

Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights | February 2021



Vision Statement: "To Impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"

2020-2021 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: Tom Nall, President | Dan Engelke, Past President | Duane Borgen, Treasurer | Alaina Reeves, Secretary

Board of Directors: Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel, Linda Thomas, Steve Lane, Terri Ellis, Jordan Holthaus

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS ON FEBRUARY 28TH, 2021

NOTE: Due to Covid Pandemic and "social distancing" requirements, the Platteville Optimist Board and Members have not been able to meet in person since March 6, 2020. In an effort to continue Club business, the Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom's internet application, with our most recent meeting held on February 2, 2021. The following "Governing Board & Committee Updates" highlighted below were reported to the Membership at their Business Meeting on February 5th, 2021.

GOVERNING BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- ✓ **Treasurer's Report:** Financial Report dated January 31, 2020 was submitted by D. Borgen, Treasurer, and approved by the board.
- ✓ **Notes of Appreciation Received:** Platteville Holiday Project, Platteville School District, Sleep in Heavenly Peace (WI Grant Co. Chapter), Wisconsin Badger Camp.
Annual Review of Club Financial Books: Barb Stockhausen completed and submitted the report. This report was approved by the board on February 2nd.

YOUTH COMMITTEE: Upon resignation from his board position, T. Boldt effectively resigned from the Youth Committee as well. Essay contest is to be delayed until the second week in February. C. Storlie is supposed to provide information on the Oratorical Contest to Wayne.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Still in need of speaker coordinators for May-December, 2021. Please contact Linda Thomas (lindalouthomas53@gmail.com) for more information.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: "NOW" Meeting is being planned for May 22nd.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ Audit (review of 2020 financials) by Barb Stockhausen
- ✓ Vice President Position
- ✓ Letter to club members on donations (Cheese Curd Stimulus)

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Platteville Optimist Recognition Day, February 4th
- ✓ Dime a Day: Jerry Schewe (\$36.50) checks made payable to Optimist International Foundation
- ✓ SWIS District Meeting via Zoom scheduled for February 13th. Registration for attendance.
- ✓ Choose Optimism PLEDGE (Program from OI on Club Recognition in the community).

- ✓ July 4th Cheese Curd Sales.
- ✓ City to Farm Day, UW-P Farm; October 2, 2021
- ✓ Youth Chair: no one has taken this position yet.

BOARD REPORT SUBMITTED BY: ALAINA REEVES, SECRETARY

FEBRUARY 5TH: VIRTUAL MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

ATTENDEES: There were 24 members who attended and participated including: Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Gary Engelke, Mark Essex, Tom Jonas, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine & Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Tom & Fern Nall, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Joy & Jerry Schewe, Ernie Thalmann, Ron Weier & Wayne Wodarz.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:02 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by G. Engelke and The Optimist Creed led by Jerry Schewe. Special prayers for Rod Thomas, who will undergo surgery this month for some cancer found in his lungs. Also special prayers for Carley Borcharding's grandson, little Auggie, who is experiencing serious health concerns.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Steve Lane will celebrate his birthday on February 7th. Membership Anniversaries include Steve & Maxine Lane, who joined on February 6th, 2009. FOO anniversaries include Cindy at PBII, who joined in 2016.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT: D. Borgen presented the treasurer report; T. Nall reviewed the January board meeting summary (as listed above).

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED: Reviewed and discussed letter received from scholarship recipient Nick Cullen, who stated his intent to resume full time school next fall at SWTC. Jerry Schewe made a motion to allow an exception for Nick, seconded by Maxine. Charlie made an amendment to send the funds as soon as he reports he is full time; motion carried.

CHEESE CURD STIMULUS REQUEST: As of this week, we had received \$2,500 in donations.

FOURTH OF JULY CHEESE CURD DISCUSSION: Maxine explained that Kathy Kopp is now the chairperson for this year's 4th of July events and encouraged us to host our famous cheese curd sales in legion park later that day. G. Engelke suggested a need of 125 lbs of cheese curds. Discussion followed on making this an annual fundraiser. H. Daus proposed we make an advertisement in the newspaper leading up to the holiday. T. Ellis proposed we photograph the crew getting ready for the curds. Jerry Schewe motioned to go forth with the cheese curds this year. B. Schambow seconded. Motion Carried. Maxine announced we will need volunteers. Alaina will send out an email to membership announcing the need for volunteers. Steve will pull the trailer out after Memorial Day. Maxine needs some people to clean inside and outside.

