

Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights | February 2022

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

2021-2022 OFFICERS: Howard Crofoot, President; Melissa Palfrey, Vice President; Tom Nall, Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Fern Nall, Secretary

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Jordan Holthaus, Steve Lane, Leon Neuheisel and Alaina Reeves

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS on February 28th, **2022** Due to COVID-19, the Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom, with our most recent meeting held on February 1st, 2022. The following "Governing Board & Committee Updates" below were reported to the Membership at their Business Meeting on February 4th, 2022.

GOVERNING BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM MEETING

Treasurer's Report & Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- Approval of Minutes from 01.04.22 Meeting: Motion to approve by L. Neuheisel. Seconded by D. Borgen. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report dated 01.31.22 was presented by D. Borgen. An inquiry was made about if the \$60 JOI club fee approved at the January 7th Business Meeting was paid yet. D. Borgen will check with M. Lane. Approval of the January Treasurer's Report was made by J. Holthaus. Seconded by L. Neuheisel. Motion carried.

Finance Committee:

- D. Borgen still needs a third person to conduct our annual financial review.
- Thank you notes received in January from Rountree Gallery, Platteville Middle School Homework Club, and Carley Borcherding (for supporting her efforts with the Story Walk Program for the past two years)
- Dime a Day: donations may still be sent to Jerry Schewe, made payable to Optimist International
- Platteville Inclusive Playground: Donations may be sent to D. Borgen until the end of February. He will disburse the pass through and OI checks then. To date he has received \$125. H. Crofoot reported that the grant was submitted and received by OI. He didn't know when we would receive a response.

Youth Committee:

- T. Nall reported that the Essay Contest is progressing. M. Essex and P. Hahn have volunteered and W. Wodarz still working on a third judge. The 35 judged essays will be turned into the Chamber by February 4th. Results will be tabulated and forwarded on.
- Oratorical Contest date has been set for Monday; March 14th at the Incubator with March 16th reserved as a snow date.
 Theme of the contest is "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times". Contest information is being sent to the schools. D.
 Elvidge has volunteered to help organize the contest itself.
- Tri-Star Basketball: H. Crofoot stated that T. Boldt has the date set with the Fieldhouse for the event. More info to come.

Community Service Committee: Nothing to Report

Fellowship Committee:

- H. Crofoot extended a big thanks to Doreen Hlavaty and Eileen McCartney for coordinating speakers two months in a row.
- Speakers for February:
 - February 4th: Business Meeting via Zoom
 - o February 11th: Nicole Baumeister to talk about the programs offered by ADRC.
 - February 18th: Dr. Katie Volz, Math instructor at UW-Platteville, as well as one of the moms to set up the Fennimore NFL Flag Football League in Fall 2019 and has had three successful seasons.
 - February 25th: Mareeta Kolman, Social Worker, Bereavement Coordinator & Volunteer Coordinator for Grant County Hospice Program will discuss hospice and palliative care.
- Meeting in Person or Zoom: Board reflected on the high numbers, crowded meeting area and the results of the survey
 when deciding. L. Neuheisel mentioned that Country Kitchen is losing money when we aren't there, and the waitresses may
 be experiencing changes in their hours. L Neuheisel proposed the club compensating Country Kitchen for the lost business.
 Discussion was held about how much compensation would be appropriate and could be covered within the budget. Board

recommended meeting on Zoom until the end of February at least and donating \$100/week while we are meeting on Zoom. A Board Member pledged to give \$20/week toward the cause.

 Approval by the Board: Motion by L. Neuheisel to pay Country Kitchen \$100 per week for the time we are meeting on Zoom. Members are welcome to make additional donations if they wish. Seconded by J. Holthaus. Motion carried. Motion will be presented to the club at the business meeting on Friday, February 4th.

Membership Committee:

- T. Ellis shared the Committee's idea to boost Zoom attendance and membership called "VOOM on Zoom" (Virtual Outreach
 for Optimist Members). If the club decided to continue meeting on Zoom, members would be encouraged to invite new
 members to check the meeting out.
 - o Approval: Motion by T. Ellis to implement the VOOM on Zoom recruitment program as long as we are on Zoom. Seconded by M. Essex. Motion Carried. Motion will be presented to the club at the Friday Business Meeting.

Publicity/Newsletter/Website Committee: Nothing to Report

<u>Cheese Curd Committee:</u> Nothing to Report

Old Business:

- SWIS District 2nd Quarter Conference will be held at the Comfort Inn & Suites in DeForest on February 18th-19th.
- Thursday, February 3rd is Optimist Day: Remember to wear your Optimist gear, be optimistic, and send photos of your optimism to M. Palfrey so she can publish them on social media.

