



ROOSTER CALL

'Second Time Around'

Platteville Optimist Club

Established 1968

Vision Statement

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



VOLUME 20

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PAGE 1

WAYNE'S WORLD



Celebrate Your Optimism!

Greetings Everyone!

We are now over half way through our Optimist year and we have worked very hard to accomplish many things we can all be proud of. Whether you served on a committee, volunteered at an event, donated money, or just encouraged your fellow members, you have made our year an extraordinary one!

Since the last newsletter, we have completed our Essay and Oratorical Contests, held our Tri-Star Basketball Competition and gathered up a nice sum of money to present the Tot Slide as our 50th Anniversary Legacy Gift to the Platteville Family Aquatic Center. We are working with the Park Rec Department to plan a dedication event sometime in June and if you drive by the pool you can take a glimpse of the colorful fish slide.

Well done! I am so pleased and proud to be working with such a wonderful group. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to share in our celebration event. We should have a nice representation of membership from years past and present. Whether you are a long time member or a new member, there is a great deal to be proud of and we should celebrate our milestone! Our senior members will rekindle the good work and friendships developed over time and our newer members can learn of our club's history and traditions. It is truly amazing what we can do for our youth and community when we put our talented membership to work!

Let's celebrate our heritage and success! Thanks to each and every one of members for your dedication and support of our activities and events. Celebrate and enjoy our club.

Wayne Wodarz, President 2017-2017



MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR GARY

I would first like to compliment the Optimist Club of Platteville on another stellar year. Of the 55 Clubs within the SWIS District our Club has realized the highest growth, (not counting the two new clubs that were formed this year) up 14 members from October 2017. I might add, with one more new member and not losing any, we will set an all-time record of two consecutive years as a Distinguished Club!

I recently reached out to the Lt. Governors within the District and I want to share some of my message with you. My term as SWIS District Governor will conclude on September 30, 2018. I established goals at the beginning of my term and I continue to work to accomplish them. I set out to build three new clubs and currently have one to go. Our district is up 25 members from October, 2017; however without the two new clubs that were formed; our membership would actually be down 43 members. This is not the legacy I want to leave when I pass the bell and gavel on to Maureen Crombie, Governor Elect.

I need your help! One person does not win a game; it is a team that wins a game. If all 55 clubs within the SWIS District added 2 new members during the next 4 months...do the math...we share in a milestone year of membership growth surpassing 100 members! And even more important, there will be 3,850 children that will realize the benefits of an Optimist Club.

NOW THAT IS A LEGACY

New Members Welcome Wagon

It is always a pleasure when we welcome new members to our Optimist Club! With the addition of these most recent members, our membership stands proudly at 107!



Welcome to Matt Bohlken! Matt joined the Optimist Club in February, sponsored by Gary Engelke. Matt and his wife, Megan, have three children, Emilia, Elivia and Edison. Matt is the Head Golf Coach for the UW-P Women's Golf Team, which also recently formed a new Student Optimist Club with 17 members. Matt has worked in the golf industry for 15 years and is a member of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA). In addition to being the Head Golf Coach at UW-P, Matt is also employed with Faherty's, Inc. Free time for Matt is spent with family and 'who would have guessed'....Golf!

Welcome to Marilyn Mead! Sponsored by Talia Mushinsky, Marilyn was a guest at our April NOW Luncheon and signed up for her membership the same day. It has been a pleasure to see her as a regular at our Friday meetings since joining.

Growing up on a farm in Columbus, WI, Marilyn moved several times prior to settling in Platteville approximately 7 years ago. Marilyn has 3 children, 1 grandchild and a cat. She has enjoyed the experience of different areas of work over the years; including RX returns, working with special needs children ages 3-21, transportation compliance and a great deal of time in customer service. Marilyn is currently employed with American Customer Care as a health and wellness support agent. She volunteers many hours to scouts, youth groups, schools and children's parties. She loves cooking and trying new recipes on her family and friends. Marilyn stated "I can't go a day without laughing and encourage others to do the same. I am looking forward to being active in the Optimist Club and helping to brighten the future of our youth."

