



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights | January 2022

Vision Statement: "To Impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"

2021-2022 OFFICERS: Howard Crofoot, President; Melissa Palfrey, Vice President; Tom Nall, Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Fern Nall, Secretary

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Jordan Holthaus, Steve Lane, Leon Neuheisel and Alaina Reeves

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS ON January 31st, 2022 Due to COVID-19, the Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom, with our most recent meeting held on January 4th, 2022. The following "Governing Board & Committee Updates" below were reported to the Membership at their Business Meeting on January 7th, 2022.

GOVERNING BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM MEETING January 4, 2022

Treasurer's Report & Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- Treasurer's Report dated 12.31.21 was presented by H. Crofoot. Noted expense of checks purchased by D. Borgen for the Youth Account. Approval of the December Treasurer's report was motioned, seconded, and carried. Membership renewal payments for Friend of Optimist Dues were received from Family Advocates & Bel-Aire.
- Approval of December's Board Meeting Minutes motioned, seconded, and carried.

Finance Committee:

- D. Borgen reminded us that we still need three people to conduct the annual financial review.
- Notes of Appreciation received in December for donations were from Platteville Music Boosters, Boy Scouts of America, Platteville Chorale & Children's Choir, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Youth Committee:

- T. Nall reported the Essay Contest is progressing. According to the middle school teachers, the drafts are being finalized and should be returned to him by January 14th. M. Essex & P. Hahn will judge and W. Wodarz is working to find a third judge.
- Oratorical Contest information was sent out January 3rd to the schools. Information should be returned by the middle of March. D. Elvidge has volunteered to help organize the contest itself.

Community Service Committee:

- H. Crofoot stated that D. Martin has been the chair for a long time. Committee membership needs to be finalized. There are no upcoming events. Reviewed the possible joint service project with the Kiwanis Club. H. Crofoot will reach out again.

Fellowship Committee:

- H. Crofoot thanked those who signed up to be speaker coordinators. Volunteers are still needed for February & September.
- Speakers for January (coordinated by Eileen McCartney & Doreen Hlavaty)
 - January 7th: Business Meeting
 - January 14th: Deb Browning talking about the Commission on Aging
 - January 21st: Alaina Reeves presenting the plans for the Platteville Inclusive Playground
 - January 28th: Doreen Hlavaty presenting on her career with the Chicago Police Department and her thoughts on recent news regarding police use of force and police reform.
- Holiday Party Update: The Club would like to see an activity planned for July like a Christmas in July event. A. Reeves stated they will try to find an outside venue like the Broske center, keeping COVID precautions in mind as they plan.

Membership Committee: Nothing to Report

Publicity/Newsletter/Website Committee: Nothing to Report

Cheese Curd Committee: Nothing to Report

Old Business: Reminder that the SWIS District 2nd Quarter Conference will be at the Country Inn & Suites in DeForest on February 18th-19th.

New Business: M. Lane is working to revive the JOI Club with the help of E. McCartney and B. Brogley. There is a \$60 fee, separate from the membership fees paid by the middle school students. M. Lane wondered if the club would pay the fee to help the process. D. Borgen indicated there is a JOI Hockey Game fund which could be renamed JOI club and the funds would come out of there. Motion made by D. Borgen, seconded by S. Lane to pay the JOI club fees of \$60 as indicated in the discussion. Motion carried and will be taken to the club at the business meeting on January 7 for approval.

Conclusion:

- Next membership meeting is Friday, January 7th at 7:00AM at Country Kitchen – Business Meeting
- Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 1st at 7:00AM via Zoom.
- Adjournment of Board meeting motioned, seconded & carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00AM.

Attachments:

- Today's Agenda
- December Board Meeting Minutes
Financial Documents for 12-31-2021
- 2020-2021 Committee Members.

Board Minutes submitted by Fern Nall, Secretary

January 7, 2022 – BUSINESS MEETING

Attendance: There were 17 members in attendance including: Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Deb Elvidge, Steve Elvidge, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Beth Frieders, Doreen Hlavaty, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Ernie Thalmann, Ron Weier, and Wayne Wodarz.

Introduction:

- Meeting was called to order by H. Crofoot at 7:02AM
- Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance & Optimist Creed
- H. Crofoot kicked off the meeting by challenging members to think of song titles that described the Year of 2021. He provided several examples and the audience enjoyed adding more to the list.

