

ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Currently Meeting 7:00 AM Fridays at Country Kitchen, Hwy 151, Platteville, WI

Vision Statement: *“To Impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner”*



2019 – 2020 Officers and Board of Directors

Dan Engelke, President; Wayne Wodarz, Past President;
Tom Nall, President Elect; Tim Boldt, Second Vice President;
Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Becky Schambow, Secretary

Board of Directors

Chris Budden, Steve Lane, Tim Murphy, Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisal & Linda Thomas

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST WEEKLY MEETING: November 15, 2019

Attendance: 35 members – Joan Bahr, Jim Boebel, Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Peggy Compton, Howard Crofoot, Penny Droessler, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Gary Engelke, Mark Essex, Beth Frieders, Kevin Haertzen, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Kathy Kopp, Doug Martin, Tom and Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Mellissa Palfrey (representing Family Advocates), Diane Paynter, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Greg and Mary Sieckman, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas, Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz, Tim and Terry Wood.

Guests: President Dan Engelke noted that our own Kathy Kopp is our speaker. No other guests.

Mystery Greeter: Kevin Haertzen greeted Fern Nall who received a ticket for the Joker draw.

Anniversaries: Laura and Brian Brown are celebrating an anniversary on November 16. George Byykonnen and his wife are celebrating an anniversary on November 18. Mike and Tonya Olds are celebrating their anniversary on November 18 as well.

Birthdays: Barb Deis is celebrating her birthday on November 20.

Joker Draw: Kathy Kopp drew the magic ticket held by Maggie Kleisath. Maggie drew the Queen of Clubs and walked away with her \$2. Psst – nobody tell Steve!

Mail /Thank You Notes /Club Acknowledgements / Special Announcements:
President Engelke passed a thank you note the Girl Scouts for our generous support.

Old Business / Reminders:

Next Week's speaker – Kelly McNiff – UW-Platteville Women's Basketball Coach

Reminder: No meeting on November 29. Happy Black Friday to everyone!

New Business:



The American Legion Auxiliary Veteran's Day potluck dinner was held on November 12. Chris Budden accepted a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the club for our contributions to Badger Boys and Girls State. (pictured left – Chris and Dee Wolfe – Badger Girls State; pictured right – Chris and our own Paul Budden presenting for Badger Boys State.

Bob Hundhausen on behalf of the Legion Park Event Center was selling pens made with turned wood from the boards from the old Art Hall. Optimist John Urness made the pens for the group to use as a fundraiser. Bob said they would like to raise an additional \$200,000 to get all the furniture and amenities needed.

Thank you to Ron Weier and Leon Neuheisel for volunteering to serve as May **2020** (not 2019) speaker coordinators. Thanks to Beth Frieders for volunteering for May 2019.

There were samples of Optimist attire on display. Please place your orders for these items by contacting Becky Schambow at beckyschambow@gmail.com or 732-8981.

Program:



Kathy Kopp has been Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce since 1992. She joined the Optimists in December 1993. She will retire as Executive Director on February 14, 2020 – but stay on as an Optimist! She and husband Joe live here in Platteville. They have 4 children and 9 grandchildren. Kathy will have time to travel but will always return to Platteville.

Here is Doug Martin, speaker coordinator for November, with speaker Kathy Kopp. Doug did the introduction. Doug noted that in her "one-year term" since 1992, she more than doubled the Chamber membership, was

instrumental in getting the Platteville Community Arboretum established, helped get the Chicago Bears to train here for 18 years, made Katie's Garden the delightful place it is and got the state to designate the Chamber as the Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center. She helped bring the Mickey's Hometown Parade here in 1998 and from that, started the current Hometown Festival week we now enjoy – including Party in the Park where the Optimists give away hot dogs, milk and ice cream to the community.

Kathy is very passionate about Platteville, but also about Hallmark Christmas movies. She got the idea that Platteville is like the communities featured in these Hallmark movies and got together a community holiday committee of 24 members to detail the many events in the community. They are sponsoring Hometown Friday Nights on December 6, 13 and 20 with extended store hours, carolers on Main Street, children's crafts at the Rountree Gallery and, in partnership with the Museums, there will be horse-drawn carriage rides. This program filled reservations so quickly, they put on a second carriage. You could say this idea took off at a gallop.

She spoke about a residential holiday decorating contest. People sign up to decorate the exterior of their homes for others to admire. First Place is \$200 and a travelling trophy created by Ann Rupp (not the shell lamp). Second Place is \$150 and Third Place is a movie basket.

Kathy encouraged us to shop local and turn in the receipts for Santa Bucks. This is the 22nd year of the Santa Bucks program and they had over \$200,000 in Santa Bucks last year. The Santa Bucks auction is an event all its own with strategies for getting the most bang for your Santa Buck.

She also spoke of the events at Katie's Garden Winter Wonderland on December 6 and 7. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there on Friday at about 5:15 (depending on weather conditions coming in from the North Pole). Every year there are more lights and animation. This year will include an 18-foot-high inflatable and lighted Frosty the Snowman.

Thank you, Kathy, for the interesting speech and your service to our community as Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Upcoming Speakers:

- **November 22nd – Kelly McNiff, UWP Women's Basketball Coach – Update on Upcoming Season**
- **November 29th - NO MEETING**
- **December 13: Katelyn Barr - Badger Camp experience**
- **December 20: Larry Lloyd - "Failing French and Growing in Grace - 15 years of being American on the French/Swiss border.**
- **December 27: Nick Martinez, Snap Fitness - Physical Fitness, appropriate at any age**

Highlights of Meeting Recorded by: Howard Crofoot