5th.
- **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
 - Kim and Cindy Skemp – August 30th;
 - John and Molly Zuelke – September 1st;
 - Jim and Tami Boebel – September 3rd;
 - Deb and Harvey McWilliams – September 4th
- **Joker Draw:** Paul Budden's ticket was drawn, however, he drew the 5 of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Optimist International:** President Reeves reported receipt of a notice from OI stating that as of June 2024, our Club donated \$250 in unrestricted giving this fiscal year and has donated Lifetime giving of \$19,635.18.
 - **Thank You Letter from Friends of Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums:** The letter of appreciation for Club's \$350 donation was circulated.
 - **Annual Awards and Installation Banquet – Sept. 29:** The banquet is scheduled for Sept. 29th at the Platteville Golf and Country Club. A sign-up sheet was circulated by Linda Thomas, Fellowship Committee Chair.
 - **Dairy Days – Sept. 6th – 8th:**
 - All shifts are filled and assignments will be sent out to volunteers via email.
 - It was reported that First English Lutheran Church has granted us permission to mix batter at their facility.
 - **5th Friday Social Meeting:** President Reeves noted that this social meeting will be held today at noon at Los Amigos for those interested in joining her.
- **Next Week's Meeting – Sept. 6:** Our September Business Meeting will be held next week.
- **Today's Speakers:** Melissa Wersinger – Volunteer Coordinator for the Mississippi River Museum – was recruited and introduced by Mark Essex

Melissa (Missy) Wersinger recently celebrated 19 years of dedicated service to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.

Missy graduated from Loras College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations and a minor in Public Address. Her work at the River Museum started as a Sales and Marketing Coordinator, which included working with a number of youth groups who visit the River Museum. In addition to the sales side of her position she was responsible for working in conjunction with the education department, creating programs such as birthday parties, overnights and youth camps.

Missy added to her responsibilities and worked as the Membership Manager and recently has changed her role and is the Tourism and Volunteer Manager. Currently, her responsibilities include community engagement, creating partnerships with organizations around the tri-state area and managing a volunteer program with over 150 participants.

She is involved in recruiting a number of organizations' team time programs and event volunteers.

Missy loves to travel, especially to Madison to see her son, taking day trips with her daughter, and golfing.

Missy began by advising attendees that the museum is part of the Dubuque Historical Society and was organized in 1950 as a non-profit organization.

Wanting to be “world leader” Missy noted the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium’s Mission “is to inspire stewardship by creating educational experiences where history and rivers come alive”.

Missy focused on the need for volunteers who greatly contribute to their mission. In 2023 they had 362 volunteers, donating collectively 8500 hours. The volunteers’ service is estimated to be worth \$31.80 per hour resulting in \$270,300 benefits to the Museum.

Volunteers can be individuals, families with children (*working under adult supervision*), groups such as school to work programs, National Honor Society students, Episodic Volunteers who come for a one-time event, etc.

Perks for volunteering at the Museum include free admission, discounts, invitations to special events, etc. She noted many volunteers tell her the best part is “getting to meet people from around the world”.

If interested in volunteering, you can contact her at: mwersinger@rivermuseum.org Her phone number is 563-557-9545 x 213.

Conclusion: The meeting closed at 7:55 a.m.
Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS’ SPECIAL DAYS in SEPTEMBER 2024

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Hap Daus – September 3;
- Jordan Holthaus – September 3;
- Debra McWilliams – September 4;
- Arnie Roper – September 5;
- Chris Budden – September 7;
- Melissa Palfrey – September 10;
- Mike Hahn – September 15;
- Amanda Trewin – September 15;
- Bob Stephens – September 23;
- Aaron Kinard – September 28.

SEPTEMBER – MEMBERS’ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- John and Molly Zuehlke – September 1, 2001;
- Jim and Tami Boebel – September 3, 1994;
- Deb and Harvey McWilliams – September 4, 2013;
- Charlie and Joyce Clark – September 8, 1973;
- George and Diane Byykkonen – September 14, 2991;
- Deanna and David Hinderman – September 23, 1989;
- Tim and Kathy Murphy – September 26, 1980.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Kim Skemp – September 1, 1982;
- Wayne Wodarz – September 1, 1987;

- Jerry Schewe – September 1, 1992;
- Charlie Clark – September 30, 2002;
- Chad Holstein – September 28, 2016;
- Mike and Priscilla Hahn – September 29, 2018;
- Aaron Kinard – September 22, 2023.

SEPTEMBER - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS:

- Bill's Plumbing and Heating – September 29, 2015;
- Hermesen's Ace Hardware (*formerly Heiser Hardware*) – September 28, 2016