Welcome to Cathy Cotter! Sponsored by Linda Thomas, Cathy joined Linda at our April Spring Luncheon and we were delighted to have her complete her membership application.

Growing up in Janesville, Cathy relocated to Platteville in 1988. She and her husband, Dan, live some 6 miles south of Platteville in a wooded area. Dan and Cathy have two children, Caitlin (lives in Atlanta) and Casey (lives in Savannah, GA). After 32 years in education, Cathy retired from the Cuba City School District in 2013. It's not surprising that Cathy stays busy 'substitute teaching' in addition to reading, traveling and spending time with friends.

Welcome to Hannah Rewey! Sponsored by Maxine Lane, Hannah and Maxine go back several years as friends and was an invited guest to the April Spring luncheon.

Born and raised in Platteville, Hannah is the proud mother of three adult children. Eddie is a homicide detective for Bayfield County, Jenny is Manager for Furniture Row in Springfield IL and Jeff, Jr. is a Correctional Officer at Portage WI. She is also grandma to 7 grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys her flower gardening, making jewelry and spending an occasional night with two of her 3 sisters and 1 brother. Hannah is retired from Gray's Nursing Home after being there for 40 years, thanks to her beloved mentor, Bernice Gray, who pushed her to go to school and receive her Nursing Home Administrators License.

Welcome to Jordan Holthaus! Jordan grew up in Tomah WI, graduating from Tomah High School in 2010. He went to UW-Whitewater and graduated with a major in Business Communications with a minor in Public Relations in 2014. After college he worked for his parent's State Farm Office in Tomah for 4 years before accepting the position to take over the State Farm Office here in Platteville. In his free time, Jordan enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking, golfing and hanging out with friends and family. Many thanks to Bob Weier for sponsoring Jordan.



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW
'FRIEND OF OPTIMIST'**

Golden Memories

Proclamation Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Platteville Optimist Club

WHERE AS, the Optimist Club of Platteville, a Civic Organization with a membership currently comprised of over one hundred individuals and local businesses, has since April 26, 1968, served the Community of Platteville and Youth; and

WHERE AS, the members of the Optimist Club of Platteville are committed to support the Mission of Optimist International by providing hope and positive vision for the future, deliver the Vision of the SWIS District by striving to be the premier youth serving organization in Southern Wisconsin, and live according to the Vision of their Club, by affecting the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner; and

WHERE AS, the underlying commitment of an Optimist is to encourage optimism as a philosophy of life, utilizing the guidance of the Optimist Creed and believing that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world; and

WHERE AS, the Optimist Club of Platteville proclaim they are "A Friend of Youth" and work to "Bring out the Best in Kids" through their sharing of time, talent and financial support; and

WHERE AS, during the 50 year history of Optimist Club of Platteville, they have been recognized as Distinguished Club and Honor Club, by the Southwest Wisconsin District Optimist and Optimist International, offering further testimony to the commitment and leadership of members to conduct business responsibly and uphold the credibility of their organization within the community; and

WHERE AS, the Optimist Club of Platteville has for the past 50 years unfailingly, donated 100% of their fundraising profits directly back into the community in support of youth activities/organizations and community events.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, I, Karen Kurt, by virtue of the authority vested in me as City Manager of the City of Platteville WI, hereby proclaim Thursday, April 26, 2018 as "Platteville Optimist Club's 50th Anniversary Day" in the City of Platteville. I encourage all citizens to recognize the achievements and good will gestures the Platteville Optimist Club has afforded our community. I hereby commend the Club for a wonderful heritage and a bright future.

