



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights | March 2021

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

2020-2021 OFFICERS: Tom Nall, President; Howard Crofoot, Vice President; Dan Engelke; Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Alaina Reeves, Secretary

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel, Linda Thomas, Steve Lane, Terri Ellis, Jordan Holthaus

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS ON MARCH 31, 2021 Due to COVID-19, the Platteville Optimist Board and Members have not been able to meet in person since March 6, 2020. To continue Club business, the Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom, with our most recent meeting held on March 2nd, 2021. The following "Governing Board & Committee Updates" below were reported to the Membership at their Business Meeting on March 5th, 2021.

GOVERNING BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- ✓ **Treasurer's Report:** Financial Report dated February 28th was submitted by D. Borgen, Treasurer, and approved by the board.
- ✓ **Notes of Appreciation Received:** Platteville Music Boosters & City of Platteville Parks & Rec for the "Every Child Plays" fund

YOUTH COMMITTEE: Three contestants won a prize for the Essay contest: Zachary Ludlum, Platteville (1st Place); Natalie Jentz, Platteville (2nd Place); and Hope Connolly, Iowa-Grant (3rd Place). The Oratorical contest will be held on Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 at the Business Incubator. Need volunteers for greeters.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: In need of speaker coordinators for June-December, 2021, except for October (taken by Maggie Kleisath and Charlie Clark). Please contact Linda Thomas (lindalouthomas53@gmail.com) for more information.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: "NOW" Meeting is being planned for May 22nd on 11-1pm. Potential member nominations are due to be sent to the membership committee by April 1st. There will be a form provided. When nominations are submitted, an email will go back to that members instructing them to contact the individual(s) they nominated. The nominees will then get a formal invitation.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Discussion on making monthly meeting highlights more brief going forward.

CHEESE CURD COMMITTEE: July 4th Cheese Curd Sales; volunteers needed as of March 2.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ Vice President Position

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Thank You Letters received by club
- ✓ Thank You Letters sent to membership for their cheese curd stimulus donations.
- ✓ Recruitment for Board vacancies (21/22 Year, terms expire in 20-22, Doug Martin, Linda Thomas, Leon Neuheisel. Need help recruiting. Email Tom Nall with suggestions.

BOARD REPORT SUBMITTED BY: ALAINA REEVES, SECRETARY

MARCH 5TH VIRTUAL MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

ATTENDEES: There were 25 members who attended and participated including: Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Kevin Haerten, Bob Hundhausen, Ken Kamps, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine & Steve Lane, Eileen McCartney, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Ron Weier & Wayne Wodarz.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:01 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by T. Boldt and The Optimist Creed led by E. McCartney. There were no special dates to note.

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

CHEESE CURD STIMULUS REQUEST: Donations received amount to \$6,050 as of March 5th. Deadline to donate amounts of \$100 or more to have it go through OI as a tax favorable event is March 12. This is when Duane will send all these checks to OI so the money can come back to the club.

FOURTH OF JULY CHEESE CURD DISCUSSION: The afternoon of July 4th, starting at 3:30 PM. Three working shifts of 5 members with an additional alternate. At this time, all shifts are filled. Clean up and prep date is to be determined. Volunteers will be needed.

OLD BUSINESS: Dime a day: members can still write a check payable to Optimist International Foundation for \$36.50, send check to Jerry Schewe and he will forward the money to OI on behalf of the membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Eric Thomas is a hard of hearing CCDC student at Dodgeville who plays the violin. He is eligible for OI's hard of hearing speech contest. He is very excited to present his speech to us. He is eligible to win \$500 for this – if no other contestants in our District sign up, he will win it outright. Maxine is trying to recruit 2 more contestants to make it an actual contest. Eric will be speaking to our club on April 30th.
- ✓ Optimist Pledge for Clubs: An OI recognition program for local clubs and their achievements in helping youth view life with a positive attitude.
- ✓ Board of Director vacancies for 2021/2022:
 - Board Members whose terms are up on October: Doug Martin, Linda Thomas, Leon Neuheisel (2 year terms each). New Board of Director will be for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 year.
 - Vice President position for the 2021/2022 year
 - President position for the 2021/2022 year
 - Secretary position for the 2021/2022 year
- ✓ Optimist Learning Management System: Tom, Alaina and Jerry Schewe must complete the course before March 31st. Also, the new president for the 2021/2022 year.
- ✓ City to Farm Days scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd: Carley would like the Club to join the event and pass out reading books at the event.
- ✓ Fire Department Donations: not in our budget, but because we received a refund from the Badger Boys/Girls State of ~\$650, it was suggested to use a portion of that. C. Clark made a motion to donate \$150 to this, seconded by C. Borcharding.
- ✓ Donation made TO Platteville Optimist Club from anonymous with instructions to donate it to the Pickleball Courts on behalf of the Optimist Club. Any donation will get your name on a kiosk but the bronze level is \$1500.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS & TOPICS:

- ✓ **March 12th:** Jon Fons, SWIS Governor Elect
- ✓ **March 19th:** Steve Bailey, Past District Governor
- ✓ **March 26th:** PCA (Platteville Community Arboretum)

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Terri Ellis. Seconded by Becky Schambow. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 a.m.

