



## ROOSTER CALL

### 'Second Time Around'

Platteville Optimist Club

*Established 1968*

*Vision Statement*

***"To impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"***




**VOLUME 18**

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### WAYNE'S WORLD





 Fellow Optimists, it seems as though this club year just started, and here we are nearing the Holiday Season! On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of our club, we want to wish you all the Happiest of Holidays! Let's give thanks for the gifts we have received in 2017 and welcome in another great year!



As we begin this club year, I am so appreciative of all the great things we do for the youth of Platteville. Yes, it doesn't feel like our club has been very active of late, but there are a lot of people doing things behind the scenes. We have gained two new Friends of Optimists and possibly a third. Our club has sponsored a new club in Sussex, WI that Governor Gary has worked very hard to organize. These additional members and the new club will benefit many more youth. 

 With the holidays approaching we will soon begin some of our Holiday Community Service projects. The Platteville Holiday Project is well under way with our club helping to transport toys to the toy distribution center. Our Santa Calling program, in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, will delight many children, as well as club members that make those calls. If you have never participated in this program, it will warm your heart with the Spirit of Christmas! We have also generously donated to Badger Camp and will be represented at their annual event in December.

We are also very excited to celebrate 50 years serving Platteville's youth. A committee has been formed and we will be gathering soon to begin planning this great celebration. Needless to say, if you have ideas or suggestions and/or pictures/information from past years, please share them with myself or any club member on the Anniversary Committee. 

 I want to thank every one of you for all that you do to promote our club and what you do to empower the youth in Platteville and surrounding communities. This has been an exceptional start to our Club Year and I can't wait to see what other great things will follow!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
Wayne Wodarz  
President 2017-2018



## *New Members Welcome Wagon*

It is a pleasure to welcome our most recent members. *Welcome To . . .*

We had a benchmark year in 2016-2017 and have started our 2017-2018 year with great hopes and expectations, adding two (2) new Friends of Optimists.

*\*Terry Malliet, Country Inn and Suites*

*\*Scott & Tom Morrissey, Morrissey Printing, Inc.*

Although they seem somewhat 'behind the scenes', the support provided by our FOO's gives our Club the opportunity to reach more children and youth organizations within our community and the surrounding area. Each Optimist Member serves 35 children; needless to say our Platteville Optimist Club can be proud of the work we do to 'Bring out the Best in Kids'.

*Thank you* to our *Friends of Optimists*  
for helping us accomplish our mission.



## *2017-2018 Platteville Optimists Officers and Board of Directors*



Front Row: Ken Kamps, Treasurer; Barb Stockhausen, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Becky Schambow, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Kevin Haertzen, Past President; Maxine Lane, Secretary. Back Row: Mary Sieckman, BOD; Duane Borgen, BOD; Dan Engelke, BOD; Wayne Wodarz, President, Ernie Thalmann, BOD; Tim Boldt, BOD, Charlie Clark, BOD



**Please** consider helping your club in a position to lead us into the future. As Barb Stockhausen prepares to accept responsibilities of President, and Becky moves into First Vice President it is not too soon to start our search for a Second Vice President. You never work alone, Optimists work together to accomplish more!





## ***HATS OFF TO OUR 2016-2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS***

### ***Chuck Thalmann Service Award***

Presented to **Bill Niehaus**, **Bills Plumbing & Heating**, *Friend of Optimist*, in recognition of Outstanding Service, Loyalty and Devotion.

It takes individuals with exceptional character who freely donate time and talent when they own and operate a business. It is the 'work behind the scenes' that sometimes is overlooked. It is a pleasure to recognize Bill Niehaus for his generosity, and service to Platteville Optimist for the work performed on our Cheese Curd Trailer, donating his time, expertise and material and for allowing our Club to park the trailer at his business location.



### ***Optimist of the Year Award***

Presented in recognition of ones willingness to perform in a leadership position to achieve a goal and/or manage a program.

Recipient: **Becky Schambow**. Her dedication and leadership within the Platteville Optimist is inspiring. Joining the club in December, 2014, she has recruited two new members, served as Chairperson of the Fellowship Committee, served on the Board of Directors and accepted the position of Second Vice President for the 2017-2018 year.



### ***Outstanding Member of the Year Award***

Presented in recognition of a member who generously serves the Club.