Signed this 24th day of April 2018



Karen M. Kurt
Karen M. Kurt
City Manager



President, Wayne Wodarz accepts Proclamation from City Manager, Karen Kurt accompanied by Chamber President, Eileen Nickels



Tot Slide delivered to Platteville Aquatic Center as Legacy Gift from Optimist Club of Platteville.



Members gather at the April City Council Meeting to present a \$5,000 check to the City Recreation Department. The funds represent the Legacy Gift from members in

celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Optimist Club of Platteville. Thank you to the members who personally donated and joined in this fundraiser to acknowledge this milestone for our Club.

Tri-Star Basketball - April 7 - PHOTO GALLERY

This is one example of what being an Optimist is all about...being there for the kids! The smiles and determination on the little faces says "it is worth every minute of our time."

A BIG shout out to Tim Boldt, Youth Committee Chair and his team for working to make this happen! Thanks also to the many, many Optimist volunteers who stepped up to help!



**FRIEND
of
YOUTH**



ORATORICAL UPDATE

As a 7th Grader at Platteville Middle School, Aiden is determined to someday be top contender at the SWIS District Oratorical Contest. This represented Aiden's second year and he was happy to not have placed allowing him to return next year.



Third Quarter SWIS District Conference is all about the kids. Fourteen talented young people challenged the judges with outstanding performances.



OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself . . .

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy
to permit the presence of trouble.

YOUTH CODE

I Promise to. . .

- *Honor my parents and those whom experience has made wise.
- *Respect the beliefs of others.
- *Value all my friendships and ensure they are true.
- *Treasure and nurture my mind and body.
- *Be diligent and work at each task according to its importance.
- *Strive to be courteous at all times and truthful with everyone I meet.
- *Manage my money wisely and control materialism.
- *Respect all living things and help maintain the balance of life.
- *Work to become independent, always think for myself,
set high goals in life and dedicate myself to the service of others.

Welcome

Platteville Middle School Optimists
Officers and Board of Directors



I'm not sure how many of our members read the quarterly SWIS District Newsletter, so I am sharing my last article, as SWIS Fitness Club/Membership Chair, with our members.

You Cannot Plow a Field by Turning it Over in Your Mind

For anyone who missed my article last month, WHO AM I you ask? Maxine Lane, member of the Platteville Optimist Club 09137 since 2009, Lt. Governor Zone 6 2016-2017/2017-2018 and **I AM AN OPTIMIST!!** The quote I used last month was by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." As I stumbled across the quote I'm using in this article, I really never got the connection between the two until giving both some thought. Hopefully you will find the connection, as did I. How do I relate this quote to my position of Fitness/Membership Chair? If all you do is '**think**' about inviting someone to join you at a meeting, allowing them to learn about Optimists and the wonderful things our clubs do, nothing is going to change! You invite them to become a member and the decision is for them to make.

Friend of Youth

Member Celebrations

Happy Birthday

June

06 – Donna Gavin
09 – Ernie Thalmann
19 – Ron Weier

August

03 – Eileen Nickels
05 – Maggie Kleisath
09 – Jim Boll
10 – Gary Munson
11 – Terry Beebe
26 – Dave Jones
28 – Barb Stockhausen
29 – Fern Nall

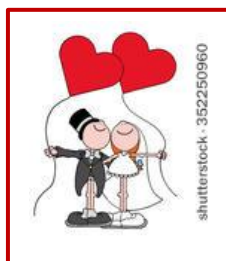
JULY

15 – Gary Engelke

Happy Anniversary

JUNE

1 – Linda Thomas	20 – Guy Stead
2 – Tim Boldt	20 – Dan Engelke
2 – Jerry & Joy Schewe	26 – Phil Swift
2 – Greg & Mary Sieckman	26 – Wayne Wodarz
13 – John Urness	27 – Steve & Maxine Lane
16 – Matt Bohlken	29 – Terri Ellis
18 – Tom & Fern Nall	30 – Howard Crofoot