SWIS DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON FEB 13: Two keynote speakers, including Gary & Eileen's daughter, will be speaking on their experience with a child with Autism.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ JOI Club: Eileen donated money to JOI. Stated it's been tough having meetings; will mention something to Kelly Sponsler about having JOI members involved in the July 4th cheese curds sale.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS & TOPICS:

- ✓ **February 12th:** Eileen McCartney, Platteville Area Pickleball Association
- ✓ **February 19th:** Professor Jason Thrun, UWP Mathematicum
- ✓ **February 26th:** Professor Michael Black, UWP Statistician on the lottery

ADJOURNMENT: Moment of silence for Rod Thomas and Auggie (Carley's grandson). Meeting motioned to adjourn at 7:45 by Maxine Lane. Seconded by Eileen McCartney.

FEBRUARY 12TH: EILEEN MCCARTNEY, PLATTEVILLE AREA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

ATTENDEES: There were 25 members and 2 Friends of Optimist who attended and participated including: Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Chris & Paul Budden, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Beth Frieders, Kevin Haertzen, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Ken Kamps, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Eileen McCartney, Tom & Fern Nall, Melissa Palfrey (FOO-Family Advocates), Alaina Reeves, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalman, Linda Thomas, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consulting) and Wayne Wodarz.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:03 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by P. Budden and the Optimist Creed by H. Daus.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Birthdays this week include Tim Boldt (Feb. 12th), Pat Moxness-Weier (Feb. 16th) and Jim Schweigert (Feb. 18th). Membership anniversaries this week include John Zuehlke, who joined on Feb. 17th, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Vice President Request
- ✓ Need monthly speaker coordinators
- ✓ Dime a Day announcement from Jerry Schewe

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ✓ Cheese curd stimulus: up to \$3,400 in donations.
- ✓ Essay contest: C. Storlie is to drop essays off to Terri Ellis to judge. E. Thalmann received theirs. There are 34 entrants.
- ✓ Oratorical contest: applications must be postmarked by Feb 25th. No date or time for judging for oratorical; Howard has volunteered.
- ✓ CCDH: Eric Tomas, violin player. Maxine would like to have 2 more entries into this competition.

GUEST SPEAKER: EILEEN MCCARTNEY, PLATTEVILLE AREA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION:

Eileen McCartney, our fellow Platteville Optimist, is retired from Platteville School District where she taught health and physical education. She now teaches exercise classes twice a week at the senior center and has been an avid pickleball player since retirement. Before COVID, she played 3x a week.

Eileen began by explaining the sport of pickleball but was most excited to share the plans for a pickleball court complex coming to Platteville. The proposed complex will be developed on the corner of N 2nd St. & Pitt St. in Platteville, neighboring the recently completed Broske Center. The location will be convenient for community members as well as students of the Platteville Middle & High schools. Driven by the eagerness to have a true pickleball court close to home, she and a group of pickleball enthusiasts have been fundraising for the future outdoor, 8 court complex. Eileen shared some photos of local pickleball players hitting the makeshift courts in town, as well as her own grandchildren who have developed a love for the sport as well. In the beginning stages of Eileen's fundraising mission, her granddaughter went to her room and came back with a few dollar bills as a contribution, which meant a lot to Eileen. Having raised \$260,000 so far, the Platteville Area Pickleball Association (a.k.a., PAPA), is \$40,000 away from their fundraising goal of \$300,000. Eileen shared a video put together by a member of the association, Mike Hefty, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). They have also created a gofundme campaign to honor healthcare workers in our community, which can be visited [here](#). For inquiries on making a direct donation, please email papadonate@gmail.com. To follow along with the project, join their public Facebook group, titled Platteville Area Pickleball Association.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND TOPICS:

- ✓ **February 19th:** Professor Jason Thrun, UWP Mathematicum
- ✓ **February 26th:** Professor Michael Black, UWP Statistician on the lottery

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn meeting made by T. Ellis, seconded by D. Paynter. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

FEBRUARY 19TH: PROFESSOR JASON THRUN, UWP MATHEMATICUM

ATTENDEES: There were 26 members who attended and participated including: Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Kevin Haertzen, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine & Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Tim Murphy, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Ernie Thalman, and Wayne Wodarz.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: President Nall called the meeting to order at 7:01. Carley Borcharding led the Pledge of Allegiance and Fern Nall led the Optimist Creed.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Birthdays this week are Kathy Kopp on Feb. 19th and Barb Deis on Feb. 22nd.

