

# ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

MEETING 7:00 A.M.

EVERY FRIDAY AT TAKE 2 RESTAURANT

## SECOND TIME AROUND

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As my year as President of the Platteville Optimist Club comes to an end, I look back and wonder... where did that year go???



I vividly recall my anticipation in the months before my term began and I really thought I must have been crazy to even consider the position. Little did I realize I had 'nothing to fear but fear itself.'

My early uncertainties were soon put to rest when the morning club members showed their overwhelming support. Working with the members of our club has been one of the greatest pleasures I have experienced and will continue going forward. As I step aside and hand the position off to Maxine, I realize that being an Optimist has been good for me. I enjoy each and every member and the good times we have shared. I try to live by our Creed every day and I will continue to be a very active member of our club. I am looking forward to many more meetings and socials. Thank you to everyone who made my year a great year.

A special 'Thank You' to the Board I was able to work with and who supported me over this past year; Charlie Clark, Doug Martin, Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Bob Weier and Ron Weier. Thank you also to Ken Kamps and John Urness for being so thorough and precise in providing updated financial information. 'President' is a position filled by one person; however, it takes a team to make an organization operate successfully.

I extend my personal invitation to everyone to join us on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Benvenuto's for the 2014-2015 Installation Banquet. I hope to see many of you in attendance.

I close with an excerpt from the Optimist Creed. . . .

#### *Promise Yourself*

**"To wear a cheerful countenance at all times  
and give every living creature you meet a smile."**

Eileen Engelke, Optimist Club President

### FACTS FROM OUR PAST



The final in our series, thanks to Ken. In December we learned about the formation of our organization and the names of our predecessors. March we discovered the individuals who have served in the capacity of President and/or Lieutenant Governor. In June, we reviewed the many ways/efforts that were used to raise money. Finally, it is time to hear about all of the many places the Platteville Optimist have held meetings. Some will be very familiar while others a part of history!

Initially meetings were held at the (original) Steve's Pizza Palace (Fourth Street) for coffee and donuts (Steve Blatzas was a charter member). Next stop was UWP Student Center for a short time. From here, we moved to the home of Bertha Johns (two doors east of Hickory Street on Main). For many years Bertha rented rooms to college women and also catered small parties. For our Optimist Meetings, she served breakfast where everything was *HOMEMADE FROM SCRATCH!* From 1971-1972, we found our meetings back at the Student Center, followed by meeting at Dick Brockman's home and also Ken Wells' Restaurant (where today we find Jimmy John's). 1973 found us at the El Cid Supper Club (currently home to Pizza Hut). Meetings were originally held in the bar area until they expanded, dividing the dining area from the bar, and providing us a private dining room. We settled into the Hearthside Hotel from 1974-1977 for meetings (now occupied by the Hearthside Senior Apts.) From January 1977 to October, 1996 our meeting place was the lower level of the Rountree Restaurant (now Las Palmas). November, 1996 we started meeting at Platteville Country Club, moving to the new Student Center in January, 2003 and returned to the Country Club in September, 2003. October, 2003, it was Arcade Bowling Center for meetings, until June, 2006 and yes, we returned to the Country Club. Since September, 2008 we have been meeting at Take Two.

Thank you to our Historian, Ken Kamps, for sharing the history of our Platteville Optimist Club!

## OPTIMISTS

### OUT AND ABOUT

It is a pleasure to recognize two of our fellow Optimist Members who were honored at the Platteville Regional Chamber Party in the Park as 'Volunteers of the Year'.



Fern Nall: Recognized by United Way of Platteville, Inc., Fern is in her first year of her second term on the United Way of Platteville Board of Directors. As Publicity Committee Chairperson, she is responsible for promoting public relations and to advertise and secure publicity for the current fund drive campaign. This includes scheduling radio spots, ad placement in local newspapers, arranging for banners to be displayed and overseeing the design and printing of the brochures. Fern has generously donated hours and hours of her time to get the information needed for brochures, from gathering data, arranging for photos and feature stories as well as making sure brochures are distributed to all area residents and businesses. Congratulations, Fern, for extending your expertise to the United Way of Platteville. It is an honor to have you as a member of our Platteville Optimist Club.