JULY

11 – Leon Neuheisel
26 – Arnie Roper
29 – Gary & Eileen Engelke

AUGUST

17 – Steve & Maggie Kleisath
18 – Jim Olds
20 – Anne Klawiter
22 – Virgil Pufahl
23 – Ken Kamps
31 – Gary Munson



Happy Anniversary to Member & Spouse

CONGRATULATIONS THANK YOU

for your years of service
and loyalty to
Platteville Optimist

JUNE

1989 – Eileen Nickels (L)
2003 – Terri Ellis
2004 – Tim Murphy
2004 – Gary Engelke
2004 – Eileen Engelke
2015 – Melby Funeral Home*

JULY

1975 – Virgil Pufahl
1976 – Jim Boll (L)
1993 – Barb Stockhausen
2007 – Terry Beebe
2015 – Warco Transportation*
2015 – Dairy Queen/
Country Kitchen*
2016 – My Tires*

AUGUST

1994 – Mike Olds
2004 – Diane VanNatta
2012 – Gary Munson
2012 – Steve Kleisath
2012 – Maggie Kleisath
2016 – Paul Budden

(L) – Lifetime Members
(*) – Friends of Optimist

OPTIMISTS ON CAMPUS



*Chartered on March 19, 2018, 17 UW-P students formed the
Platteville Student Optimist Club-Wisconsin.*

PLATTEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTIMISTS

A first for Platteville! We have our first ever (Junior Optimist Club) JOI here in Platteville. We currently have 18 paid members, made up of 14 girls and 4 boys. Maxine Lane is serving as Advisor. If you have fundraising ideas and/or ideas for community service for these new young Optimists, please contact Maxine at msmacy105@yahoo.com

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

June

- 10 – Grant County Dairy Breakfast
- 14 – Flag Day
- 16 – Tot Slide Dedication 6 PM
- 17 – Father's Day
- 21 – Summer begins
- 23 – 50th Anniversary Celebration



July

- 2 – Board Meeting 7 AM
- 4 – Independence Day
- 26 – Party in the Park
- 31 – Aug. Board Meeting



August

- 15-19 – Grant County Fair
- 25 – Potosi Brewfest



Cheese Curds – Cheese Curds – Cheese Curds

By the time our next newsletter comes out, we will be into our 2018-2019 fundraising with our 'almost' *world famous*, mouthwatering "Deep Fried Cheese Curds".

A couple dates to put on your calendar!

August 15 – 19: Grant County Fair

August 25: Potosi Brewfest

September 7-8-9: Platteville Dairy Days

We really need as many members as possible to work at least one shift at both the Grant County Fair and the Platteville Dairy Days. Mid to late July the schedule for the Grant County Fair will be circulated allowing members to sign up for one or more shifts. Each shift requires a Shift Leader, placing someone in charge to assign jobs, answer questions, count down and secure the money after the shift. Please sign up early and often.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ANNUAL INSTALLATION/AWARDS BANQUET
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2018

SERVING YOUR CLUB

October 1, 2018, Barb Stockhausen will assume the leadership role of our Club as President, with Becky Schambow serving as First Vice President. Continuing on as Board Members are Tim Boldt, Mary Sieckman and Ernie Thalmann.

It is a pleasure to update our membership with the members who have stepped forward to help serve on our Board. Accepting the position of Second Vice President, welcome Tom Nall. Tom served as President in 09-10 and is once again ready for the challenge to lead our club into the future. We are happy to announce also that two of our three vacant Board positions have been filled; Chris Budden and Pat Moxness have accepted the 'not so difficult' challenge.

Serving on your Board is a great and fun way to work closely with other members and learn more about your club.

We would really like to have our final Board position filled on or before the next Board Meeting which is July 2.

