

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

MEETING 7:00 A.M.

EVERY FRIDAY AT TAKE 2 RESTAURANT

SECOND TIME AROUND

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Any job becomes easier when one receives support from friends. This has become my new motto as it reflects my experience over the past six months as President of our Platteville Optimist. Thank you for helping me to build my self-confidence and assuming this leadership role.

Early February I joined Jerry Schewe and Howard Crofoot in attending the SWIS District Conference in New Glarus. This was my first conference and I now understand the value of attending these quarterly meetings. An important part of the conference is building camaraderie with other clubs and sharing of information. Optimist members are so willing to share their successes that one would be remiss not to capitalize on some of their ideas and methods to further build on your own club. They also share their failures in order to save another club from the same results and perhaps a waste of time and revenue. Many ideas were shared and will be posted to the SWIS District web site allowing us to share with our members and hopefully initiate some new programs. The next conference will be April 25-26 at The Abby in Lake Geneva. I would encourage you to attend if it should work into your schedule. These meetings are very enlightening and help strengthen our club.

Finally, I make mention of an email I sent previously on the Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI). It is important to stay current in submitting our achievements. Participation in PGI offers members the opportunity for personal growth while working at their own pace. It also provides fresh ideas for club meetings. If interested in learning more, visit the SWIS District website at www.swisdistrict.org.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. It is through sharing that ideas are created and we build and improve upon our club.

Eileen Engelke, Optimist Club President

FACTS FROM OUR PAST



The second in our series, thanks to Ken Kamps. In the December issue, we learned about the formation of our organization and the names of our predecessors who made up our initial membership. In this issue, we will review members who have held the office of President as well as Lieutenant Governor. (If anyone is missed, please notify Ken or Maxine).

We have had several Lieutenant Governors, including Ken Kamps, George Louthain, Howard Brooks, Eileen Nickels, Jerry Schewe, Howard Crofoot and Gary Engelke.

Charter Date (June 8, 1968) to Present

68-69 Vern Vradenburg	92-93 Wayne Woodarz
69-70 Gene Erickson	93-94 Eileen Nickels
70-71 Dick Liddle	94-95 Jerry Schewe
71-72 Roger Ewers	95-96 George Louthain
72-73 Ken Kamps	96-97 Dennis Palmer
73-74 Steve Burres/Jim Olds	97-98 Duane Borgen
74-75 Dick Brockman	98-99 Mike Olds
75-76 Al Senauer	99-00 Howard Crofoot
76-77 George Louthain	00-01 Harvey Hensley
77-78 Dave Kies	01-02 Rhonda Viney
78-79 Dave Jones	02-03 Earl Hernandez
79-80 Roy Green	03-04 Michelle Sandry
80-81 Steve Conrad	04-05 Jim Klein
81-82 Howard Brooks	05-06 Angela Udelhofen
82-83 Roger Elver	06-07 Charlie Clark
83-84 Phil Swift	07-08 Diana Trendt
84-85 Kim Dockus	08-09 Gary Engelke
85-86 Tom Holverson	09-10 Tom Nall
86-87 Doug Eisele	10-11 Jerry Schewe
87-89 Gary Davis	11-12 Geri Zauche
89-90 Jim Boll	12-13 Mike Olds
90-91 Keith Knudson	13-14 Eileen Engelke
91-92 Jim Enfelt	

Next issue we'll hear about the ways we raised money until settling on our signature item "Cheese Curds."

OPTIMISTS

OUT AND ABOUT

For a second consecutive year, we had a very enjoyable winter social and white elephant gift exchange. The event, held on January 17, brought together 29 members and spouses, starting with dinner at the Elmo Club where we enjoyed cocktails and a delicious meal. The evening continued at the Lane residence with desserts and beverages along with the gift exchange. The evening represents the ceremonial passing of the 'shell lamp', which has been a tradition within the club for many years. Having been in possession of the lamp for the past year, Maxine Lane graciously passed the lamp to member Bob Weier at the social. Unable to attend the event but previously scheduled, Bob's brother, Ron, did what any brother would do and selected one of the many unidentified gifts for Bob. Upon opening, much to his surprise and to the delight of Maxine, Bob became the proud recipient of the shell lamp for the next 12 months. It was an evening of good food, good conversation and shared by a circle of good people.



