



Platteville Optimist Club

Monthly Highlights

December 2020

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

2020-2021 Officers and Board of Directors

Officers: Tom Nall, President | Tim Boldt, Vice President | Dan Engelke, Past President | Duane Borgen, Treasurer | Alaina Reeves, Secretary

Board of Directors: Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel, Linda Thomas, Steve Lane, Terri Ellis, Jordan Holthaus

Published for Members December 31, 2020

NOTE: Due to Covid Pandemic and "social distancing" requirements, the Platteville Optimist Board and Members have not been able to meet in person since March 6, 2020. In effort to continue Club business, the Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom's internet application, with our most recent meeting held on December 2, 2020. The following "Governing Board & Committee Updates" highlighted below were reported to the Membership at their Business Meeting on December 4th, 2020.

GOVERNING BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Financial Report dated November 30th, 2020 was submitted by D. Borgen, Treasure, and approved by the board.
- **Notes of Appreciation Received:** Received notes of appreciation from the Iowa County Cancer Coalition and the Platteville Middle School.

YOUTH COMMITTEE: T. Boldt had not heard anything about the Tri-star basketball event – due to COVID-19 restrictions the discussion is still ongoing and no plans have been made. W. Wodarz is still working on coordinating the essay contest with C. Storlie.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE: Katie's Garden Winter Wonderland book giveaway was a success, many children enjoyed receiving our books.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Still in need of speaker coordinators for April-December, 2021. Please contact Linda Thomas for more information. Upcoming speakers:

- **December 11th:** Leon Neuheisel
- **December 18th:** Platteville Schools CRO Officer Josh Stowe
- **December 25th:** No meeting – Christmas day

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Joshua Boots contacted D. Martin for more information on joining the club. Tom will call him to provide further information. Alaina sending letters to members who have not paid their dues yet.

OLD BUSINESS: Proposals for additional income: membership contributions, Cheese curd trailer during Holiday events.

NEW BUSINESS:

- T. Boldt resignation from Board and Vice Presidency; Tim shared his sentiments; discussion of existing board members taking on President Elect position. D. Engelke made a suggestion to send email out to members looking to fill the position.
- Fundraising: Regarding the Drive-Thru meal idea, T. Ellis recommended giving our local businesses an opportunity to serve this event. B. Schambow recommended contacting the vocational school for the meal. L. Thomas suggested that Downtown BBQ could post up at the incubator's kitchen. D. Martin suggested this be a springtime project. L. Neuheisel to ask Hannah (Lutheran Church of Peace) how they coordinated the Country Kitchen fundraiser.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:46 a.m. (motioned by L. Neuheisel, seconded by T. Ellis).

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Scheduled to be held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 at 7:00 a.m.

Board Report Submitted By: Alaina Reeves, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER:

DECEMBER 4TH, 2020 – Virtual "Business Meeting" via Zoom – Hosted by Alaina Reeves

- **Attendees:** There were 27 members and 1 Friend of Optimist who attended and participated including: Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Kevin Haertzek, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine & Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Fern & Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Diane Paynter, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas, Ron Weier, Gene Weber (FOO- Weber Business Consulting) and Wayne Wodarz.
- **Business Meeting highlights:** Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:03 a.m., followed by the pledge of allegiance and optimist creed.
- **Special Dates Noted:** Virgil Pufahl's birthday was on December 1st. Priscilla Hahn's birthday was on December 4th. Eileen McCartney and her husband Terry celebrated a wedding anniversary this week. December membership anniversaries included Kathy Kopp (December 9, 1993) and Tim Boldt (December 19, 2012).
- **Board of Directors Meeting Report:** D. Borgen presented the treasurer report; T. Nall reviewed December board meeting summary (as listed above).
- **Other Business – Items discussed**
 - **Membership** – Joshua Boots indicated he was interested in joining our Club. Maxine discussed the concept of "club within a club" for younger professionals who are unable to meet during our meeting times. They would form their club, schedule their meetings, name their club, but they would all be members of the Platteville Optimist Club. As part of the membership committee, C. Clark volunteered to be involved with this.
 - **Fundraising** discussion continued at the board meeting regarding the Drive-thru fundraiser event. L. Neuheisel and B. Hundhausen volunteered to initiate a committee to put together some ideas for a spring fundraising project.
 - **Holiday Project:** Maxine suggested the publicity committee take a photo of the books handed out at Katie's Garden. L. Neuheisel made motion to use the overflow dollars from the books to put towards the Holiday Project; this did not carry.
- **Upcoming Speakers & Topics:**
 - **December 11th** – Leon Neuheisel & Hap Daus on Sleep in Heavenly Peace
 - **December 18th** – Platteville CRO Josh Stowe
- **Adjournment:** T. Ellis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by C. Clark; meeting adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