Bob Weier: Recognized by Platteville Optimist Club, Bob has been a member of the Platteville Optimist for 2 years. Bob is in his second year as a member of the Board of Directors. In that short time, Bob has always stepped forward to help with many of our projects. He has been a gracious host for our socials and welcomed us into his home. Outside of Optimist, Bob enjoys keeping busy. He volunteers for Grant County Emergency Management Team and recently was called to duty to assist with the tornado that hit our community on June 16. He actively volunteers with the Free Little Library Project and eagerly offers his help to family and neighbors. Congratulations, Bob for serving our community and sharing your talents. It is an honor to have you as a member of our Platteville Optimist Club.



### OPTIMIST SOCIAL OUTING

On Friday evening, July 18th, a group of about a dozen Optimists and guests - Jerry & Joy Schewe, Ken & Lois Jean Kamps, Steve & Maggie Kleisath w/daughter Becky and (grandchildren!), Tom & Fern Nall, and Charlie Clark — gathered at Benvenuto's Restaurant for refreshing cocktails, a delicious supper, enjoyable conversation, and of course, the Joker Draw. After supper and a two dollar payout to Steve Kleisath for the Joker Draw, most of the dozen headed to the UW-Platteville campus for a performance of "Give My Regards To Broadway," one of the shows that was part of this summer's Heartland Festival. Luckily tickets were purchased ahead of time, because signs on the door saying the performance was sold out greeted us upon arrival at the Performing Arts Center. An enjoyable evening of good food, exceptional entertainment and delightful company.

## MEMO FROM MAX, President Elect

It is my pleasure to accept the responsibility of President of the Platteville Optimist Club. It is with pride I join the list of individuals who have served in this position over the past 46 years and I will do my best to meet the expectations that have been set before me.

To help you know me better! Born in October, 1950, I have lived my entire life in Grant County, the majority in Platteville and a short time in Cuba City. Daughter of George & Theresa Wilson, I have three sisters, Marilyn (Terry) Monahan, Eileen (Gary) Engelke and Pam (Tim) Farnham. My sisters Marilyn and Eileen both live in Platteville and sister Pam lives in Wichita KS, where she moved immediately following her marriage in 1980.

I graduated from Platteville High School in June, 1968 and in September that year started working at First National Bank, which resulted in a 44 year career in the financial industry. My retirement unexpectedly came early with the sale of FNB and the elimination of the position of Marketing Director. Needless to say, FNB was good to me as I was to the organization. I was able to experience multiple positions, worked with many great people and made many, many friends, co-workers and clients, during my tenure. I married Steve Lane in June, 1970 and since then we have parented a Poodle, Pete, two Cockatiels, Lupe & Miss Lilly and we currently have the love of our life, Samantha Grace, our 10 year young Black Pug. Without a doubt, she is the ruler of our household and, I must admit, we have adjusted well.

It did not take long after my early retirement to discover I was not quite ready to stay home. In September, 2013 I joined Warco Tour & Travel, LLC as a Personal Travel Consultant and enjoy working 3 days per week.

Free time I enjoy Nascar, always cheering for none other than #48, Jimmy Johnson, Pioneer Basketball, Badger Football/Basketball, Brewers, Packers and the 2 weeks throughout the year that Steve and I spend in Northern WI fishing.

My circle of friends is small, consisting of my family, my manager, Lori, my Friday morning friends of the Platteville Optimist Club and of course my Facebook friends. My favorite holiday is Christmas (that little girl within just never grew up). In March, 2008, my dad passed away and even though it has been 6 plus years, that little girl that has never grown up still misses and needs her dad.

I am a people person; my family is without a doubt the center of my life. Although I have never had children, I have enjoyed being a surrogate mom to my nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Life is good for Max. I live my life with the belief that...