DIME-A-DAY

Building a future where every kid counts. Can you spare a dime a day? With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children. The Dime-a-Day level is reached by a contribution of \$36.50 to the Foundation within one Optimist year and is recognized by the presentation of a pin. The unrestricted gift helps fund all programs of Optimist International. Your money could help one child further their education with a scholarship or educate a child about internet safety. Your donation can help a child, in more ways than one. We are proud to acknowledge members of our club who have joined in this effort: Jim Boll, Howard Crofoot, Gary & Eileen Engelke, Steve & Maxine Lane, Fern Nall, Mike Olds, Deb McWilliams, Jerry Schewe, Barb Stockhausen, Ernie Thalman and Bob Weier.



TRI-STAR BASKETBALL

Thanks to Duane Borgen and Tim Boldt for 'stepping up to the net' and volunteer their time and talents to co-chair our 2014 event. The date is March 16 and will take place at UW-P Bo Ryan Court with a start time of 12:30. To have a successful, well organized event, they are looking for additional optimist members to help at the event. If you can work this 2 hour event into your schedule and would like to experience the joy this competition brings to youth in our community, contact Duane at 348-9741 or Tim at 348-2222. A big thank you also to Tim Boldt and Pioneer Ford for covering the cost of holding this event at UW-P Bo Ryan Court.



CLUB BUILDING

We continue to look for ways to get the word out about our club with the ultimate goal being increased membership. At our board meeting in February, discussion concluded we have the perfect opportunity by inviting our weekly speakers to join our club. This led to the adoption of a new procedure. A letter of invitation has been drafted and approved. The letter(s) will be signed by club President, Eileen Engelke and Membership Committee Chairman, Mike Olds and mailed the month following their presentation. If you are perhaps a coordinator for monthly/weekly speakers, you can help in this effort by getting a mailing address for the speakers you schedule and provide to Mike Olds.



ESSAY and ORATORICAL CONTEST

Many thanks to Gary Munson for taking on the role of Chairman for our 2014 Essay and Oratorical Contest. An update from Gary. . .

Our club is reaching out to youth in a big way with this year's essay and oratorical contests. The deadline for the essay contest was February 3. Twenty-three area students wrote essays with the theme "How Dreams Lead To Success." According to Christine Storlie, contest co-chair from the noon club, that is a record number of entries. Thanks to Fern Nall and Ron Weier for volunteering their time and talent to serve as judges. We also say thank you to Charlie Clark who is waiting in the wings as an alternate judge. The essays are being evaluated based on the strict criteria established by Optimists International. The first round of judging was completed by February 24. The final selection was made with winning essays sent to District by February 28.

The oratorical contest is in the works. As with the essay contest, the invitation to enter went out to all the Platteville area school districts. The entry deadline is March 14 and the speakers will compete on March 27. This year's theme is "How My Passions Impact the World." For the past 2 years, the oratorical contest winners from the Platteville clubs have taken home the \$2,500 scholarship. Let's hope we can keep the streak going with another strong speech this year.

There are two club-level winters for the essay and the oratorical contests. The Noon Club and the Breakfast Club each provide a \$100 scholarship to the winter. All of the students will receive a certificate of participation. Whether the students win or not, our clubs have provided them with a valuable opportunity to test their writing and speaking skills in a competitive area. Thanks to the club members for sponsoring events. Thanks to the judges. Good luck to the participants.



HATS OFF TO HOWARD

Once again, we are able to recognize one of our members as having been the recipient of a distinguished award. At the SWIS District Meeting in early February, Howard Crofoot was presented with the Henry Stiner Award.

Annually the SWIS District recognizes an individual who embodies the spirit of Optimism as represented by the late Henry Stiner. Henry was a member of the Optimist Club of Monroe, serving as President and Secretary-Treasurer. Henry also served the District as a Lieutenant Governor. He was an educator, school superintendent, principal, coach, sports official, a good friend, good listener, dedicated Optimist and a loving and caring husband and father. He epitomized optimism, and what we, as Optimists, stand for. Henry worked with and for kids, gave of himself and his time unselfishly to his club, his community, his Zone and the District. He was a regular attendee at District Meetings as well as the Optimist International Conventions.

In memory and recognition of Henry Stiner, the Governor identifies a recipient of the award for each Optimist Year. The purpose of the Henry Stiner Service Award is to recognize an Optimist who follows in the footsteps of Henry in terms of:

- Someone who has a bright outlook on life,
- Someone who cares and someone who shares,
- Someone who gives of their time and talent freely for the benefit of others,
- Someone who willingly works for and with the kids through their Club and the District.

