

# ROOSTER CALL



## PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

CURRENTLY MEETING 7:00 AM FRIDAYS AT COUNTRY KITCHEN, HWY 151, PLATTEVILLE, WI

**Friday, May 27, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** 26 in attendance (Members) Ron Weier, Ken Kamps, John Urness, Bob Weier, Gary Engelke, Leon Neuheisel, Tom Nall, Ernie Thalmann, Charlie Clark, Hap Daus, Eileen Engelke, and Maggie Kleisath wore optimist attire. Barb Stockhausen introduced her guest Hatheway Brooks who works with her at H & R Block.

**MYSTERY GREETER:** Maggie Kleisath shook the hand of mystery greeter Kevin Haertzen at just the right time, giving him a free Joker Draw ticket. Luck of the Draw: The excitement was obvious as the ticket number belonging to Doug Martin was read. The excitement was higher as he drew the Joker. It was said that "Doug" is back! He won about \$160. (That probably has him breaking even for the year!)

### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

\*\* Birthday wishes were extended to Becky Schambow who had a birthday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

\*\*\*President Weier thanked members for their input on how to support the Library Fund. These ideas will be discussed at the Board Meeting on May 31st.

\*\*Jackson Gromley sent the club a thank you for the scholarship he received. He plans to spend the money on books as he attends UW Madison in the fall.

**PROGRAM:** Fern Nall introduced Hannah Campbell Gustafson, the director of the Family Promise of Grant County since January 4, 2016. Hannah lives in Darlington with her husband who is the pastor at the Lutheran church there. She is a recent graduate of the University of Chicago with dual degrees; a Master of Divinity (MDiv) and a Master of Social Work (MSW).

Hannah reminded us that it is hard to see homelessness in rural areas as people are "couch hopping" between relatives and living in cars. Purpose of Family Promise is to help families in these situations. She informed us that the program was up and running since the end of February, but hasn't had families until the beginning of May. The program is presently serving 3 families composed of 4 adults and 4 children. It can serve up to 14 people. Support for



**Hannah Campbell Gustafson, director of Family Promise of Grant County, received a donation from our club for the program, presented by our president, Ron Weier.**

the families comes from 10 host churches located in Platteville, Cuba City, Lancaster, Montfort, and Fennimore. Each church hosts for a week on a rotating basis. The churches provide a place to sleep as well as supper and breakfast. The volunteers at each church provide the meals and interact with the families. Families arrive daily at the various churches at 5:30 pm and leave about 6:30 am to go to the day center located at St Clemens in Lancaster. The day center provides the families with shower and laundry facilities as well as a mailing address, computer access, and help locating jobs or other needs.

Hannah had a good question and answer session which gave us more information. Family Promise owns a van for transporting the families from location to location and a trailer to transport the family belongs and cots from church to church each week. School age children attend school in their school district with the transportation being the responsibility of the district. All volunteers go through a strict training session to learn about the program and receive sensitivity training.

At the end of her presentation President Ron Weier provided Hannah with a \$500 donation to Family Promise. She was very thankful for our support.

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

