



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights May 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 May 27, 2023 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN MAY

BUSINESS MEETING: Friday, May 5, 2023

Attendance: There were 29 members and 2 guests present including: Tim Boldt; Chris and Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Amy Coffey; Hap Daus; Penny Droessler; Terri Ellis; Dan Engelke; Gary Engelke; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Doreen Hlavaty; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Maxine and Steve Lane; Doug Martin; Eileen McCartney; Melissa Palfrey; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalman; Ron Weier; Wayne Wodarz; and Guests, OI President Bob McFayden and his wife Penny.

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 Welcomed: President Palfrey welcomed OI President Bob McFayden and his wife Penny as our guests.

Meeting Activities:

- **Meeting Format Change:** Due to the fact that honored guest, OI President Bob McFayden was able to be with us today, it was noted our Business Meeting format would change slightly allowing President McFayden time to speak to us. It was decided he would present after our breakfast, and prior to necessary business matters being discussed,
- **Mystery Greeter:** Charlie Clark greeted Ron Weier.
- **Joker Draw:** Gary Engelke's ticket was drawn, however, he drew the 8 of Clubs.
- **Breakfast Draw Winners:** Doug Martin and Tim Boldt were the two members present, and Kim Skemp and Dean Feldman were the two member not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in May.

Special Dates to Remember: President Palfrey noted that there were no birthdays or wedding anniversaries to note this upcoming week. Membership anniversaries for May can be found on our website at the end of the April 2023 Highlights.

Presentation by OI President, Bob McFayden:

A brief introduction of OI President, Bob McFayden and his wife Penny was done by Maxine Lane. Maxine noted that they are from Kitchener, Ontario in Canada and are traveling through WI to attend the SWIS District meeting this weekend. They chose to visit our Club meeting this morning.

President McFayden began by thanking our Club for our hospitality and noted his appreciation to Steve and Maxine Lane and Gary Engelke for hosting him and his wife Penny for supper last evening. He thanked us all for "being Optimists".

Noting that Optimist memberships overall are declining, he talked about the joy members receive from being Optimists and questioned why Optimists are so reluctant to invite others to experience that same joy?

He spoke about Optimists being “Friends of Youth” noting that his dream would be to: provide a safe, comfortable learning environment for elementary students; provide basic needs for children in an effort to provide them hope; and to help tutor children to help them have more self-confidence.

In closing, President McFayden thanked our Club for everything we do. President Palfrey then presented President McFayden and his wife Penny with a WI remembrance gift from our Club.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOARD MEETING CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023: President Palfrey reviewed the following highlights from the Board meeting held on May 2, 2023.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report for period ending April 30, 2023 had been submitted and approved by the Board, however, due to a clerical error, President Palfrey reported incorrect account balances at this meeting (*i.e. the March 30th balances instead of April 30th balances.*) The correct account totals for April 30th will be reported and acted upon by the membership at the next Business Meeting on June 2, 2023.

- **Treasurer’s Report for Grants Given In April:**
 - City of Platteville for Youth Programs - \$600;
 - Family Advocates - \$800 for Summer Youth Camp;
 - Platteville High School - \$300 for Post Prom;
 - Oratorical Winners - \$150, \$100, and \$50.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance / Administration:** Nothing further reported.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Inclusive Playground Opening June 3rd Update:** Maxine Lane reported the event will occur from 10 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Gary Engelke will be the coordinator on the day of event.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes:** President Palfrey reported that the Board has made a motion to approve new member applicant, Darlene Masters, and membership resignation (*per her request*) from Barb Deis. Seconded by Maxine Lane, motion carried.
 - **NOW Event Update – May 20th:** T, Ellis reported that they have sent invitations to approximately 50 individuals, of which 15-20 were members in that past. Event will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** Nothing reported at this time.
- **Cheese Curd :**
 - **Gift of Appreciation to Bill Niehaus:** President Palfrey reported a motion has been made by the Board to give a gift of \$100 to Bill Niehaus for allowing us to park our trailer in his lot during the summer. Seconded by Hap Daus, motion carried.
 - Steve Lane commented that Bill has also done some periodic maintenance on the trailer, as well as allow the Club to use water, etc. for cleaning the trailer at his business.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:** Nothing reported at this time.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Tri Star Basketball Update:** It was noted that Emma Caley and Emma Uppena, two of our Platteville event winners, won at the District Competition held on April 29th.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing reported at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Invitation from “Southwest WI Rainbow Alliance” to participate in the “Pride in the Park Event” and Provide Donation:** President Palfrey reported receipt of a letter from SWRA inviting Club to participate in their

event planned for June 20th. The invitation indicated we could showcase our Club by handing out Club brochures and requested our Club consider donating \$250 towards the event. President Palfrey reported a motion had been made by the Board to “provide \$250 to SW WI Rainbow Alliance for children’s activities at the event”. Seconded by Charlie Clark, motion carried with 5 members being opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS: It was noted that there would be a brat sale at Heiser Hardware’s parking lot today in support of the Senior Center.