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- ✓ **Thoughts and Prayers announcements:** Rod Thomas had surgery to remove some cancer in his lungs and some surrounding his lymph nodes. Linda said he has good margins. Duane Borgen threw his back out. Thoughts and prayers to both!
- ✓ **Vice President Position Open:** President Nall noted that the Board is looking for a volunteer to fill the position of Vice President (being vacated by Tim Boldt). Tom indicated that the position does require a bit of time, commitment, and a positive attitude. Maxine Lane noted that as the SWIS District Governor she would encourage members to consider this position.
- ✓ **Dime A Day Campaign:** Jerry Schewe (Club's Foundation Representative) shared information and encouraged participation in the OI "Dime A Day" fundraiser.
- ✓ **Cheese Curd Stimulus Request Letter:** Duane announced we have received between \$5,000-\$6,000 from this request.
- ✓ **Tri-Star Basketball for SWIS District:** Has been cancelled.
- ✓ **Optimist Day:** President Nall noted that "Optimist Day" is February 4th. The notice in the Journal is scheduled to be published in the Jan. 27th edition as part of the Kunes Country Public Service Ad. Wayne Wodarz also volunteered to publish something on the Platteville Chamber's Facebook page. Diane Paynter suggested that we publish something on a new Facebook page entitled "Platteville Positive Vibes".
- ✓ **Essay and Oratorical Contests:** Essay contest: Terri is still reading essays. Oratorical: looking at dates and venues to see what is available. Trying to work around spring break; Event may be held March 11. (Update provided by W. Wodarz).

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. JASON THRUN, UW-PLATTEVILLE, INTRODUCED BY KEVIN HAERTZEN

Dr. Jason Thrun has been teaching math for over 25 years and has been at UW-Platteville since 1998. Lately, he has been interested in outreach within our communities, working with Engineering students to create mobile math exhibits for students to use in the Tri-State area.

Dr. Thun visited Hamburg, Germany in 2016 to attend a math conference, ICME 13 (International Congress of Math Education.) While on the campus, he was initially intrigued by a building that appeared to have lots of foot traffic, called the Popular Building. When he entered, he discovered it was a building full of math exhibits: some interactive, some independent, some family sized. These mobile exhibits included probability demonstrations, bridges, puzzles, etc. and belonged to a larger museum in Giessen, Germany, called The Mathematikum. Upon his return to the U.S., he wanted to do the same. So, he assembled a team of Math Department Staff, students & staff working in labs, student helpers, the art department, and more. As they put their heads together, they were able to come up with and create their own math exhibits. On their team member wish list, he added, are people with welding skills to help build certain exhibits. Since they've started, they have participated in events such as Dr. Grunow's Family Math Night, the Dubuque MATHCOUNTS competition, the UW-Platteville math contest, and the engineering expo. Their criteria for puzzles is that it has to have some sort of math connection. The students don't need to understand it at the time, per se, but their hope is for the students to be able to speak about it with their teachers later, or come to understand it later and provide an opportunity of enrichment for the kids. Although they began working on this project in 2016/2017, they've been taking exhibits to local schools for about 2 years. So far, they have had

events in Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Darlington and Highland. Their hope, eventually, is to schedule full day events in local communities.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS: Next week's speaker will be Dr. Michael Black from UW-Platteville, presenting on the lottery.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

FEBRUARY 26TH: DR. MICHAEL BLACK, "HOW TO EARN \$1,000,000 PLAYING THE LOTTERY (OR NOT)"

ATTENDEES: There were 22 members and 2 Friends of Optimists who attended and participated including: Tim Boldt, Carley Borchering, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Kevin Haertzen, Bob Hundhausen, Anne Klawiter, Maxine & Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey (FOO-Family Advocates), Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Joy Schewe, Ernie Thalmann, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consultants), Ron Weier, and Wayne Wodarz.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by President Nall at 7:01. Eileen McCartney led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Wayne Wodarz reciting the Optimist Creed.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Beth Frieders is celebrating her birthday today. Membership anniversaries include Dennis Helbing (February 27th, 2015).

