



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights February 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 March 7, 2024 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN FEBRUARY 2024

BUSINESS MEETING: February 2, 2024

Attendees: There were 20 members present including: Tim Boldt; Carley Borcharding; Charlie Clark; Amy Coffey; Hap Daus; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Kevin Haertzen; Bob Hundhausen; Dianne Jentz; Leon Neuheisel; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Lisa Schmitt; Libby Sides; Ernie Thalmann; and Wayne Wodarz.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:00 a.m. Attendees then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

Guests to Welcome: There were no guests present.

Grant Check Presentation to City of Platteville – 4th of July Fireworks: A check for \$1000 was presented to Wayne Wodarz, representing the July 4th Fireworks Fund Committee. Wayne expressed appreciation noting that it was helpful to have donations received early so they can ensure funding prior to the event.

- **Steve's Pizza Support:** Wayne noted that Steve's Pizza is currently donating 10% of their food sales on Monday nights towards the 4th of July Fireworks fund.
- **Personal Donations:** Personal donations to support the Fire Works are also appreciated.

Special Dates to Remember:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Steve Lane – February 7th
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Jim and Judith Boll – February 2nd
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Steve and Maxine Lane – February 6, 2009;
 - John Zuehlke – February 17, 2020
 - Libby Sides – February 10, 2023
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Month:** Carolyn Sawyer – February 22, 2023

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Mark Essex, greeting Beth Frieders.
- **Breakfast Drawing:** Dianne Jentz and Linda Foht were the two members present, and Ron Weier and Clint Langreck were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in February.
- **Joker Draw:** Linda Foht's ticket was drawn for a chance to win the Joker Fund, but she drew the six of Clubs.

Announcements – Information Shared:

- **Sympathies to Bob Stephens and family:** A card was circulated for signatures expressing sympathy to Bob Stephens and family on the loss of his Bob's brother Morton (*aka Buddy*).
- **Get Well Wish:** A card was circulated expressing get well wishes to Dan Engelke who recently had a hip replacement.
- **Thank You from Grant County Social Services:** Note was circulated expressing appreciation for Club's donation.
- **Heart Awareness Month:** Wayne Wodarz, wearing red, noted it was "Wear Red Day" in honor of Heart Awareness Month. He reported that the Chamber will be sponsoring a "Brunch and Learn" session on February 20th at the United Methodist Church, providing an opportunity to learn about CPR and AED's.
- **Dime-A-Day:** Jerry Schewe reminded members they can still contribute to the OI Foundation's Dime-A-Day campaign and would appreciate receiving them within the next week. Amount is \$36.50, payable to OI Foundation.
- **Fire Department Fund Raising Campaign:** Bob Hundhausen reported he and President Reeves are on the fund raising committee to raise funds for the new fire department. The goal is to raise 1.5 million. If members have questions about the project, please feel free to contact Bob, Alaina, or Paul Budden.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT from Monday, January 29, 2024: President Reeves provided a summary of the Governing Board Meeting held on January 29, 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT: President Reeves provided information on the Treasurer's Report for period ending January 31, 2024 submitted by Duane Borgen which included reports of Internal and Youth Account balances.

- **Grants awarded in January:**
 - Aiming for Acceptance - \$250;
 - Sleep in Heavenly Peace – \$500;
 - Hearing Miles Foundation - \$250;
- **2023 Scholarship Award Paid:** to UW – Platteville for Grace Stombaugh, recipient.
 - The second recipient has not yet responded with required documentation for completion of first semester and registration for second semester, but contacts are being made to recipient.
- **Motion from Board:** President Reeves reported a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for period ending January 31, 2024 has been made by the Board. Seconded by Leon Neuheisel, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance / Administration:**
 - **Fire Works Donation:** D. Borgen reported to Board that the Fire Works check would be presented at this Business Meeting;
 - **PCA Check Photo-Op:** President Reeves reported that a photo-op of our future grant donation was done so PCA could use it in their publications. Actual check will be presented at a later date.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Community Involvement Fair- March 2nd:** The Committee is planning on having a table with information and Club representatives at the Community Involvement Fair to be held March 2nd at the Platteville Public Library from 10:30 to 12:30.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes:** Dupaco has resigned from their FOO membership on January 12, 2024.
 - **Spring Fling NOW Event – April 20th:** Plans continue for this event.
 - Venue has been changed to the lower level of St. Mary's Church.
 - There will be music provided by our Club Member who is also a DJ, Charlie Clark;
 - The meal will be catered by Ma's Bakery.
 - Members are encouraged to be thinking of guests to invite to the event who may be interested in learning more about our Club and becoming future members.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** Nothing to report.
- **Cheese Curd:**
 - **Meeting in March:** Committee will meet towards the end of March to begin planning for this year's cheese curd sales events.

