

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

MEETING 7:00 A.M.

EVERY FRIDAY AT TAKE 2 RESTAURANT

SECOND TIME AROUND

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



In three short months, my term as President will conclude. Some nine months ago, I was questioning my decision to accept the position and wondering how I would ever lead the meetings. I owe my success to the support I have received from our Board of Directors and an Optimistic Circle of Friends! Come September, I will turn the responsibility, bell, gavel and position of Optimist President over to a very capable member, Maxine Lane. I'm confident she will do an outstanding job for our club, not just because she is my sister, but more so because I have had an opportunity to work with her and know she is organized, committed and extremely particular when it comes to being thorough and creating an image in the eyes of onlookers.

Maxine too will need the support of a reliable Board of Directors. We will be looking for volunteers to fill four vacancies, three Board Members and a Second Vice President. Three year terms will conclude for Charlie Clark, Fern Nall and Diane VanNatta as Board Members and Ron Weier will go from our current Second Vice President to the position of First Vice President, which is our natural progression to the office of President. Our new members will join existing Board Members, Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel and Bob Weier. I would hope that four members will eagerly step forward to fill these vacancies. Your time commitment is very limited as Board Meetings are monthly, falling on the Thursday prior to the first Friday of the month. This has been the practice for a number of years as issues from the Board Meetings are then presented at the first Friday Business Meeting. Please feel free to visit with any one of our current members if you are interested.

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 third in our series, thanks to Ken. In December we learned about the formation of our organization and the names of our predecessors who made up our initial membership. March we discovered the individuals who have served in the capacity of President and/or Lieutenant Governor. In this issue, it's all about raising money to accomplish our underlying commitment, to make a positive impact in the lives of youth.

The first few years are sketchy. By 1973-74, we had a family garage sale by the First National Bank on Main Street. For several years, we served food at the Fly-In Breakfasts. We also hosted 5K and 10K runs for a few years. In 1976 we sold postcards with pictures of old city hall, mine shelter, main street and other scenes to pay for the mine train and track now at the Mining Museum.

The first mention of cheese curds was made in a Rooster Call in 1979. The Monroe club helped us get started. Our close connection with the Monroe club started when Ken was Lieutenant Governor in 1973-74. By that time we had also had successful pizza sales with profits in the \$1,200 range. (Chuck Tahlmann consistently sold \$300 worth of pizzas by himself.) For several years we also hosted a Brat stand on Main Street during Maxwell Street Days.

In 1983-84 our income was as follows: Cheese curds \$1,800; Raffle \$626; Pizza sales \$382; 10K run \$235; Brat stand \$245 (3,288)

Thirty years later...our claim to fame is our signature item, deep friend cheese curds, providing us with annual income of approximately \$12,000 to support multiple organizations that impact the lives of youth.

In the fourth and final series, coming in September, we will discover the many locations that we have held our meetings. I'm sure this will bring back many memories and to others, places they have never heard of.

OPTIMISTS

OUT AND ABOUT

The second annual euchre tournament with optional board games was held on Saturday, April 12, at the home of Bob Weier. With Optimist members, spouses and guests, we had 20 playing euchre and 6 players for various board games. The committee provided **S**oup(s), **S**alad(s) and **S**andwiches with **S**nacks and **S**weets being brought in by many of the participants. Starting with cocktails, everyone enjoyed the great food, the challenges that come with the cards/games and last but not least the conversation and laughter that makes for a great party. Of course some are better players than others when it comes to euchre so we not only recognize the top in both men and ladies but we acknowledge the low scores in both categories as well. Duane Borgen showed his talent taking first place in the men division and coming in last was Tom Nall. Fern Nall took the lead early in the ladies division and never looked back while Eileen Engelke struggled to stay afloat! Win or lose, everyone had a great time with the evening closing around 10:00. A special thank you to Bob Weier for opening his home to this Optimist Social and a special thank you to Ron Weier for taking the lead in arranging this event.



