



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights January 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 January 30, 2024 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN JANUARY 2024

BUSINESS MEETING: - JANUARY 5, 2024

Attendance: There were 22 members present including: Carley Borcharding; Charlie Clark; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Kevin Haertzen; Doreen Hlavaty; Bob Hundhausen; Dianne Jentz; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; Ron Weier; and Wayne Wodarz.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:05 a.m.

Guests to Welcome: There were no guests present.

Grant Check Presentation for Sleep in Heavenly Peace: A \$500 check was presented to Leon Neuheisel and Hap Daus, members and representatives of the "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" program. Hap noted that the local organization made/provided 354 beds to children who didn't have beds in 2023.

Special Dates to Remember:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Greg Sieckman – January 5th;
 - Deanna Hinderman – January 7th;
 - Duane Borgen – January 8th;
 - Amy Coffey – January 11th
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Robert Stephens – January 1, 1987;
 - Pat Moxness-Weier – January 6, 2018;
 - Linda Foht – January 1, 2020
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Dupaco – January 12, 2016;
 - Delta 3 – January 27, 2016;
 - Thrivent – January 24, 2019.

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** President Reeves appointed herself as the Mystery Greeter, greeting Hap Daus.
- **Breakfast Drawing:** Ron Weier and Howard Crofoot were the two members present, and Bill VanDeest and Duane Borgen were the two members who weren't present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in January.

- **Joker Draw:** Ron Weier's ticket was drawn, however he drew the four of Diamonds.

Announcements – Information Shared:

- **Holiday Wishes:** A holiday card received from Ken Kamps wishing fellow-members a Happy New Year was circulated.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT: President Reeves provided a summary of the Governing Board Meeting held on January 2, 2024 meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT: President Reeves provided information on the Treasurer's Report for period ending December 31, 2023 submitted by Duane Borgen which included reports of Internal and Youth Account balances.

Grants Requests Paid in December:

- Platteville Chorale (Children's Choir) \$350;
- Platteville Middle School (Homework Club) \$250;
- Building Platteville (School Food Program) \$250;
- Grant County Volunteer Mentors (Big Buddy) \$500;
- WI Badger Camp \$1000.

Motion from Board for Approval: President Reeves noted the Board has made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as printed. Seconded by L. Neuheisel, motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

- **New Year Wishes:** President Reeves wished everyone a "Happy New Year".
- **Honeymoon:** President Reeves noted she would not be present for our meeting on January 26th as she will be on her honeymoon with husband, Jeff McDonald.
- **President's Goal:** As noted at our last Business Meeting, President Reeves has a goal to: determine how we can fine-tune our policies to: determine how to proceed when donation requests pose questions amongst the group; how to keep members informed fairly; how to conduct anonymous polls; and how to maintain consistency in our grant responses. She encouraged members who have suggestions relative to this topic to let her know.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance / Administration:** Nothing to report.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Santa Calling:** It was reported that Optimist volunteers made 17 calls to children. President Reeves reported that it was suggested that next Christmas we have a Santa who speaks Spanish make calls to Spanish speaking children. Bob Hundhausen has volunteered to help with that.
 - **Salvation Army Bell Ringers:** President reported an email was sent from Maxine Lane thanking those who volunteered to be bell ringers. Maxine's email noted the project was successful and she hopes to have Club do this again in 2024.
 - **Building Platteville Event at Katie's Garden:** Carley Borcharding reported to membership that 260 books provided by our Club, were handed out to children on the event nights. Wayne Wodarz added that over 1000 people attended the event's three nights.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes reported:**
 - Mike Olds – paid his dues on final deadline date (12-1-23) so membership remained in force
 - Gene Weber – FOO – OI reinstated as a new member; payment received late so OI had deleted and re-added on 12-6-23
 - Queen B Radio – Deleted by OI on 9-20-23 for non-pay
 - Honkamp & Krueger/Doug Rogers – FOO – OI deleted for non-pay on 10-3-23
 - Heiser Hardware, now named Hermsen's Ace Hardware due to new ownership is a FOO that OI deleted for non-pay on 10-3-23; payment received late so OI added as a new member on 10-10-23;
 - Garvey Service – Deleted on 10-31-23 by OI – non-payment/moved
 - Bel-Aire – FOO – OI deleted for non-pay on 12-5-23
 - **Spring Fling/NOW Event Plan Report:** T. Ellis had reported to the Board that the preliminary plans for the event continue. The event will be held at Lutheran Church of Peace and Ma's Bakery will be catering the meal. Possible dates being considered for the event are April 13th or April 20th. (NOTE: At the time of this publication, the event venue has been changed to St. Mary's Church Lower Level on April 20th)

