Friday, June 19, 2015

Attendance: Twenty-three (23) Optimists were present today; Maxine, Eileen, Ken, Bob, Leon, Ernie, Charlie and Howard wore their Optimist Shirts. Sue Meylor, our former waitress at Take 2 Restaurant, was a guest this morning. Sue is considering joining our club.

Mystery Greeter: Leon Neuheisel greeted Dave Allen.

Joker Draw: So-n-So's ticket was drawn for the Joker Draw. Cards left: Card drawn: Balance in pot.

Business Meeting:

- Maxine acknowledged Tom & Fern as celebrating their 38th Wedding Anniversary.
- The Club received a Thank You from the Class of 2019 for our support of their Luau Celebration.
- The Old Carniege Library is hosting an open house on Saturday entitled "Past, Present and Future" that will present all the activities available at the library.
- July 23rd is Party in the Park and Maxine will be getting a sign up sheet for volunteers to help.
- Stuff the Bus will be collected on July 31st and August 7th. Fern will put together a list of suggestions that can be purchased to help with this project.
- The Installation Banquet will be held Sunday, September 27th. Details to follow..

Program:

Today's speaker, Brian Stuart was introduced by Kathy Kopp. Brian is Manager at the Shopping News and also President of the Grant County Tourism Council. May was Tourism Month and Brian indicated that the "Tourism" Season is just beginning. Southwest Wisconsin offers many opportunities for fun and adventure for all ages. Brian said Kathy stepped up to volunteer as the tourism center for our area. This was great for our location.

The Grant County Tourism Council is made up of all volunteers. They meet monthly and operate on a very slim budget. They look at various ways to attract visitors to our area. Brian then explained the impact on our economy when we "host" visitors to our area. Moneys are spent on hotels, meals and other attractions which in turn help to provide jobs for local employers. The council employs various ways to assist in attracting visitors to our area. They have "piggy backed" with other communities such as Galena and Dubuque

The Council attended the Grant County Board meeting and presented their position in our area with the hopes that the County Board will include a line item in their budget to help in the financial support of the Tourism Council.

Questions followed with information being provided on other local projects such as the bike trail completion.

Upcoming Speakers:

Next weeks speaker will be Dena Duncan, Executive Director of Three Gaits.

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