



ROOSTER CALL



'Second Time Around'

Platteville Optimist Club

Vision Statement

"To impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RON



Greetings Everyone! Where the time has gone? By the end of March, I will have served as your president for 6 months. As I reflect on this time period, it is unbelievable what has taken place. Through team work of our membership and committees, we have:

- *created a new Website/Facebook committee who launched our new website,
- *recruited nine new friends and members. Having lost 5 former members, we are +4. We now have 63 active members and 10 Friends of Optimist,
- *kicked off the Essay/Oratorical contests. 19 children participated at the local Essay competition,
- *financed and installed a new Optimist sign at Legion Park,
- *developed and implemented a marketing plan. To mention a few action items, we developed a new Platteville Optimist Brochure, resurrected a coupon for free breakfast and did three radio interviews with QueenB,
- *exceeded our OI Dime-A-Day campaign of \$1,000,

At a recent SWIS District Meeting, our club was recognized as an honor club for 2014-2015 year. It is quite evident that we are among the top of the 54 local clubs.

I look forward to working with our membership in making this year a truly great Optimistic experience.

Ron Weier, President

PROMISE YOURSELF

www.plattevilleoptimists.org

Have you checked us out?? If not, you are in for a real surprise, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Kevin Haertzen, Beth Frieders and Charlie Clark. It continues to be a 'work in progress' project, but what a tribute to our membership. Please take a look and encourage a friend to also see what we have to offer.



MEMO FROM JERRY SCHEWE OI FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you to the twenty-nine members and three Friends of Optimist who participated in our Dime-A-Day campaign. Your support directly impacts our club and the Platteville Community. All scholarships awarded for the Essay Contest and Oratorical Contest come from the Optimist Foundation. The Foundation is partly funded by member donations, such as Dime-A-Day. The Foundation also defrays the cost for Tri-Star Basketball, Tri-Star Soccer, and many other youth programs. We easily see over \$1,000.00 of benefit each year.



Although our official campaign concluded as of January 31, 2016, you can still contribute and have your donation credited to the club. Simply send \$36.50 to me (860 Jefferson Street, Platteville WI 53818) and I will forward to St. Louis. Checks should be payable to OI Foundation.



DIME-A-DAY

WE Asked...YOU Responded!

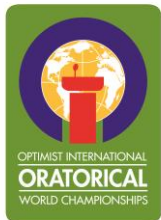
For the second year we exceeded the goal established for our membership donations to the Optimist International Foundation Dime-A-Day fund raising campaign. For 2015-2016 a goal was established at \$1,000 and we came in at \$1,168.80. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the members and Friend of Optimist (FOO) members who donated. Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, John Dutcher, Dan Engelke, Gary & Eileen Engelke, Kevin Haertzen, Ken Kamps, Steve & Maggie Kleisath, Steve & Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Mike Olds, Arnie Roper, Becky Schambow, Jerry & Joy Schewe, Barb Stockhausen, Ernie Thalmann, John Urness, Terry Vaassen, Diane VanNatta, Bob Weier, Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz, Terry Busch/Busch Insurance (FOO), Country Kitchen/Dairy Queen (FOO) and Bill Niehaus/Bill's Plumbing & Heating (FOO).

SECOND QUARTER SPEAKER COORDINATORS

Thank you to Kevin Haertzen (March), Leon Neuheisel (April) and Fern Nall (May).

2016 ESSAY/ORATORICAL

The annual Essay and Oratorical contests are in progress. The Essay contest began in February and the Oratorical contest will take place in March. As in the past, the Platteville area Optimist clubs (breakfast club and noon club) are joining together to make this happen for Platteville area students.



The essay topic this year is “Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction.” Nineteen entries were received by the February 1 deadline. Again this year, our biggest support came from the Platteville Middle School 8th grade. The teachers there have woven the essay contest into their curriculum. All their students were writing essays during January, and the teachers made the Optimist Essay topic one of the choices. The students were able to satisfy the class requirements and qualify for the contest with one essay. Clever.

The winning essays will be sent to the SWIS District Essay Contest Chair for the next round of competition.

Optimist Club of Platteville Essay Results –

1st Place – Daniel Swenson - \$100.00 prize money
Runner Up – Callin Udelhofen - \$50.00 prize money

Platteville Area Optimist (Noon Club) Essay Results –

1st Place – Grace Deis - \$100.00 prize money
Runner Up – Mary Jane Stephens - \$50.00 prize money

Each entrant received a certificate of participation. The winning essay writer at the district level will receive a \$2,500.00 college scholarship.