CONCLUSION:

- **Next Board Meeting Date:** May 30, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom
- **Next Week’s Speaker:** May 12th - Jimmy Collins and Bridget Wallace – UW Foundation.
- **Noon Informational Meeting:** Friday, May 12, 2023 at A & W
- **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Dan Engelke, seconded by Terri Ellis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – May 12, 2023

There were 23 membrs 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 Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Bridget Wallace and Jimmy Collins, from UW Platteville Foundation.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Tim Boldt was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Terri Ellis.
- **Joker Draw:** Steve Lane’s ticket was drawn, however Steve cut the 6 of Spades.

- **Special Dates to Remember:** No birthdays or wedding anniversaries in this upcoming week

- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Noon Informational Meeting:** Will be held today (*May 12th*) at A & W.

- **Speaker(s) for Next Week – May 19th:**
 - Oratorical Winners – Nuzaira Rabbini and Maria Schmitt
 - Essay Contest Winner(s) – Natalie Jentz *and possibly others*

- **Today’s Speakers: Jimmy Collins & Bridget Wallace – UW Foundation** coordinated and introduced by Terri Ellis.

In introduction, Terri noted that Bridget and Jimmy are Development Officers for the UW-Platteville Foundation. Bridget lives in Cuba City and graduated from UW-Platteville in 2015. She’s held various fundraising roles for the past nine years, most recently at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Jimmy lives in Kieler and graduated from Loras in 2015 and UW-Whitewater in 2018. He previously worked in fundraising for the Boys and Girls Club of Dubuque.

Jimmy began by providing some updates for UW-Platteville including: notation that Tammy Evetovich has been officially appointed the new Chancellor; this weekend is commencement; and enrollment for 2023-2024 school year is up.

Jimmy and Bridget talked about the Foundation’s purpose including provision of scholarships and enrichment of campus life for students. They stated that seven out of ten students struggle financially and they work to make sure students’ basic needs are met.

The Foundation staff are the philanthropy experts at UW-Platteville. They noted their team works on Homecoming plans, regional events, sponsoring a golf outing, and fund raising campaigns. They work with

private donors and corporate sponsors. They frequently work with alumni who want to donate to give back to the university and/or with people with planned estate giving. Donations can be restricted or unrestricted based on the donor's request.

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

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – May 19, 2023

There were 19 members and 11 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 the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:**
 - Kathy Martin;
 - Natalie Jentz, and mother Diane;
 - Nuzaira Rabbani, and parents Mahammad and Farzanna Marni;
 - Halle Furrer, and father Derek;
 - Maria Schmitt, and father Bob;
 - Erik Flesch
- **Donation Check Presentation to Friends of Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums:** Erik Flesch was presented with our Club's donation check to the "Friends of the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums". He thanked the members for our support, noting that the money will be used to provide scholarships for Grant County K-12 students for museum tours
- **Mystery Greeter:** Hap Daus was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Ken Kamps.
- **Joker Draw:** Maxine Lane's ticket was drawn, however Maxine drew the 3 of Clubs.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Becky Schambow, May 22nd
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Invitation to Rountree Gallery Exhibit** – paintings by Andrew Raeside- Thursdays & Fridays 4-7 pm & Saturday 10-2 May - June 17th
 - **Invitation to Inclusive Playground Thank You Reception** – June 1st 5-7; Program at 6:00 Broske Center
 - **Special Date – Friday June 16th:** Club will meet that morning at the Platteville High School where Jim Boebel will be providing us with a tour to show us improvements recently made to PHS. There will be a light breakfast made available at the school.
 - **Girl Scout Project to Purchase Benches for Legion Park:** Maria Schmitt, oratorical speaker today, was invited to tell us about her Girl Scout "Gold Award" project. She noted that to fulfill the requirements to obtain this award she's undertaking a project to raise money for purchase of benches for Legion Park.
 - **John Fons Offer to Speak at Meeting:** Lisa Schmitt announced that she recently met John Fons, former SWIS District Governor and noted he does historical presentations as well as impersonations of Abe Lincoln. She indicated he would be willing to come again to speak to our Club and provide us with a presentation on history of farming and how it applied to children.
- **Speaker(s) for Next Week Date:** Jeffry Strange - UW-Platteville Theatre Representative – "All Things Theatrical Planned for Summer & Coming Year"
- **Today's Speakers – Oratorical and Essay Contest Winners:**

The Club had the privilege of meeting and hearing the presentations from the following Oratorical and Essay Contest winners. These very talented young ladies were introduced by Terri Ellis and the members thoroughly enjoyed their winning presentations. Award checks were provided to each of them with Club's appreciation for their participation and willingness to present today.