CLUB BUILDING

We continue to look for ways to get the word out about our club with the ultimate goal being increased membership. Several of our members attended the Jaycee Meeting on Thursday, May 1 and shared their personal experiences as Optimist Members. Going from being a Jaycee to becoming an Optimist member would be a natural move considering there is an age limit within the Jaycees. Thank you to Ken Kamps, Mike Olds, Tim Boldt, Eileen & Gary Engelke, Diane VanNatta and Beth Frieders for taking time from their schedule to make this presentation. We are also following up with letters to our weekly speakers, with some discretion based on their location in relation to Platteville. A reminder to our weekly coordinators to get mailing addresses for speakers and provide them to Mike Olds at MichaelO@kopplaw.net. At our board meeting in May; several options were discussed regarding a NOW meeting sometime this summer. In the past our NOW meetings have been well attended and successful in introducing and bringing in new members.



IT'S CHEESE CURD TIME!

Our first event for 2014 is approaching fast! We have been invited back to the Livingston Festival on Saturday, June 21st, with set up and serving to start around 4:00 concluding between 9:00 & 10:00. Last year was our first year for this event; however, Mother Nature was out of sorts and the event was cut short. Gary & Eileen Engelke, Bob Weier and Kevin Haertzen have offered to work with assistance from Steve & Maxine Lane.

TRI-STAR BASKETBALL

Thanks to Duane Borgen and Tim Boldt for serving as co-chairs for our 2014 event, held on March 16 at UW-P Bo Ryan Court. Twenty-five children, 14 boys and 11 girls, ages 6 to 13, participated in this annual event. Five children from our Platteville event went on to the SWIS District competition held in Mukwonago, four boys, Lucas Ludlum (6), Zachary Ludlum (7), Wyatt Heer (9) and Logan Ludlum (12) and one girl, Lexie Ludlum (10). In checking the SWIS District Facebook page, it was reported that the full roster of winners will be posted in the next Summer issue of the SWIS District newsletter. Also posted, the winner of the 6 year old class was from Platteville, Lucas Ludlum, taking home the gold!



It's 'all about' what we're 'all about'

ESSAY and ORATORICAL CONTEST

From March, I ditto my thanks to Gary Munson for taking on the role of Chairman for our 2014 Essay and Oratorical Contest. An update from Gary.



The Platteville Optimists sent two representatives to the District Oratorical Contest on April 26. Rachel Bailie and Austin Smith were among the fifteen finalists. The topic was "How My Passions Impact The World". While neither placed in the top three, their speeches were well done and conveyed their individual passions.

"As the two competed at each level, you could see the growth in their style and delivery," remarked Gary Munson, contest coordinator. Rachel's mom said that Rachel was a little unnerved when she was the second speaker following a flawless presentation by the person who eventually won first place. "I could tell she was nervous, but she regained her confidence and finished strong," commented her mom.

Even in this world dominated by technology, public speaking is an important skill. As we observe the leaders and decision makers today, those that capture people's attention are those with the ability to speak in public. Our club is doing its part in supporting the development of future leaders as we sponsor the annual speech contest and send area students to the District competition.

PROMISE YOURSELF

To be so strong that nothing can
disturb your peace of mind

MONTHLY/WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Many thanks to Ken Kamps, Gary Engelke and Milt Rewey for serving as speaker coordinators for June, July and August, 2014. 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. You can check the Optimist Web Site for scheduled speakers and/or watch your email for a notice from the coordinators for speaker updates.



