

ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

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

Friday, December 18, 2015

Attendance: Twenty-five (25) Optimists attended. Ten were wearing their Optimist Shirts (Bob Weier, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Steve Lane, Maxine Lane, Ron Weier, Charlie Clark, Virg Pufhal, Hap Daus, and John Urness). In addition, Scott Woodward, retired P.E. teacher from the Platteville School District, was Ron Weier's guest.

Mystery Greeter: Diane VanNatta greeted Beth Frieders, who got a free shot at Joker Draw.

Luck of the Draw: Doug Martin's ticket was drawn for the Joker Draw. Doug drew and got the 4 of Spades, as well as \$2.00 for the time together. Ron Weier donated a free beer/Potosi Museum ticket which was won by Bob Stephens.

Business Meeting:

- ++ Eileen Engelke is celebrating her birthday on the 19th, Phil Swift Dec. 23rd, and Anne Klawiter on the 27th.
- ++ Howard reviewed the Santa Calling and indicated that 75 children were called over the three nights. Thanks to all who participated.
- ++ The Badger Camp event on Saturday, December 12th in Potosi raised \$90,000 which was an all-time record. The Optimists received recognition for their donations.
- ++ 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. Thanks were extended to all of the club members who helped with Holiday Project toy distribution and other activities.
- ++ There will not be meetings on December 25th or January 1st. The next meeting will be on January 8th. Board meeting will be held January 5th.
- ++ You can make your Dime-A-Day donations during December/January. Make the \$36.50 checks out to OI Foundation.
- ++ Maxine reminded members that the Holiday Social will be Friday, January 15th at Wisconsin Bank and Trust. The club will provide entrée and members will bring salads and desserts. Please sign up so that the amount of food will be accurate.

Program:

Bob Weier introduced our speaker, Tud Bowden, owner of Bowden Signs and Wundoemus Spice Blend, and part of the Wundo Band. He spoke about the Legion Park Baseball program. Tud is in charge of the fundraising signs around the field. The program began in 2012 with 4- 4'X8' signs and now in 2015 there are 50 signs in place. The signs cost \$500 to put in place and have an annual cost of \$200. In 2015 \$10,000 was raised. One half of the money is a perpetuating fund for improvement projects on the field and the rest for the upkeep of the signs. The billing for the signs is handled through the Parks and Recreation Office. Next project for the field will realign Hill Field and make another field so that there will be four fields around the concession stand. Project will cost ½ million dollars. Platteville Youth Diamond Sports board meets monthly. In January they discuss the budget and plan for the year.

Platteville Youth Diamond Sports provides baseball and softball programs for children in grades 1-12. There are 560 plus games on the fields during a season with a lot of participants in the various programs. For example about 200 participated in the baseball program last year. The field is also used for practices, adult leagues, and Special Olympics as well as soccer games, Diary Days, and reunions. The various groups using the field are reimbursed if their members help staff the concession stand. Referees are usually WIAA approved for the games for the older grades.

Thanks Tud for your work with the baseball program and the sign program. It was interesting hearing how important Legion Park is to our community.



Bob Weier introduced today's speaker, Tud Bowden.



Pictured are a couple of Santa's "helpers": Gary Engelke, Maggie Kleisath, Tom Nall, Fern Nall, Ron Weier, Bob Weier, Charlie Clark, John Urness, Maxine Lane, Hap Daus, and Eileen Engelke.

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