New Business: Nothing to Report

Conclusion:

- Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00AM via Zoom
- Next weekly meeting is Friday, February 4th at 7:00AM via Zoom Business Meeting
- Adjournment of Board Meeting motioned by T. Ellis, seconded by L. Neuheisel. Meeting adjourned at 7:40AM.

Attachments:

- Today's Agenda
- January Board Minutes
- Financial Documents for 01.31.22

Board Minutes submitted by Fern Nall, Secretary

February 4, 2022 - BUSINESS MEETING

<u>Attendance:</u> There were 22 members who attended including: Tim Boldt, Carley Borcherding, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Kevin Haertzen, Doreen Hlavaty, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Ernie Thalmann, Ron Weier and Wayne Wodarz.

Introduction:

- Meeting called to order by President H. Crofoot at 7:00AM
- Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed

Announcements:

- Caring for Members: Bob Weier had a fall and fractured his hip. He had surgery which went well but is in need of prayers.
- Donations to the Platteville Inclusive Playground project may be sent to D. Borgen through February 28th.
- Thursday, February 3rd was Optimist Day. Please send information on your activities to M. Palfrey for social media postings.
- Special Dates to Remember this Week:
 - Member Birthdays: Steve Lane (February 7th)
 - Member Anniversaries: Jim & Judith Boll (February 2nd)
 - Membership Anniversaries: Steve Lane & Maxine Lane (February 2nd)

<u>Board of Directors Meeting Report & Comments:</u> H. Crofoot reviewed the Board and Committee Updates from the Board's February meeting as noted on pages 1-2. Members discussed items and approved the Board's motions as follows:

- Treasurer's Report ending 1.31.22 was presented by D. Borgen. Motion for club approval made by H. Crofoot, seconded by M. Lane. Motion carried.
- Finance Committee: Still looking for a third member to help complete the annual financial review.
- Youth Committee: T. Nall reported the progress of the Essay and Oratorical Contests. H. Crofoot thanked him for coordinating the event, D. Elvidge for helping organize the contest, and our judges: M. Essex, P. Hahn and K. Haertzen.
 - The Essay Contest has 35 participants, and the theme is "How Does an Optimistic Mindset Change My Tomorrow."
 - The Oratorical Contest's theme is "Staying Optimistic in these Challenging Times." Volunteers will be needed to help facilitate. Requesting that participants have no more than three family members observe, and no children under the age of 8. Masks required for guests. L. Neuheisel made a motion for the club to support T. Nall's established guidelines for this event, seconded by A. Reeves. Motion Carried.
 - The Tri-Star Basketball Contest is set with the Fieldhouse for March 26th. Will need 12-15 volunteers for registration, activities, etc. Volunteer sign-up sheets will circulate.
- Community Service Committee: Howard assigned this committee to helping with the Platteville Inclusive Playground fundraising for the OI match. Governor Jon Fons pledged a donation to our club to go towards our OI match grant. A club member anonymously donated \$500 towards the project and Duane has received \$125 in membership donations so far.
- **Fellowship Committee:** H. Crofoot extended a big thanks to E. McCartney & D. Hlavaty for coordinating speakers for the month and noted the upcoming speakers for the month of February as listed on page 1.
 - The topic of meeting virtually was discussed with the club, and after H. Crofoot presented the latest statistics, the Board motioned to approve extending virtual weekly meetings through February 28th. Motion was seconded by C. Clark. Motion Carried.
 - Consideration of Supporting Country Kitchen as noted on page 1-2 was discussed. C. Clark stated that as a club, this is a campaign we should not be taking on as it will not set a healthy precedent. M. Lane stated that this hardship for CK is a cause of COVID, not us going virtual, and that our donation won't be the cure. D. Engelke suggested our support should be on an individual basis, not a club basis (i.e., individual donations or eating at CK on our own time). M. Essex suggested we should go to the business owner and ask what their needs are to determine if this would even be needed or helpful.
 - O Approval from Club to Give Back to CK: motion dismissed for lack of a Second.
- Membership Committee: The Committee met and developed a proposal to encourage members to recruit guests to our Zoom meetings. "VOOM on Zoom" (Virtual Outreach for Optimist Members) is the program they presented to the Board. They motioned to implement the program through February while we meet on Zoom. Motion for club's approval was made by the Board, seconded by D. Martin. Motion carried.
- Publicity/Newsletter/Website Committee: Nothing to Report
- Cheese Curd Committee: Nothing to Report

Old Business: Nothing to Report

New Business:

• JOI Club Update: Brad Brogley, Eileen McCartney & Maxine Lane have revamped the club. Maxine Lane is Chair, Eileen is the Advisor and Brad is the Liaison at the School. Maxine thanked the club for covering the \$60 club establishment fee. Right now, the club is made up of 7th and 8th graders. They have a president, Co-Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. We want them to keep this club going and graduate into high school remaining as members. Maxine is open for suggestions on service opportunities, like Leon's SHP projects.