- **Fire Department Request to Sell Curds:** It was reported that the Fire Department invited our Club to sell cheese curds at their building fund raiser this summer. The Committee is not in favor of selling curds at one day events at this time due to overhead costs, issues with possible weather concerns, etc.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Holiday Party – Report of Success:** President Reeves expressed appreciation for those who coordinated the event.
 - The traditional “Shelly Lamp” went to Doreen Hlavaty;
 - Shelly’s sister lamp “Flora” went to Joyce (*and Charlie*) Clark.
 - **Speakers in February:** coordinated by Melissa Palfrey & Carley Borcharding:
 - February 9th – Maria Schmitt (*with mother Lisa*) – Girl Scout working on Gold Awards;
 - February 16th – Doreen Hlavaty – Trip to the Galapagos Islands;
 - February 23rd – Terry Wood and Susie Hanson, Platteville Thrift Shop.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Essay Contest Update:** Amy Coffey reported that the Essay Contest information has been delivered by volunteers to area schools. Follow-up calls will be made to the schools to ensure students are aware that the deadline for submission of their essays is February 9th.
 - **Oratorical Contest Update:** Charlie Clark has reserved the WI Bank & Trust lower level for the Oratorical Contest to be held on March 25. A cover letter was sent to the area schools.
 - **Tri-Star Basketball Contest Update:** Tim Boldt reported that the Contest is scheduled for March 23rd at UW-Platteville. Trophies have been obtained and a sign-up sheet for volunteers will be circulated at upcoming meetings.
 - **Bike Rodeo:** It was noted that Amy Coffey will check with local school system to determine what a good date for the event might be and determine a location that can be used this spring.
 - Sponsorships may elicited to assist with costs.
 - Bike Lights: It was suggested the Club consider finding funding to donate bike lights to youth participating in this event.
 - It was noted that bike helmets are left over from the Noon Optimist Club who facilitated this event in past years. The helmets may be given away at the event if they meet current safety standards.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **President’s Goal Update:** Tabled.
- **Noon Meeting Report:** It was reported that the January 12th meeting was cancelled due to weather.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Main Street Banner Project:** President Reeves reported that the Club has received a request to donate to the Main Street Project planned for banners. Bob Hundhausen noted that the banners will be posted on brackets on the lampposts on Main Street when Christmas decorations aren’t in place. The Board tabled any further discussion at this time as more information is needed.

CONCLUSION:

- **Next Board Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- **Speaker Next Week – February 9th:** Maria Schmitt (*with mother Lisa*) – Girl Scout working on Gold Awards.
- **Noon Informational Meeting - February 9th:** scheduled to be held at A & W.
- **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Doreen Hlavaty, seconded by Amy Coffey, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - February 9, 2024

(There were 21 members present.)

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: President Alaina Reeves opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m. and led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Jerry Schewe, greeting President Reeves.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Tim Boldt – February 12th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Joker Draw:** President Reeve's ticket was drawn, however she ended up with the 3 of Clubs.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Valentines:** Carley Borcharding provided beautiful hand-made valentines. The valentines were unsigned and recipients were encouraged to pass them on to others without signing them to lift people's spirits.
 - **Thank You Notices Received:**
 - Boy Scouts of America for our contribution;
 - Westview First Grade Team and Students: A handmade card containing signatures of first grade staff and students was received and circulated in appreciation of our donation towards the book entitled "Sassy's Vacation" that was provided to the students.
 - **Noon Informational Meeting Today:** President Reeves reminded members that the meeting would be at A & W today.
 - **Update on Essay Contest:** Charlie Clark reported that the deadline for submission of entries for the essay contest was today, but so far none have been received.
 - **Update on Oratorical:** Event is scheduled for Monday, March 25th at WI Bank and Trust. Judges are being recruited. Jerry Schewe added that the Zone oratorical is scheduled for April 3rd and volunteers may be needed to assist with that event.
 - **Spring Fling NOW Event:** Linda Thomas and Charlie Clark reported that Membership and Fellowship Committee continues to plan the event scheduled for April 20th from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at St Mary's Church basement. There will be a meal with lasagna as the main course, and dancing to follow. Members were encouraged to think of people who may be prospective members who the Club could invite to attend.
- **Speaker(s) for Next Week – Feb. 16th:** Maria Schmitt (*with mother Lisa*) – Girl Scout working on Gold Awards. *It was noted that they were supposed to speak today, but due to a death in the family, Doreen Hlavaty graciously agreed to switch her presentation to today.*
- **Today's Speaker:** Doreen Hlavaty – Trip to the Galapagos Islands – recruited by Melissa Palfrey and Carley Borcharding.

