



Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights January 2023

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 February 5, 2023 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN JANUARY 2023

BUSINESS MEETING: JANUARY 6, 2023

Attendance: There were 19 members and no guests present including: Tim Boldt; Amy Coffey; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Terri Ellis; Debra and Steve Elvidge; Dan Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Ernie Thalmann; and Ron Weier.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice President Alaina Reeves at 7:10 a.m. Members then joined together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

- *Noted – meeting started late as there was an issue with the venue's oven.*

Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** Joy Schewe was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Ron Weier.
- **Joker Draw:** Charlie Clark's ticket was drawn, however he cut the seven of Spades.
- **Breakfast Draw Winners:** Tom Nall and Charlie Clark were the two members present whose names were drawn, and Arnie Roper and Jordan Holthaus were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in January.

Special Dates Announced by Vice President Reeves:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
 - Duane Borgen – January 8th;
 - Amy Coffey – January 11th
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Robert Stephens – January 1, 1987;
 - Pat Moxness-Weier – January 6, 2018;
 - Linda Foht – January 1, 2020
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
 - Dupaco Credit Union – January 12, 2016;
 - Delta 3 - January 27, 2016;
 - Thrivent – January 24, 2019;
 - Rosemeyer-Jones Chiropractic – January 27, 2020

Announcements:

- **Holiday Party – January 22:** A sign-up sheet was circulated.
- **Get Well Wishes for Doreen Hlavaty:** A card was circulated for Doreen who was having knee replacement surgery.
- **Christmas Cards Received from:** Ken Kamps & SWIS District Governor, Jo'El Pearlman.
- **Thank You Notes Received:**
 - **Platteville Community Arboretum:** For donation for books for First Graders;

- **Marcus Sponsler:** For sponsoring him at WILS (*WI Leadership Seminar*)
- **Blackhawk Area Council – Boy Scouts of America:** for our Club donation
- **Invitation to Miners Ball on February 4th:** was circulated.
- **Dime-A- Day:** Jerry Schewe encouraged members to donate \$36.50 towards the Optimist International Foundation's Dime-A- Day fund drive. Checks should be made out to OI Foundation and given/mailed to Jerry.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOARD MEETING CONDUCTED ON JANUARY 3, 2023: Vice President Alaina Reeves reviewed the following highlights from the Board meeting held on January 3, 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Borgen submitted the Treasurer's Report for period ending 12-31-2022. A motion was made by the Board to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Beth Frieders, motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance / Administration:**
 - **CD investment Update:** It was noted that D. Borgen researched CD interest rates at local banks and found that Edward Jones offered the most competitive rate. A substantial amount of our Youth account has been invested through Edward Jones. The amount was split between two CD's: one for one year; and one for six months.
 - **Tax Form 990 for 2022:** Jerry Schewe reported that this was filed.
- **Community Service:**
 - **Confirmation of Committee Members:** Continues to be in process.
 - **Community Involvement Fair:** Is scheduled for January 28, 2023: H. Crofoot noted OI's President encourages Optimists to "just invite people to participate in our events and meetings", such as our Oratorical Contest, Tristar Basketball, etc. The Community Involvement Fair is a good way for our Club to let community members know more about our Club. T. Nall and B. Schambow volunteered to help at the Fair.
- **Membership:**
 - **Membership Changes:** No recent changes.
 - **Membership Survey – Final Results:** T. Ellis reported that members were in favor of having a lunch meeting on those months that have a 5th Friday. Meetings would be social in nature & be held at local venues who serve lunch. The first fifth Friday would occur on March 31st. These luncheon meetings would be additional meetings and not take the place of regular breakfast meetings on the same Fridays.
 - **NOW Event:** Committee will soon begin to plan our annual NOW luncheon to be held in the spring.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:** There was nothing to report at this time.
- **Cheese Curd:** There was nothing to report at this time.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
 - **Speakers for January were noted** - Coordinated by President Palfrey
 - January 13th – Representative from Astrea – *New Internet Service*
 - January 20th – Leon Neuheisel & Hap Daus – Sleep in Heavenly Peace program
 - January 27th – President Palfrey – Walk through Club's New Website
 - **Holiday Party Reminder:** Sunday, January 22 at the Platteville Golf & Country Club beginning at 5 p.m.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - **Essay Contest Update:** Packets were sent to the schools on Dec. 5th and essays are due back by February 3rd.
 - **Oratorical Contest Update:** The Incubator has been reserved for this year's contest - scheduled to occur on March 6th with a snow date of March 13th. Deb Elvidge noted she still needed volunteers to fill positions. Jerry Schewe and Tom Nall volunteered, but judges were still needed.
 - **Tri-State Basketball:** Event is scheduled to be held at UW – Platteville on April 15th.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Board Motions – Membership Approval:** It was noted that Board discussed how other Clubs handle motions from the Board. Some clubs' boards make and pass motions that are then reported to the members without member input. Other clubs' boards make / pass motions that are then taken to the members after which a second is asked for from the members who in turn vote and passing of said motions. It was reported that the Board then made a motion "that we continue our practice of having motions come from our Board to members for 2nds and subsequent membership vote". After some discussion, a second was made by Hap Daus, and motion carried with one voting in opposition.
- **Veterans Fishing Camp Spring Family / Youth Program:** It was reported that the Board has made a motion "that we donate \$200 from our Joker Fund towards the spring program that incorporates family and youth in that event". Motion was seconded by Mark Essex, motion carried.
- **Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- **Blood Donation Drive for Impact Life at Pioneer Ford:** Tim Boldt reported that they had a successful drive.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Charlie Clark, seconded by Beth Frieders, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Schambow, Secretary