Announcements:

- Jerry Schewe reminder about the Dime A Day Donation to OI beginning on January 7th. OI donates \$1,000 towards programs like Bike Safety and helps keep our dues down. Your checks should be made out to Optimist International.
- Due to current COVID numbers, the Big Buddy program requested their check be sent to them instead of presented.
- SWIS District 2nd Quarter Conference will be at the Country Inn & Suites in DeForest (same place as the 1st Quarter Conference) on February 18th-19th. H. Crofoot will be attending and encouraged other board members to attend on Saturday. Registration will begin soon.
- Thank you notes were received from Platteville Music Boosters, Boy Scouts of America, Platteville Chorale and Children's Choir, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace for the donations they received.
- Special Dates Noted:
 - Birthdays: Greg Sieckman (January 5th), Duane Borgen (January 9th), Alaina Reeves (January 13th)
 - Wedding Anniversaries: *None this week*
 - Membership Anniversaries: Bob Stephens (January 1, 1987), Pat Moxness-Weier (January 6, 2018) and Linda Foht (January 1, 2020)
 - Friend of Optimist Anniversaries Joining this month: Dupaco (January 12, 2016), Delta 3 (January 27, 2016), Thrivent (January 23, 2019) and Rosemeyer Jones Chiropractic (January 27, 2020).

Meeting Activities:

- Mystery Greeter: M. Essex greeted D. Engelke
- Joker Draw (led by Charlie Clark with a slight change as the deck of cards hadn't been replaced from the December meeting): Jerry Schewe drew Ron Weier's ticket. Ron will draw a card from the new deck of cards next week prior to next week's winner. There was a "second" Joker Draw for the chance to win a 20% off Coupon donated by Los Amigos. R. Weier drew B. Schambow's ticket as the lucky winner.
- Free Breakfast Drawing: Present winners were E. Thalmann and D. Hlavaty. Absent winners were A. Polebitski and T. Jonas.

Board of Directors Meeting Report & Comments: H. Crofoot reviewed Board and Committee Updates from the Board's January meeting as noted above. Members discussed items and approved the Board's motions as follows:

- **Treasurer's Report** ending 12.31.21: Motion for Club approval made by C. Clark, seconded by H. Daus. Motion carried.
- **Finance/Administrative:** D. Hlavaty and D. Engelke have offered to help with the annual financial review.
- **Youth Committee:** T. Nall asked that members reach out to him if they'd like to volunteer as judges for the Essay Contest. Tri-Star Basketball event is scheduled for March 26th and planning will proceed according to COVID statistics & restrictions.
- **Fellowship Committee:** H. Crofoot thanked everyone who has volunteered to coordinate a month of speakers and that we still need speakers for February & September. D. Hlavaty stated she has contacted several potential speakers for February. H. Crofoot noted the upcoming speakers in January as noted in the Board report on page 1.
- **Membership Committee:** Committee will meet next month and begin to plan their activities.
- **Publicity / Newsletter & Website:** M. Palfrey reported that she is posting information from our weekly meetings on Facebook and M. Lane is posting positive comments. M. Palfrey plans to call a meeting of the committee soon.
- **Cheese Curd Committee:** A. Reeves reported that she and B. Schambow plan to meet soon and organize things for upcoming season.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: JOI Club Fee: M. Lane is trying to revive the JOI Club. E. McCartney and B. Brogley are trying to help her. There is a \$60 fee paid to OI to fund the club, separate by the membership fees paid by the middle school students. M. Lane wondered if the club would pay the fee to help the process. Motion Carried by the board to pay the fee. Motion by the club to approve made by D. Engelke, second by T. Nall, motion carried.

Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at 7:55AM
Minutes submitted by Fern Nall, Secretary

January 14, 2022: Debra Browning – Platteville's Commission on Aging

Attendance: There were 14 members and 2 guests in attendance including: Tim Boldt, Debra Browning (guest speaker), Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Deb & Steve Elvidge, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Doreen Hlavaty, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Jerry Schewe, Ryan Simmons (guest), Ernie Thalmann, and Wayne Wodarz.

Introduction:

- Meeting called to order by H. Crofoot at 7:03AM
- Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.

Announcements:

- Howard welcomed our two guests today:
 - Debra Browning, guest speaker
 - Ryan Simmons, Chief of Platteville Fire Department, was there to accept our donation to help purchase personal thermal imaging cameras for our fire fighters.
- Special Dates to Remember this week:
 - Member Birthdays: Rod Thomas, January 19th
- Howard shared the results of the online survey on meeting preferences going forward:
 - 18 votes for in-person and 25 votes for moving back to virtual; represented by the 43 out of 82 club members who responded to the email Fern sent out.
 - We will be going virtual for the remainder of January beginning January 21st, 2022. Fern will send an email out to membership to notify all members; this email will include the Zoom link for this Friday's meeting.
- Song Titles included in the survey results (activity for members to name a song that describes the Year of 2021):