Needing no introduction, our member, Carley Borcharding provided information about our member and guest speaker today, Doreen Hlavaty. Doreen was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. Doreen has a BS degree in Elementary and Special Education from Northern Illinois University, and a MS in higher education from Kaplan University. She was a Chicago Police officer for 26 years retiring to Ellenboro, WI in 2013. Doreen has traveled extensively in US and abroad and enjoys taking photos of all the trips.

Doreen began by showing some souvenirs from her recent trip to the Galapagos Islands including a beautiful handmade lap robe featuring animals from that area. She also showed two sweaters she brought back, one of which was made from the fur from a baby alpaca. In addition, she shared some chocolate that she brought back with the members.

Doreen provided a video presentation of pictures she took on her trip, noting various facts about Ecuador, which is named for the equator. Interestingly, she noted that Ecuador is the first country to recognize that nature has constitutional rights to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution.

Mt. Chimborazo, an inactive volcano, is the highest point on earth, noting it is not as tall as Mt. Everest, but due to a bulge in the earth at the equator, it measures tallest from the center of the earth.

The Galapagos has year round pleasant weather and the geographic center of the world can be straddled on a line being in both the Northern and Southern hemisphere. Doreen noted Galapago means “riding saddle” referring to the shape of the tortoise shell.

Doreen noted many facts of interest, but members present were truly amazed with pictures she had taken and presented of the various types of wildlife and scenery she encountered.

CONCLUSION: The meeting concluded at 8:05 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – February 16, 2024
(There were 22 members and 3 guests present.)

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: President Alaina Reeves opened the meeting at 7:04 a.m. and led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

- **Guests Welcomed:** Terry Wood and Susie Hanson (*speakers*) & Celeste Steiner, from the Platteville Thrift Shop.
 - President Reeves noted that they graciously agreed to switch their presentation date with Maria and Lisa Schmitt who will speak next week.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Tim Boldt, greeting Joy Schewe.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Pat Moxness-Weier - Feb. 16th
 - Kathy Kopp – February 19th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Joker Draw:** Tim Boldt’s ticket was drawn, but he ended up with the 4 of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Ken Kamps shared a comic about an Optimist Banquet:** President Reeves circulated a comic sent to members by Ken.
 - **Reminder – our Spring Fling NOW Event is April 20th:** Terri Ellis encouraged members to plan to attend. A sign-up sheet will be sent out for members to submit names and contact information of people they may want to invite who may be interested in becoming members.
 - **Update on Essay Contest:** Tom Nall indicated that thus far he’s only received one entry. He asked for volunteers to assist in judging the entry. Jerry Schewe and Dianne Jentz volunteered.
 - **Oratorical Contest - March 25th:** Charlie Clark indicated he needs one more judge.
 - **Tri-Star Basketball – March 23rd:** A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated as many slots still need to be filled to assist with this event.
 - **Thank you from Platteville Community Arboretum:** Letter was received in appreciation of the Club’s donation.
- **Speaker(s) Next Week – February 23rd:** Maria and Lisa Schmitt will provide presentation on Girl Scouts working on Gold Awards
- **Today’s Speakers – from the Platteville Thrift Shop:** The speakers today were recruited by Melissa Palfrey, and were introduced by Becky Schambow. Becky began by saying she was happy to introduce today’s speakers on Melissa’s behalf, noting that she has served on the Board of the Platteville Thrift Shop for the past two years. On January 1st Becky reported she became the President of the Board, following in Terry Wood’s footsteps.