WEEKLY MEETING - January 13, 2023

There were 21 Members and 4 Guests Present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** President Palfrey welcomed our guests including Libby Sides, Lisa Grainger, and speakers Jessica Kuhn and Randy Grailer.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Dan Engelke was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Alaina Reeves.
- **Joker Draw:** Sultana Amin's ticket was drawn, however she drew the six of Spades.
- **Special Dates to Remember:**
 - **Member Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** Alaina Reeves – January 13th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- **Invitation to Chamber's Annual Celebration – Thursday Feb. 16th** was circulated.
- **Dime A Day – Reminder** – Members were encouraged to contribute to the program. Contributions to be made out to "Optimist International Foundation" in amount of \$36.50 and given or mailed to Jerry Schewe.
- **Holiday Party Reminder – January 22nd:** Those who signed up were advised to watch for an email with "White Elephant Gift Exchange" information.
- **Collection for "Pierce in Darkness"** President Palfrey reported that the Club received an email from Maxine Lane regarding a fundraiser supporting the "Foundation for Optic Nerve Research". This foundation entitled "Pierce the Darkness" was started in memory of Gary and Eileen Engelke's grandson by his family. President Palfrey noted that members wishing to make personal donations can do so at next week's meeting.
- **Grant County "Big Buddy Program" Check Presentation:** Guest, Lisa Sanger was present to accept our Club's donation to the program. Lisa thanked members for the donation and noted that the donation gives "at risk kids" incentives such as going on field trips, etc.
- **Damage to Neal Wilkins School:** President Palfrey suggested Club may want to consider donation to the Platteville School system to assist with water damage resulting from a water main break. PTO will be contacted to see if there is a need, or if insurance has covered the costs.
- **Speaker Coordinator for January – President Palfrey**
 - **Next Week's Speakers:** Leon Neuheisel and Hap Daus – Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program

TODAY'S SPEAKERS: Jessica Kuhn and Randy Grailer from Astrea Internet Service

President Palfrey introduced today's speaker Jessica Kuhn who is the Director of Sales with Astrea. She's been with the company for 13 years and aids in the overall growth and customer satisfaction for Astrea. She then introduced Randy Grailer who is the Sales Manager.

