

# ROOSTER CALL



## PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Currently Meeting 7:00 AM Fridays at Country Kitchen, Hwy 151, Platteville, WI



***"To Impact the lives of youth  
in a positive and encouraging manner"***

**Platteville Optimist Weekly Bulletin – October 12, 2018**

**Attendance:** 34 Members –Joan Bahr, Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Chris Budden, Paul Budden, Charlie Clark, Peggy Compton, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Beth Frieders, Mark Haas, Kevin Haertzen, Mike Hahn, Priscilla Hahn, Ken Kamps, Maggie Kleisath, Ann Kroncke, Karen Kurt, Maxine Lane, Steve Lane, Pat Moxness, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Becky Schambow, Greg Sieckman, Mary Sieckman, Guy Stead, Linda Thomas, Gene Weber, Bob Weier, Ron Weier, Jeff White, Wayne Wodarz.

**Guests:** It was a pleasure to have Lois Jean Kamps, wife of Ken Kamps, join us this morning.

**Mystery Greeter:** Greg Sieckman was our mystery greeter this morning, with the lucky hand shake belonging to Beth Frieders.

**Joker Draw:** None other than our Madame President, Becky Schambow was holding the lucky ticket and ended up being just one card away from the Joker.

### **Announcements:**

**Mail/Thank You Notes/Club Acknowledgements:** The following thank you notes were received in acknowledgement of donations made:

\*Maggie Kleisath on behalf of Girl Scouts

\*Platteville School District acknowledging several donations to various programs

\*Sign-up sheet was circulated for the upcoming P-Vegas night if anyone was interested per R Weier

\*Sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to sign-up for speaker coordinator in 2019 per P Moxness

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** No birthday celebrations this morning; however, we were able to remind Jeff White, who pleasantly joined us this morning, of his upcoming anniversary on October 15.

**Card for Dan Engelke:** President Schambow circulated a card for Dan who recently underwent knee replacement.

**Awards/Installation Banquet:** Past President, Wayne Wodarz, shared with the membership the award recipients who were recognized at the banquet for the 2017-2018 year. One award remains to be presented, the Chuck Thalmann Award; however others recognized were Ken Kamps, President's Citation, Tim Boldt, Optimist of the Year and Steve Lane, Outstanding Member of the Year. He further mentioned the gift of wind chimes presented to Terri Ellis for her leadership in our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dairy Day Float and to Charlie Clark, his 'monkey jack-in-the-box, for his good sense of humor and help at Friday morning meetings. President Schambow acknowledged W Wodarz for his outstanding work the past year and informed the membership he had been given a portfolio embossed with the Platteville Optimist logo.





**Installation of New Members:** It was another ‘benchmark’ morning, having the opportunity to share the induction of four new members and be present to welcome each. President Schambow performed the ceremony and welcomed the new members. Pictured are:

Mark Haas, sponsored by Charlie Clark  
Karen Kurt, sponsored by Maxine Lane  
Ann Kroncke, sponsored by Peggy Compton  
Priscilla Hahn, sponsored by Mike Hahn

**Editor’s Note:** I want to preface the following summary of our speaker’s presentation with a few of my own personal insights!

- #1 and perhaps the most important!! Unless “**YOU**” have walked in someone’s shoes, **DO NOT JUDGE!**
- #2 you are never too old to learn
- #3 society is cruel...we all need to do our part to bring about change and to accept people for who they are

**Program:** Thank you to Charlie Clark for reaching out to our speaker, Jaime Collins, and arranging for her to speak to our membership on talking Transgender, sharing her story; one of joys, challenges, heartbreaks and triumphs she has experienced on her journey to living authentically.

If you were not in attendance, this presentation was: POWERFUL, ENLIGHTENING, LIFE CHANGING, OPTIMISTIC, TRUTHFUL, HURTFUL, REAL, HEARTFELT, HUMANISTIC, EMOTIONAL, PASSIONATE! These are words I, as the editor, use to describe. Others may have alternate choices. I will state upfront, I cannot possibly tell Jaime’s story as she did, but I have a few excerpts from her presentation to share.

One statement by Jaime that made an impact with me was “If you can be you, why can’t I be me?” I continue to ask myself, “Who am I to tell another person how they have to live their life? After all, it is their life!”

Jaime shared her story from imagining her birth when the doctor announced to her mother “It’s a boy!” She recalled that from an early age, she knew she was different. There were many little indicators; however the trouble was, she had no way to interpret them and no person in who she might confide without being severely judged. She dutifully played her role and remained an awkward child through her teens.

Following graduation from UW-Platteville, Jaime set off for Southeast Asia where she finally got a tiny taste of freedom from the role she was expected to perform. Her authentic self was allowed to surface. Some months later, still in Taipei, she met and married Florence Vincensini, a beautiful young French woman, with whom she is still with today, along with two adult daughters.

Employed with Southwest Health and loving what she does, Jaime knew her next big challenge would be to confide with a friend at work, that person being Tammie Richter. She was expecting negative reactions when disclosing her femaleness; however, she was greeted with acceptance and a warm reassuring hug. Jaime identified this experience as a ‘watershed moment’ in her life, where doors began to open’. Several days later, she was sharing her announcement with her boss, which is always a huge risk for trans people. Once again, she was met with compassion and understanding. She walked out of her boss’s office with dignity intact, feeling supported and valued and knowing she could continue to provide for her family, continue doing the work she had come to love and have the freedom to be her. Time allowed for questions closing with many hugs, handshakes and thank you. Thank You Jaime!



**Weekly Speakers:**

Thank you to Dan Engelke & Tom Nall for coordinating October speakers.

**October 19:** Jean Napp, Astronomical League Master Observer, President of Starsplitters of Wyalusing State Park

**October 26:** Julie Stephenson, Occupational Health and Patient Experience Manager SHC

Minutes taken and drafted by Maxine Lane