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- ✓ **Update on Rod Thomas:** Back home, surgery went well. If you'd like to send a card, please contact Alaina Reeves for their mailing address.
- ✓ **Vice President position, request for volunteers.** No experience needed, just time, commitment, and a positive attitude. Will be supported by our great board members.
- ✓ **Speaker coordinators:** Maxine Lane took April and has April 16th scheduled.
- ✓ **Fourth of July Cheese Curds:** Alaina will be sending another email to encourage members to volunteer for remaining time slots.

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. MICHAEL BLACK, UW-P STATISTICS PROF., INTRODUCED BY KEVIN HAERTZEN

Dr. Black has been with UW-Platteville since the Fall of 2013 and teaches Statistics. He earned his PhD at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and prior to that, he worked as an actuary in Minneapolis. He has two daughters and two sons, ages 16, 14, 12 and 10. His wife, Tammy Black, is an architect in Platteville.

Dr. Black began his presentation by stating you should not gamble unless: 1. You have a predetermined amount of disposable funds you can use. 2. You can keep track of your wins and losses religiously. 3. You will stop when the predetermined amount of disposable funds run out (or before). He also noted different types of financial gambles: casino games, card games, lotteries, investments, insurance, etc. He explained that we can calculate the probabilities of winning the Powerball lottery by using the hypergeometric distribution. He also shared there is such a thing as "lottery fatigue," but noted that's a whole different lecture. Along with a lot of numbers and probability explanations, Dr. Black explained why you will never win the Powerball jackpot, as well as why no one you've ever met will win either. He explained that for each Powerball ticket drawing, if one saved the equivalent amount in a Roth IRA (currently \$2 a ticket), after a long-term annual return of 7%, one would have about \$1million after 84 years. He also touched on his journey from actuarial science to statistics and academia, stating that he got into statistics because he likes probability, and that an actuary is an accountant with no personality.

FINAL THOUGHTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

NEXT FRIDAY'S MEETING: March Business meeting on March 5th at 7:00 a.m.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

- ✓ **March 12th:** Jon Fons, member of Sauk Trails-Madison Optimist Club
- ✓ **March 19th:** Steve Bailey, member of Sauk Trails-Madison Optimist Club
- ✓ **March 26th:** Gene Weber is coordinating still.

ADJOURNMENT: C. Clark motioned to adjourn, seconded by D. Engelke. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH:

MARCH MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- ✓ **Tom Jonas** – March 1, 1972
- ✓ **Duane Borgen** – March 1, 1980
- ✓ **Phil Swift** – March 1, 1981
- ✓ **Hap Daus** – March 1, 1988
- ✓ **Kevin Haertzen** – March 4, 2013
- ✓ **George Byykkonen** – March 5, 1997
- ✓ **Howard Crofoot** – March 5, 1997
- ✓ **Ron Weier** – March 13, 2009
- ✓ **Guy Stead** – March 18, 2016
- ✓ **William VanDeest** – March 21, 2001
- ✓ **Doug Martin** – March 23, 2005
- ✓ **Dean Feldman** – March 30, 1992
- ✓ **Fern Nall** – March 31, 2011

MARCH FRIENDS OF OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES: None

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- ✓ **Diane Paynter & her husband Charlie** – March 25th

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- ✓ **Jen Schweigert** – March 3rd
- ✓ **Eileen McCartney** – March 15th
- ✓ **Paul Budden** – March 19th
- ✓ **Jerry Schewe** – March 19th
- ✓ **Naomi Wells** – March 23rd
- ✓ **Linda Thomas** – March 24th
- ✓ **Wayne Wodarz** – March 24th
- ✓ **Bob Hundhausen** – March 30th