- **Noon Meeting Attendance Update Report:** Melissa Palfrey had reported to the Board that one event had approximately 8 people present, but recent events have had only 1 or 3 in attendance.
 - **Next Informational Meeting:** Friday, January 12th at A & W.
 - **Next 5th Friday Meeting:** would normally be scheduled for Friday, March 29th at Los Amigos, however it was noted this is Good Friday so this may be changed.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:**
 - **Platteville Community Guide – 2024:** It was reported that the club will again place an ad in this publication at a cost of \$55.
 - **Website:** Melissa Palfrey reported to the Board that Chris Budden continues to post pictures on our website Blog and Melissa works on other postings/updates. B. Schambow extended appreciation to Joy Schewe who has volunteered to take pictures at meetings while Chris is on vacation.
- **Cheese Curd:** No report
- **Fellowship:**
 - **Speakers for January:** Coordinated and reported by Kevin Haertzen
 - January 12 – Dr, Phillip Parker – Dean of Engineering, Math and Science
 - January 19 – Tammy Salmon-Stephens, Director of College of EMS Student Success Programs
 - January 26 – Joe Boremann, Huff Family Innovation Foundation Center – UW Platteville
 - **Fellowship Committee Reviewed:** It was reported that the Fellowship Committee met and reviewed the following:
 - **Speaker Recruiter & Speaker Guidelines** and recommended no changes;
 - **Committee Guidelines** and recommended having Finance notify grant recipients to coordinate check receipt/picture. D. Borgen has volunteered to do this.
 - **Holiday Party Update – Jan. 14th – 5:00 p.m.:** It was reported that over 30 members/guests have signed up for the Holiday Party. The cost is \$20/person and members were reminded not to forget their gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.
- **Youth Activities:** President Reeves reported that Amy Coffey, Youth Committee Chair, is currently overwhelmed with family and job responsibilities. Reeves asked for volunteers to help in the planning/facilitating of the Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, Tri-Star Basketball Contest and the Bike/Pedestrian Safety projects, with the contests being the most time-sensitive. Tom Nall volunteered to take the lead on Essay and Charlie Clark and Howard Crofoot will help with Oratorical Contest. Other volunteers were Doreen Hlavaty, Mark Essex, Dianne Jentz, and Wayne Wodarz. Kevin Haertzen volunteered to serve as a judge. Becky Schambow will contact Tim Boldt to see if he'd be willing to coordinate Tri-Star basketball again this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Scholarship Payments:** Becky Schambow will contact the 2023 recipients to remind them to submit required information so we can make payments to their schools.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Dues Policy Revision – 1-2-24:** President Reeves reported that the Board has made a motion to approve revisions to the “Dues Policy” to reflect OI dues increases that have affected our increases in dues. It was also noted the policy identifies the increase in Lifetime dues membership as agreed upon by our membership. This motion for approval was seconded by Dianne Jentz. Motion carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Menards and Food Pantry Donations:** Doreen Hlavaty shared an idea with those present noting that Menards currently is offering 15% off items customers can fit into a grocery bag. She suggested that people could fill the bag with food items and in turn donate those items to the local Food Pantry.
- **Greetings from Deb and Steve Elvidge:** Becky Schambow reported she recently saw the Elvidges (*past members*) in a local restaurant and they asked her to give their regards to the Optimists.