The first round of the Oratorical contest will be in Platteville at the Mound City Bank community room at 6:30 p.m. on March 3. This year’s topic is “How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others.” The top speakers will receive a cash award and will advance to the Zone 6 contest at the Wisconsin Bank and Trust community room at 1:00 p.m. on March 12. The two top speakers at the zone level will advance to the district competition. The top prize at district is \$2,500.00. New this year; the top district speaker will advance to a regional event. The overall winner could earn \$22,500.00 in college scholarships.

What makes these events work? It’s your support. The money for the prizes comes directly out of our Optimist budget. In addition, many members from the noon and morning clubs serve as readers, judges, timekeepers, greeters, and more during the contest. Thanks to all.
(submitted by: Gary Munson)

**It’s All About
What We Are All About**

TRI-STAR BASKEBAL

In just a few short weeks, it will again be time for our Annual Tri-Star Basketball. The real joy comes from all the smiles on the little faces that participate in this annual event. Many thanks to Doug Martin, Youth Activities Committee, Tim Boldt and Duane Borgan for taking the lead role in getting this event so very well organized for our Kids!



The event will be held at Bo Ryan Court, UW-Platteville on Saturday, April 9th, starting with registration at 10:00 AM and concluding around 12:00 noon. Many hands make light work!! We will be looking for approximately 10 volunteers to help with this event. If you are not active within the club and would like to change that, this is one event that is very enjoyable. It is a gym full of little people aspiring to be part of the future UW-P Pioneer Basketball team. Come out and join, become an active member of Platteville Optimist. Oh yes, invite a friend so they can also learn what we are all about.

It’s All About the Kids!!

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

March

01 – Board Meeting 7:00 AM
13 – Daylight Time Starts
17 – St. Patrick’s Day
20 – Spring Begins
27 – Easter Sunday
29 – Board Meeting 7:00 AM (April)



April

09 – Tri-Star Basketball 10 AM - Noon
April Showers...Bring May Flowers



May

03 – Board Meeting 7:00 AM
08 – Mother’s Day
30 – Memorial Day



OPTIMISTS OUT and ABOUT

White Elephant Gift Exchange

It was either with reluctance or delight that Tom Nall passed the ‘shell lamp’ to Joyce Clark. The ‘lamp’ is now complete with history, dating back to 2013. With the package discreetly disguised, upon opening, Joyce commented “It is electrical” with Tom soon disclosing the accompanying package to complete the gift.



26 Members/spouses joined in this annual event. We enjoyed a potluck of ham and broasted chicken with members bringing a dish to share. We were not short on food, enjoying cocktails, appetizers, salads, hot dishes and of course, dessert! A great evening with great friends!

WELCOME WAGON

We continue to build our membership and it with pleasure we announce four additions to our Friend of Optimist membership as well as one addition to our individual membership.



With thanks to Diane VanNatta, we welcomed Dupaco Community Credit Union as a Friend of Optimist in December, 2015.

In January, 2016 we extended a warm welcome to Delta 3 Engineering, Inc. Thank you to Howard Crofoot for acquiring this membership for our organization.

As we worked through February, we were able to welcome Benvenuto's Italian Grill and Platteville Business Incubator, Inc., (PBII) thanks to the combined efforts of Maxine Lane and Ron Weier.

Friends of Optimist (FOO) are important to our organization. We present each FOO a plaque for their place of business to identify them as a person/organization that cares about our youth, the primary focus of our membership. FOOs receive our communications, quarterly newsletters, invites to socials, etc. As you previously read in our Dime-A-Day article, three of our FOO members chose to join in this campaign. They are under no obligation to help with events; however, are welcome at all events and socials.

We are also excited to welcome Ann Cooley, sponsor Maxine Lane, as a new member. Ann is a graduate of UW-Whitewater and has been in the financial industry since 2003, currently serving as the Branch Manager at AnchorBank here in Platteville. She married her long time sweetheart Cory, dating for some 20 years and getting married in 2003. An animal lover, Ann has 2 dogs and 2 cats and welcomes any stray cats in to get warm and fed. On a sad note, Halloween 2015, Ann's 5 year old Husky Lab was taken from their yard. She has not given up hope and has started a Facebook page #bringgranhome. She loves making greeting cards, scrapbooking, reading and spending time with her nieces. She is an avid fan of the TV show, Friends, confident if there were a game show on 'Friends', she would win a million dollars!

