

ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

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

Friday, December 11, 2015

Attendance: An almost record setting twenty-six (26) Optimists attended today's meeting. Ten were wearing their Optimist Shirts (Bob Weier, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Steve Lane, Maxine Lane, Ron Weier, Maggie Kleisath, Charlie Clark, Wayne Wodarz and Gary Engelke). We also had *Ann Cooley* in attendance, a guest of Maxine's.

Mystery Greeter: Dave Jones was greeted by Diane VanNatta, giving him another chance at the Joker Draw.

Luck of the Draw: Steve Lane's ticket was drawn for the Joker Draw, and like a recent drawing by one of the Weier "twins," he was just one card away from the Joker, drawing the six of hearts instead and collecting \$2.

Business Meeting:

- ++ Howard Croft is celebrating his birthday on the 16th. People celebrating Wedding anniversary this week are Duane Borgen (17th) and Dave Jones (18th).
- ++ Maxine reviewed the Santa Calling schedule and made sure that all slots were filled.
- ++ The Badger Camp event is Saturday, December 12th in Potosi.
- ++ Maggie Kleisath reminded the group that she could still use help setting up for the Alone at Christmas dinner on Monday, December 21st @ 6 pm at St. Augie's.

Program:

Diane Van Natta introduced our speaker, Cindy Martens, who is the secretary for the Holiday Project. Cindy talked about the Holiday Project which was started in 1992. It was formed by Nancy Bongers through the school district. A committee was formed and looks at the current and future needs of children in the community. Members of the committee come from Wisconsin Bank & Trust, Walgreens, Family Advocates, Edward Jones, Kathy Kopp from Chamber, Deb Jenny from Platteville Realty, Jo Roling from Dupaco, Tim Bolt from Pioneer Ford, Nancy Salzmann and Norma Pedley from Fidelity Bank. The committee meets twice a year (August to plan and the following March to evaluate).

The Holiday Project tries to cover all bases to avoid overlay in services. They have help from the Optimist club to handle delivery, set up and cleaning of toys. Toys are stored at Pioneer Ford until distribution.

Distribution of toys is scheduled for December 15 this year at Lutheran Church of Peace. Toys are sorted into sections by age, stuffed animals, games and books. There is also a section of used toys. Applications to participate in the program are gotten from the school district as well as Adopt a Family forms and clothing vouchers. Applicants are required to show residency in Platteville. Usually 250-300 children are served each year.

In 2007 they added a "New Book for Each Child" program. Each child receives a new book. Books are purchased through fundraising and grants. Erin Isabelle, from the library, helps purchase and sort the books each year.



Cindy Martens, today's speaker, receives from Diane VanNatta a check from our club to help with the Holiday Project.

Food Baskets are sorted and distributed by Nancy Bongers at the Elks Club. They usually give out 35-40 baskets. Nancy is also in charge of the Adopt A Family Program. Any undistributed food is given to the Food Pantry.

The Kids for Coats distribution is conducted earlier as the coats needed earlier in the fall. This is done at the Evangelical Free Church. Hats, mittens and gloves are also available for those in need.

The committee is grateful for the community support for the Holiday Project.

Diane presented Cindy with a check for \$200 for the Holiday Project. Thank you Cindy for an informative presentation and all of the work that you do for the Holiday Project.

Minutes taken and submitted by Fern Nall; edited for "Rooster Call" by Charlie Clark.