"Sitting on the Dock of the Bay" - by Otis Redding	"All by Myself" - by Eric Carmen
"Sounds of Silence" - by Simon & Garfunkel	"From a Distance" - by Bette Midler
"Eyes Without a Face" - by Billy Idol	"Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor
"I'm Still Standing" by Elton John	"On the Road Again" -Willy Nelson
"Only the Strong Survive" – Jerry Butler	

Meeting Activities:

- Mystery Greeter was Leon Neuheisel who greeted Tim Boldt.
- Joker Draw: [Note: the packaging on the new deck of cards said: "May not contain Joker Cards." President Crofoot stated for the purposes of today's draw, an Ace of Spades or Clubs would count as the Joker Card.] Alaina Reeves drew a Jack of Spades for Ron Weier's draw from last week. Hap Daus drew Becky Schambow's ticket. Becky drew an 8 of Clubs.
- Passed around a Get Well Soon card for Diane Paynter (recently had knee surgery) and Eileen McCartney (had foot surgery)

Guest Speaker: Debra Browning, Platteville's Commission on Aging Group (introduced by Doreen Hlavaty)

Deb grew up in Platteville, graduated from PHS and attended UW-Platteville for two years. She finished her degree at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ in 1985, where she then taught American History for 25 years at the Long Branch School District. Deb now owns and operates Deb "Z" Corner in Cuba City and is the bookkeeper and property manager of BFP. Her community involvement includes Member & President of Platteville Commission on Aging; Member of the Faith Based Nurse's Community at Trinity Church; Member of the Platteville Transportation Committee; Member of the Charity Foundation, P.A.S.S.

Debra has been on the Commission of Aging for 3 years now. This is an appointed position with 9 members who meet every third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The goal of this group is to communicate concerns that the senior citizen community has to the town council. Kathy Kopp, a fellow Optimist, is the liaison between the Commission and the Town Council.

Deb's presentation focused mostly on the challenges and goals of the Platteville Commission on Aging and how members of the Optimist Club can support Platteville Senior Citizens. One of the challenges they face is determining where they will relocate to if the location of the future Platteville Fire Department is determined to be the old OE Gray building. A goal that Debera has for the year is to include disabled citizens (regardless of age) in the population they serve. They are currently waiting on approval to be called "The Commission on Aging & Disability." Optimist members can help the Commission on Aging by volunteering for positions, putting together a video presentation, raising funds (brat sales, etc.), and volunteering at BINGO night or donating BINGO prizes. We thoroughly enjoyed Barb's presence and presentation at our meeting today!

Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at 7:54 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alaina Reeves, filling in for Secretary Fern Nall.

JANUARY 21, 2022: Alaina Reeves – Platteville Inclusive Playground

Attendance: There were 24 members: Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Paul Budden, Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Kevin Haertzen, Mike Hahn, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Doug Martin, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas, Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz, Gene Weber, and Jan Weier

Introduction:

- Meeting was called to order by H. Crofoot at 7:00AM
- Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance & Optimist Creed.

Announcements:

- We will be meeting on Zoom from now until February 11th at the earliest.
- No special dates to highlight this week.

New Business:

- Today's presentation will be on the Platteville Inclusive Playground. The Optimist International Foundation has a matching grant program between \$250 and \$1,000 for what they call Childhood Health & Wellness. There are 3 grant cycles, and the first cycle due date is January 28th.
- H. Crofoot stated that he thinks the Club will want to support the playground fundraising project. We have \$1,000 in a Miscellaneous category for one-off requests during the year. He thinks that we could allocate \$250 from the Budget and ask members to donate/fundraise another \$750 to total \$1,000 as the local match for the OI Foundation grant of \$1,000. Club would also approve authorization for H. Crofoot to submit a grant request to OI Foundation.
- H. Crofoot informed the club that there was a special board meeting and the board voted to support the project with the \$250 from the budget and individual contributions for the rest of the \$1,000 matching funds.
- Board gave H. Crofoot and A. Reeves approval to compose and submit the proposal by January 28th.
- Club Approval of supporting the Platteville Inclusive Playground: motion made by the Board, seconded by C. Clark. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker: Alaina Reeves, Platteville Inclusive Playground Project

Alaina is part of the 13 member Platteville Inclusive Playground Committee working to bring an inclusive playground to Platteville. Her presentation included the process and progress of the committee as well as the fundraising efforts to this point. She provided a good explanation of the differences between a regular playground and an inclusive one and how it would serve the community and people of various abilities and ages. The playground will be located at Smith Park because of the proximity to the pool, ballfields, etc. The project will be a three-tier design build including equipment, bathroom upgrades, parking, and lighting.