<u>Conclusion:</u> C. Clark motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by H. Daus. Meeting adjourned at 7:52AM. *Minutes respectfully submitted by Alaina Reeves (helping for Secretary Fern Nall)*

February 11, 2022: Nicole Baumeister, ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin

Attendance: There were 28 members and 2 guests: Nicole Baumeister (Guest Speaker), Carley Borcherding, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Deb & Steve Elvidge, Eileen Engelke, Kevin Haertzen, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Doreen Hlavaty, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern & Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas, Sheila Tranel (VOOM Guest), & Ron Weier.

Introduction:

- Meeting was called to order by H. Crofoot at 7:02AM
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Murphy and Optimist Creed was led by Deb Elvidge.

Announcements:

Caring for Members:

- Bob Weier was moved to Edenbrook this week and is still in need of prayers as he continues recovery from his fall.
- o Doreen Hlavaty had knee surgery recently and is doing well.
- Charlie Clark tore his Achilles tendon on January 13th and is in a cast. He is still Charlie. Poor Joyce!

Upcoming Events:

- Oratorical Contest on March 14th at the Platteville Incubator. Optimists arrive at 6PM to set up, contestants arrive at 6:30, contest starts at 7PM.
- o Tri-Star Basketball scheduled for March 26th.
- Guests to Welcome: Nicole Baumeister from ADRC (Guest Speaker) and Sheila Tranel, invited by Doreen Hlavaty joining from VOOM on ZOOM effort.

• Special Dates to Remember this Week:

- Member Birthdays: Tim Boldt (February 12th) and Pat Moxness-Weier (February 16th)
- Membership Anniversaries: John Zuehlke (February 17th)
- o Friends of Optimist Anniversaries: Delta 3 (Jan. 27th, 2016) and Rosemeyer Jones Chiropractic (Jan. 27th, 2020)

Old Business: We will be meeting online through February.

New Business: Charlie Clark said to feel free to tailor VOOM on Zoom template to their guests.

Guest Speaker: Nicole Baumeister, ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin (introduced by Doreen Hlavaty)

Nicole Baumeister grew up in and graduated from Boscobel in 2008. She earned her bachelor's degree in Human Services and has served in this industry for over 10 years. Currently, she lives in Fennimore with her husband and two sons, ages 2 and 5, and has been with ADRC since January of 2017. Nicole shared several bits of information, perspectives, and resources during her presentation. ADRC is a program that exists in every county. Our program, ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin, serves individuals 17.5 and older in the following counties: lowa, Lafayette, Green, and Grant. All services are free, confidential, and completely voluntary, providing resources across several facets including personal care, home health, transportation, meals, public benefits, supportive services (including caregiver support), etc. In 2021, their Info & Assistance team of four took over 6,000 calls related to these services. ADRC also facilitates the Senior Dining Sites in our area, 10 of which are in Grant County. Due to COVID-19, they have been a delivery-only service delivered entirely by volunteer drivers. Though they do not charge for these meals, the suggested donation amount is \$3.50 per meal. In 2021, ADRC's food site volunteers delivered 64,481 meals throughout Grant County. Another notable program is their "TRIPS" transportation service program. This service is once again provided by volunteer drivers who are only reimbursed for their mileage and help by taking people to medical appointments such as physicals, chemotherapy, dialysis. In 2021, 94,767 miles were logged across 2,824 trips, all split up among 7 volunteers.

Nicole emphasized that there is no "wrong" question you can ask this agency. ADRC wants you to feel comfortable calling them. If their office can't help you, they will refer you to some other resources. ADRC is unbiased, impartial, provides options and does not gain anything from referring someone to one program or resource versus another. Also, if there are individuals who are willing to volunteer as a meal deliverer or TRIPS driver, ADRC would welcome them. Lastly, they have a Facebook Page where they post-consumer scam warnings and other resources. Search "ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin" on Facebook to follow along!

Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at 7:40AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alaina Reeves, filling in for Secretary Fern Nall.

February 18, 2022: Katie Volz

<u>Attendance:</u> There were 15 members and 2 guests who attended and participated including: Carley Borcherding, Duane Borgen, Tischa Busch (VOOM Guest), Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Kevin Haertzen, Bob Hundhausen, Eileen McCartney, Tim Murphy, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Ernie Thalmann, Katie Volz (Guest Speaker) and Ron Weier.

Introduction:

- Howard Crofoot called the meeting to order at 7:01AM
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ernie Thalmann, followed by the Optimist Creed led by Melissa Palfrey

Announcements:

- **Guests to Welcome:** Dr. Katie Volz (Guest Speaker) and Tischa Busch from the Platteville School District joining as Charlie Clark's VOOM on Zoom guest.
- Upcoming Events:
 - o Tomorrow is the SWIS District 2nd Quarter Conference in DeForest. Howard will be going to this.
 - o 10-12 Tri-Star basketball volunteers are needed at the Fieldhouse on March 26th. So far, Eileen McCartney, Alaina Reeves and Dan Engelke have volunteered to help.
- Special Dates to Remember This Week:
 - Member Birthdays: Jim Schweigert (February 18th)

<u>Guest Speaker: Dr. Katie Volz of UW-Platteville presenting on the Fennimore Flag Football Program</u> (introduced by K. Haertzen)

Dr. Katie Volz is a mom, stepmom, wife, coach, and frequent community volunteer on top of her position as a math instructor at UW-Platteville. She has two children who attend school in Fennimore. Katie shared that Fennimore doesn't have a Parks & Rec department, and though there are plenty of organized activities for the older kids, the little kids don't have much for activities to sign up for in the community. A few summers ago, she and a couple other Fennimore moms began discussing the idea of starting a youth flag football league. Utilizing resources from the NFL Flag Football Organization (flag belts, flags, jerseys, and playbooks), the pilot season in 2019 had 112 participants grades 1st-6th, followed by 91 participants in 2020 and 136 participants in 2021. They also invited small surrounding towns to participate, making it a good way for youth to build friendships outside of their hometown.

Katie seemed most proud of the wide array of benefits the kids get out of this program that extend well beyond football skills. Learning, playing, making friends, getting out of the house, developing skills like discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and simply keeping them active NOT in front of a screen are of the many benefits. She is also very satisfied with the benefits that the volunteers made up of parents, grandparents, pastors, business owners, etc. get out of it from coaching, refereeing, scheduling, and working the concession stands. As she put it, these volunteers certainly "get more than they give" by helping with this program.

Katie believes that youth sports aren't just about winning and losing, but also being active, learning from mistakes, and social development too! We agree, which is why we so enjoyed having Katie tell us about the Fennimore flag football program!

Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at 7:42AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alaina Reeves (helping Secretary Fern Nall)

February 25, 2022: Mareeta Kolman

Attendance: There were 21 members and 4 guests who attended including: Shirley Audetat (VOOM Guest), Carley Borcherding, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Deb & Steve Elvidge, Mark Essex, Kevin Haertzen, Doreen Hlavaty, Mike Hahn, Mareeta Koman (Guest Speaker), Maxine Lane, Eileen McCartney, Tim Murphy, Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Karin Peacock (VOOM Guest), Becky Schambow, Ernie Thalmann, Sheila Tranel (VOOM Guest), Ron Weier, and Wayne Wodarz.

Introduction:

- Meeting was called to order by Howard Crofoot at 7:00AM.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Leon Neuheisel, followed by the Optimist Creed led by Maxine Lane.

Announcements:

- **Guests to Welcome:** Mareeta Koman (Guest Speaker), Sheila Tranel (VOOM guest invited by D. Hlavaty), Karin Peacock (VOOM guest invited by C. Borcherding), and Shirley Audetat (VOOM guest invited by C. Borcherding).
- Special Dates to Remember this Week:
 - Member Birthdays: Barb Deis (February 22nd) and Beth Frieders (February 26th)
 - Friend of Optimist Anniversaries: Platteville Business Incubator, Inc. (February 23rd, 2016)
- Caring for Members: Healing cards were sent to Joan Bahr with continued wishes for strength. B. Schambow shared that Pat Moxness-Weier thanked the club for their well wishes and encourage people to go and visit Bob (please call 608-778-2946 to arrange a time). T. Nall is home from his colon surgery on February 15th and getting stronger each day. Healing thoughts for F. Nall with her cancer journey.
- Upcoming Events:
 - o Oratorical Contest: No new information to report. See February 11th highlights for current details.
 - o Tri-Star Basketball: No new information to report. See February 18th highlights for current details.
- Essay Contest Results: First Place: Nuzaira Rabbani (Homeschooled); Second Place: Caleb Timmerman (St. Rose, Cuba City); Third Place: Ben Thill (St. Rose, Cuba City).
- Meeting online: may conclude end of February. This will be discussed amongst the Board at 7AM on Tuesday, March 3rd.
- Upcoming Speakers for the Month of March (Coordinated by Beth Frieders)
 - March 4th: Business Meeting (CK or Zoom: TBD)
 - o March 11th: Rich Dhyanchand discussing the new PA Program coming to UW-P in May of 2023. (CK or Zoom: TBD)
 - o March 18th: Beth Frieders discussing her endurance horse riding. (CK or Zoom: TBD)
 - March 25th: Lauren Prister discussing different kinds of vaccines for COVID-19. (CK or Zoom: TBD)

Guest Speaker: Mareeta Kolman presenting on Grant County Hospice & Palliative Care (introduced by Doreen Hlavaty)

Mareeta began by saying that the Optimist Club is an awesome organization, and she didn't realize the importance of our group until today. She has primarily worked in long term health care prior to 2001 when she began working with these programs. Mareeta feels that working with hospice is very beneficial as you learn a lot about living when working with the dying. You also learn about yourself and the strength of people.

Hospice began in 1969 when Elizabeth Cooper Ross wrote a book about how we were failing the end-of-life stages for people. People needed more than traditional care. Volunteers started to make progress by talking to legislatures, doing pilot projects, etc. Hospice programs were volunteer run until the 1980s when Medicare started paying for these services. At first, it only covered care for cancer patients and now includes other chronic medical conditions. Hospice is available in all 50 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Medicare has strong regulations to ensure patients are evaluated regularly for signs of progression proof of necessity. The end-of-life time is emotionally scary and difficult for patients, their families, and friends. People sign up for hospice when they feel the medication or other treatments aren't working and they want to be at home and comfortable. The average length of stay in hospice is 18 days, some shorter and some longer. Not all people die on hospice – some enter the program and are later dismissed. Services are provided wherever the patient calls home: home, nursing home, family member homes, etc. Care consists of a nurse coming to house to monitor vitals, medication needs, pain, nausea and contact with the doctor. Hospice programs also monitor for equipment needs including hospital beds, oxygen etc. which can be loaned to patients. Mareeta tries to check in weekly with patients to discuss finances, funeral planning, counseling for patients and grieving families, etc. Volunteers are a major part of Hospice. Medicare rules that 5% may be done by volunteers. Some of the services included are in direct care in, providing hope and support, housekeeping, laundry, shopping, dog walking, and reading & writing letters. Office volunteers are needed for filing and mailings activities.

Palliative care is a form of comfort care. People receiving treatment for cancer or other chronic medical conditions can get support at home with a nurse, nurse practitioner, etc. for periodic care and can actively treat disease. Palliative care is not covered

under Medicare, but the cost of a Nurse Practitioner can be billed to Medicare. Costs for bathing, etc. are referred out. This is an upand-coming kind of care.

Mareeta summed up things this way. Hospice is a program for dying and living, for helping persons navigate as calmly and safely and meaningful as possible. Patients run hospice. Hospice tries to help them meet their needs and wishes including coordinating visits to see kids, vacations, etc. It is patient driven versus medically driven and available 24 hr./day.

<u>Conclusion:</u> Meeting adjourned 7:50AM Minutes respectfully submitted by: Fern Nall, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH:

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Jen Schweigert March 3
- Eileen McCarthy March 15
- Paul Budden March 19
- Jerry Schewe March 19
- Linda Thomas March 24
- Wayne Wodarz March 24
- Bob Hundhausen March 30

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

• Diane & Charlie Paynter – March 25

MARCH MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Duane Borgen March 1, 1980
- Hap Daus March 1,1998
- Tom Jonas March 1, 1972
- Phil Swift March 1, 1981
- Kevin Hartzen March 4, 2013
- George Byykkonen March 5, 1997
- Howard Crofoot March 5, 1997
- Ron Weier March 13, 2009
- William VanDeest March 21, 2001
- Doug Martin March 23, 2005
- Dean Feldman March 30, 1992
- Fern Nall March 31, 2011