



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights | July 2021

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

2020-2021 OFFICERS: Tom Nall, President; Howard Crofoot, Vice President; Dan Engelke; Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; Alaina Reeves, Secretary

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel, Linda Thomas, Steve Lane, Terri Ellis, Jordan Holthaus

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS ON JULY 31ST, 2021 Due to COVID-19, the Platteville Optimist Board and Members have not been able to meet in person since March 6, 2020. To continue Club business, the Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom, with our most recent meeting held on June 29th, 2021. The following "Governing Board & Committee Updates" below were reported to the Membership at their Business Meeting on July 2nd, 2021.

GOVERNING BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- ✓ **Treasurer's Report:** Financial Report dated June 29th was submitted by D. Borgen, Treasurer. H. Crofoot moved to approve the report, seconded by D. Martin. Motion carried. Once returned to Country Kitchen, Howard or Leon will collect money/take attendance until D. Borgen is comfortable returning to CK.
- ✓ **Notes of Appreciation Received:** Family Advocates, Noah Rhoden, Matthew Detrie, Maria Schmitt

YOUTH COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE: Party in the Park. D. Martin emailed G. Engelke who responded stating he bought 300 hot dogs, 300 buns, 300 little cups of ice cream and 300 cartons of milk (200/100 chocolate/white). D. Borgen stated there is a budget of \$150. Sign-up sheet will be developed – need 5 people from 3:00-5:00 for set-up and another 5-6 people to serve from 5:00-7:00. D. Martin suggested getting the trailer there in the morning.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Location of future meetings: we will resume meeting at Country Kitchen on July 9th. All months have speaker coordinators!

- ✓ **July 2nd:** Monthly Business Meeting (Broske Center)
- ✓ **July 9th:** Ryan Simmons, Platteville Fire Chief
- ✓ **July 16th:** Amy Seeboth-Wilson, UW-Platteville
- ✓ **July 23rd:** James Schneider, Grant Co. Community Development Agent
- ✓ **July 30th:** Jessie Lee-Jones, Platteville Public Library Director

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Approval of the following members motioned by D. Martin, seconded by L. Neuheisel: Steve Elvidge, Debra Elvidge, Lisa Schmitt, Doreen Hvlaty, Melissa Palfrey, Debi Sigwarth.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Alaina requested people start sending photos in since we will begin meeting in person again.

CHEESE CURD COMMITTEE:

- ✓ Grant County Fair is August 18th-22nd, need volunteers to sign up.
- ✓ Platteville Dairy Days is September 10th-12th, need volunteers to sign up.
- ✓ Three Sizes Available: Regular, Large, "The Big Cheese" (\$5/\$7/\$9)

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ July 4th Cheese Curd Sales, work on trailer
- ✓ Membership Meeting at the Broske Center, July 2nd at 7:00 a.m.

- ✓ Meeting at Country Kitchen starting July 9th at 7:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Letter from Maxine Lane discussed amongst Board
- ✓ Letter from OI about obtaining six new members at the NOW Luncheon
- ✓ Letter from Platteville Mining Museum requesting donation – Board decided we donate plenty already and to hold off on this request.
- ✓ Sponsoring an Overseas Club (\$225 donation for the first 3 years to support their internal account): D. Martin motioned we do not donate to that this year/keep our support local, seconded by T. Ellis. Motion carried.
- ✓ SWIS District Convention: August 13th-14th in Fort Atkinson
- ✓ Invitation of New Board members to August & September Board Meetings (Alaina to start sending email to M. Palfrey & F. Nall).
- ✓ Tom Nall will be gone August 5th-15th on a trip to Branson, MO. Howard agreed to do the meetings while Tom is gone.

CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Next Meeting is Friday, July 2nd at 7:00 a.m. at the Broske Center – July Business Meeting
- ✓ Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- ✓ Motion to adjourn made by L. Thomas, seconded by L. Neuheisel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 a.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ✓ Review of financials
- ✓ Letter from Maxine & Steve Lane
- ✓ Letter from OI for our NOW Program
- ✓ Letter from Mining & Rollo Jamison Museum
- ✓ Information on our 4th Quarter Convention

BOARD REPORT SUBMITTED BY: ALAINA REEVES, SECRETARY

JULY 2ND, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING

ATTENDEES: There were 30 members who attended and participated including: Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Deb & Steve Elvidge, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Doreen Hlavaty, Bob Hundhausen, Ken Kamps, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Eileen McCartney, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Arnie Roper, Becky Schambow, Joy & Jerry Schewe, Debi Sigwarth, Bob Stephens, Linda Thomas, Ron Weier and Wayne Wodarz.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Happy birthday to Mark Essex today, July 2nd.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT & COMMENTS: T. Nall reviewed the July Board meeting summary (as listed above).