Committee members are making presentations to groups to help raise funds for the project. They are also applying for grants. Howard Crofoot explained how the city is working to help support the project by applying for a grant to pay for 100% if the project. Donations are being accepted from the community. Gene Weber, mentor for the project, indicated that they have raised \$100,000 in donations at this time. Thanks for the good overview and input from people about their thoughts on the playground.

Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at 7:57 a.m.

Minutes Submitted respectfully by Fern Nall, Secretary

JANUARY 28, 2022: Doreen Hlavaty

Attendance: There were 26 members: Jim Boebel, Tim Boldt, Duane Borgen, Paul Budden, Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Deb Elvidge, Steve Elvidge, Mike Hahn, Priscilla Hahn, Bob Hundhausen, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Fern Nall, Thomas Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Kevin Haertzen, Dan Engelke, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Ernie Thalmann, and Wayne Wodarz.

Introduction:

- Meeting was called to order by H. Crofoot at 7:00 a.m.
- Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance & Optimist Creed.

Announcements:

- Special Dates to Remember this week:
 - Member Birthdays: Charlie Clark (January 28th)
 - Member Wedding Anniversaries: Deb & Steve Elvidge (January 30th)
 - Membership Anniversaries: Joan Bahr (January 28th, 2018)
- Reminder: We will be meeting on Zoom until February 11th at the latest.
- Thursday, February 3rd is Optimist Day as declared by OI. People are encouraged to wear their Optimist gear and show their optimism.
- Upcoming Speakers for the Month of February (coordinated by Eileen McCartney & Doreen Hlavaty)
 - February 4th: Business Meeting via Zoom
 - February 11th: Nicole Baumeister to talk about the programs offered by ADRC.
 - February 18th: Dr. Katie Volz, Math instructor at UW-Platteville, as well as one of the moms to set up the Fennimore NFL Flag Football League in Fall 2019 and has had three successful seasons.
 - February 25th: Mareeta Kolman, Social Worker, Bereavement Coordinator & Volunteer Coordinator for Grant County Hospice Program will discuss hospice and palliative care.

Guest Speaker: Doreen Hlavaty Sharing her Experience on the Chicago Police Department

Doreen Hlavaty is a retired Chicago police officer who lives in Ellenboro with her wife, also a retired Chicago police officer, and their dogs, cats, birds, horses, and donkeys. She was raised in Naperville, Illinois and attended Northern Illinois University where she graduated with a degree in Elementary and Special Education (hearing impaired). She got her Master of Science degree in Higher Education for Kaplan University. She was a teacher and worked in Telecommunications for several years before entering law enforcement at the age of 29.

Doreen gave a powerful presentation including her experiences as she worked herself through her various positions working briefly with The Cook County Sheriff's Dept, then with the Chicago Police Dept. for 26 years. She was a patrol officer for 8 years before being promoted to Sgt., for 11 years before her promotion to Lt. She was a member of the Crisis Intervention Team and taught in the Chicago Police Academy for 18 years as a certified instructor. Her duties included responding to many major incidents and reviewing use of force incidents.

She enjoyed her job as she could be active, help people and be outside. There were 11,000 officers in the department when she started. As in any position, there are people who were racist and had trouble working with women. She talked about the stresses on officers daily as well as the cumulative effect their experiences have on them physically as well as emotionally. Doreen talked about how the officers handle their stress and can be affected by alcoholism and drug abuse. She gave statistics about how many officers are being killed in the line of duty today. It was interesting to see that a lot of them are dying from COVID.

Doreen spoke about some of the recent news involving police use of force and police reform. She used facts and her experience to help us understand the recent incidents as well as touch on racism and some ideas on improving police/community relationships. She described the training they receive and reminded us that they are human, and we all are stressed when making decisions in a tough situation. Her personal experiences she shared with us, which still affect her, opened our eyes to how fast situations can change and escalate. Her talk ended on a positive note that the officers need our support more today than ever. Please acknowledge officers when you see them and thank them for their service. Thank you, Doreen for the presentation and for your service.

Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at 8:05AM
Minutes Submitted respectfully by Fern Nall, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY:

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Steve Lane – February 7
- Tim Boldt – February 12
- Pat Moxness Weier – February 16
- Jim Swigert – February 18
- Kathy Kop – February 19
- Barb Deis – February 22
- Beth Frieders – February 26

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Jim and Judith Boll – February 2

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Steve Lane – February 2, 2009
- Maxine Lane – February 2, 2009
- John Zuehlke – February 17, 2020

FEBRUARY FRIENDS OF OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES:

- Platteville Business Incubator, Inc. – February 23, 2016