

ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

CURRENTLY MEETING 7:00 AM FRIDAYS AT COUNTRY KITCHEN, HWY 151, PLATTEVILLE, WI

Friday, September 11, 2015

To start our meeting we had a moment of silence in remembrance of those lost in the 9/11 tragedy.

Attendance: Twenty-four Optimist were in attendance, with ten (Ernie, Charlie, Ron, Bob, Ken, Maggie, Maxine, Eileen, Steve and Gary) wearing their Optimist shirt.

Mystery Greeter: Steve Lane greeted Tim Boldt.

Luck of the Draw: Bob Weier cut the 35 cards remaining in the Joker Draw deck and came up with the six of spades and \$2.

Business Meeting:

- Anniversaries being celebrated include: Charlie Clark and wife Joyce, and Deb McWilliams and husband Harley. Birthday celebrations included Arnie Roper and Deb McWilliams.
- Drawing was held for the upcoming Badger Camp fund raiser scheduled for December 12th. Maxine drew the first ticket as the one that would be eliminated. Arnie Roper's name was drawn, so he will be on the "Bubble" if anyone should decide not to attend. Each member drawn will be able to purchase a ticket for their spouse. We will hopefully be represented by two tables of eight. Those members who will receive a ticket to the event are Jerry Schewe, Dave Allen, Leon Neuheisel, Charlie Clark, Ron Weier, Steve Lane, Bob Weier and Gary Engelke.
- Old Business/Announcements:
 - Installation/Awards Banquet at Benvenutos on September 27th
 - Dairy Days Help with the Tractor Pull
 - September 26th – Suicide Prevention Walk
 - Maxine will be placing shirt orders.

Program:

Maggie Kleisath introduced our speakers, Jessie Lee-Jones, Library Director, and Betsy Ralph-Tollefson, Secretary for the Library Board.

Jessie provided the group with an update on the Library Project. All of the properties have been purchased and the house has been moved. The financing is still being negotiated in closed sessions with the city, city council, people with the New Market Tax Credit, WHEDA, and the developer. It is taking longer than expected as there are a lot of guidelines to follow. Jessie is pleased with the support of everyone working with the project.

The prospect of the building project is exciting as they are out of room for the programs they are providing. In the new building the first floor will be the adult section and the second level will house the children/teens area as well as a community room which would hold up to 100 people.

The Library Foundation has grown a lot according to Betsy. They hosted an Open House to help build a shared vision with the community about where the library has been and is going at the old library. The Foundation will be responsible for fund raising the money needed to fill the library including furniture and tech upgrades. Working with the Board of Trustees they need to raise \$500,000. They are doing this through grant writing with Angie Wright and other groups.

The Summer Reading program was a success serving 332 children. Jessie was pleased to participate in the program with her 2 year old daughter and observe her interacting with other children. Between June and August 12,459 books were checked out from the children's library.

Other activities are aimed at a variety of age groups. During Freshman Orientation they talk to the students each year and are pleased to see how many college students stop in. In addition to reading materials they get a feel of home as the librarians develop a relationship with them and provide positive strokes for exams, etc. The Adult Reading program delivers books to 9 assisted living programs and is an outlet for people to continue to read and learn. There is also a Senior Book Club at the Senior Center which is well attended also.



(L-R) Betsy Ralph-Tollefson, secretary for the library board, and Jessie Lee-Jones, Platteville's library director.

Minutes taken by Fern Nall and Eileen Engelke; edited for "Rooster Call" by Charlie Clark.