The recipient shall be a member in good standing of an Optimist Club, have contributed to their club, their community, their youth and activities and to the District. The award has been in existence for 10 years, having first been awarded for the Charter Year 1993-1994.

Congratulations Howard. You set a great example for our club and our members.

Promise Yourself

MONTHLY/WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Many thanks to Ron Weier and Maxine Lane for serving as speaker coordinators for March and May, 2014. At this point, we are in need of someone to take the month of April. If you can help, please sign up on the web site or contact Diane VanNatta at dvannatta@dupaco.com If you know of an individual that would be interested in making a presentation to our Friday morning meeting, please contact either of these individuals or notify Howard. Our website also provides a listing of potential speakers and we are always looking to add to this list. This is an excellent resource to pull from for our monthly coordinators.

SHARING SPECIAL EVENTS WITH FELLOW OPTIMISTS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go Out To. . . .

March

- 05 – John Urness
- 19 – Jerry Schewe
- 20 – Terry Vaassen
- 24 – Wayne Wodarz



April

- 09 – Leon Neuheisel
- 27 – Michelle Sandry
- 29 – Tom Nall
- 30 – Jim Olds



May

- 02 – Bob Weier

Happy Anniversary Wishes To Member & Spouse. . . .

March - none

April

- 08 – Ernie Thalmann
- 25 – Eileen Nickels



May

- 03 – Diane VanNatta
- 26 – John Adams/Barb Stockhausen (30 years)

Congratulations go out to

Barb Stockhausen & John Adams – Their son, Greg, will be graduating in May, 2014 from UW-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine.

Bob & Jeanette Stephens – Their daughter, Nicole, was Platteville High School “Teen of the Week” on January 22. Upon graduation, Nicole plans to attend Capri College in Dubuque.

Angie Udelhofen – UW-P Assistant Chancellor for Admission and Enrollment Services, was named the new president elect of the Wisconsin Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officer. Her main role is to work with multiple committees to plan the annual conference taking place in November, 2014.

Please continue to send your events to Maxine at msmacy105@yahoo.com for sharing in our newsletter. Thank you to those who responded with birthdays and anniversaries. To include your information, send to Maxine.

FLASH TO THE FUTURE

March

- 5 – Ash Wednesday
- 9 – Daylight Savings Begins
- 16 – Tri-Star Basketball Event
(UW-P Bo Ryan Court)
- 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- 20 – Spring Begins

April

- 1 – April Fool's Day
- 3 – Optimist Board Meeting 7AM
- 12 – Optimist Social
- 13 – Palm Sunday
- 20 – Easter Sunday

May

- 1 – May Day
- 1 – Optimist Board Meeting 7AM
- 11 – Mother's Day
- 26 – Memorial Day

Spring



Soup ~ Salad ~ Sandwich ~ Snacks ~ Sweets

SOCIAL

Saturday, April 12, 2014



Featuring our second annual
Euchre Tournament & Board Games

Place: Bob Weier residence
1095 Oakhaven Court, Platteville

Time: Cocktails (byob) / Dinner – 6:00 to 7:30

Cards/Games: 8:00 to 10:00

Cost: \$10.00 per person

(Includes “soup, salad, sandwich” and prize fee)
Anyone choosing to bring/share a favorite snack or
sweet treat would be welcome to do so.

Contact Ron Weier rjweier@centurytel.net to sign up.

A BIG **Thank You** to Ron Weier for serving
as Social Coordinator.

Watch email for additional details and reminders.

Publisher: Maxine Lane
Editor: Beth Frieders

MEAN MOMs: Perhaps many of you will relate to this message and choose to share with one or more young persons.

Someday when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them, as my Mean Mom told me: I loved you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home. I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a creep. I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that should have taken 15 minutes. I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment and tears in my eyes. Children must learn their parents aren't perfect. I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart. Most of all, I loved you enough to say NO when I knew you would hate me for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all. I'm glad I won them, because in the end you won too. And someday when your children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates parents, you will tell them.

Was your Mom mean? I know mine was. We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from what other kids had too. Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less. We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, empty the trash and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers; she could read our minds and had eyes in the back of her head. Then life was really tough. Mother wouldn't let our friend's just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16. Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property or arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. Now that we have left home, we are all educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mom was. I think that is what's wrong with the world today; it just doesn't have enough **MEAN MOMs!**