DECEMBER 11th, 2020 – Leon Neuheisel & Hap Daus: Sleep in Heavenly Peace Gr. Co.

- **Attendees:** There were 26 members and 2 Friends of Optimists who attended and participated including: Jim Boebel, Tim Boldt, Duane Borgen, Carley Borcharding, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Penny Droessler, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine & Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Leon Neuheisel, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Ernie

Thalmann, Linda Thomas, Gene Weber (FOO- Weber Business Consulting), Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz, and Tim Zauche (FOO-Thrivent Financial).

- **Meeting Highlights:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by D. Engelke (filling in for President T. Nall this week). Pledge of Allegiance was led by C. Borcharding and Optimist Creed was led by M. Lane.
 - **Announcements:** H. Crofoot shared that 54 calls were made during Santa's Calling Event. T. Ellis shared a fun story of a call recipient who, despite letting Terri know about how good she was all year, was asking for toys to tease her cats with.
- **Special Dates Noted:** Birthdays this week included Howard Crofoot (December 16) and Kevin Haertzen (December 16). Duane Borgen and his wife celebrated their wedding anniversary on December 17th. Membership anniversaries included Becky Schambow (December 12, 2014), Beth Frieders (December 13, 2006) and Bob Weier (December 14, 2012). Friend of Optimist Anniversaries this month include Busch Insurance (December 2015).
- **Guest Speaker:** This week's guest speakers were two of our own, Leon Neuheisel & Hap Daus, who shared information and a photo presentation on the evolving Grant County Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.
 - Leon's quest to form a chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace was originally inspired by a story he read in the TH of a gentleman in Manchester, IA who began a chapter. The 503c non-profit organization is a non-religious, non-political affiliated organization with the motto of: "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town." Leon noted that although we have great initiatives like Toys for Tots, Coats for Kids, the Platteville High School Scholarship Fund and many more, our area does not have an organization ensuring kids (ages 3-17) have beds to sleep in. As studies show, a child who has a good night's rest will be more attentive in school and healthier. Although Leon and Hap completed the process of creating a certified chapter called the WI – Grant County Chapter, they would like it to be known that their efforts will not be confined solely to Grant County residents. For example, if someone from Belmont were to contact them with a child in need of a bed, they would help in Lafayette County. Hap shared some photos of one of the Build Days in Portage, pointing out different pieces of the process and explaining how volunteers come together to put the beds together.
 - Leon and Hap also provided information on help and resources needed. Volunteers are needed to build beds on build days and do not need experience. As stated, if you can stand for 3 hours and hold a tool, you'll be helpful. Volunteers will also be needed to deliver and assemble beds. Donations are needed as well to purchase the materials for the beds (monetary, in-kind such as pillows, sheets, quilts, tools, etc.). Anticipated costs of building a bed are \$225 (including mattress, sheets, etc.). D. Martin gave a donation of \$250 for one bed during the presentation.
 - Publicity measures: Word of mouth, Facebook page, print and radio coverage. M. Lane suggested writing an article about this program in the SWIS quarterly newsletter.
 - Contact information:

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
WI-Grant Co Chapter
P.O. Box 607 (Platteville)
- 608-642-0135 (Leon Neuheisel)
- leon.neuheisel@shpbeds.org
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Friday, December 18th at 7:00 a.m. – Platteville CRO Josh Stowe
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

