

# ROOSTER CALL

## PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Currently Meeting 7:00 AM Fridays at Country Kitchen, Hwy 151, Platteville, WI

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



### 2019 – 2020 Officers and Board of Directors

Dan Engelke, President; Wayne Wodarz, Past President;  
Tom Nall, President Elect; Tim Boldt, Second Vice President;  
Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Becky Schambow, Secretary

#### Board of Directors

Chris Budden, Steve Lane, Tim Murphy, Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel & Linda Thomas

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019

**Attendance:** There were 31 members present including: Joan Bahr; Tim Boldt; Carley Borcharding; Duane Borgen; Chris Budden; Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Dan Engelke; Gary Engelke; Mark Essex; Beth Frieders; Kevin Haertzen; Mike Hahn; Priscilla Hahn; Jordan Holthaus; Bob Hundhausen; David Jones; Maggie Kleisath; Maxine Lane; Doug Martin; Tim Murphy; Fern Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Diane Paynter; Becky Schambow; Greg Sieckman; Mary Sieckman; Linda Thomas; and Tim Wood.

**Guests:** The meeting was called to order by President Dan Engelke, who welcomed our guests including: Brent Bowers, Austin Rist, and April Condor from Badger Camp; Karen Essex; and Beth Kaiser.

**Mystery Greeter:** Beth Frieders was our Mystery Greeter, greeting Greg Sieckman who received a free ticket for the Joker Draw.

**Anniversaries:** President D. Engelke acknowledged upcoming anniversaries: Duane Borgen and wife Amy will celebrate on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and Dave and wife Mary Lou Jones on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Birthdays:** President D. Engelke announced that Howard Crofoot and Kevin Haertzen will both be celebrating birthdays on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and Eileen Engelke's is on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Joker Draw:** Paul Budden's ticket was drawn for a chance to win the Joker Draw, but unfortunately he drew the 8 of Diamonds.

#### **Mail /Thank You Notes /Club Acknowledgements / Special Announcements:**

- **Upcoming Events:** Tim Wood announced that the Platteville Chorale will be singing at the Mining Museum tomorrow (14<sup>th</sup>) at 4:00 p.m., and again on Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>) in Potosi at 5 p.m.
- **Holiday Gift for Wait Staff:** Donations were accepted to be given to Country Kitchen's wait staff on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

- **Sympathy to Alaina Reeves:** A card was circulated and sympathies extended to Alaina Reeves on the passing of her grandfather.
- **Healing Wishes to Steve Lane:** A card was circulated with healing wishes extended to Steve Lane.
- **Thank You from Kaycee Wagner:** President D. Engelke noted receipt of an email was received from Kaycee Wagner thanking us again for the scholarship she received.
- **Santa Calling & City Hall Open House:** Howard Crofoot thanked those who volunteered for Santa calling, noting that at least 80 children were called. He also noted that the first phase of the City Hall remodeling project is done and the Finance Department is hosting an open house in their new department today from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- **Badger Camp Fundraising Event:** Our Club was awarded 9 tickets to attend the Badger Camp's Fund Raising Dinner/Event that will be held Sat., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> in Potosi. Gary Engelke indicated he had some additional tickets available if interested.
- **Linda Foht:** President Engelke noted our long-term Country Kitchen waitress and friend turned in her application for membership to our Club today.

- **INSTALLATION OF MARK ESSEX:**  
At this time, it was President Engelke's pleasure to officially install Mark Essex as our new member. Pictured here is (left to right) President Engelke, Mark, and Becky Schambow (who represented Ron Weier, Mark's sponsor, who couldn't be here today). **Welcome to our Team Mark.**



### **Old Business / Reminders:**

- **Annual Holiday Party – Sunday, January 12, 2020:** A sign-up sheet was circulated for this event that will be held at Pioneer Lanes, starting at 5:00 p.m. on January 12<sup>th</sup>. RSVPs are due by January 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can also contact Linda Thomas at 778-7426 or [lindalouthomas53@gmail.com](mailto:lindalouthomas53@gmail.com) to sign-up.

**New Business:** Nothing applicable at this time.

### **Program:**



Brent Bowers, Executive Director, Austin Rist, Program Director, and April Condor, Barn and Garden Director from Badger Camp were the speakers today. Before they began, Gary Engelke presented them with our Club's donation of \$1500. (Pictured left to right: April Condor, Austin Rist, Brent Bowers, and Gary Engelke as Speaker Coordinator.)

Brent highlighted plans for their "WI Badger Camp Event" (Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>) at Holiday Gardens in Potosi. He noted the Badger Camp program was founded 66 years ago. The event's keynote speaker Jarret Payton, *son of the late NFL Hall of Famer Walter Payton*, is a radio host, philanthropist, motivational speaker and former NFL & CFL running back.

Austin indicated he was originally from New York, has a degree in recreational therapy, and just completed his first year as Program Director for Badger Camp. He talked about their different camping programs such as: field trips for higher functioning campers; their primitive camp program, etc.

April is from Maryland and has been a part of Badger Camp since 2014. She is currently the Barn and Garden Program Director. April is just employed in the summer, but flew in for this week so she could be here for the event. She provided information about their barn program, noting local owners' loan out their animals for the camp for a petting zoo and provision of pet therapy. She also talked about garden programs available.

Other information provided by the speakers included:

- Cost per camper is approximately \$1100/week. Campers who can, pay \$800 of this amount with camperships and funding available for those who can't afford to pay.
- The camp employs 7 full-time staff year round, with approximately 60 to 65 staff members during the summer camping season. These staff members are recruited from universities. They draw employees both from the US and internationally.
- Ages of campers range from 3 to 93 year olds. There are approximately 876 (116 / week) campers attending throughout the summer.
- 99% of the campers come from WI, however, others come from as far away as California.
- The camp offers a travel camp program for campers who are able bodied. Traveling by van, they take six students plus two camp staff on these events to places such as Milwaukee Green Bay, Mall of America, and Apostle Islands to see area highlights. In these programs they stay at Bread and Breakfast venues or KOA camps.
- In an effort to understand campers special needs, etc., the program performs an "Intake" check with the campers care-givers, etc. Background checks are done on employees.

### **Upcoming Speakers:**

- **December 20:** Larry Lloyd - "Failing French and Growing in Grace - 15 years of being American on the French/Swiss border.
- **December 27:** Nick Martinez, Snap Fitness - Physical Fitness, appropriate at any age
- **January 10<sup>th</sup>:** 2020: Bob Hundhausen – How Elections Affect the Market
- **January 17<sup>th</sup>:** Dan Rohrbach – CEO Southwest Health
- **January 24<sup>th</sup>:** Arnie Roper – Launch of Sale of Collection of Baseball/Sports cards as his donation / fundraiser for Platteville Optimist Club.
- **January 31<sup>st</sup>:** Jeffrey Huebschman (*Advisor*); Jack Rasmussen & Nick Nelson (*UWP Students*) – Research project on "Flying Squirrels"

**Highlights of Meeting Recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Optimist Secretary