

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

Friday, June 12, 2015

Attendance: Twenty-four members in attendance. (No Optimist shirt count available.)

Mystery Greeter: Mystery greeter Leon Neuheisel greeted Ken Kamps

Luck of the Draw: John Urness ticket was drawn for the Joker Draw. He didn't get the joker, but he did get a choice of the usual \$2 consolation prize or a free ticket to Heartland Festival event. John took the latter. A second drawing for a second ticket was won by Leon. Steve Lane finally won the \$2 joker draw prize.

Business Meeting:

- ** Maxine recognized a birthday Ron Weier (June 19^{th)}, and an anniversary, John and Ellen Urness on the 13th.
- ** We receive a Thank You for our donation to the HUNCH Program.
- ** Maxine noted that the Bike Safety promotion was very well attended. Terry Vaassen donated the funds to purchase the bike helmets for the participants.
- ** Reminders: July 23rd is <u>Party in the Park</u>. We will be recognizing someone for volunteerism. Max asked members to send her their recommendations. The <u>Installation/Awards Banquet</u> will be Sunday, Sept 27th.

Program:

Today's speaker, Michael Breitner, is Director of the UWP Center for the Arts. Michael gave us an update of the Heartland Festival. It is in its 15th year but only the 14th Season, since one year was skipped due to renovation at the CFA. This year's shows are The Last Five Years, Mary Poppins, and Rapunzel. There will also be a Caberet that will involve past participants and performers.

Budget cuts are a real concern as the Festival will need to stand on it own if it is to go forward. In the past, the University has been able to help with funding, but this will no longer be possible. There is not much available in the area of grant moneys for the arts, but the program is looking at every avenue to help sustain the program.

The Performing Arts are looking to finish the programming for the remainder of the season. To date, they have 7 of 8 performances scheduled. Many great questions were posed by the members present, and Michael was able to field them all. He is looking forward to the season and is hoping to "Pack the House".

