



*Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights
June 2024*

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

2023-2024 Officers: Alaina Reeves, President – Bob Hundhausen, Vice President – Melissa Palfrey, Past President – Duane Borgen, Treasurer – Becky Schambow, Secretary

2023-2024 Board of Directors: Amy Coffey, Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Jordan Holthaus, Doreen Hlavaty, and Tom Nall

Published for Members June 29, 2024 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2024

BUSINESS MEETING: - JUNE 7, 2024

Attendance: There were 25 members and 1 guest present including: Carley Borcharding; Charlie Clark; Howard Crofoot; Terri Ellis; Dan Engelke; Eileen and Gary Engelke; Mark Essex; Robin Fatzinger; Kevin Haertzen; Dianne Jentz; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Lisa Kratz; Doug Martin; Michael Miller; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Joy and Jerry Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; and guest, Cody Grabhorn.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.

Guest Welcomed: President Reeves welcomed Cody Grabhorn, Director of The Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums as our Guest.

Grant Check Presentation to “The Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums”: A grant check for \$500, made out to “The Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums” for student tours was presented to Cody Grabhorn, museums’ Director. Cody extended his appreciation for the grant and noted it will help with student programs that are coordinated with the “WI State Science Fair”.

Special Dates to Remember: President Reeves noted the following special dates.

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Ernie Thalmann – June 9;
 - Lauren Ganzer and Lisa Schmitt – June 12
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Amy and Steve Coffey – June 12th
- **Membership Anniversaries in June:**
 - Eileen Nickels – June 1, 1989;
 - Terri Ellis, Gary Engelke and Eileen Engelke, and Tim Murphy – June 11, 2004;
 - Bob Hundhausen – June 30, 2019;
 - Amy Coffey, Dan and Emmily Dreessens, and Barb Stockhausen – June 20, 2022;
 - Clint Langreck - June 23, 2023
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries in June:** Fidelity Bank and Trust – June 22, 2020

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Mark Essex, greeting Libby Sides.
- **Breakfast Drawing:** Doug Martin and President Reeves were the two members present, and Emmily Dreessens and Hap Daus were the two members not present, whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in June.

- **Joker Draw:** Charlie Clark's ticket was drawn for a chance to win the Joker Draw, however he cut the Ace of Spades.

Announcements – Information Shared:

- **Thank You to Charlie Clark:** President Reeves extended appreciation to Charlie Clark for donating \$270 back to the Club from his DJ fee of \$300 for providing music at the NOW Spring Fling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT: Highlights of the June 3, 2024 Governing Board meeting were presented by President Reeves.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Borgen provided the Treasurer's Report for period ending May 31, 2024, which included information on the Internal and Youth Account balances.

- Grant(s) Paid in May included:
 - Platteville Special Olympics - \$300;
 - WI Leadership Seminar - \$250.
- **Approval:** President Reeves reported the Board has made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Dan Engelke, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: President Reeves provided summaries of Committee reports.

- **Finance Committee:**
 - **Dues Report:** D. Borgen reported to the Board that two members have yet to pay their dues. Charlie Clark, Co-Chair of Membership Committee has sent reminder emails to these members. If they have not paid by July 1st they will be officially removed from membership.
 - **Acquisition of Club Credit Card:** The Board discussed feasibility of obtaining a credit card for use by the Club. Currently our website and Zoom membership costs are billed/paid through the Club Secretary's credit card. There was some feeling that having a business credit card may be helpful to those buying supplies for our events, etc. No decisions were made at this time. Further investigation will include checking with the website and Zoom companies to see if they would accept payment via EFT (*electronic fund transfer*).
 - **Donation/Pledge to Fire Department Building Fund Campaign:** It was reported that a donation/pledge form to "Inspiring Community" for our \$5000 pledge for the Fire Department building fund (*\$500 paid and \$4500 pledged to be paid over the next four years*) will be completed and submitted by President Reeves.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Golf Outing Report:** President Reeves thanked those who volunteered and provided cookies/bars for the Golf outing. The event raised over \$5000 for support of the Grant County Sheriff's Department initiatives.
 - **Party in the Park – July 25:** President Reeves reported that Ernie Thalmann and Community Service Committee members are planning for the event. The Club will serve hotdogs and cookies. Ernie added that the Club will be ordering fewer hot dogs this year due to the fact that last year other food vendors were there so there was a decrease in hotdogs needed. Ernie noted that cookies will be given away instead of ice cream due to a vendor issue.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes:**
 - FOO: Family Pet Clinic - OI Deleted for Non-pay – April 30, 2024, but added as New Member on May 14, 2024 when late payment was received
 - New Members:

- Dorothy Price – May 3, 2024;
- Kim Woodworth – May 7, 2024
- **Noon Meeting Attendance Reports:** There was no report available relative to attendance at the May 10th Information Meeting or the May 31st Social Meeting.
- **NOW Event:** T. Ellis reported to the Board that she has completed and submitted the “NOW report” to Optimist International.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website :**
 - **Weekly Meeting Notes via Email:** President Reeves noted a member has volunteered to take weekly meeting notes and send them out to members via email on a weekly basis. President Reeves added that the Board discussed this offer relative to weekly verses monthly “Highlights” and redundancy issues. Jerry Schewe then advised the members that he was the person who volunteered to do the weekly notes in an effort to send information to members in a more-timely manner. Becky Schambow added that she will be resigning as Secretary as of September 30, 2024 and hopes that whatever decision is made does not require the upcoming Secretary to take notes at weekly meetings if Jerry does. Becky noted that our Club Secretary is only required, according to Bylaws, to take minutes of Board and Business meetings and taking weekly meeting notes is time consuming. Becky wants to ensure there is not a duplication of efforts in reporting going forward. President Reeves noted that the Board recommended the topic be discussed with Jerry by the Publicity/Newsletter/Website committee.
- **Cheese Curd:**
 - **May 6, 2024 Meeting Update:** President Reeves reported that the Committee met on May 6th to begin planning for this year’s cheese curd sales. She encouraged members to mark their calendars for the Grant County Fair dates of August 14 to 18 and noted that sign-up sheets for volunteers will be forthcoming.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Speakers – for June:** The speakers, coordinated by Chris and Paul Budden, were reported to be as follows:
 - June 14th: Jill Goffinet, Platteville Senior Center Update
 - June 21st: Dawn Drake, Ruby's Pantry and Fellowship Dinners
 - June 28th: Barb Stockhausen (and former exchange students), Rotary Club Youth Exchange Program
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Scholarship Recipients:** The following students were named the recipients of this year’s Club scholarships:
 - Keagan Taylor – planning to attend Southwest Tech – Cosmetology;
 - Emelia Thelemann – planning to attend UW Stevens Point – Environmental Science.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **President’s Goal Update:** No comments.
- **Main Street Banner Recognizing Optimist Report:** In response to inquiry if the Club could be recognized on a new banner on Main Street, it was reported that the banners will be seasonal, and not put up in recognition of any clubs or services.
- **Purchase of Bench for Katie’s Garden:** Instead of purchasing a bench for the Anniversary Celebration of Katie’s Garden, the Board recommended that members choosing to support Katie’s Garden anniversary be encouraged to purchase the “Duck Pond” race tickets being sold. Vice President Hundhausen and Carley Borcharding are selling tickets for this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Officers for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year:** President Reeves noted that the Club needs to report the names of our 24-25 fiscal year officers to OI. She added that Bob Hundhausen will be serving as President and Duane Borgen has agreed to continue as Treasurer. President Reeves will confirm with Jerry Schewe whether or not he chooses to continue as the Foundation Representative. It was reported that a Vice President needs to be elected and a Secretary needs to be appointed. If anyone would like to volunteer to run/be appointed to these positions, they are asked to contact President Reeves or Vice President Hundhausen as soon as possible.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS:

- **Meeting Leader – June 21st:** President Reeves noted that she and Bob Hundhausen, VP, will both be out of town on June 21st attending a work meeting. Dan Engelke volunteered to lead the meeting if needed.