MARCH 12TH: JOHN FONS, SWIS GOVERNOR ELECT

ATTENDEES: There were 24 members and 1 Friend of Optimist who attended and participated including: Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Chris & Paul Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Penny Droessler, Mark Essex, Kevin Haertzen, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine & Steve Lane, Tim Murphy, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey (FOO-Family Advocates), Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Ron Weier and Wayne Wodarz.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by M. Kleisath and the Optimist Creed by W. Wodarz.

SPECIAL DATES: Membership anniversaries include Guy Stead (March 18, 2016), and Ron Weier (March 13, 2009).

GUEST SPEAKER: John Fons – SWIS Governor Elect

Introduced by Maxine Lane, who shared that for those who know Jon know that he is inspiring, has a great sense of humor and is a true Optimist. John joined as a member of the Sauk Trails-Madison Optimist Club in 2016. John has served as his club President 18-19 and 19-20, CRF in 19-20 and 20-21, District Lt. Governor Zone 7 in 19-20 and is currently the Governor Elect for the SWIS District.

"The Power of One," John stated, "...doesn't start that way. Sometimes there is no power, sometimes we look at ourselves and there's nothing there. And that is the power of NONE." He also stated that we are a nondenominational organization, but that does not mean we are not spiritual. "We can do 'more' with 'less' than any other organization. Anyone can be an optimist during good times. The hard times bring out the very best in an optimist because we shine in the dark. We must teach our Youth optimism by example. If we use the power of one without fail, the power of one will become the power of many."

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND TOPICS:

- ✓ **March 19th:** Steve Bailey, Past District Governor
- ✓ **March 26th:** PCA (Platteville Community Arboretum)

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn meeting made by M. Lane and seconded by C. Borcharding.

MARCH 19TH: STEVE BAILEY, PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

ATTENDEES: There were 21 members and 1 Friend of Optimist who attended and participated including: Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Kevin Haertzen, Bob Hundhausen, Maxine & Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey (FOO-Family Advocates), Alaina Reeves, Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas and Wayne Wodarz.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting called to order by Alaina Reeves, filling in for President T. Nall, at 7:02 a.m. Dan Engelke led the Pledge of Allegiance and Tim Murphy led the Optimist Creed.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Birthdays this week include Paul Budden & Jerry Schewe (today, March 19th), Naomi Wells (March 23rd) and Wayne Wodarz and Linda Thomas (both March 24th). Wedding anniversaries include Diane Paynter and her husband Charlie, on March 25th. Membership anniversaries include Bill VanDeest (March 21, 2001) and Doug Martin (March 23rd, 2005).

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- ✓ Board of Director Vacancies: Need to have the positions filled by April 30th
- ✓ W. Wodarz announced that checks were presented to the winners last Friday for the Essay contest. Wayne will have a photo forwarded to us so we can share onto the Facebook Page. Oratorical contest next Friday – membership will have a table set up to recruit members.
- ✓ Carley's grandson, Auggie, arrived home from the hospital on March 14th and thanked us for our thoughts and prayers.

GUEST SPEAKER: Steve Bailey – Past District Governor providing the History of Optimist International

Introduced by Maxine Lane, who shared that if you have ever attended a SWIS District Conference, you have likely heard the inspiring words of Steve as he does the invocation prior to the start of each meeting. Steve joined the Sauk Trails-Madison club in 1992 and is a SWIS District Past Governor, having held the position in 95-96. His commitment and loyalty to Optimist International, the SWIS District and the Sauk Trails-Madison Optimist Club are demonstrated by his multiple chair positions held over the years both locally and internationally.

Steve shared that Optimist club used to be a group of men from a Methodist Church who got together in 1895 to form the Queen City Optimist Club in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Club still exists today, though it never became affiliated with Optimist International. They didn't trademark the group name, however, so we used the name. The 9th club to be formed was formed in Wisconsin. In 1919, the first OI convention was formed at Tyler Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. By 1920, the convention in St. Louis was up to 17 clubs. By 1923, we were up to 59 clubs (about 4,500 members). We were not considered an international club until a club was formed in Toronto, Canada. In 1924, a convention was held in Milwaukee, WI where the slogan was changed from "Friend of the Delinquent Boy," to "Friend of the Boy" because they did not like the connotation of "delinquent boy). In the 1960s, the slogan was later changed to "Friend of the Youth." The winner of the first ever oratorical contest was Carlo Pupero, who came from a gang of men in Milwaukee Area. He was reached out to by the Optimist club of Milwaukee, and as Steve put it, they virtually changed his life. He joined the first Junior Optimist club of Milwaukee (Club 1A), which was full of young Italian boys in Milwaukee's Little Italy. Steve shared a word for each letter of "OPTIMISM": Obedience, Patriotism, Thrift, Ideals, Manners, Industry, Sportsmanship, and Truth. The Optimist Creed was written by Christian Larson, who was not a member of the Optimist Club. A couple lines of his original creed were left out of the creed as we know it today: "Promise yourself to think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world, and to live with the faith that the whole world is on your side so long as the best is in you."

