



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights December 2022

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

2022-2023 Officers: Melissa Palfrey, President; Alaina Reeves, Vice President; Howard Crofoot, Past President; Duane Borgen, Treasurer; and Becky Schambow, Secretary.

2022-2023 Board of Directors: Terri Ellis; Deb Elvidge; Mark Essex; Doreen Hlavaty; Jordan Holthaus; and Leon Neuheisel.

Published for Members December 23, 2022 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2022

BUSINESS MEETING: DECEMBER 2, 2022

Attendance: There were 28 members and 2 guests present including: Carley Borcherding; Chris and Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Amy Coffey; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Penny Droessler; Terri Ellis; Debra and Steve Elvidge; Dan Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Doreen Hlavaty; Maggie Kleisath; Doug Martin; Leon Neuheisel; Melissa Palfrey; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Mary Ann Shurson; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; Linda Thomas; Ron Weier; and guests Brent Bowers and Marci Russell.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:01 a.m. Members then joined together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

Guests Welcomed: President Palfrey welcomed guests today and presented donation checks to them for the organizations they represented as follows:

- Brent Bowers from Wisconsin Badger Camp was present and received Club's donation check. Brent thanked the Club for its support and noted that the Tub Club Event is being held this evening at the Country Club. Bowers also noted that their 1966 Fundraising Event & dinner is scheduled for December 10th at Potosi. *(Club received 8 tickets to event and these were offered to members wishing to attend.)*
- Marci Russell, Platteville Chorale and Children's Choir was present and received Club's donation check. Marci thanked Club for our support and noted the Children's Choir has 60 singers and our donation helps cover tuition and scholarships for children. In addition, the donation helps to offset costs of the Chorale's spring tour that is planned for this upcoming spring.

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** Deb Elvidge was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Linda Foht.
- **Joker Draw:** President Palfrey's ticket was drawn, however she drew the Queen of Spades.
- **Breakfast Draw Winners:** Chris Budden and Linda Foht were the two members present whose names were drawn, and Bob Weier and Beth Frieders were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in December.

Special Dates Announced by President Palfrey:

- **Birthday this Upcoming Week:** Priscilla Hahn – December 4th
- **Wedding Anniversary this Upcoming Week:** Eileen and Terry McCartney – December 7th
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Kathy Kopp – December 9th, 1993
 - Tom Nail – December 19, 2000
 - Beth Frieders – December 13, 2006
 - Tim Boldt – December 10, 2012;
 - Bob Weier – December 14, 2012
 - Becky Schambow – December 12, 2014
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversary this Month:** Busch Insurance – December 15, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOARD MEETING CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 29, 2022: President Palfrey (and Vice President Alaina Reeves) reviewed the following highlights from the Board meeting held on November 29, 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT for Period Ending November 30, 2022: (submitted by D. Borgen Treasurer)