CONCLUSION:

- **Next Board Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, July 1, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom
- **Next Week’s Speaker – Morning Meeting - June 14th:** Jill Goffinet, Senior Center
- **Noon Informational Meeting – June 14th:** at A & W
- **Motion to Adjourn:** Dan Engelke made a motion, seconded by Terri Ellis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - JUNE 14, 2024

Attendance: There were 26 members and two guests present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Paul Budden, who greeted Libby Sides.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Jill Goffinet and Alyssa Shanahan (*speakers*)
- **Special Dates Noted for the Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** Ron Weier – June 19th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
 - Clint and Heather Langreck – June 19th, 2020;
 - Dan and Tammie Engelke – June 20, 1987
- **Joker Draw:** It was Libby Side’s lucky day. Her ticket was drawn and she cut the Joker. Congratulations to Libby.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Noon Informational Meeting Today – at A & W:** Members were reminded that the monthly “Informational Meeting” was being held on June 14th.
 - **Football Fund Crazr Tickets:** Four tickets were left and sold at this meeting at a cost of \$20, with over half of that coming back to the Club.
- **Next Week’s Speaker – June 21st:** Dawn Drake, Ruby’s Pantry & Fellowship Dinners

- **Today's Speakers:** Jill Goffinet and Alyssa Shanahan from the Senior Center, recruited by Chris & Paul Budden, and introduced by Chris.

Chris began by saying that Jill and Ally have taken the Senior Center to new heights since making the move to City Hall in July 2023. The Center is seeing new faces daily and continuously introducing new programs to keep seniors in the Platteville area interested.

Jill started working at the Senior Center more than 15 years ago and Ally started in 2021 and these two work together like two peas in a pod. As the Program Coordinator, Jill organizes daily programming and tends to day-to-day operations. Ally is the Center Manager, and takes care of administrative work and marketing. In their positions, the ladies oversee the Platteville Commission on Aging and Platteville Area Senior Support, the fundraising arm of the Senior Center. They do all this and so much more as part time city employees, shoulders to lean on, and "cattle wranglers".

Ally began the presentation by talking about their new location at City Hall that had renovation costs of over \$50,000. This new location has: hearing assistive capabilities; a 75" TV; a craft room; an exercise room; game area; activity center that holds 45 people; and more storage than in prior location. Ally noted their appreciation to the City for finding and designating parking for those attending the Senior Center.

Jill, a Platteville "home town girl", stated she has always cared about senior citizens, and feels that her position is a way of giving back to the community. Ally added that she feels like she and Jill are family members to the seniors. She noted that they are even having a special wedding reception with the seniors in honor of Alliy's wedding which was upcoming the following week.

They noted games that seniors participate in include: Bridge; Cribbage; Hand and Foot Dice; Left-Right-Center; Bingo; and Euchre. Annually they have a "Skunk Party" at which time anyone who hasn't scored in a card game over the prior year can participate. Humorously, prizes include air fresheners.

They also coordinate with Warco Bus Service and take day trips about three times per year, which include a lot of trips to theatres, etc.

The Center has a large group who come to fitness class, which they now hold at the Masonic Temple for added space.

In August there are plans for a "Seniors' Picnic", of which approximately 200 people usually attend at the Evangelical Free Church.

December plans include their annual party, of which they received a \$4500 grant from United Way to offset costs.

Ally explained that they continually seek grants, and hold brat sales, etc. This is done by PASS (*Platteville Area Senior Support*), which as noted above is the fund raising arm for the Center.

In conclusion, Tim Murphy acknowledged from his experience with the Center, that both Jill and Ally are very dedicated and do a tremendous job.