Together Jessica and Randy talked about Astrea which has been in business since 2006 and serves 65 communities throughout WI and the UP. About one year ago Astrea began to put infrastructure throughout Platteville which is the largest project they've done so far. They stated they understand small business and small communities and have a strong sense of customer service. They are developing a work force and are trying to hire service reps that reside in our community. They also are invested in our community and have joined the Chamber and are active in community events. Another generous investment in our community is the fact that they will be providing Family Advocates with free internet service. Their reliable and high speed internet service has a built in redundancy, subsequently they stated that any outage should be resolved in less than one day.

A period of time was allowed for questions and answers.

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

WEEKLY MEETING - January 20, 2023

There were 22 Members and 1 Guest Present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Guest Welcomed:** President Palfrey welcomed Beth Flesch as our guest.
- **Mystery Greeter:** President Palfrey was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Tom Nall.
- **Joker Draw:** Dan Engelke drew Charlie Clark's ticket, however Charlie cut the two of Spades.
- **Special Dates to Remember:** There were no special dates in the upcoming week.

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- **Thank You Notes Received from Jim Boebel on behalf of Platteville School Board for Club's donations toward:**
 - Middle School Homework Club
 - Ben's Hope Presentation at the Middle School.
 - "Sassy's Vacation Books" for first grade students.
- **Holiday Party Reminder:** This Sunday Evening at 5:00 p.m. – Bring "White Elephant Gift"
- **Community Involvement Fair:** Jan. 28th at Library
- **Dime A Day:** Members advised their voluntary contributions in the amount of \$36.50 payable to OI Foundation can be given to Jerry Schewe or Club Treasurer.
- **Collection for "Pierce in Darkness" Foundation:** A bucket was circulated for those members wanting to make personal contributions to this foundation for optic nerve research. This foundation was started by the family of Gary and Eileen Engelke in memory of their grandson.
- **Check Presentations:**
 - **Special Olympics:** Beth Flesch representing Special Olympics accepted our Club donation for the program. Beth noted their highest expense by far has become transportation to tournaments and that our donation will cover the bus ride to their tournament in Stoughton next weekend.
 - **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program:** Hap Daus and Leon Neuheisel accepted our Club donation for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program. As our speakers today, they provided information on this program.
- **Next Week's Speaker:** President Palfrey will present on "Optimism" and will provide a "Walk Through of Club's Website".

TODAY'S SPEAKERS: Leon Neuheisel and Hap Daus – Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program Update

Leon Neuheisel and Hap Daus, Club members and today's speakers needed no introduction. Both are avid wood workers who came together in 2021 to establish the Grant County chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. SHP is an organization with 314 chapters nation-wide that together have delivered 124,000 beds since being

founded in 2012. Since inception of the Grant County Chapter in 2021, 150 beds have been delivered throughout Grant County and they have not found everyone yet! They deliver a complete bed: frame, mattress, bedding, and pillow to 'some of the happiest kids you've ever met'.

Hap and Leon shared some impactful stories about their experiences with delivering beds, a very heartwarming deed. One parent shared that her son slept 10 hours the first night he had his bed. Another parent shared that their daughter, aware that her bed would be delivered that day around 3 p.m., sat, waited and eagerly watched out the window for the delivery since 8:00 that morning.

Most monetary donations received go towards lumber to build the beds, and they have received several hand-made quilts and blankets as well. They tend to have a great turnout for bed build volunteers, but could use more delivery volunteers during the winter months. Although literature is sent out through schools, it's been noted that not all kids or parents can read well enough to fully understand what SHP might do for them – so sharing this great mission verbally is a profound way we can be of service to the organization. Likewise, they are very willing to help chapters get started in the surrounding Lafayette and Iowa counties, so spreading the word to members of other communities could be a helpful way to get those chapters started.

Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 7:54 a.m.

Recorded by: Alaina Reeves, Vice President

WEEKLY MEETING – January 27, 2023

There were 21 Members and No Guests Present

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Palfrey at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Creed:** Members recited the Pledge and the Creed.
- **Mystery Greeter:** Tom Nall was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Dan Engelke.
- **Joker Draw:** Bob Hundhausen's ticket was drawn, however Bob drew the King of Spades.
- **Special Dates to Remember this Upcoming Week:**
 - **Member Birthdays:** Charlie Clark – January 28th
 - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:**
 - Penny and Steve Droessler – January 28th;
 - Deb and Steve Elvidge – January 30th
 - Jim and Judith Boll – February 2nd
- **Next Week's Meeting:** February 3rd will be a Business Meeting.

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- **Thank You to Fellowship Committee** – for great holiday party on Jan. 22nd
- **Thank You Notes for Club Donations Received From:**
 - Grant County Social Services Big Buddy Program;
 - Platteville Special Olympics;
 - Platteville Holiday Project
- **Community Involvement Fair** – at Library tomorrow – from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **SWIS Quarterly Conference in Sun Prairie Feb. 17-18** – Sign up by Feb. 14th
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program:** Leon Neuheisel reported on a child's excitement to receive a bed this week.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: President Palfrey - Optimism and a Walk Through of Club's Website

President Palfrey began her presentation by asking members to identify "why they joined the Platteville Optimist Club"? Several members responded that they were impressed by our Optimist Creed and its meaning. Many answered that they wanted to be part of a group that focused on youth and community programs. For President Palfrey, she stated she was interested in something that supported the community and after attending a Community Involvement Fair, she felt it would be a good fit as her primary job at Family Advocates has shown her that there are many families and youth in need of services.

President Palfrey noted that she feels when our Club is considering requests for donations, she feels we should judge and score them on those with a greater need and those that make sense.

She encouraged everyone to remember why we are Optimists and that we must approach things with optimism, and not with criticism.

For the remainder of her presentation she displayed our Club's revised website and talked about the various changes she has made to the site. By clicking on our logo, it takes you to the home page. Our events and programs are highlighted, as well as our events' calendar. A blog section has been added which will contain various categories within the blog. Committees / members were encouraged to send articles and pictures about our programs and volunteers to President Palfrey to be posted on the blog. She noted that she hopes to put our grant application form on the website.

- President Palfrey noted the Publicity / Website Committee is still in need of someone to volunteer to assist with the website. Tom Nall graciously volunteered.

- **Preview of Video for Community Involvement Fair presented by Tom Nall:** Prior to the meeting ending, Tom Nall displayed a power point video he has put together about our Club and its activities. The video will be displayed at the Community Involvement Fair on January 28th.

Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

SPEAKERS and TOPICS for FEBRUARY 2023: Recruited by Becky Schambow

- February 3rd – Business Meeting
- February 10th – Dan Rohrbach, CEO – Southwest Health – What's New at Southwest Health
- February 17th - Ann Bonner, Supervisor of Cardiopulmonary & Sleep Lab Services at Southwest Health – Experience with Hurricanes while living in Florida.
- February 24th – Brian Lenzmeier, CRNA, ARNP, APNP – *from Southwest Health*) Interventional Pain Management

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS COMING UP in FEBRUARY 2023

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- Steve Lane – February 7th;
- Tim Boldt – February 12th;
- Pat Moxness-Weier – February 16th;
- Kathy Kopp – February 19th;
- Barb Deis – February 22nd;
- Todd Timmerman and Beth Frieders – February 26th

FEBRUARY – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- Jim and Judith Boll – February 2nd, 1980

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

- Maxine and Steve Lane – February 6th, 2009
- John Zuehlke – February 17, 2020

FEBRUARY - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS:

- PBII – February 23, 2016