

# ROOSTER CALL

## PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

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

**Friday, June 26, 2015**

**Attendance:** Twenty-five Optimists, with five (Leon, Steve, Bob, Joy and Hap) wearing their Optimist shirts.

**Mystery Greeter:** Leon Neuheisel greeted Hap Daus.

**Joker Draw:** Ron Weier ticket was drawn for the Joker Draw. Ron cut and got the 4 of clubs as well as \$2.00 for the time together.

### **Business Meeting:**

++ People celebrating anniversaries this week included Phil Swift, Maxine & Steve Lane, Wayne Wodarz, Terry Ellis, and Howard Crowfoot.

++Colin Thiele sent a very nice note thanking the club for sponsoring him to attend Badger Boys State.

++Party In the Park will be held July 23rd. A sign-up sheet will be coming out soon.

++Installation banquet will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Platteville Golf & Country Club.

++Please try to fill out and return the Profile Survey to Maxine as soon as possible so the data can be compiled.

++July board meeting will be held July 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7am.

++John Urness reminded us that the Stone Cottage will have an open house on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Program:**

Becky Schambow introduced our speaker, Dena Duncan, the Executive Director for 3 Gaits, Inc., a therapeutic horsemanship center by Stoughton, Wisconsin. 3 Gaits is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 whose goal is to improve the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horsemanship. 3 Gaits was established on its 20 acre farm south of Madison in 1986 and is nationally accredited.

Dena started working at 3 Gaits in 1999 and became the Executive Director in 2012. She explained that they try to keep 15-17, seasoned horses (15-20 yrs. Old), well trained horses at all times. They are trained to remain calm for mounts and dismounts with various ramps, and to be comfortable with equipment like motorized wheel chairs. Horses are accepted on lease or donation. They are evaluated at home and then for a 30-90 trial period at 3 Gaits. Horses need to be healthy, move correctly and have a good temperament.

Staff and volunteers are well trained to be comfortable with the horses and clients. There are usually 200 volunteers. There are also Occupational and Physical therapists on staff. Clients are

evaluated on an individual basis to see if their needs will be met by the program. They usually serve about 200-300 people. Clients range in age from 2-66. Dena had interesting examples telling how physical needs of several clients were met by the programs at 3 Gaits.

There are both individual therapy and group (4 riders) therapy sessions. In addition there are carriage driving programs where people learn to drive the horses. Classes on the care of horses are also available. Fees for the programs aren't covered by insurance so prices try to remain affordable and there are scholarships to apply for. People learn about 3 Gaits from the UW Children's Hospital and other outreach associations like the Down Syndrome Society.

Dena is very passionate about the work she does and the opportunities 3 Gaits provides for many people. We enjoyed her informative presentation and learned a lot. Go to <http://www.3gaits.org/index.html> to find out more about the organization.

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