President Palfrey noted the Internal and Youth Account balances contained in the report, highlighting the Joker Fund balance (included in the Internal Fund). Palfrey noted a motion was made by the Board to accept the report as printed. Dan Engelke seconded this motion, which carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Finance / Administration:**
 - **Review of Accounts – Fiscal Year 2021-2022:** A written report dated Monday, November 28, 2022 was submitted by Jerry Schewe reporting a review of accounts was conducted by Dan Engelke, Charlie Clark and Jerry. Report indicated accounts were in proper order. A motion was made by the Board to accept the report as printed. Paul Budden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
NOTE: At this point in the meeting, President Palfrey had to leave and VP Alaina Reeves took over presiding of meeting.
 - **Suggestion for Club Purchase of Laptop and Software Program:** Schewe's report indicated that it was recommended the Club purchase a laptop/tablet with an accounting software program for treasurer's use. Board consensus was no action needed to be taken at this time.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Community Involvement Fair Update:** Fair will be held on morning of January 28th at the Platteville Public Library. Howard will be recruiting 2-3 volunteers to help set up and man a table we will use to provide brochures and information about our Club.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes Noted:** Those electing not to renew membership included Austin Pulibitski (*regular member*); H & R Block and Family Advocates (*FOOs*)
 - **Membership Fall Survey:** Terri Ellis reported she has received 21 responses to survey, noting most respondents were members who are regular attendees at Friday meetings. Preliminary report:
 - 68.4% responded that they would be interested in having a noon meeting when there is a 5th Friday in the month;
 - 57.1% responded they would be interested in Friday morning meetings being offered via Zoom as well as in-person;
 - Willingness to serve on committees – responses were primarily members who concur they will continue on committees they are already serving on;
 - Getting Club Information – most people responded they get info through attendance at meetings or Monthly Highlights;
 - Supported combination of annual Pizza Party and Installation Banquet (*some noting these give opportunities for spouses to be involved*);
 - Suggestions for other activities included: Bowling Tournament; Youth Pickle Ball Tournament; summer breakfast at Broske Center; outdoor picnic event.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** Speaker Coordinators for 2023 are now documented on the monthly calendars.
- **Cheese Curd:** No report.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Speakers for December – Coordinated by President Palfrey**
 - *December 2nd – Business Meeting*
 - *December 9 – originally to be M. Palfrey – changed to Sue Kies, Retired Teacher & Author & Brooke Brockman, First Grade Teacher*
 - *December 16 – Joel Walczak – Veteran's Fishing Camp*
 - *December 23 – No Meeting*
 - *December 30 – No Meeting*
 - **Holiday Party:** Committee will be meeting to plan for event to be held in early winter.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Tri-Star Basketball:** Deb Elvidge & Tim Boldt have met to begin planning - event to be held at UW-Platteville in April.
 - **Essay Contest and Oratorical Contests:**
 - Deb Elvidge has updated school contact information and has prepared and sent a cover letter to schools.
 - Local Oratorical Contest dates being considered are March 6th or 13th.
 - **Santa Calling:** Calls will be made Dec. 6, 7 and 8th from 6 to 8 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Committee Chair and Member Confirmation:** Committees are in place with exception of Fellowship and Community Service Committees which still needed to be confirmed.
- **Project List for 2023:** President Palfrey provided Club's "Project List for Fiscal Year 2022-2023" needed for OI for insurance purposes to the Board. Vice President Reeves noted the Board approved the list as printed.
- **Funds in CD:** Vice President Reeves noted a motion was made by the Board to invest some of Club's money in CDs as determined by the Finance Committee, with VP Reeves abstaining from the Board's motion. Dan Engelke seconded this motion, which carried unanimously. It is noted that VP Reeves again abstained from this vote.
- **Lifetime Membership Dues:** Vice President Reeves noted that President Palfrey received a letter from a Lifetime Member that indicated that most Lifetime Members did not agree with the decrease in their dues for this fiscal year. No action was taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Meeting December 30:** Vice President Reeves reported the Board elected to cancel our Friday meeting on December 30th due to it being the New Year Holiday weekend.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7:00 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS OR ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- **Alone for Christmas Event:** Maggie Kleisath noted the event is in need of donations and volunteers.
- **Singers at Hometown Events on Friday Night:** Terri Ellis noted they are seeking singers who would like to carol on Main Street one or more Friday nights in December including the 2nd, 9th and 16th.
- **Santa Appearance:** Dan Engelke noted that if someone wanted Santa to appear at a family event, he is willing to help arrange that with Austin and Hannah McCourt.
- **Question Regarding Badger Boys Donation:** Paul Budden questioned why our Club's designated donation to Badger Boys State this year was less than it had been in the past. Vice President Reeves and Budget Committee members explained that the decision was made when weighing the number of youths it benefited (one) verses multiple youths in other donation categories. The applications were also judged on the timeliness and thoroughness in completion of their applications.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – December 9, 2022

There were 22 Members and 2 Guests Present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** Vice President Alaina Reeves opened the meeting at 7:02 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Speakers Sue Leamy-Kies and Brooke Brockman.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Paul Budden was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Linda Thomas.
- **Joker Draw:** Becky Schambow's ticket was drawn and she cut the Joker and won the Joker Draw.
- **Special Dates to Remember:** Mary Ann Shurson's birthday on December 9th.

