

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

MEETING 7:00 A.M. EVERY FRIDAY AT TAKE 2 RESTAURANT

April 10, 2015

Attendance: Twenty-three (23) Optimists, with eight (Maxine, Steve, Bob, Ernie, Eileen, Virgil, Hap and Charlie) wearing their Optimist shirts.

Mystery Greeter: Dave Jones greeted John Urness.

Luck of the Draw: Steve Lane's ticket was drawn for the Joker Draw, and he proceeded to cut the King of Spades, for a two dollar winnings.

Business Meeting:

- Maxine indicated to the members present that we are still looking for someone to fill the upcoming Second Vice President position. She has submitted the report noting the upcoming club officers.
- Maxine acknowledged Leon's birthday on April 9th, and Ernie and his wife celebrated their anniversary on April 8th.
- May 1st is the date for the Family Promise Fund Raiser that will be held at First English Lutheran Church. This would be a great cause to support.
- Maxine announced to the club that Gordy Gimski will not be renewing his membership. She will send an acknowledgement to Gordy indicating our receipt of his letter and convey our invitation to renew his membership in the future.
- Charlie presented an opportunity to purchase tickets to the Madison Overture Center productions for the coming season (2015/16). If interested, contact Charlie for further details right away <clarkcf875@icloud.com>, since the order will go in after next weekend.

Program:

Charlie Clark introduced today speaker, Johnny O'Shea, the Platteville Postmaster. John started by letting us know his parents named him Johnny to ensure he was recognized as being of Irish decent. We agreed it was quite obvious. In 1984, John started his career in Park Ridge IL., sorting the mail. Of course, this is all done through automation today. He told us that having learned the manual system of the postal system was very beneficial in grasping the automation as it developed.

Having worked in a larger post office, John soon knew this wasn't where he wanted to



be. Raising two small children, he wanted to relocate from the Chicago area. He enjoyed the smaller operations and was able to get a position in the East Dubuque Post Office. In 2009, that office was combined with Galena. The Platteville position became available and John was hired for the position. Consolidation of many smaller offices has been a struggle as mail is now routed to large facilities for sorting to various routes. Our mail currently goes to Milwaukee before being returned to Platteville for delivery.

In 1776, Benjamin Franklin was part of the beginning of the Postal Service as we know it today. It has advanced considerably since then, up through Pony Express days, to automobiles, automation, and today, with electronic scanners, computers, and the internet. Although mail volume may have decreased with all the electronic communication, the postal service has seen an increase in parcel packages. In December of this year they delivered Amazon shipments on Sunday during the holidays.

John commended the Platteville employees as some of the best he has worked with. They take pride in their work. They definitely do not like making mistakes. Bob Stephens has been with the Post Office for 38 years and John said stability like that is what helps our office run smoothly.

Upcoming Speakers:

April 17: Ela Kakde, Exec. Dir., Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation (PAIDC)

April 24: Lori Bahr, from Mound City Bank, on financial planning for philanthropic donations

NOTE: Patti and Terry Cullen, and Meghan Skemp, presentation on local suicide prevention and suicide survivors' support, originally planned for April 24, has been postponed for sometime in May.

May 1: Club Business Meeting

May 8: Matt Heer, Science teacher at PHS, following up on HUNCH program and students' trip to Texas in March.

May 15: Ed White, on the Platteville Incubator Program for Business. NOTE: This meeting will be held at the Platteville Incubator Building

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

