

ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

MEETING 7:00 A.M. EVERY FRIDAY AT TAKE 2 RESTAURANT

March 20, 2015

Attendance: Twenty-three Optimists were in attendance today, with five (Bob, Hap, Charlie, Gary, and Steve) wearing their Optimist shirts. In addition, Dave & Sarah Allen were guests of John Urness & Charlie Clark. They are considering becoming members.

Mystery Greeter: Fern Nall greeted Gary Munson.

Luck of the Draw: Charlie Clark's ticket was drawn for the Joker Draw. Ron Weier did the honors of shuffling the cards. Charlie cut and drew the Queen of Hearts, giving him \$2.00 for drawing efforts.

Business Meeting:

- ++ Tri-Star Basketball is scheduled for Sunday, March 29th from 11:30-2:00. Please contact Duane Borgen (348-9663; <borgend@platteville.org>) if you can help with the event.
- ++ The next upcoming Social event is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th. It will be at the First English Lutheran Church and include a meal fixed by Gary Engelke. It will be BYO drinks. See the posted flyer for all the details.
- ++ We received a thank you from the HUNCH students for our donation toward their trip in April.
- ++ Gary Munson reported on the Oratorical Contest, stating that there are 6 contestants for this year's contest which will be held on March 24th. Winners compete at the Zone and District levels for a \$2,500 scholarship.

Program:

Our speaker today was Connie Valenza, Superintendent of Platteville Schools. In her presentation Connie explained the extensive school renovations that are proposed for the upcoming school referendum to be voted on this April 7th.

Platteville schools have received important designations, including our Wisconsin State Report Card, which gave Platteville Schools the 27th highest score out of 424 School Districts in the state. The Department of Public Instruction recognized Westview as a School of High Progress in the fall of 2014. Also, State Superintendent of Schools, Tony Evers, recently nominated Platteville Middle School as one of only eight schools in the state for a National Blue Ribbon Award.

On April 7th, the Platteville Community will be asked to approve a \$15 million dollar plan to address our facility needs for the next twenty years. Because it has been planned to coincide with the retirement of debt from a 1996 referendum, the impact to taxpayers will be **zero** increase to the debt service portion of our levy. What this means is that a successful referendum will not increase your property taxes.

Over the last two years, the Platteville School District went through a process of studying our present facilities and determining how well those facilities meet our present and future needs. What emerged out of these sessions was a strategic 20-year facilities “blueprint” for the future that maintains and updates our facilities, addresses the present space deficiencies at the lower grade levels, and can flexibly and financially adjust well to either increases or decreases in student enrollment.

The key projects include:

1. A 2-story addition and large gymnasium addition to Westview to accommodate moving 1st grade from Neal Wilkins and 4th grade from the middle school there.
2. Safe, and secure entrances to each of our buildings.
3. Remodel and update our science lab facilities at Platteville Middle School and Platteville High School.
4. Cost of maintaining those facilities increases as they age.

Over a year ago, we completed an in-depth analysis of each of our existing facilities to include their architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical capabilities.

More information on the referendum can be found on the following website and on Facebook:

<https://sites.google.com/a/platteville.k12.wi.us/platteville-school-district-referendum/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Platteville-School-District-Referendum/1570159313242640>



Connie Valenza spoke of the necessity for facility improvements that can be implemented with the passing of a referendum April 7.

People are encouraged to vote on April 7th, but before then, attend one of the information sessions and ask questions:

March 24th, 6:00 p.m., Neal Wilkins Information/Open House

March 26th, 7:30 a.m., Good Morning Platteville, Take Two Restaurant

March 26th, 7:00 p.m., Platteville High School Information/Open House

March 30th, 6:00 p.m., Westview Information/Open House

March 31st, 6:00 p.m. Platteville Middle School Information/Open House

Upcoming Speakers:

March 27: Barb Daus, on the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin

April 10: Johnny T. O’Shea, Platteville Postmaster, on the US Postal Service on the local and national level.

April 17: Ela Kakde, Exec. Dir., Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation (PAIDC)

April 24: Patti and Terry Cullen, and Meghan Skemp, on local suicide prevention and suicide survivors support.

**Minutes taken and submitted by Fern Nall;
edited and formatted for “Rooster Call” by Charlie Clark.**