CONCLUSION:

- **Speaker Next Week – January 12th:** Dr, Phillip Parker – Dean of Engineering, Math and Science
- **Noon Informational Meeting Next Friday – January 12th:** at A & W.

- **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Howard Crofoot, seconded by Ron Weier, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – January 12, 2024 – Cancelled due to weather

WEEKLY MEETING - January 19, 2024

(There were 20 members and 2 guests present.)

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:05 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests to Welcome:** Tammy Samon-Stephens (*speaker*) and her husband Doug Stephens were welcomed as our guests.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Bob Hundhausen was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Hap Daus.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays Last Week:** Alaina Reeves – January 13th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries Last Week:** None
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** None
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** Emmily and Dan Dreesens
- **Joker Draw:** Amy Coffey's ticket was drawn, however she drew the six of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Thank you Notes:** Notes of appreciation were received from WI Badger Camp and the Platteville Holiday Project for the Club's donations.
 - **Essay Contest:** Tom Nall has assembled needed material for the essay contest, however volunteers to coordinate/execute the event were elicited. Amy Coffey, Carley Borcharding, Mark Essex, and Kevin Haerten volunteered to assist.
 - **Oratorical Contests:** Charlie Clark will be coordinator for the contest, but other volunteers will be needed to assist.
 - **Need Volunteer to Coordinate/Plan Tri-Star Basketball:** Dan Engelke volunteered to help coordinate the Tri-Star Basketball event.
 - **Dime-A-Day:** Contributions of \$36.50 can be made out to Optimist OI Foundation and given to Jerry Schewe or the Treasurer
 - **Holiday Party – January 14th:** President Reeves extended appreciation to the Fellowship Committee members for their work on planning and facilitating our Holiday Party held on January 14th. The food was delicious and a fun time was had by all. The "White Elephant Exchange" resulted in the coveted "Shelly Lamp" going to Doreen Hlavaty, and the "Flora Lamp" going to Joyce (*and Charlie*) Clark.
 - **Spring Fling NOW Event:** Terri Ellis reported that the event will be held on April 20th at the Lutheran Church of Peace's Fellowship Hall. (*NOTE: At the time of this publication, the event venue has been changed to St. Mary's Church Lower Level.*)
 - **President Reeve's Absence on January 26th:** President Reeves noted she would not be leading our next meeting as she and her husband, Jeff McDonald, will be on their honeymoon. She thanked Bob Hundhausen, Vice President, for covering for her.
- **Speaker for Next Week – January 26:** Joe Bormann, from UW-Platteville's Huff Family Innovation Center will be our speaker.

- **Today's Speaker:** Tammy Salmon-Stephens, Director of UW-Platteville's College of EMS Student Success Programs was recruited and introduced by Kevin Haerten.

Tammy has worked at UW-Platteville since 1997. A UW-Platteville Alumni, Tammy holds BS and MS degrees in engineering and is actively involved in programs to support women and underrepresented minorities in STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics*) and student success. She is the recipient of several awards related to diversity and inclusion, specifically related to Women in STEM. She focuses her project management and communication skills on programs and events that improve student success in higher education, specifically through coaching, mentoring, teaching, identify discovery and development, diversity, inclusion, and self-care. Most notable is her leadership to increase access for women in STEM careers, improve processes, remove barriers to success, and improve communication processes. She is the co-advisor for the UW-Platteville National Society of Leadership and Success student chapter.

Tammy stated that the reason she does what she does is that STEM and diversity are important to her and she feels by helping diverse students it helps the whole. With a history of being an engineer, she felt avoided and wondered if it was because she was a woman in engineering.

She provided examples of barriers students faced in getting their degrees and how they overcame those barriers leading to their success. She noted it is important to her to provide opportunity to help students and felt that if you have the right support, you can reach your goals.