DECEMBER 18TH, 2020

- **Attendees:** There were 30 members and 1 Friend of Optimist who attended and participated including: Jim Boebel, Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Dan Engelke, Beth Frieders, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Eileen McCartney, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Diane Paynter, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas, Ron & Jan Weier, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consulting) and Wayne Wodarz.
- **Meeting Highlights:** Meeting was called to order at 7:05, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
 - **Announcements:**
 - Wayne Wodarz received a letter of information from Christine Storlie on the essay contest. She is extending the deadline to January 19th. Need to be into OI by February 28.
 - Maggie provided reminder of Alone for Christmas. Could use some more pies and cookies.
- **Special Dates Noted:** Birthdays between this week and our next meeting include Eileen Engelke (December 19th), Phil Swift (December 23rd), Ann Klawiter (December 27th), and Greg Sieckman (January 5th). Wedding Anniversaries include David and Doris Jones (December 18th) and Mike and Priscilla Hahn (December 27th). Membership anniversaries include Tom Nall (December 19th, 2000), Bob Stephens (January 1, 1987), Linda Foht (January 1, 2020), Naomi Wells (January 6th, 2018) and Pat Moxness-Weier (January 6th, 2018).
- **Guest Speaker:** Introduced by Howard Crofoot was CRO Office Josh Stowe. Josh is originally from Hartford, WI and graduated from UW-Platteville in 2019. He has been working for Platteville Police Department for 2 years and is also in the Marine Corp reserves. He also currently volunteers for the Cuba City EMS and recently got married in September.
- Josh shared information on his current role as Community Resource Officer at the Platteville Schools. The primary goal of the CRO position is to build positive relationships with school aged children in the community (K-12), including developing a working relationship with the staff. His position has three roles: Law enforcement officer, Mentor, and Informal Counselor. When developing this role, [they] didn't want to have just a SRO (School Resource Officer), because they wanted a figure that was also involved in the community. He pointed out he is not a disciplinarian (does not hand out detentions or suspensions), and he is not a certified counselor (works very closely with the counselor/social worker at the schools). He serves more of a mentorship role where he meets with students for weekly check-ins, or if he has time he joins kids at recess.

- The position started at the beginning of this school year. Since he has been on board, they have remodeled the school's emergency operations handbook (including an emergency reunification plan, a red drawstring bag in each classroom containing a medical kit and emergency plan), and he has built multiple positive relationships with students, staff and parents. He also noted that even when school is not in session (like winter or summer break), he can still meet with students if they are in situations with the law enforcement. Since he already has positive relationships with these students, he will step in.
- Josh is excited about the upcoming new squad car detail that the high school students agreed to help design. Jim Boebel, made a comment at the end of Josh's presentation stating that everything about the CRO position has been positive!
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Our Next meeting will be our January Business meeting on January 8th, 2021 at 7:00 a.m.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:46 a.m.

DECEMBER 25TH, 2020 – Christmas Day; No Meeting

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY:

Please note recognition of membership anniversaries, birthdays, and members' wedding anniversaries that will occur in January.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

- **Joan Bahr** - January 28, 2018
- **Linda Foht** - January 1, 2020
- **Pat Moxness-Weier** - January 6, 2018
- **Bob Stephens** - January 1, 1987
- **Naomi Wells** - January 6, 2018

JANUARY FRIENDS OF OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES

- **Delta 3** - January 2016
- **Dupaco** - January 2016
- **Morrissey Printing** - January 2020
- **Rosemeyer-Jones Chiropractic** - January 2020
- **Thrivent Financial** - January 2019

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- **Penny Droessler & Steve Droessler** - January 28th, 1978

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- **Duane Borgen** - January 8th
- **Charlie Clark** - January 28th
- **Alaina Reeves** - January 13th
- **Greg Sieckman** - January 5th
- **Rod Thomas** - January 19th.

December Highlights Submitted by: Alaina Reeves