Please consider this opportunity and contact Wayne Wodarz, wwodarz@netscape.net or Maxine Lane, msmacy105@yahoo.com

A Wonderful Tribute from Optimist International

A Tribute to 50 Years of Optimist Service

WHEREAS, the strength and vitality of the Platteville, Wisconsin community depends on the efforts and dedication of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Optimist Clubs worldwide reach and serve as a Friend of Youth to more than 6,000,000 children each year through youth-oriented service projects; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Optimist Clubs is to provide hope and positive vision to bring out the best in kids, thereby contributing to the betterment of communities;

THEREFORE, the Optimist Club of Platteville, Wisconsin recognized and honored for its 50 years of dedicated service to its community and the children and is encouraged to continue to serve for many more years.



Very truly yours,

H. Nick Prillaman, Jr.

Nick Prillaman, Jr.
2017-18 Optimist International President

GENESIS OF THE PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Submitted by: Ken Kamps, May 24, 2018

The initial meeting to form the club was held at the UWP Student Center on Saturday, September 9, 1967 when *Walt Hannan*, an engineering professor and director of campus planning, agreed to meet with *Matty Matthews*, a member of the West Madison Optimist Club hereinafter referred to as WMOC. *Matty* was a Platteville native whose father still lived in Platteville. Along with *Matty* were his fellow club members: *George Blackman*, also a Platteville native, *Buford Hernon*, WMOC club president, *Howard Hershleder*, Zone Lieutenant Governor and *Norm Kennedy*. The purpose of this meeting was to briefly explain the mission of Optimist International and of local Optimist clubs. Since *Walt* was a past president of the local, very active Jaycee chapter and was civic minded, the information apparently appealed to him.

Walt proceeded to help the men develop a list of prospective members with names, phone numbers, resident and business addresses. A special effort was made to avoid contacting members of other service clubs such as Kiwanis or Rotary. Many on the list were Jaycee 'exhausted roosters' (over 35 years of age). Several members of the original list can be found among our charter members. These prospects were contacted in person and a follow-up phone call. More enthusiastic prospects were encouraged to reach out to friends and acquaintances and invite them to organizational meetings. Thus the WMOC members early on sought to have the club built from 'within' the community while they assisted and guided from somewhat behind the scene.

Over time as interest grew, WMOC members added Platteville names to their weekly newsletter 'The Eye-Opener' which was mailed to the new prospects. During that September of 1967 WMOC club members, including *Matty* and *George*, spent a total of 40 man-hours during weekly visits in informal meetings and personally visiting prospects. They also shared project and meeting program ideas. After each visit they wrote up a summary report for their file and for Optimist International. After we chartered, *Matty* presented us with the detailed file of all their work. This file provided me with the material for this article.

By October 19, 1967, nineteen new members had submitted checks for the \$20.00 required membership fee. Checks were held in escrow until the required 35 had paid. The group was meeting informally at *Steve (Blatzas) Pizza Restaurant* for coffee and donuts. Somewhere along the way, Friday's at 7:30 AM was chosen as a good meeting time. By November 7, weekly meetings were scheduled in the Platte Room at the UWP Student Center with meals for 'heavy' eaters and 'light' eaters. Weekly visits from WMOC members continued through November and December. (Sometime in the '80s, the meeting time was changed to 7:00 AM).

January 5, 1968 was a day with a temperature of minus 7 degrees so no one drove down from Madison. However, it should be noted that those Madison men were here in Platteville, on time, every week in spite of the early meeting time. They were not deterred by rain, snow or fog. During January, at least two WMOC members were here weekly and spent a total of 16 man-hours. During February, weekly visits were made, investing 28 man-hours and in March they were here weekly for a total of 66 man-hours.

During the first three weeks in April a total of 20 hours were invested by the sponsoring club. By April 24, 1968 (two days before the scheduled organizational meeting) 32 men had submitted their \$20.00 commitment, 3 short of the required 35 needed to charter. The last three were signed up within the next two days. At this time the club's By-Laws were established. Also a slate of officers was selected (which can be read in the charter meeting program). With everything in place, the organizational meeting was held at 7:00 PM on Friday, April 26 at the Country Club. The official Optimist International paperwork was completed and submitted to OI. With 35 members at \$20.00, we were able to submit the \$300.00 necessary to affiliate and still have a club treasury balance of \$400.00.