Before the presentation began, Becky took the opportunity to introduce Celeste Steiner, who was recently offered the position of Director of Operations at the Thrift Shop, and will assume her position on February 26th. She noted that Celeste comes to the Shop with many years of retail and management experience. Having retail and

management experience, and a love of the Thrift Shop where she also volunteers, she is excited to assume her new position at the Shop.

Becky then introduced Terry Wood, who is a current and long-term volunteer at the Platteville Thrift Shop. Terry just finished six years on the Board, two of which as President. Terry also serves on the Board of Family Connections, a family resource center where she is Acting President.

Terry retired in 2015 from the Southwestern School District in Hazel Green, where she taught for 22 years. Terry's hobbies include gardening, denim quilting, volunteering, and spending time with her husband Tim and their four grandchildren.

Becky then provided an introduction of Susie Hanson, who is the Intake and Volunteer Manager at the Shop. Susie is beginning her fourth year at the Thrift Shop, having been previously employed at Wal-Mart for 34 years.

Susie enjoys her horses and two dogs, which she and her husband Dave consider family. She enjoys adult coloring books, suspense movies, and sitting by her fireplace with her dogs.

Terry began the presentation displaying a banner reviewing the history of the Platteville Thrift Shop. In October of 1972, five local women developed plans to open a non-profit 501c3. The official name of the organization was "The Concerned Church Women of Platteville", but known as the Platteville Thrift Shop, which legally became the organization's name in December 2023.

In April of 1973, the shop opened in the basement of the Platteville Municipal Building. It later relocated to Main Street and its first day's total sales were \$38.13. After three more moves the Shop moved to its current location of 50 Lancaster Street in August 2000. The building was then 8,000 square foot and had been the former Jerry's Flowers building. An additional expansion of 2,095 square feet was added in 2017.

Terry provided information on the Shop's Mission, which is "to be the premier retail shop in the Tri-State Area through sharing, charity, and volunteerism". A handout identifying the accomplishments in 2023 included providing a total of \$27,080 in the Shop's Community Outreach. This included: providing free clothing to community members in need; providing unsellable clothing to church missions (*where church members mend, clean and ship*) to missions; and donations of books, shoes, yarn and fabric. Additional Community "budgeted outreach" of \$23,750 included: Holiday Giving; Auction Grants; Donations to Family Advocates and Family Connections; and Platteville High School Scholarship.

Susie Hanson, with a box of items donated to the Shop, talked about the processes of receiving, sorting, testing, pricing, and placing donated items on the sales floor and/or storage of items for future sales or donations to other non-profits and/or missions. Susie showed examples of items that would be put out for sale, and others which would not be because they were in poor condition or even some which were offensive.

In conclusion, Becky noted that the Shop continues to grow and she is proud of the Shop's Mission and the fact they provide a much needed community service, with profits going back to the community and people in need. The Shop's team consists of 13 paid staff members and approximately 40 volunteers. Both Susie and Becky commended the Shop's team and their dedication as well as expressed appreciation for those who support the Mission through their donations.

Becky noted that the Shop is over-crowded and has found it necessary to rent storage units to store off-season items for future sales. The Platteville Thrift Shop Board has set a goal to expand by finding and/or building a larger facility to enable them to increase their sales and services. It was noted that the Shop always is in need of volunteers, so if someone would like to consider volunteering at the Shop, they were encouraged to contact Susie.

CONCLUSION: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - February 23, 2024

(There were 21 members and 1 guest present.)

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: President Alaina Reeves opened the meeting at 7:02 a.m. and led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

