

ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

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

Friday, September 18, 2015

Attendance: Fairly large attendance, 28 members, with Brad Brogley (guest of Ron Weier) and past charter member, Lloyd Linden (guest of Ken Kamps) joining us. Steve, Gary, Bob, Hap, Eileen, Maxine, Leon, Ken, Ron, Charlie, Ernie and Tom all wore their Optimist shirt.

Mystery Greeter: Steve Lane greeted Bob Weier for a free chance to win at Joker Draw

Luck of the Draw: Steve Lane drew the 4 of Hearts for the Joker Draw, and guest Lloyd Linden won a consolation prize which was a bottle of catsup.

Business Meeting:

- Thank you notes/cards for our club's financial support were received from Orion Family Services, the Platteville Public Library, Arnie Roper for Ducks Unlimited, and the Platteville summer recreation program.
- Old Business
 - Installation/Awards Banquet at Benevento's on September 27th
 - Still need a second VP before our installation of new officers Sept 27th!!!
- New Business
 - The "Thank You" Pizza Party for those who worked on cheese curd sales this late summer was well attended.
 - Charlie Clark purchased reams of paper and has them available for \$3.00 @.

Program:

Howard Crofoot introduced the speaker this morning, Karen Kurt who is the new Platteville City Manager since July. She said that she was pleased to be with us, but is definitely not a morning person. She served as an assistant city manager in Edina, MN, and Eden Prairie, MN. Karen was born in Dubuque and raised in Marion, Iowa. She found that she wanted to be closer to family and therefore applied for the Platteville position when it opened up. She really likes the location, the university and downtown in addition to being closer to her family.

Karen is pleased with all of the activity in Platteville. Since we are in an area where we have to grow our own jobs rather than attract big companies, she is pleased to see the startup companies get recognition for their work, as did one of those located in the Platteville Incubator that recently received national recognition for its growth. Another good example is a new start up business located in City Hall.

She feels fortunate to work with a good city staff including our own Howard Crowfoot and Duane Borgen. She joked that she hopes to stay here for a while as Duane plans to retire next year and won't be around to fill in if she leaves. She is getting to know the staff and is busy with various projects including the expansion of the industrial park, Library Block Project, and

development of the Pioneer Ford project. Karen stated that she feels the supportive city council is very helpful and wanted to thank the council members in the audience for their service.

During the question and answer period Karen mentioned that she started her career in human resources management. She then moved into local government and she really enjoys the fact that you get to see the results of your work on a daily basis.

When asked about the Library Block Project, Karen said that things are continuing to move forward with the project and the remaining buildings will be demolished when negotiations are finalized on the project.

Karen said that she has become active in the area by being part of the PADIC Board and Southwest Tech Board. She is planning to meet with other city managers from other communities with UW connections in the near future.



Howard Crofoot and Maxine Lane flank today's speaker, Karen Kurt, the new (since July) City Manager for Platteville.

Upcoming Speakers:

- September 25 - Diana Balandier, Museum Director

Minutes taken and submitted by Fern Nall & Eileen Engelke; edited for "Rooster Call" by Charlie Clark.