



# Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights March 2024

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

**2023-2024 Officers:** Alaina Reeves, President – Bob Hundhausen, Vice President – Melissa Palfrey, Past President – Duane Borgen, Treasurer – Becky Schambow, Secretary

**2023-2024 Board of Directors:** Amy Coffey, Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Jordan Holthaus, Doreen Hlavaty, and Tom Nall.

Published for Members April 1, 2024 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH 2024

### BUSINESS MEETING: - MARCH 1, 2024

**Attendance:** There were 22 members and 1 guest present including: Carley Borcharding; Charlie Clark; Amy Coffey; Howard Crofoot; Terri Ellis; Dan Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Kevin Haertzen; Bob Hundhausen; Dianne Jentz; Lisa Kratz; Maxine and Steve Lane; Tom Nall; Leon Neuheisel; Becky Schambow; Joy Schewe; Libby Sides; Ernie Thalmann; Wayne Wodarz; *and guest Kim VanDee.*

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Bob Hundhausen at 7:03 a.m. Attendees then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

**Guests to Welcome:** Vice President Hundhausen welcomed Kim VanDee, from Family Connections as our guest.

**Grant Check Presentation to Family Connections:** A grant check for \$1000, made out to “Family Connections” was presented to Kim VanDee. Kim expressed appreciation for our gift in support of their program

#### Special Dates to Remember:

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:** None
- **Membership Anniversaries in March:**
  - Tom Jonas – March 1, 1972; (*Charter Member*)
  - Duane Borgen – March 1, 1980;
  - Phil Swift – March 1, 1981;
  - Hap Daus – March 1, 1988;
  - Dean Feldman – March 30, 1992;
  - Howard Crofoot and George Byykkonen– March 5, 1997;
  - William VanDeest – March 21, 2001;
  - Doug Martin – March 25, 2005;
  - Ronald Weier – March 13, 2009;
  - Kevin Haertzen – March 4, 2013.
- **Friend Of Optimist Membership Anniversaries in March:**
  - PBII – Original FOO Membership was from February 2016 – Feb. 2023; Reinstated March 1, 2023.

#### Meeting Activities:

- **Mystery Greeter:** Wayne Wodarz was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Lisa Kratz.

- **Breakfast Drawing:** Wayne Wodarz and Leon Neuheisel were the two members present, and Sultana Amin and Hap Daus were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in March.
- **Joker Draw:** Dan Engelke's ticket was drawn for a chance to win the Joker Draw, but he drew the 5 of Diamonds.

#### **Announcements – Information Shared:**

- **“Leap Year Tidbits” by Vice President Bob:** Bob provided some interesting knowledge about “Leap Year”. He noted the reason we have a “Leap Year” is because the earth doesn't travel around the sun in 365 days, but actually 365 days, 6 hours, and 9 minutes. Because of that fact, Leap Year was deemed appropriate every four years. He also talked about the lyricists of “Gilbert and Sullivan” who wrote 14 operettas in the 1800s, including “Pirates of Penzance”. The character “Frederick” in the opera, was born on leap day, and was bought at age 5 to be a slave of pirates until he was 21 years in age. Because his papers committed him to remain a pirate until his “21<sup>st</sup> birthday”, not his “21<sup>st</sup> year”, he would not be freed for more than a half of a century.
- **Tri-Star Basketball – March 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Volunteers are still being recruited to help at the event. Volunteers are requested to be there at approximately 10:30 a.m. to help set up and event should be over by approximately 1 p.m.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT from Feb. 26, 2024 Meeting:** Vice President Hundhausen provided a summary of the Governing Board Meeting held on February 26, 2024.

**Treasurer's Report Period Ending February 29, 2024:** Vice President Hundhausen provided information on the Treasurer's Report for period ending February 29, 2024 submitted by Duane Borgen which included reports of Internal and Youth Account balances. Grants paid in February:

- City of Platteville Fire Works - \$1000.
- Platteville Community Arboretum - \$250.
- SW Rainbow Alliance - \$250.

- **Motion from the Board for approval:** Bob reported that a motion had been made by the Board to approve the report as printed. Seconded by Beth Frieders, motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### • **Finance / Administration:**

- **Scholarship Award:** Duane Borgen reported to the Board that one of our 2023 scholarship recipients did not submit grades or proof of enrollment for second semester by requested date of February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - It was noted that Becky Schambow had issued recipient a letter in spring congratulating the recipient and noting our requirements; had sent a reminder letter to recipient on January 14 reminding of requirements with deadline of Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>; and made follow-up call to recipient on Feb. 2. At that time the recipient indicated she would supply documentation, but did not follow through.

Board consensus was that the recipient did not meet requirements by deadline, thus forfeited the award.

- **Review Scholarship Policy:** The “Scholarship” policy was reviewed by the Board. After a lengthy discussion, the Board elected to maintain the same criteria, however:
  - **Motion from the Board:** “to add the following guidelines to the policy:
    - The Secretary will contact the School's Administrative Assistant (*Scholarship Program Coordinator*) to ensure Club has recipients' home address, email address, cell phone numbers, and their parents' phone number;
    - The Secretary will send a congratulatory letter to the recipients at the time of their high-school graduation, identifying the Club's requirements for payout;
    - The Secretary will send a letter to the recipients in the fall of their first semester reminding them that they must submit proof of completion of first semester and proof of enrollment in second semester by January 7 following their first semester;
    - The Secretary will send letters on/about December 1<sup>st</sup>, reminding the recipient(s) that if the information isn't received by the January 7<sup>th</sup> deadline the student will forfeit their scholarship.”

A second to approve these added guidelines was made by Carley Borcharding, and motion carried.