- **Guest Welcomed:** Maria Schmitt (*speaker*) with her mother, Lisa Schmitt (*Member & co-speaker*)
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Joy Schewe, greeting Hap Daus.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Beth Frieders – Feb. 26th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Joker Draw:** Our guest, Maria Schmitt's ticket was drawn, however, she cut the 5 of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Invitation to Platteville Regional Chamber's Annual Celebration – March 21st** was received.
 - **Spring Fling NOW Event is April 20th:** Terri Ellis reported on the email that was sent to all members encouraging them to attend the event, and submit names of people Club could invite as guests. Those guests will receive a formal invitation from the Membership Committee. Names should be submitted by March 22nd.
 - **Update on Essay Contest:** Tom Nall reported the judges are reviewing the entry.
 - **Update on Oratorical Contest - March 25th:** Charlie Clark reported that all judges have been recruited. Thus far, only one student has signed up.
 - **Tri-Star Basketball – March 23rd:** It was noted volunteers are still needed to help at contest.
 - **Quote Shared by Howard:** President Reeves passed along the following quote received from Howard Crofoot: *"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."* - Abraham Lincoln
- **Next Week – March 1st:** President Reeves noted that our Business Meeting will be led by Vice President Bob Hundhausen as she will be on vacation.
- **Today's Speakers – Topic – Girl Scouts working on Gold Awards:** Lisa Schmitt (*member*) and her daughter, Maria Schmitt were recruited and introduced by Carley Borchering.

Our Optimist member, Lisa Schmitt was the first presenter. Lisa has lived in Platteville for over 23 years and is active in our community. Her career spans over 35 years in the Architectural and Engineering design industry serving as a Marketing and Business Development Manager. She comes from Virginia, made Platteville her home when she and her husband Bob who is a UW Professor of Engineering, married and started a family. She has two children, Rob and Maria and a dog Bella. For the past 12 years Lisa has led a Girl Scout Troop in the Badgerland Council. At one point, she had close to 30 girls in her troop; there are six still standing. Of those six, three are interested in going for their Gold Award.

Lisa noted that Leaders are Mentors to Girl Scouts in their various stages (*age groups*) and help the Scouts achieve goals along their Scouting journey. She identified various programs wherein the Scouts achieve patches for completion of various programs at different levels. She spoke about the Girl Scouts' Organization and its three top awards that a Girl Scout can achieve including the: Bronze; Silver; and Gold Award. Starting with the Bronze Award, Lisa stated that the Scout attempting to achieve that award has to identify an idea for a project that will help their community. She gave an examples of projects local Scouts have done including: making blankets for patients in a healthcare facility, with leftover blankets going to animal shelters; making "Blessing Bags" for the homeless and Food Pantry; and making a "Little Library". Skipping to the "Gold Award" she reported that it involves committing 80 to 120 hours in their project. The Scout would need to identify and investigate a project that would provide a lasting impact on the environment. They then have to complete an application for the National Level, identifying the tasks, budget to complete their project, and finally they have to complete the project.

Maria Schmitt was the second speaker. Maria is a junior at Platteville High School where she serves on the Student Council and is active in the National Honor Society, softball and various school clubs. She also participates on the Forensics Team and has competed at the State Level for two years. She is a Certified Nursing Assistant and works at Edenbrook caring for residents there.

Maria has been a Girl Scout for over 12 years and has earned her Bronz and Silver awards and now is going for her Gold Award.

Identifying that child safety is a concern with benches at Abing Field in Platteville that are old, weak, and not cemented to the ground, Maria's Gold project is to build four benches to be placed at Abing Field. Two of the benches planned will have backs, and two will be without backs. Benches will be anchored and will cost \$1500 each. Thus far, Maria has raised \$850 towards the project and hopes the money will be raised and benches will be put in this spring or summer. Members who may want to contribute to Maria's project can make their contributions to "Girl Scout Troop 5001".

It was also noted that "Girl Scout Cookie Season" is upon us. Lisa noted that if you want to contribute, but don't want the cookies, you can donate to "cookie share" and the girls will decide who to give cookies to, such as local emergency services, etc.

CONCLUSION: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in MARCH 2024

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- Paul Budden and Jerry Schewe – March 19;
- Linda Thomas and Wayne Wodarz – March 24;
- Eileen McCartney – March 25;
- Bob Hundhausen – March 30.

MARCH – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Diane and Charlie Paynter – March 25.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Tom Jonas (*Charter Member*) – March 1, 1972;
- Duane Borgen – March 1, 1980;
- Phil Swift – March 1, 1981;
- Hap Daus – March 1, 1988;
- Dean Feldman – March 30, 1992;
- Howard Crofoot and George Byykkonen – March 5, 1997;
- William VanDeest – March 21, 2001;
- Doug Martin – March 25, 2005;
- Ron Weier – March 13, 2009;
- Kevin Haertzen – March 4, 2013.

MARCH - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- PBII – Original FOO Membership was from February 2016 – Feb. 2023; Reinstated March 1, 2023.