The subsequent Charter Presentation Meeting was scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 1968 at the Country Club. There were enough WMOC members and spouses who attended to require them to charter two buses to help us celebrate. Typically a new club is presented with gifts such as a bell, gavel and banner. This is where ours likely came from.

Between September 9, 1967 and May 10, 1968, the sponsors had made 23 trips to Platteville and had invested a total of 202 man-hours. In addition, they made countless long distance phone calls and wrote many follow-up letters. They never discussed any type of remuneration for their effort. This obviously speaks to their deep dedication and belief in the spirit of Optimist-- "Friends of Youth". The WMOC built more than a dozen clubs in southern Wisconsin including Sauk City and Monroe.

By the fall of 1970 we were able to figure out why 35 members were required to charter a club. Many of our charter members did not renew; some had moved away. By then we were meeting at *Bertha Johns* on West Main Street with 10-12 members in attendance (with still over 20 paid registered members). This was in spite of the fact that *Bertha* cooked a full breakfast from scratch every week. It should be noted that the WMOC had not abandoned us. From the time of our charter the Madison club kept an eye on us and visited us occasionally, intensifying their visits when they sensed trouble. During the '70s we grew healthy and began to find our way. Our first year as an Honor Club was after the '76-'77 year during which time *George Louthain* was our president.

And as they say, "the rest is history".

Postscript: In about 2000 Ken Kamps and Dick Liddle paid a visit to the WMOC. Although there were a few 'younger' members, most appeared to be in their '80s and '90s. Sadly now, the club no longer exists.

The Back Page

Congratulations

Caitlin Brown

**Daughter of
Brian & Laura Brown
April 25, 2018**

Teen of the Week

**Future plans for Caitlin
include attending
Illinois Institute of
Technology in Chicago to
major in Architecture**

Congratulations

Adam Compton

**Son of
Peggy Compton
April 11, 2018**

Teen of the Week

**Future plans for Adam
include attending
UW-Whitewater to
major in accounting.**

Platteville's Compton

**Youth Hockey Career
spanned 14 Years and more
than 300 games!**

Graduating PHS Senior

Adam Compton

**started playing at the age of 5
and was goalie for his team for
the first time when he was just
7, recording a shutout in his
first start in net.**

Guy Stead

**Bowls League High
Handicap Game on
Thursday Afternoon
Businessmen's
League**

**Never too old
to celebrate a Birthday**



**Who is teaching
who?**



**Enjoying the
StoryWalk at
Katie's Garden**



**Congratulations
Ron and Jan Weier
(a/k/a Grandpa & Grandma)
Dominic Gabriel Gipp
Born May 27, 8 lbs, 20 3/4 "
Parents
(Daughter) Jen and Barrett**

StoryWalk 2018

June 3, Sunday

Platteville Community
Arboretum Trail
Fine Feathered Friends
(near J & J Stone)

August 5, Sunday

Platteville Community
Arboretum Trail
My Oh My, A Butterfly
(Valley Road)

July 4, Wednesday

Rollo Jamison &
Mining Museum
*The Little Engine
That Could*

September 2, Sunday

Platteville Community
Arboretum Trail
Beyond Bugs
(behind Culver's)

July (date TBA)

Mitchell Rountree
Peter Rabbit's Best Bunnies

October 7, Sunday

Platteville Community
Arboretum Trail
Hallo-weiner
(near Dog Park)

July 26, Thursday

Party in City Park
Giraffes Can't Dance

December 7 – December 9

Katie's Garden
Winter Wonderland
The Nutcracker

**Happy Retirement
Becky**



Share your pictures and
stories for
'The Back Page'
Send to
msmacy105@yahoo.com