

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

CURRENTLY MEETING 7:00 AM FRIDAYS AT COUNTRY KITCHEN, HWY 151, PLATTEVILLE, WI

Friday, February 26, 2016

Attendance: Twenty-five (25) members were present today: Ron Weier*, John Urness, Maxine Lane*, Steve Lane*, Fern Nall, Tom Nall*, Leon Neuheisel*, Diane VanNatta, Wayne Wodarz*, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark*, Kevin Haertzen, Beth Frieders, Jerry Schewe, Joy Schewe, Becky Schambow, Hap Daus*, Howard Crofoot*, Arnie Roper, Dennis Helbing, Phil Swift, Mike Olds, Virg Splinter*, Bob Stephens, AND our newest member (sworn in today), Ann Cooley. Karen Lynch from AnchorBank was a guest. (* = 10 members wore an Optimist shirt or sweater)

Mystery Greeter: Tom Nall was the lucky “greetee” selected by mystery greeter Steve Lane.

Luck of the Draw: The excitement continues to build as the pot is exceeding \$1800.00. The ticket number belonging to Steve Lane was drawn, with the results being to the delight of members and disappointment of Steve. The pot continues to grow with only 9 cards + the joker remaining.

Business Meeting:

++ Today was Beth Frieders’ birthday, so members treated her to a Happy Birthday song!

++ President Weier opening comments informed the members that the community has heavy hearts as they learn of the sudden passing of Mark Adrian, a young business man from Platteville who leaves a wife and family.

++ President Weier provided results of the recent Essay Contest. Nineteen students from the Middle School participated. The winning essay on behalf of the Optimist Club of Platteville was Daniel Swenson and runner up Callin Udelhofen. On behalf of the Platteville Area Optimists Noon Club, the winning essay was that of Grace Deis with runner up Mary Jane Stephens.

++ President Weier reminded those present of the Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 1.



Maxine Lane (left) sponsored our newest Optimist Club member Ann Cooley (rt).

++ Maxine Lane reminded the members that next Friday, March 4 is our quarterly collection for the Food Pantry. Our focus will be on paper products, i.e., paper towel, facial tissue, napkins, toilet paper, etc.

++ Ann Cooley, Branch Manager of AnchorBank, was sworn in as a new member. Ann's membership was sponsored by Maxine Lane.

Program:

Joe Biba was born and raised on a dairy farm outside of Boscobel. Fifteen years ago Joe moved to the Cuba City area and eventually found himself doing construction. For the past 10 years, Joe has had his own company doing construction and remodeling. Joe and his wife of 26 years have 4 children, ranging in ages of 23 to 4, 3 girls and Joe's 'little' boy of 4 years.

Mission trips are not new to Joe as he has gone on youth group mission trips for the last 7 years here in the United States through the Catholic Heart Work Camp and local parishes and has visited Jamaica for the past 5 years, where this year in February he headed the trip up through his non-profit organization, Creators of Hope.



Our speaker for today, Joe Biba, told us about his mission trips to Jamaica.

Joe presented a slide presentation of what the living quarters are in Jamaica and what he and his group accomplish while there. The goal for the work group is to build 3 to 4 houses while in Jamaica, with the site selection and recipient families predetermined by Fr. Baylon of Jamaica. Funding for building material is provided through collections from several parishes in the area, St. Mary's, St. Augustine's, St. Rose and Benton Parish. The volunteers traveling cover their own expenses in addition to taking major tools with them. Their arrival in Jamaica is Montego Bay and travel some 3 hours into the mountain region where their work begins. While the volunteers are in Jamaica, they have accommodations at the sister parish rectory, directed by Fr. Baylon, for which they also cover expenses of food, water, etc. Homes built are 14 x 16 in size, do not have electricity, and in some instances accommodate up to as many as 27 people.

Joe's hope is to create more opportunity with his non-profit organization, Creators of Hope, and make 2 to 3 trips per year to Jamaica to help improve the lives and living conditions for the region.