- ✓ Youth Committee Comments: Nothing to report.
- ✓ Community Service Committee: Passing sign-up sheet around for Party in the Park volunteers.
- ✓ Membership Committee: Presentation of New Member Pins to our new members: Steve & Deb Elvidge, Lisa Schmitt, Debi Sigwarth, Melissa Palfrey.
- ✓ Fellowship Committee: Asking everyone to wear nametags for meetings starting July 9th.
 - Presidential Proclamation: Fines for not wearing a name tag shall be \$1.00/person. 2nd through 5th time within 1-yr period shall be \$1.50 each. Starting with the 6th such violation, each attendance without a name tag shall be \$2.00 for each occurrence.
 - Alaina has ordered nametags for our newest members, needs to order one for Arnie Roper, Steve Lane & Arnie Roper.

- ✓ Cheese Curd Committee: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ Spouses serving on the board together: Discussion was had on this matter. B. Schambow stated that there is a reason this was a policy. A. Reeves encouraged members at the meeting to step up for volunteer/leadership positions, so we don't need to do things like this. The official verbiage of this change is: "1-year suspension on by-laws with regards to Spouses serving on the board." K. Kamps motioned to approve Tom acting as ex-officio on the board, seconded by T. Ellis. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Charlie Clark suggested to make the Joker Draw \$5 instead of \$2. No one approved this.
- ✓ Country Kitchen Meetings: prices have stayed the same.
- ✓ Discussion on handshakes – do what you feel comfortable with.
- ✓ Dan or Howard will fill in for Duane until he feels comfortable going to Country Kitchen,

CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Next meeting is July 9th at 7:00 a.m. at Country Kitchen (Ryan Simmons, Platteville Fire Chief will be presenting)
- ✓ Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom
- ✓ Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

July 9th: Ryan Simmons, Platteville Fire Chief

ATTENDEES: There were 30 members, 1 FOO and 1 guest who attended and participated including: Joan Bahr, Jim Boebel, Carley Borchering, Chris & Paul Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Penny Droessler, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Doreen Hlavaty, Ken Kamps, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern & Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Jerry & Joy Schewe, Greg & Mary Sieckman, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Rod Thomas, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consulting), Ron Weier, and Ryan Simmons (guest).

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Happy Birthday to Gary Engelke on July 15th. Happy Wedding Anniversary to Leon Neuheisel & Madge on July 11th. Leon said, "Thanks for the reminder!" There are no Membership or FOO anniversaries this week.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ July 4th Cheese Curds: Started the evening with 125 pounds of curds and sold out by 6:30. The "Big Cheese" was the best seller (105 orders). Someone came from Madison with coolers and ordered four "Big Cheese" orders, stating he will be back for Dairy Days.
- ✓ Party in the Park: Doug needs three coolers for the milk – wants to gather them on July 19th. He passed a sign-up sheet around during today's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Mystery Greeter: Fern Nall greeted Joy Schewe.
- ✓ Joker Draw was led by Charlie Clark.
- ✓ For now, the cost of meals at Country Kitchen will remain the same: \$5 for a small, \$7 for a large.
- ✓ Passing around sign-up sheet for Grant County Fair Cheese Curds

MEETING ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Mystery Greeter: Fern Nall greeted Joy Schewe.
- ✓ Joker Draw (led by Charlie Clark)

GUEST SPEAKER: Ryan Simmons, Platteville Fire Chief

Ryan Simmons joined the Platteville Fire Department in 2001 after participating in Platteville's Citizen Academy program, following the footsteps of his dad and grandpa, who volunteered for the fire departments in Platteville and Belmont, respectively. Ryan became the Assistant Chief of the PFD in 2010, and he was appointed Chief in 2014. Outside of fighting fires, Ryan enjoys spending time outdoors and with friends. Ryan discussed the decline in volunteers over the years, the work he does as the full-time fire chief, and the conversation surrounding the need for a larger facility. Since volunteering has declined, Ryan and the full-time fire inspector handle the little calls during the day to keep the volunteers for when they really need them. A few years ago, they began surveys to anticipate and determine the need of an expansion. Aside from the obvious space improvement, they are looking forward to improved safety, cancer preventative measures (i.e., a diesel exhaust system in the garage which they currently do not have), increase washer/dryer space to wash their gear (only have one currently), and bathing facilities to be able to obey the rule of thumb: "After a fire, change of clothes and shower within an hour." The projected \$13million project has kept them busy writing grants; notably, they received an \$8million grant from Ron Kind, who selected this project to receive federal funding. As far as location is concerned, they've discussed the following: expand the existing, the Armory, or O.E. Gray. The study determined O.E. Gray would be the best location, and the school district sold the property to the City of Platteville for \$1. They are in the process of determining a place for the existing tenants of this building, including considerations of having it be a joint building.

CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Next meeting: Friday, July 16th: Amy Seeboth Wilson, UW-Platteville
- ✓ Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- ✓ Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

JULY 16TH: AMY SEEBOTH WILSON, UW-PLATTEVILLE

ATTENDEES: There were 25 members, 1 Friend of Optimist and 1 Guest who attended and participated including: Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Penny Droessler, Deb & Steve Elvidge, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Doreen Hlavaty, Ken Kamps, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern & Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Arnie Roper, Greg & Mary Sieckman, Linda & Rod Thomas, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consulting), Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz, and Amy Seeboth Wilson (Guest).

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Happy birthday to Matt Tyc on July 17th. Happy Anniversary to Bob Weier & Pat Moxness-Weier on July 20th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Mystery Greeter was Wayne Wodarz who greeted Alaina Reeves.
- ✓ 4th Quarter SWIS District Meeting is on August 13th-14th.
- ✓ Joker Draw led by Charlie Clark.

GUEST SPEAKER: Amy Seeboth-Wilson, UW-Platteville

Amy Seeboth-Wilson earned her Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from UW-Madison and a Bachelor of Art in Anthropology from Lawrence University. Prior to joining Platteville, she was a planning manager for Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, leading a nationally-recognized sustainability initiative, developing bicycle and pedestrian plans, and researching market opportunities for local food production.

Amy spoke about the sustainability efforts at UW-Platteville. She shared that as the current generation values environmentally sustainable causes, the University's sustainability efforts give them a competitive edge over other schools. Some of the environmentally friendly efforts at UW-Platteville include: the largest grid-free solar in US higher education, transformative & hands-on learning about sustainability, a commitment to zero waste by 2035, 300+ acres of nature on campus (including the mound), student-grown foods served in dining halls, and the most rural fixed-route bus service in Wisconsin. Speaking to the 2.4 Megawatt d.c. Solar Array that they are currently working on, this array will offset their electricity by 17%. The array will be the 6th highest producer of Renewable Energy on a higher education campus after Luther College & Morris University. She also touched on other efforts UWP is making including their "Pioneer Restore" waste processing operation, which can be found on uwplatt.edu/department/pioneer-restore. Amy's energy was a great way to start our day!



CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Next meeting: Friday, July 23rd at 7:00 a.m. with James Schneider.
- ✓ Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 a.m.
- ✓ Meeting adjourned at 8:01 a.m.

JULY 23RD: JAMES SCHNEIDER, GRANT CO. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ATTENDEES: There were 32 members, 1 Friend of Optimist and 1 Guest who attended and Participated including: Carley Borcharding, Chris & Paul Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Penny Droessler, Terri Ellis, Deb & Steve Elvidge, Dan Engelke, Eileen & Gary Engelke, Mark Essex, Bob Hundhausen, Ken Kamps, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern & Tom Nall, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Arnie Roper, Becky Schambow, Jerry & Joy Schewe, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consulting), Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz, and James Schneider (Guest).

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: The meeting was called to order by President T. Nall at 7:00 a.m. at which time the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed were recited.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Happy Birthday to Jim Boebel on July 24th. Happy Wedding Anniversary to Arnie & Janet Roper on July 26th and Gary & Eileen Engelke on July 29th. Happy Membership Anniversary to Jim Boebel on July 24th (2019) and Carley Borcharding on July 24th (2017).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ✓ Grand Opening of the Broske Center is on August 6th. Ron Weier volunteered to represent Platteville Optimist Club
- ✓ **Party in the Park Recognition "Volunteer of the Year" went to Steve Lane for his commitment to our club and all he does with the cheese curd sales each year.**
- ✓ Tom Nall thanked Doug Martin and the Party in the Park Crew for all their help on Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Maxine Lane mentioned using guest checks as opposed to the tickets we pass out. Tabled the discussion for next business meeting.
- ✓ Charlie Clark led the Joker Draw.