FLASH TO THE FUTURE

June

- 05 – Board Meeting (location-Platteville Business Incubator)
- 08 – Grant County Dairy Breakfast-Lancaster Fair Grounds
- 14 – Flag Day
- 15 – Father's Day
- 21 – Summer Begins
- 21 – Livingston Festival/Fireworks (Cheese Curd Sales)



July

- 3 – Board Meeting (location TBA)
- 4 – Independence Day
- 4 – No Friday Meeting
- 31 – Board Meeting



August

- 10-17 – Grant County Fair (Cheese Curd Sales)
- 23 – Potosi Brewfest (Cheese Curd Sales)



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP

On Monday evening, May 19, Club President, Eileen Engelke attended the awards banquet at Platteville High School to present the 2014 Platteville Optimist Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. The PHS senior recipient this year was Catlin Aciermo. Catelin is the daughter of David and Ellen Aciermo. She will be attending UW-Madison, with her career major being Classical Humanities. If you know Catlin or her parents and have an occasion to see them, please pass along congratulations.



SHARING SPECIAL EVENTS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go Out To . . .

June

- 09 – Ernie Thalmann
- 19 – Ron Weier

July

- 15 – Gary Engelke

August

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 03 – Eileen Nickels | 26 – Dave Jones |
| 05 – Maggie Kleisath | 27 – Karl Sandry |
| 09 – Jim Boll | 28 – Barb Stockhausen |
| 10 – Gary Munson | 29 – Fern Nall |
| 11 – Terry Beebe | |



Happy Anniversary Wishes To Member & Spouse. . .



June

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 02 – Jerry Schewe | 26 – Wayne Wodarz |
| 08 – Gordy Ginski | 27 – Steve & Maxine Lane |
| 13 – John Urness | 29 – Terry Ellis |
| 18 – Tom & Fern Nall | 30 – Howard Crofoot |
| 23 – Karl & Michelle Sandry | |
| 26 – Phil Swift | |

July

- 11 – Leon Neuheisel
- 26 – Arnie Roper
- 29 – Gary & Eileen Engelke

August

- 17 – Steve & Maggie Kleisath
- 17 – Stacia Stephenson
- 18 – Jim Olds
- 20 – Anne Klawiter
- 22 – Virgil Pufahl (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
- 23 – Ken Kamps
- 31 – Gary Munson

Congratulations go out to

Gary & Eileen Engelke (a/k/a President & First Man) – Welcomed a third grandson to the family on February 28th. Daughter Jessica and husband, Brad, welcomed Pierce Benjamin, joining brothers, Graham and Hugh.

Congrats to **John Urness** as the recipient of the 2013 Community Service Award presented to him by the Wisconsin Music Educators Association.

Howard Crofoot announced he has tentatively accepted the nomination for Governor Elect for the 2014-2015 term. Formal nomination/approval will take place at the August 23, 2014 SWIS District Convention. Watch for update in September. Thanks for representing our Club!

It's bittersweet as we say Congratulations to **Jeff Jacobson** on being selected as the new Superintendent of the Dodgeville School District.

MEMORIAL DAY HISTORY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service to the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo NY was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May, 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.



Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins. One thing is clear, Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1858 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his *General Order No. 11*. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.



On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day honoring their dead on separate days until after WW I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L.90-363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina, and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

In 1915, Moina Michael conceived the idea of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. Proceeds were used to benefit servicemen in need. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. Ms. Michael was honored in 1948 by the US Post Office for her role in founding National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RICH & POOR

One day, a very wealthy man made arrangements for his son to spend time at a farm. His express purpose was to show the boy how poor people must live.



On his return, the father asked his son, "How was the trip? Did you see how poor people live?"

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn?" The son answered. . .

"I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden; they have a creek that has no end.



We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.



We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs.



We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. His son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing?



Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have instead of worrying about what we don't have.

*Appreciate every single thing you have,
especially your friends!
Life is too short and friends are too few.*

A special Get Well Wish to Fern Nall on a speedy recovery following hip replacement surgery.

Please send announcements, events, birthday/anniversary dates to Maxine at msmacy105@yahoo.com for sharing in our newsletter. Your contributions are appreciated.

Publisher: Maxine Lane – Editor: Beth Frieders