Recipient: **Eileen Engelke**. As Chairperson of the Membership Committee, your Management and dedication of a major program, "2017 NOW Spring Luncheon", held on April 1, 2017, resulting in ten (10) new members to the Platteville Optimist Club exceeded expectations! The contributions you have provided to our club, serving as President (2014-2015), multiple years on the Board of Directors, and your community service, namely 'Platteville Holiday Project', profoundly identifies your commitment to 'Youth'.



### ***President's Citation***

Presented and signed by the President of Optimist International, this award is intended to recognize a member who is said to embody the spirit and essence of Optimism.

Recipient: **Charlie Clark**. As presented by President Haertzen, he added. . . "Charlie symbolizes what it means to be Optimistic." His level of positive energy is missed when not at a meeting, consistently has a compliment and encouraging word for weekly speakers, is the 'Real Jokester' when it comes to his duty with the Joker Draw, and generates the feeling and understanding that says "Everything will be alright"!

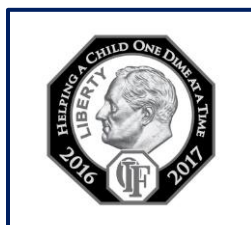


Kevin Haertzen, 2016-2017 President was also acknowledged with a Thank You and round of applause for his year of outstanding leadership. Incoming President, Wayne Wodarz presented Kevin with a Portfolio Briefcase personalized by Optimist International.



### OPTIMIST CREED

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
 To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
 To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
 To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
 To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.  
 To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
 To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
 To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
 To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
 To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy  
 to permit the presence of trouble.



Submitted by: Jerry Schewe  
 Club Foundation Rep.

### Dime-a-Day Campaign

Optimist International, through the Optimist International Foundation supports many youth projects during the year, including:

- District/Regional/World-wide Oratorical scholarships
- District CCDHH scholarship ~ District Essay Scholarship
- Junior World Golf ~ District Tri-Star Basketball
- Club grants for new projects within a community
- Program development

For several years our members have been supporting the Optimist Foundation through the Dime-A-Day fund. Quite simply, members contribute 10¢ per day for the entire year (\$36.50 total) so the OIF may continue supporting these projects and assist with the development of new programs.

**Last year we had 26 members contribute over \$1,100.**

**Can we exceed that number this year?**

You can either bring your check to a Friday morning meeting or send it to me at 860 Jefferson St., Platteville WI 53818. **All checks will be sent to St. Louis in January.** Checks should be made payable to Optimist International Foundation. On behalf of myself as Foundation Representative for our Club and OIF, thank you in advance for your support and donation to our Dime-A-Day Annual Campaign.



**Post-Holiday  
 White Elephant  
 Gift Exchange**  
*Saturday  
 January 20  
 Platteville Elks  
 Lodge  
 Invitation  
 Attached*



### Optimist Strong . . . Be the Difference



### 2017-2018 Essay and Oratorical Contest



Essay: "Can Society Function without Respect"  
Oratorical: "Where are My Roosts of Optimism"

Thank you to Gary Munson and (Christine Storlie from Platteville Area Optimist) for taking the lead on this event!  
 Thank you also to our volunteer judges, Angie Boldt, Mike Hahn and Kevin Haertzen.

**It's  
 All About  
 The  
 Kids**

### Tri-Star Basketball

Thank you to Tim Boldt and the Committee for your efforts to make this event so exciting for our future 'All Stars'. Coming in early 2018, your help will be greatly appreciated. Watch for more information in January.





## Member Celebrations

### Happy Birthday

#### DECEMBER

01 – Virgil Pufahl  
16 – Howard Crofoot  
16 – Kevin Haertzen  
19 – Eileen Engelke  
23 – Phil Swift  
27 – Anne Klawiter

#### JANUARY

05 – Greg Sieckman  
08 – Duane Borgen  
10 – Guy Stead  
28 – Charlie Clark



#### FEBRUARY

07 – Steve Lane  
08 – John Adams  
12 – Tim Boldt  
15 – Brad Mootz  
26 – Beth Frieders

### CONGRATULATIONS THANK YOU for your years of service and loyalty to Platteville Optimist

#### DECEMBER

1993 – Kathy Kopp  
2000 – Tom Nall  
2006 – Beth Frieders  
2012 – Tim Boldt  
2012 – Bob Weier  
2014 – Becky Schambow  
2015 – Dupaco\*  
2015 – Busch Insurance\*