CONCLUSION: The meeting closed at 8:00 a.m.
Recorded by: Becky Schambow

WEEKLY MEETING - JUNE 21, 2024

Attendance: There were 24 members and 1 guest present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Facilitator Dianne Jentz at 7:00 a.m.
 - It is noted that Dianne graciously volunteered to facilitate this meeting due to President Reeves and Vice President Hundhausen being out of town attending a business meeting.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Kim Woodworth, who greeted Leon Neuheisel.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Our speaker, Dawn Drake was welcomed as a guest.
- **Special Dates Noted for the Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** Dean Feldman, June 21.
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
 - Mark and Joan Haas – June 24th;
 - Phil and Sandy Swift – June 26th;
 - Wayne and Julie Wodarz – June 26th;
 - Maxine and Steve Lane – June 27th
- **Joker Draw:** Tim Murphy's ticket was drawn, but he cut the 5 of Diamonds
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Notes of Appreciation from the following were circulated:**
 - Keagan Taylor, scholarship recipient thanking Club for award;
 - Chad Hershner, President & CEO of Special Olympics of WI – for our grant
 - Nikolai Sookochoff – appreciation for supporting him so he could attend Badger Boys' State.
 - **Need for Vice President and Club Secretary:** Our meeting Facilitator noted that our Club needs to have a Vice President and Secretary named for the 24-25 Fiscal Year. Any member interested in these positions were encouraged to contact President Reeves or Vice President Hundhausen.
 - **Make Music Platteville:** Terri Ellis encouraged members to attend the "Make Music Platteville" events occurring on this date in various locations in Platteville.
- **Next Week's Speaker on June 28th:** Barb Stockhausen on Rotary Club's Foreign Exchange Program
- **Today's Speakers:** Dawn Drake was recruited by Chris & Paul Budden and was sharing information on community services including: Ruby's Pantry; Food and Fellowship; and Crafting and Quilting for Christ.

Dawn Drake retired from UW-Platteville after working 33 years in the UW System. She earned a bachelor's degree in business from UW-Platteville, an MBA from UW-Whitewater, and has all but completed her dissertation in distance and continuing education from UW-Madison.

Drake was central in developing the university's first online programs. She oversaw distance and continuing education at UW-Platteville from 1999 until her retirement in 2018. Her career has included university teaching, advising, recruitment, administration, and quality coordinator. Drake has written numerous articles and made conference presentations in the areas of distance education, leadership,

and human resources. She also wrote and received many grants throughout the years. She has been involved with business consulting throughout her career and continues with this in a part-time capacity in retirement.

Dawn began her presentation by explaining that she was going to talk about programs that are sponsored through the United Methodist Church, but that the events are “community events”. The first program she talked about was “Ruby’s Pantry”, which occurs in the church parking lot on the first Thursday of every month and is coordinated/served by volunteers. “Ruby’s Pantry” is headquartered in Minnesota and its founder started the service in memory of his mother. The food provided is all donated from corporations. The motto for the program is, “This is for anyone who eats”. On the day of the event, a semi arrives with approximately 23,000 pounds of food made up of about 20-23 food items. Dawn noted there is always a protein product, but otherwise there is a wide variety of foods. The food is unloaded, and divided into approximately 400 shares. The people served are asked to pay \$25 of which \$23 helps pay for the transport of the food and \$2 is put into a scholarship fund, used to help those who can’t afford the \$25. For that \$25, those served receive an estimated \$150 in groceries. It takes approximately 100 volunteers to help on Ruby’s Pantry days and additional volunteers are always welcome.

The second program Dawn talked about was “Food and Fellowship”. This program was started with a grant in March of 2020 and functions on grants and co-sponsorships. This program occurs on the 2nd Wednesday of every month where they serve between 275-450 people from 5 to 6 p.m.

Dawn talked about their “Quilting and Crafting for Christ” program which is also grant funded. Volunteers make lap quilts for all ages, in addition to making cards and other crafts. The volunteers meet on Tuesday from 3-6 p.m. They coordinate with Family Advocates, Southwest Cap, police and EMT’s, social services agencies, etc. who can give the items to comfort those in need.

In conclusion, Dawn invited anyone interested to visit and enjoy the church’s “Community Memorial Garden” and “Labyrinth”.

CONCLUSION: The meeting closed at 7:45 a.m.
Recorded by: Becky Schambow

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WEEKLY MEETING - JUNE 28, 2024

Attendance: There were 29 members and 1 guest present.

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Tim Murphy, who greeted Doug Martin.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Our speaker, Angie Wright was welcomed as a guest.
- **Charter Member Welcomed:** President Reeves acknowledged Charter Member, Tom Jonas who was able to be present with us today.
- **Check Presentation to Inspiring Community, Inc. for Fire Department Building Campaign:** A \$5000 check/pledge presentation to Inspiring Community, Inc. was given to and accepted by President Reeves and Paul Budden.