*Family & Friends Far Exceed Fame & Fortune*

## CHEESE CURD UPDATE

“Thanks” to Bob Weier and Steve Lane for donating numerous hours installing cabinets in the Optimist Trailer, as well as other additions to make the trailer more convenient. Following the Grant County Fair, additional hours



were donated by Bob and Steve to clean both the inside and outside of the trailer. Let's show our appreciation by making an effort to work efficiently while at the same time being more careful when mixing and frying. Thanks Bob & Steve; your efforts do not go unnoticed.

## Livingston Festival

Thank you to Kevin Haerten, Bob Weier, Gary Engelke and Steve & Maxine Lane for working the Livingston Festival on June 21. A beautiful day for our first Cheese Curd event of 2014. The net profit was small, approximately \$300.00; however we received many, many 'thank you's' from people for joining their event and the good will that was demonstrated spoke loudly to those attending. We also made a \$100 donation back to the Livingston-Clifton Fire Department.



## Grant County Fair

Thank you to all of the many members who volunteered their time and talent to help make this yet another successful event. Many, many members worked as many as four shifts, and it goes without saying, your efforts are recognized and greatly appreciated. A special 'Thank You' to our "King Curd", Gary Engelke for coordinating the pickup and delivery of the cheese curd. Nine hundred pounds of curd was ordered/sold at the fair and in closing out the last shift Saturday night, we had sold out. The recent increase in our cheese curd price was accepted without any discontent.

## Potosi Brewfest

The day started with rain, thunder and lightning and we were prepared with 80 pounds of cheese curd. Although we are Optimists, the forecast did 'dampen' our outlook for success. What were we going to do with 80 pounds of curd? We could not have been more wrong. The event was attended by approximately 2000 people, starting at noon and closing at 5:00. Our sales started around 11:30 and to the disappointment of many attendees, we had sold out of curd by 2:30. We took 12 cases of water (16.9 oz bottles), and sold out of water as well by closing time. Thanks to Beth Frieders, Bob Weier, Steve & Maxine Lane and Gary & Eileen Engelke for helping with this event.



It's "all about" what we're "all about"

## PROMISE YOURSELF

To talk health, happiness and prosperity  
to every person you meet.

## OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

### September

01 – Labor Day  
05-06-07 – Dairy Days  
23 – Autumn begins  
28 – Optimist Officer/Board Installation Banquet  
30 – Board Meeting (October)



### October

5 – Jeremy & Hap Daus 'Photos and Forest Fiber'  
Rountree Gallery Reception 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
31 – Halloween (visits from little ghosts & goblins)

### November

02 – Return to Standard Time  
04 – Election Day  
04 – Board Meeting  
11 – Veterans' Day (Take time to 'Thank' a Veteran)  
27 – Thanksgiving Day  
28 – No Friday Morning Meeting



## Welcome Wagon

It is always exciting when we have the opportunity to welcome a new member to our Platteville Optimist Club. It is with pleasure that we welcome Lori Velte as our newest member. Installed as a new member on August 29, 2014, Lori is from Montfort; however, works as the Manager of Warco Tour and Travel, LLC in Platteville. The travel industry is not new to Lori as her career started some 19 years ago. Her expertise includes all phases of travel, from planes, to trains to cruise ships. A single mom, Lori has a 13 year old son, Parker and a little Chihuahua named Chi Chi. Aside from work, Lori enjoys the freedom of riding on the back of a Harley Davidson, cooking and reading. Her primary focus in life is her son, Parker. She enjoys attending his school/sporting events and spending quality time with him as well as her family. Welcome Lori. It is a pleasure to have you join our Platteville Optimist Club.



## HAT'S OFF TO HOWARD

**It's Official!!** Howard Crofoot announced he has officially accepted the nomination for Governor Elect of the SWIS District for the 2014-2015 term. He will serve as SWIS District Governor during the 2015-2016 term. For many years Howard has served as recorder for our Friday morning meetings. With this new position, he is looking for a member to step forward and volunteer to take notes at the Friday morning meetings. Please contact Howard, [crofooth@platteville.org](mailto:crofooth@platteville.org) if you are able to help.