It Is With Optimistic Enthusiasm We Welcome

Dupaco Community Credit Union, Delta 3 Enineering, Inc.,
Benvenuto's Italian Grill,
Platteville Business Incubator, Inc. and Ann Cooley.

FAREWELL IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

As we welcomed the above new members, it was with regrets that we passed along farewell wishes to Laura Pederson. It is with sincere hope that at some point in the future Laura may find her way back to Platteville Optimist when her schedule allows.



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST RECOGNIZED WITH HONOR CLUB STATUS

Submitted by Past President,
Maxine Lane



At the SWIS District Super Zone Meeting on February 6, it was my pleasure to accept the award as a 2014-2015 Honor Club within the SWIS District. To achieve this status, a club must meet the following requirements:

- *complete 3 service projects within the year,
- *submit President's Pride Report,
- *recognize a club member of member of the community and present to them an Award Document,
- *grow club by net plus one,
- *be current on district OI dues.

I was a part of achieving this status for our club, as were each of you. Each and every member, individually and collectively can take credit and celebrate this accomplishment for our club. It was my pleasure to accept this award on behalf of our Optimist Members and will forever cherish my 'Honor Club President' pin.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION THURSDAY'S CHILD DECEMBER, 2015 FUN RUN/WALK

Thank you to our winter warriors who helped in representing Platteville Optimist at this event, Eileen Engelke, Becki Schambow, Jerry & Joy Schewe, Bob Weier, (not pictured) Diane VanNatta & Maxine Lane.



MARTIN

OPTIMISTS OUT and ABOUT
'Creating Memories'



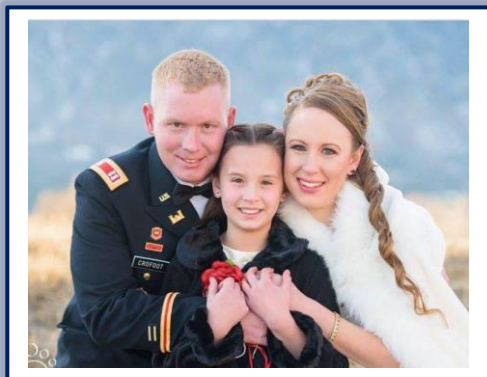
**No Reward
Offered**

**'Protector' of
the 'Shell Lamp'
Congratulations....
Joyce Clark**



*Congrats to
Grandma &
Grandpa Weier*

*Congratulations
Henry, Rebecca
and Bella.*



SHARING SPECIAL EVENTS

Sending Birthday Wishes to . . .

March

05 – John Urness 20 – Terry Vaassen
 19 – Jerry Schewe 24 – Wayne Wodarz

April

09 – Leon Neuheisel 29 – Tom Nall
 16 – Dennis Helbing 30 – Jim Olds

May

02– Bob Weier 22 – Becky Schambow



Sending Anniversary Wishes to Member & Spouse

March (none)

April

08 – Ernie Thalmann
 25 – Eileen Nickels

May

03 – Diane VanNatta
 26 – John Adams & Barb Stockhausen



**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR
YEARS OF SERVICE TO PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST**

March

1972 – Tom Jonas	1992 – Dean Feldman
1980 – Duane Borgen (L)	1997 – Howard Crofoot
1981 – Phil Swift (L)	2001 – Bill VanDeest
1988 – Hap Daus	2005 – Doug Martin
1992 – George Byykkonen	2009 – Ron Weier
1992 – John Dutcher (L)	2011 – Fern Nall
	2013 – Kevin Haertzen

April

1974 – Dave Jones (L)	2002 – John Urness
1999 – Lynn Schlager	2003 – Ron Hall

May-

1977 – Arnie Roper (L)	1993 – Jim Schneller
1991 – Jan Waite	2011 – Leon Neuheisel

(L) – Lifetime Members

Congratulations go out to . . .

Howard Crofoot and his wife as they welcome daughter-in-law, Rebecca and granddaughter, Bella. Son, Henry and Rebecca were married on January 16 in Colorado Springs. They are also proud to welcome their new granddaughter, Isabella (Bella) who is 9 years old and 'lots of fun'.

Ron Weier and wife, Jan, welcomed grandson, Ethan Michael Gipp, born on Friday, January 22nd. Parents are daughter, Jennifer and husband, Barrett who reside in Decorah, Iowa.

Please forward pictures and information for sharing with members to msmacy105@yahoo.com. We would love to share in your 'Memory Making Moments'.