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- **Santa Calling:** Howard Crofoot thanked those who volunteered to do Santa Calling this week and noted they called thirty-one children.
- **Badger Camp Event:** Vice President Reeves noted that the Badger Camp Event (*fundraiser dinner and auction*) will be held December 10. Club received eight tickets and unclaimed tickets were offered to those present.
- **Optimist Holiday Party:** The party is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Platteville Country Club. A sign-up sheet was circulated and made available on-line.
- **Community Involvement Fair:** Fair to be held January 28, 2023 at the Public Library. Volunteers were recruited to help set-up and man the event.

- **Thank You from Platteville Middle School:** Appreciation was received for Club donation to the Middle School which will go toward the Homework Club and Suicide Prevention presentation through Ben's Hope.
- **Santa's Garden and Caroling – Evening of December 9th:** Terri Ellis solicited volunteers to sing carols at downtown event and Wayne Wodarz noted Santa's Garden event will take place at Katie's Garden.
- **"Sassy's Vacation" book and PCA Calendar:** Bob Hundhausen noted that a calendar and the book written by today's speaker (*Sue Kies*) is available for purchase through PCA program.
- **Upcoming Meeting Speaker:** Dec, 16th will be Joel Walczak from the Veterans' Fishing Camp in Phillips, WI.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS: Sue Leamy-Kies and Brooke Brockman: *Recruited by President Melissa Palfrey*
Topic was Sue Leamy-Kies' Book entitled "**Sassy's Vacation**" and how it supplements **Platteville School System's Curriculum on field trips to PCA trails.**

Gene Weber introduced Sue Leamy-Kies noting she grew up in Platteville. She graduated from UW-Platteville and enjoyed returning to Platteville High School to teach students English for 27 years. Besides her book "Sassy's Vacation," she also wrote the children's book "Saving Sadie" about a bookworm who resides in the new Platteville Public Library. Sue and her husband Dave Kies live in Platteville where they raised their five children.

Sue began her presentation by extending her appreciation to the Club for our donation to the fund that provides her book entitled "Sassy's Vacation" to the Platteville Public School's first graders. She noted her love of nature was inherited from her father and that her childhood was filled with hiking, biking and ice skating. Her love of reading and writing were inherited from her mother. She indicated her book was somewhat true and relevant to the PCA trail where she volunteers every Wednesday. Sue noted that the book was illustrated by Rick Genthe, another Platteville native and she thanked Gene Weber for assisting with promotion of the book.

Gene then introduced Brooke Brockman noting she was born and raised in Platteville and has been employed by the Platteville School District since 1989. She now teaches first grade.

Brooke is one of the PCA's most avid trail users and arranges 1st grade student trail tours in the spring and fall every year. Incorporating the trail tours into curriculum, students learn about how the community worked together to develop the trail and students do scavenger hunts with pictures to find things along the trail. Sometimes students just listen to the water. In the spring, students will get the book "Sassy's Vacation" that coordinates with their lessons on plants and they will get to meet the book's local author, Sue Kies.

Brooke also extended her appreciation to the Club for our donation.

Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING – December 16, 2022

There were 21 Members and 2 Guests Present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** President Melissa Palfrey opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Guest Speaker, Veteran Joel Walczak, and fellow Veteran Ron Jaacks.
- **Gift Presentation to Country Kitchen Wait Staff:** Money collected from members was provided in a card and appreciation was extended for their service throughout the year.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Chris Budden was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Gary Engelke.
- **Joker Draw:** Joy Schewe's ticket was drawn, however she drew the three of Spades.
 - Becky Schambow was presented with a check for her win of the Joker Draw last week.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays between today and January 6th Meeting:**
 - Kevin Haertzen and Howard Crofoot – Dec. 16th
 - Eileen Engelke – Dec. 19th
 - Phil Swift – Dec. 23rd
 - Steve Elvidge and Greg Sieckman – January 5th

- **Member Wedding Anniversaries between today and January 6th Meeting:**
 - Duane and Amy Borgen – Dec. 17th
 - Doreen Hlavaty & Dorothy Price – Dec. 18th
 - Mike and Priscilla Hahn – Dec. 17th

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- **Thank You from WI Badger Camp:** Letter in appreciation of our Club's donation to WI Badger Camp was received.
- **Thank You from Platteville Girl Scouts:** Card in appreciation of our Club's donation to the Scouts was received.
- **Home Alone Project:** Maggie Kleisath noted need of and then received member pledges for donations of pies and salads for the Home Alone dinner to be held on Dec. 25th at the Lutheran Church of Peace.
- **Impact Life Blood Donation Event:** Tim Boldt announced that Pioneer Ford is hosting a blood donation event from 3 to 6:30 p.m. on January 5th.
- **Holiday Party on January 22, 2023:** A signup sheet was circulated and it was noted that members are able to sign up on line. Deadline for signup is January 2nd.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** President Palfrey announced the following:
 - No Friday Meetings on Dec. 23rd and Dec. 30th
 - Next Meeting – Friday, January 6th – Business Meeting

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Joel Walczak from Veterans' Fishing Camp: Coordinated and introduced by President Palfrey at which time she also acknowledged Veteran Ron Jaacks who accompanied Mr. Walczak.

In introducing Joel, President Palfrey noted Joel is the Co-Founder and COO of the Veterans' Fishing Camp. The Camp was founded in 2014 with the sole purpose of giving back, and thanking our WI State Veterans for their service, commitment to our freedom, and sacrifice. The Camp has grown incredibly large over the years. It is a 501 (c) (3) and every cent raised from donations and fundraisers is used directly for the Veterans.

In Joel's presentation he noted that the Camp functions and is successful in a large part because of their volunteer base. There are no salaries. Everyone who is part of the Camp from guides to cooks volunteers their time and efforts for the comfort, fishing success, and enjoyment of every Veteran that comes to the Camp.

Joel explained that Veterans who attend the Camp are able to do so free of charge. He cited that the Veterans have a "camaraderie, a common bond, brotherhood / sisterhood" wherein their camp experience with each other and in nature is healing and therapeutic. Joel noted he sees God every day in his camping experiences with other Veterans.

At the conclusion of Joel's message, Club member and Veteran Paul Budden noted his past experience with attendance at the Camp and commended the program and what it does for Veterans.

Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

SPEAKERS and TOPICS for JANUARY 2023: Recruited by President Palfrey

- January 6th, 2023 - Business Meeting
- January 13th – Representative from Astrea – *New Internet Service*
- January 20th – Leon Neuheisel & Hap Daus – Sleep in Heavenly Peace program
- January 27th – Melissa Palfrey – Walk through Club's New Website

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS COMING UP in JANUARY 2023

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- Steve Elvidge and Greg Sieckman – January 5th
- Duane Borgen – January 8th
- Amy Coffey – January 11th
- Alaina Reeves – January 13th
- Charlie Clark – January 28th

Platteville Optimist Club – Highlights – December 2022

JANUARY – MEMBERS’ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Emmily and Dan Dreessens – January 23rd
- Penny and Steve Droessler – January 28th
- Deb and Steve Elvidge – January 30th

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Robert Stephens – January 1, 1987
- Pat Moxness-Weier – January 6, 2018
- Linda Foht – January 1, 2020

JANUARY - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dupaco – January 12, 2016
- Delta 3 – January 27, 2016
- Thrivent – January 24, 2019
- Rosemeyer-Jones Chiropractic – January 27, 2020