- **Oratorical Contest Topic – “Discovering the Optimism within Me”**
 - **Winners Who Presented:**
 - Nuzaira Rabbani, a 7th grader at Platteville Middle School – 1st Place Club Winner and a Zone Contest Winner;
 - Maria Schmitt, a sophomore at Platteville High School – 2nd Place Club Winner and a Zone Contest Winner;
 - Halle Furrer, 5th grader at St. Rose in Cuba City – 3rd Place Club Winner.
- **Essay Contest Topic – “Who Is An Everyday Hero That Brings Out The Optimism In You?”**
 - **Winners Who Presented:**
 - Natalie Jentz, sophomore at Platteville High School – 1st Place;
 - **Noted** – *Nuzaria Rabbani, Oratorical Winner also won 2nd place in the essay contest, but due to time limitations for meeting, she did not get to present her essay.*

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

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – May 26, 2023

There were 32 members and 1 guest present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Jeffrey Strange, speaker
- **Mystery Greeter:** Carley Borcharding greeted Melissa Palfrey.
- **Joker Draw:** Ron Weier's ticket was drawn, however, he drew the King of Diamonds.

- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Dan Dreessens – May 26;
 - Karla Timmerman – May 30.
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
 - Barb Stockhausen and John Adams – May 26;
 - Hap and Barb Daus – May 29.

- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Congratulations to Alaina Reeves & husband Jeff McDonald** – married 5-20-23
 - **Now Event Update – May 20th:** It was reported that nine prospective members attended and five of them completed applications for membership.
 - **Fun Craizer Tickets:** Gary Engelke noted these will go on sale next week for a cost of \$20 each.
 - **PCA Raffle Tickets:** Bob Hundhausen, Charlie Clark, and Gene Weber are selling Raffle Tickets for PCA.
 - **Story Book Walk:** Carley Borcharding asked for assistance with setting up a Story-Book Walk this afternoon at Katie's garden. Several volunteered to help.
 - **Family Advocates Gala:** President Palfrey noted that she has tickets available if anyone is interested in attending this event on Thursday, June 1st.

- **Next Week – June 2nd – Business Meeting**

- **Today's Speaker: Jeffrey Strange – UW Platteville Theatre Representative – All Things Theatrical Planned for Summer and Upcoming Year”** *introduced by Maggie Kleisath*

Jeffrey Strange is a Professor of Theatre and Resident Designer for UW Platteville where his scenic and/or lighting designs have included *Betrayal*, *Macbeth*, *The Crucible*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Ghosts*, *God of Carnage*, *Assassins*, *Death and the Maiden*, *The Normal Heart*, *The Pillowman*, *Noises Off!*, *Godspell* and *1776*. He has also designed *Nunsense*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Shrek the Musical* for the Heartland Festival. He has also designed *Peter and The Starcatcher*, *Bright Star*, and *Once* with the Platteville Summer Arts Festival. His designs have also been seen at Tennessee State University (*The Birthday Party* and *Ruined* -American College Theatre Festival Region IV Finalist), *Weathervane Theatre* (*Hair*, *Ragtime*, *Legally Blonde*, *Music Man*), *Stagedoor Manor* (*The Wild Party*, *Chicago*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Sweet Charity*, *Les Miserables*, *The Producers*), *Hilberry Rep* (*The Taming of the Shrew*, *Hamlet*, *The Seagull*, *Pippin*) and the *Moscow International Theatre Festival* (*Lie of the Mind*).

Jeffrey has been part of the UW-Platteville Theatre for the past 11 years, mentoring students in Scenic and Lighting Design and Technical Direction. Together with his wife Sarah Strange (Costume Design) and colleagues Dr. Ann Farrelly (Direction and Acting), Connie Salutos- Furlan (Choreography), and Josh Lawyer (Design and Concert Hall Technical Direction), they have enriched the arts in Southwest Wisconsin with challenging performances and continuously provided opportunities to the UWP students.

UW-Platteville presents two plays and one musical each year. Mr. Strange noted his pleasure in empowering students to do things they are passionate about in theatre arts. He stated that he believes Platteville has an advanced audience, and it's important for the students to experience their art form and share it with our community.

Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 8:02 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in JUNE 2023

JUNE - BIRTHDAYS:

- Kim Skemp - June 2nd;
- Ernie Thalmann – June 9th;
- Lisa Schmidt – June 12th;
- Ronald Weier – June 19th;
- Dean Feldman – June 21st;
- Darlene Masters – June 26th.

JUNE – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Tim and Angie Boldt; Jerry and Joy Schewe; *and* Mary and Greg Sieckman – June 2nd;
- Lisa and Bob Schmitt – June 3rd;
- Amy and Steve Coffey – June 12th;
- Dan and Tammie Engelke – June 20th;
- Mark and Joan Haas – June 24th;
- Phil and Sandy Swift *and* Wayne and Julie Wodarz – June 26th;
- Maxine and Steve Lane – June 27th;
- Howard and Kathy Crofoot – June 30th.

JUNE - MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Eileen Nickels – June 1, 1989;
- Terri Ellis, Garry and Eileen Engelke; *and* Tim Murphy – June 11, 2004;
- Bob Hundhausen – June 30, 2019;
- Amy Coffey, Emmily and Dan Dreesens; Mary Ann Shurson; *and* Barb Stockhausen – June 20, 2022.

JUNE - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS ANNIVERSARIES:

- Melby Funeral Home – June 2, 2015;
- Fidelity Bank and Trust – June 22, 2020.