CONCLUSION: The meeting concluded at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - January 26, 2024

(There were 22 members and 2 guests present.)

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bob Hundhausen at 7:04 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests to Welcome:** Speakers Joe Bormann and Mason Kobliska were welcomed as our guests.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Tom Nall was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Linda Foht.
- **Special Dates this Upcoming Week to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays:**
 - Lisa Kratz – January 27th
 - Charlie Clark – January 28th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:** Penny and Steve Droessler on January 28th.
- **Joker Draw:** Tom Nall's ticket was drawn, however he cut the Jack of Clubs.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
 - **Thank you note received from:** Sleep in Heavenly Peace for Club's donation
 - **Dime-a-Day Reminder:** Still time to contribute \$35.60 to Optimist International Foundation. Donations can be given to Jerry Schewe, Club's Foundation Representative or turn in to Club Treasurer.
 - **Getting to Know our Club's Vice President:** Vice President Hundhausen provided us with a little history of his life and related it to the rainy weather we've been having. He noted he grew up in Seattle, where it rains "all the time". He stated the expression "didn't your mom teach you to come in out of the rain" didn't work in Seattle as they played in the rain all the time. He remembers having a 13" black and white TV until he was 12, when they got their first color TV and it had five channels. TV shows he recalled were "Superman", "Batman" in the 1960's, "Long Ranger", "Twilight Zone", "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea", and his favorite "Star Trek".
- **Next Week – February 2nd – Business Meeting**

- **Today's Speakers:** Speakers Joe Boremann, Director of UW-Platteville's Huff Family Innovation Center and Mason Lobliska, Prototyping Coordinator for WiSys/VentureHome at UW-Platteville were recruited and introduced by Kevin Haerten.

Joe has 18 years of Career Technical Education experience, and he specializes in construction, metalworking, and engineering at the secondary level. Recent roles include managing a Maker Space, educating at-risk students and staff in technology for enhanced learning. Joe's dedication to authentic education is reflected in projects such as a gridless tiny house, and the development of the Multi-disciplinary architecture and engineering curriculum for the APEX program. Joe is in his second year at the Huff Family Innovation Center, supporting the growth of Prototyping Services, Membership Services, training and ensuring a safe and user-friendly space.

Joe noted the Huff Family Innovation Center is open to everyone. There are community memberships available to use the facilities at the Huff Center. Their main focus is students, and his priority is to keep people safe and the space accessible. The Center has a robust safety training program with courses on various pieces of equipment. Beyond training and safety, they support prototyping services. Joe stated that people with ideas reach out to them, asking for help in determining how they can make their projects happen.

In the past year, Joe reported the Center had 70,000 visits. The Center has 20,000 square feet and is so special there are only two other universities in the US with similar services that Joe was aware of.

Mason Kobliska is the Prototyping Coordinator for WiSys/VentureHome and the Huff Family Innovation Center, tasked with developing a more robust and active prototyping service at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville. With prior experience in engineering, manufacturing, and business, Mason worked on a composite fabrication startup called Kratotech. Holding a provisional patent through WiSys for his chopped fiber composite pump, Mason is determined to help others pursue innovative concepts. Now, he assists students, staff, and budding entrepreneurs in bringing their ideas to life using the resources at the Huff Family Innovation Center.

Mason talked about how he works to help those with ideas take the next steps, including prototyping, approaching start-up companies, and facilitating resources available to build the actual product.

CONCLUSION: The meeting concluded at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in FEBRUARY 2024

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- Tim Boldt – February 12th;
- Pat Moxness-Weier – February 16th;
- Kathy Kopp – February 19th;
- Beth Frieders – February 26th.

FEBRUARY – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Jim and Judith Boll – February 2, 1980

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Maxine and Steve Lane – February 6, 2009;
- John Zuehlke - February 17, 2020;
- Libby Sides – February 10, 2023.

FEBRUARY - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS ANNIVERSARIES:

- Caroline Sawyer – February 22, 2023