- **Special Dates Noted for the Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** Mark Essex – July 2nd
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
 - Lauren and Mitchell Ganzer (*who also recently had a baby girl*) – June 30th;
 - Howard and Kathy Crofoot – June 30th. Howard noted it would be their 40th.
- **Joker Draw:** Barb Stockhausen’s ticket was drawn, however, she cut the 6 of Clubs.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Sippy Cup Winner:** Linda Foht was provided with a “sippy cup” for spilling her beverage before the meeting even got underway.
 - **Need for Vice President and Secretary:** President Reeves reported the Club is still in need of members willing to serve as Vice President and Secretary for upcoming fiscal year. If interested contact President Reeves or Vice President Hundhausen.
 - **Upcoming Platteville Events:** Wayne Wodarz brought posters noting upcoming events for those interested including: Platteville Heritage Days; 4th of July Events; and Hometown Festival Week.
 - **Paul Budden – Hairstylist:** President Reeves humorously acknowledged that anyone in need of a hairstylist can call Paul, as he’s been doing a great job helping his wife Chris do her hair while she’s been recuperating from shoulder surgery.
- **Next Week – July 5th:** Business Meeting
- **Today’s Speakers:** Club Member, Barb Stockhausen and Angie Wright, speaker, were representing the Rotary Club and were recruited by Chris and Paul Budden. Paul provided their introduction with information about their histories with Rotary.

Barb Stockhausen is starting her second year as the President of the Rotary Club of Southwest Wisconsin/Platteville. She was a member of Platteville's original Rotary club until it dissolved and is a Charter Member of the current club which celebrated its 10 year anniversary this year. Barb has also been an Optimist member for more than 25 years. Barb is recently retired after owning and operating an H&R Block franchise for more than 30 years. She has served as an Alder on the Platteville City Council and has served on the Southwest Tech District Board, H&R Block National Franchise Council and Wisconsin Public Radio Association Board. She is currently a member of the Southwest Tech Foundation Board and very active in Girl Scouts, becoming a lifetime Girl Scout in 1994.

Angie Wright is a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Southwest Wisconsin/Platteville and has served as the Treasurer since 2016. Angie started her relationship with Rotary back in 1988 when she was a senior in high school and participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange program and spent a year in Brazil. Angie works as a freelance grant professional helping nonprofit organizations and municipalities secure funding to implement projects and reach their goals. She is on the board of the PHS Scholarship Fund, Inspiring Community Inc., and volunteers with the Rountree Gallery. In her free time Angie enjoys riding her bike on the rural roads of Southwest Wisconsin, baking crusty sourdough bread, knitting, and spending time with her family.

Barb opened by thanking the Optimists for inviting them to speak about Rotary’s student exchange program, but gave the floor to Angie to talk about her experience and close hand knowledge about the program.

Angie began her presentation by distributing pictures taken when she was a Rotary 17 year old foreign exchange student in Brazil. She noted that Rotary is a “global network” with over 46,000 clubs across

the world. Countries sending students out via the exchange program receive the same number of students from other countries.

Rotary Clubs' Mission is to "provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace".

Addressing Rotary's "Long Term" exchange program, Angie noted students are sent to their host countries for a period of 11 months. The students are typically hosted by two or three different families during that period of time. Families treat the students like they would their own family. For this experience, students only pay for their personal items with Rotary picking up travel costs, etc. Rotary also provides them with a \$75/month allowance and pays for their cell phone.

Platteville's Rotary Club has had 5 outbound students who have gone to France, Japan, Spain and Hungary. Platteville has hosted three students coming from Thailand, Columbia, Brazil, and will have another this fall from Denmark. Rotary attempts to place students in countries where the student speaks the language. In Angie's case, she was sent to Brazil and can speak both Portuguese and Spanish.

If interested in hosting a student, please contact either Barb or Angie.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 7:55 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in JULY 2024

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- Mark Essex – July 2nd
- Gary Engelke – July 15th;
- Jim Boebel – July 24th.

JULY – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Leon and Madge Neuheisel – July 11, 1970;
- Bob Weier and Pat Moxness-Weier – July 20, 1919;
- Arnie and Jan Roper – July 26th;
- Eileen and Gary Engelke – July 29, 1972;
- Dianne and Ron Jentz – July 31, 2993.

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES in JULY:

- Virgil Pufahl – July 1, 1975;
- Jim Boll – July 1, 1976;
- Carley Borcharding – July 24, 2017;
- Mike Hahn – July 31, 2017;
- Jim Boebel – July 24, 2019;
- Lisa Kratz – July 14, 2023.

FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES in JULY: None