#### JANUARY

1987 – Bob Stephens  
2016 – Delta 3\*

#### FEBRUARY

2009 – Maxine Lane  
2009 – Steve Lane  
2015 – Dennis Helbing  
2016 – PBII\*

(L) – Lifetime Members  
(\* ) – Friends of Optimist

### Happy Anniversary

#### DECEMBER

17 – Duane Borgen  
18 – Dave Jones  
27 – Mike Hahn

JANUARY – none

FEBRUARY – 02 Jim Boll



Merry Christmas



### Platteville Optimist Club ~ 1968 - 2018

A **milestone**, to say he least! Plan now to attend a Grand Gala! Mark your calendar for an evening of **Dinner and Dancing, June 23, 2018** at **Platteville Golf & Country Club**. Invitations for this evening event will include members, Past Presidents, Past Charter Members, OI and SWIS District Dignitaries. Our Planning Committee has been working hard to make this a memorable celebratory year; however, we need all members to really make this happen. Maxine would like to issue a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rooster Call in June; however she needs pictures, articles, memories, etc. to make this happen. We also need suggestions as to how to celebrate this memorable event. Some suggestions, in addition to our Grand Gala in June, that have been discussed include: full page ad, bike safety station in Legion Park, Proclamation from City Manager, and Dairy Day Parade entry. All suggestions are welcome. Please share information, pictures, and ideas with Wayne or Maxine. [wwodarz@netscape.net](mailto:wwodarz@netscape.net) [msmacy105@yahoo.com](mailto:msmacy105@yahoo.com)



## *Maxine's Annual Christmas Story*



### *The Man Who Did Not Like Christmas*

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me. Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us



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### OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

#### **DECEMBER**

- 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- 9 – WI Badger Camp 1966 Event
- 12-13-14 – Santa Calling
- 21 – Winter begins
- 25 – Christmas Day



#### **JANUARY**

- 1 – Welcome 2018!
- 2 – Board Meeting
- 20 – White Elephant Gift Exchange  
(Elks Lodge)
- 30 – Board Meeting



#### **FEBRUARY**

- 2 – Groundhog Day
- 14 – Valentine's Day
- 19 – President's Day
- 27 – Board Meeting



### 2018 SPEAKER COORDINATORS

Our weekly speakers are, 'impressive' and deliver a very worthwhile message. Many thanks to the volunteers who coordinate a month throughout the year. 2018 we say thank you to: Becky Schambow, Kevin Haertzen, Ron Weier/Charlie Clark, Beth Frieders, Maxine Lane, Ken Kamps, Duane Borgen, Joy/Jerry Schewe, Peggy Compton, Dan Engelke/Tom Nall, Maggie Kleisath.

\*\*December, 2018 is not spoken for if you can help contact Becky 732-8981 or [beckyschambow@gmail.com](mailto:beckyschambow@gmail.com)

What to expect in January ...

\*Jan.12 – Dr. Scott Houghton, SWHC General Surgeon

\*Jan.19 – Steve McCarthy, SWHC Chief Operating Officer & Laura Reilly, Director of Clinic Nursing/Quality

\*Jan.26 – Andrea Pastor, Rotary's Foreign Exchange Program. Exchange student, Thanaree Hainak from Thailand will join Andrea and share insights on her country, her family, interests and her experiences through the exchange program.

### Memory Making Moments





## *Please Join our Optimists & Friends Annual Holiday*

When: Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Time: 5:30 p.m. for cocktails (Cash bar)

6:30 p.m. for Supper

(Broasted Chicken, Cheesy Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert,  
Coffee/Milk)

Where: Elks Lodge - 50 South Oak Street, Platteville, WI

Cost: \$15.00 per person – please plan to pay at the party

Activities to Include: White Elephant Gift Exchange

Re-gift something you don't need or want OR  
purchase a gift (**suggested cost not to exceed \$10.**)  
to participate in this fun filled game.



See who will end up with the beloved "Shelly" lamp?

**Invite a Friend:** You are encouraged to invite a Non-member  
guest to join our fun-filled evening.

**Please RSVP:** **by January 12<sup>th</sup>** to Becky Schambow

- Sign-up sheet will be available at Friday morning meetings;
- Contact Becky Schambow ~ 348-9981 ~ [beckyschambow@gmail.com](mailto:beckyschambow@gmail.com)