UPCOMING SPEAKERS: Next week's speaker will be members of the PCA (Platteville Community Arboretum).

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

MARCH 26TH: PCA MEMBERS GRACE MILANOWSKI & CLAY SHAFFER

ATTENDEES: There were 25 members and 2 Friends of Optimists who attended and participated including: Jim Boebel, Carley Borchering, Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Kevin Haertzen, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Bob Hundhausen, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Tim Murphy, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey (FOO-Family Advocates), Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalman, Linda Thomas, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consultants) and Wayne Wodarz.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by President Nall at 7:01.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Bob Hundhausen's birthday on March 30th. Membership anniversaries include Dean Feldman (March 30, 1992).

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED:

✓ Board of Directors Vacancies needed to be filled no later than April 30th.

GUEST SPEAKER: GRACE MILANOWSKI & CLAY SHAFFER, PCA

Gene Weber coordinated and introduced Grace Milanowski and Clay Shaffer from the Platteville Community Arboretum. Grace is the Leader Part Time Coordinator and Clay is the Deputy Part Time Coordinator for PCA.

PCA has been around since 2004 and has over 150 members. Their mission is "to connect the Platteville community to the Rountree Branch corridor, through recreation, conservation, and environmental education." Some highlights since inception include: Country Picnic Area, the dog park, PCA garage, trail enhancement, habitat restoration, environmental summer camps, \$1.67 million paved and lit 3 mile trail, informational and historical kiosks, study of life (fish) and other gardens, trail art, and the Nutrition World Outdoor Fitness Center. They have grown to 100 volunteers serving the PCA, and have brought about \$1,000,000 in grants to Platteville. Volunteers maintain the trail, care for gardens and put on recreational, educational and fundraising events. There are countless ways volunteers can get involved, and there are different teams one can join. The "Green Team" consists of 2-hour weekly workdays (restore habitat, mulch, remove invasive species, plant native species) and they meet on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. The "Brown Team" consists of 2-hour weekly workdays, currently 8:00 a.m. on Mondays (bigger projects,

constructions, tree removal). The "Saturday Team" meets for 2 hours and works on various other projects and tasks. Grace shared that during the Pandemic, trail use quadrupled, and people were coming from all over (not just Platteville). To start volunteering with PCA, visit www.plattevillearboretum.org/volunteer or email plattevillearboretum@gmail.com.

FINAL THOUGHTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

NEXT MEETING: April business meeting on April 9th at 7:00 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS IN APRIL:

APRIL MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- ✓ **Peggy Compton** – April 16th, 2017
- ✓ **Barb Deis** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Penny Droessler** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Ron Holl** – April 17th, 2003
- ✓ **Jordan Holthaus** – April 14th, 2018
- ✓ **David Jones** – April 1st, 1974
- ✓ **Caroline Kroll** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Eileen McCartney** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Alaina Reeves** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Lynn Schlager** – April 7th, 1999
- ✓ **Jen Schweigert** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Jim Schweigert** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Greg Sieckman** – April 16th, 2017
- ✓ **Mary Sieckman** – April 16th, 2017
- ✓ **Linda Thomas** – April 16th, 2017
- ✓ **Matt Tyc** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Nicole Tyc** – April 30th, 2019
- ✓ **Jeff White** – April 28th, 2017

APRIL FRIENDS OF OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES:

- ✓ **Faherty, Inc.** – April 12, 2017
- ✓ **Family Pet Hospital** – April 30, 2019

APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- ✓ **Paul & Christine Budden** – April 14th, 2007
- ✓ **Bob Hundhausen (wife Victoria)** – April 1st, 1991
- ✓ **Eileen Nickels** – April 25th
- ✓ **Bob Stephens** – April 2nd, 1998
- ✓ **Ernie Thalmann** – April 8th, 1972

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- ✓ **Penny Droessler** – April 23rd
- ✓ **Mark Haas** – April 15th
- ✓ **Dennis Helbing** – April 16th
- ✓ **Tim Murphy** – April 30th
- ✓ **Tom Nall** – April 29th
- ✓ **Leon Neuheisel** – April 9th
- ✓ **Diane Paynter** – April 10th