GUEST SPEAKER: James Schneider, Grant County Community Development Agent

James Schneider is the Grant County Community Development Agent and came to speak to us about Grant County's work force for the future of Grant County. He started by sharing a story about an organization he is apart of called "Warm Showers," where he hosts cross-country bicyclists at his home to shower and sleep as they make their way across the country. He had a couple young individuals staying with him the night prior to our meetin and he was amazed by their go-getter attitude and work ethic. Contrary to the lack of faith that many have of today's workforce, James stated that as far as the future work force goes, we are in good hands. He shared a quote he once heard: "It ain't right, it ain't wrong. It's just different" and encouraged us to try to catch people around us doing things right.

James noted that 60% of those we graduated high school with live 50 miles or more away. Some things to do to keep our area well-populated are: Invite people! Reach out, ask, make people feel welcome here. Moreover, reach out to people that are not like ourselves. What makes the difference is *relationships*. We very much enjoyed having James speak!



CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Next Meeting: Friday, July 30th with Jessie Lee-Jones from Platteville Public Library
- ✓ Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- ✓ Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

JULY 30th: JESSIE LEE-JONES, PLATTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ATTENDEES: There were 25 members and 1 guest who attended and participated including: Carley Borcharding, Charlie Clark, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Steve Elvidge, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Ken Kamps, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Melissa Palfrey, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Joy & Jerry Schewe, Greg & Mary Sieckman, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Ron Weier, Wayne Wodarz, and Jessie Lee-Jones (Guest).

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed. Mystery Greeter was Tom Nall who greeted Ernie Thalmann.

SPECIAL DATES NOTED: Happy birthday to Eileen Nickels on August 3rd and Maggie Kleisath on August 5th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Passed around Dairy Days Sign-up sheet
- ✓ Charlie Clark led the Joker Draw. Winning ticket was Charlie Clark.
- ✓ President Tom Nall will not be at the August 6th Business Meeting; Howard Crofoot will be filling in.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jessie Lee-Jones, Platteville Public Library Director

Jessie has been the Platteville Public Library director for the past 6 years and spoke about the challenges and changes they overcame during the pandemic.

Deemed a non-essential business in the wake of the pandemic, the library was closed to the public from March to June of 2020. The staff, however, still showed up ready to work. They made "Take & Make" kits for patrons to pick up, went behind the scenes and documented lots of SOPs (in case of retirements, etc.), ran lots of reports, and cleaned up their data base. In June 2020, they began curbside pick-up and access to computers. Before letting the public back in, they removed lots of furniture, took out all the little kids' toys, and began wiping books down. She mentioned that in the future they'd like to keep the practice of wiping books down, only offering it as a volunteer opportunity. Currently, their

hours have expanded but are not back fully, which is due to a staff capacity issue that they are working to address. They have the "Book Bike" that they take around town to events like the Farmer's Market, Music in the Park, and outdoor book clubs. As for the future goes, they are hoping to know more by the end of August. The permanent open hours change is inevitable, as it hasn't been sustainable even pre-pandemic (they studied stats on when people were using the library and there are very little people using it at 9:00 a.m. or 7-8:00 p.m.). Jessie Lee-Jones thanked us for all of our support over the years. We very much enjoyed her presence at our meeting!

CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Next Meeting: Friday, August 6th at 7:00 a.m. (August Business Meeting)
- ✓ Next Board meeting on Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 (via Zoom)
- ✓ Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS IN AUGUST:

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- ✓ **Christine Budden** – August 4th, 2017
- ✓ **Paul Budden** – August 30th, 2016
- ✓ **Maggie Kleisath** – August 31st, 2012
- ✓ **Steve Kleisath** – August 31st, 2012
- ✓ **Mike Olds** – August 12th, 1994
- ✓ **Diane Paynter** – August 13th, 2019
- ✓ **Diane VanNatta** – August 20th, 2004

AUGUST FRIENDS OF OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES:

- ✓ **Dairy Queen** – August 2019th

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- ✓ **Brad (& Jessica) Brogley** – August 7th
- ✓ **Mark (& Karen) Essex** – August 9th, 1998
- ✓ **Ken (& Lois Jean) Kamps** – August 23rd, 1958
- ✓ **Anne (& Dick) Klawiter** – August 20th, 1965
- ✓ **Steve & Maggie Kleisath** – August 17th, 1968
- ✓ **Kathy (& Joe) Kopp** – August 19th, 1995
- ✓ **Virgil (& Marcia) Pufahl** – August 22nd, 1964
- ✓ **Jen & Jim Schweigert** – August 26th
- ✓ **Kim (& Cindy) Skemp** – August 30th

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- ✓ **Jim Boll** – August 9th
- ✓ **Dave Jones** – August 26th
- ✓ **Maggie Kleisath** – August 5th
- ✓ **Fern Nall** – August 29th
- ✓ **Eileen Nickels** – August 3rd