## MONTHLY/WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Many thanks to Steve & Maggie Kleisath, Ron Weier and Doug Martin for serving as speaker coordinators for September, October and November, 2014. If you know of an individual that would be interested in making a presentation to our Friday morning meeting, please contact any of these individuals.

## BEAUTIFUL...OLD BARNs and OLD PEOPLE

A stranger came by the other day with an offer that set me to thinking. He wanted to buy the old barn that sits out by the highway. I told him right off he was crazy. He was a city type, you could tell by his clothes, his car, his hands, and the way he talked. He said he saw that beautiful barn sitting out in the tall grass and wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him he had a funny idea of beauty.



Sure, it was a handsome building in its day. But then there's been a lot of winters pass with snow, ice and howling wind. The summer sun beats down on that old barn till all the paint's gone and the wood has turned silver gray. Now the old building leans a good deal, looking kind of tired. Yet, that fellow called it beautiful. That set me to thinking. I walked out to the field and just stood there, gazing at that old barn.

The stranger said he planned to use the lumber to line the walls of his den in a new country home he's building down the road. He said you couldn't get paint that beautiful. Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

It came to me then. We're a lot like that, you and I. Only it's on the inside that the beauty grows with us. Sure we turn silver gray too and lean a bit more than we did when we were younger and full of sap. But the Good Lord knows what He's doing. As the years pass He's busy using the hard weather of our lives, the dry spells and the stormy seasons to do a job of beautifying our souls that nothing else can produce. And to think how often folks holler because they want life easy!

They took the old barn down today and hauled it away to beautify a rich man's house. I reckon someday you and I will be hauled off to Heaven to take on whatever chores the Good Lord has for us on the Great Sky Ranch. And I suspect we'll be more beautiful then for the seasons we've been through here, and just maybe even add a bit of beauty to our Father's house.

I thank God for my wonderful friends and family who care about me even though I show signs of weathering.

Publisher: Maxine Lane  
Editor: Beth Frieders



## SHARING SPECIAL EVENTS

### Happy Birthday Wishes Go Out To . . .

#### September

04 – Deb McWilliams  
05 – Arnie Roper  
19 – Stacia Stephenson



#### October

02 – Doug Martin  
05 – Maxine Lane  
08 – Steve Kleisath

09 – Terri Ellis  
22 – Diane VanNatta  
28 – Ken Kamps

#### November

17 – Lori Velte  
18 – George Byykkonen  
18 – Mike Olds



### Happy Anniversary Wishes To Member & Spouse. . . .

#### September

04 – Deb McWilliams  
08 – Charlie Clark  
14 – George Byykkonen  
18 – Valerie Martin  
19 – Mike Olds



#### October

26 – Ron Weier

#### November

11 – Doug Martin

### Congratulations go out to . . . .

**Gary & Eileen Engelke** (a/k/a President & First Man) – Welcomed daughter-in-law, Lindsay to the family with the marriage of their son, Ben, on July 19, 2014.

**Ernie & Shirley Thalmann** - Their daughter, Ann Moyer, recently passed her Boards as a Board Certified Pathologist and is currently employed with Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN.

**Hap and Jeremy Daus** will have their work 'Photos and Forest Fiber' on display at the Rountree Gallery from August 27 – October 5. Photos will be by Jeremy and woodworking by Hap. A reception will be on October 5 from 1-3 pm and is open to the public.

**Phil Swift** - We see by the Journal, Phil was one of three who dropped a hole-in-one at the Platteville Golf & Country Club. On June 19, Phil holed out the par 3, 189-yard 12 hole with his 3 wood.

Please send announcements, events, birthday/anniversary dates to Maxine at [msmacy105@yahoo.com](mailto:msmacy105@yahoo.com) for sharing in our newsletter. Your contributions are appreciated.



