

# ROOSTER CALL

## PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

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

**Friday, January 29, 2016**

**Attendance:** 25 Members – Ron Weier\*, John Urness, Gary Engelke\*, Eileen Engelke, Maxine Lane\*, Fern Nall, Tom Nall\*, Leon Neuheisel\*, Diane VanNatta\*, Wayne Wodarz\*, Duane Borgen, Bob Weier\*, Charlie Clark\*, Terry Vaassen, Doug Martin, Kevin Haertzen, Beth Frieders, Jerry Schewe\*, Becky Schambow, Hap Daus\*, Terry Vaassen, Gary Munson, Howard Crofoot\*, Brad Mootz, Ernie Thalmann\*. In addition to members, Joe Biba was a guest of Maxine Lane. Joe recently completed a mission trip to Jamaica and will speak to the Optimist Friday morning meeting on February 26 about the trip and the accomplishments made by his group.

\*13 members were wearing Optimist Attire.

**Mystery Greeter:** Jerry Schewe was the lucky member greeted by Beth Frieders this morning.

**Luck of the Draw:** The excitement continues to build as the pot is exceeding \$1600.00. Bruce Schmidt did an excellent job announcing the lucky number, belonging to none other than, Doug Martin. Doug informed the members that he was ‘not feeling the love’ drawing fun and laughter from everyone. Much to his disappointment (and delight of the remaining members), Doug drew the 10 of Diamonds, earning himself \$2 instead of half the pot.

### **Business Meeting:**

- \* Reminder of the Dime-a-Day campaign, currently at approximately \$800.00, accounting for donations from 23 members. Our desire is to still reach our goal of 1,000.00 by the end of January.
- \* President Weier circulated a thank you note from Platteville Holiday Project. 90 families were served representing 150 kids. Thanks were extended to our club for our help in picking up/delivering toys.
- \* President Weier mentioned he had talked with Gene Weber and they are looking for volunteers to help with removal of brush and landscaping work along the trail. Grand opening is scheduled for August/September, 2016.

### **Program:**

Introduced by Tom Nall, Bruce started his presentation stating he had researched our club via our web page prior to his presentation this morning. His findings lead him to compliment the club and members on their leadership within the community as a civic organization.

Bruce’s life can be largely summarized in four passions: first, for his family, wife, Kathy and daughter, Heather, now living in Milwaukee with her husband, John.

A second passion was Bruce’s primary career, nursing, from which Bruce retired 3 years ago after a 45 year career in healthcare.

Bruce’s third passion, woodworking, began about age 7 when his father taught him to make coasters and various wooden figurines from discarded peach crates found at local grocers’. Now, as a completely self-taught woodworker, Bruce has designed and built a wide variety of jewelry boxes, furniture and

cabinetry as well as using the lathe to produce bowls and other ‘round things’ and continues to develop his skills.

Finally, the fourth passion, music, has been a constant throughout Bruce’s life. At age 15 he began to teach himself guitar. At 19 he moved on to learning the banjo and at 60 the mandolin. He is a co-host for the Historic District Coffeehouse in Dubuque and plays both as a solo artist and with other musicians at local venues in Dodgeville, Spring Green, Mineral Point, Galena and Dubuque. Since retiring, he has started to blend his love of music and woodworking and has started crafting banjos. It is this most recent adventure that Bruce shared with us today.

Bruce shared with the members two banjos that were constructed by him. He explained the process of how the pieces are gathered and eventually assembled into the beautiful piece of work as was presented. Much to the delight of everyone, Bruce played his banjo, which was thoroughly enjoyed.



**Bruce Schmidt, banjo maker and player, with one of his creations.**

### **Upcoming Speakers for next month:**

- February 12 - Herb Cody, General Manager of area Queen B Radio stations
- February 19 - Hap Daus, local Weather Watchers program
- February 26 - Joe Biba, Mission Trip to Jamaica

**Minutes taken and submitted by Maxine Lane; edited for “Rooster Call” by Charlie Clark.**



This is a situation when your optimism can come in REALLY handy!