- **Community Service:**
  - **Community Involvement Fair – March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:** The event will be held at the Platteville Public Library. Maxine Lane and Kevin Haertzen will be at a table at the event to provide information about our Club.
- **Membership:**
  - **Membership Changes:**
    - Thrivent – Tim Zauche – non-renewal of FOO membership – deleted by OI 1-24-24;
    - Delta 3's Membership was deleted for non-pay by OI 1-27-24; paid late on 2-12-24 so OI added as a new member.
  - **Spring Fling NOW Event – April 20 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.:** Terri Ellis reported:
    - Members were asked to respond to survey sent out via email:
    - Terri Ellis encouraged members to attend:
    - Members were encouraged to provide names and contact information for guests;
    - Members will pay \$15 for a lasagna meal – guests meal will be provided by Club;
    - Charlie Clark (*DJ*) will be providing music for dancing.
    - The event will be held at St. Mary's Church basement. Thus far, 33 names of invitees have been submitted.
- **Publicity / Newsletter(s) / Website:**
  - **Oratorical Application:** Melissa Palfrey reported to the Board that the Oratorical Contest application had been posted on our website.
  - **Speakers Information on Website:** Melissa also advised the Board that the scheduled speakers are updated on the website calendar.
  - **Facebook Posts:** Melissa noted that both she and Chris Budden are putting news items on our Facebook page.
- **Cheese Curd:** Jordan Holthaus reported that the Cheese Curd Committee will meet in late March or early April to begin planning for this year's cheese curd sales events.
- **Fellowship / Weekly Programs:**
  - **Speakers for March:** Speakers were recruited by D. Hlavaty:
    - March 8, 2024 – Chief Deb Reukauf, Lancaster Police Department – Teen Court Program;
    - March 15, 2024 – Grant County Sheriff's Department – K9 Program
    - March 22, 2024 – Chief Deb Reukauf, Lancaster Police Department – Straight as an Arrow Program – Teaching kids about drugs
- **Youth Activities:**
  - **Essay Contest Update:** There was only one entry, Nuzaira Rabbani who was named the winner and will be awarded \$150 by our Club. Nuzaira's essay has been submitted to District.
  - **Oratorical Contest – March 25<sup>th</sup>:** It was noted that Charlie Clark has all arrangements made and volunteers recruited to assist at the contest. The deadline for registration for the contest is March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Tri-Star Basketball – March 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Volunteers are still needed to assist with this event to be held at UW Platteville's Bo Ryan Court.
  - **Bike Rodeo Update:** Tabled

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Monthly Informational Meeting Update:**
  - **Attendance on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at A & W Report:** It was reported that only one member attended this event with Terri Ellis and Melissa Palfrey who are coordinating these meetings.
    - Terri and Melissa recommended we continue to offer this opportunity.
  - **Next Informational Meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Noon at A & W.**
  - **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Meeting – March 29<sup>th</sup>:** Although this is Good Friday, plans are still in place for those who may like to attend. Meeting will be at Los Amigos on Main Street.
- **Main Street Banner Project:**
  - There are currently 24 banners on Main St. from Elm to Broadway Street and funding is being sought to add additional banners for a total of 50.
  - Fund raiser goal is to obtain 60 brackets at \$70 per bracket to add the additional banners.
  - Vice President Hundhausen reported the Board has made a motion to donate \$140 toward purchase of two brackets. Seconded by Dan Engelke, motion carried. It was suggested that we ask if a banner could feature our Club.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Request from Fire Department for Support of Annual Fire Safety Ed. For Children & Families:** Vice President Hundhausen reported that the Board has made a motion to donate \$150 to be put towards this program. Seconded by Tom Nall, motion carried.
- **Country Kitchen – Discussion of Increase Costs/Better process for consistent quantities:** Vice President Hundhausen reported that Chad Holstein has instituted a sign-up sheet wherein members will choose their breakfast (*small or large one identified*) by signing under the named choice. This is being done due to the following:
  - Concerns with food cost increases & estimates of our breakfast meals have resulted in inconsistencies with what we've checked and what was then ordered;
  - Results have been that Country Kitchen has ended up throwing food out adding to their overhead costs. The Board recognized that food costs have risen and was appreciative that our charges haven't been raised in multiple years. Becky Schambow will talk to Chad to see if there can be changes in the process or meals to alleviate this concern and/or if there is a need to increase our meal costs.

### **Other Business from Membership:**

- **Tour of Family Advocates New Facility:** Tom Nall reported that Family Advocates has offered to host one of our April meetings at their new building so members can tour the facility.
- **Community Service Sponsoring Golf Outing:** Maxine Lane reported on committee's plans to facilitate a golf outing for the benefit of the Grant County Sheriff's Department. The event will take place at Platteville Golf & Country Club on May 16.
- **Suggestion to Support Girl Scout "Gold Award" Project:** It was suggested by Carley Borcharding that our Club consider donating money towards Maria Schmitt's project to purchase benches for Abing Park. This suggestion will be put on the Board's next meeting agenda.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- **Next Board Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- **Informational Meeting:** Scheduled for next Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon at A & W
- **Next Week's Speaker:** March 8<sup>th</sup> - Chief Deb Reukauf, Lancaster Police Department – Teen Court Program.
- **Motion to Adjournment:** Dan Engelke made a motion, seconded by Howard Crofoot, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 a.m. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted by:**  
Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING - March 8, 2024**

*(There were 24 members and 1 guest present.)*

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Alaina Reeves at 7:01 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Chief of Lancaster Police Department, Deb Raukauf (*speaker*)
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was President Reeves, greeting Dianne Jentz.
- **Special Dates to Remember:** No birthdays or wedding anniversaries this upcoming week
- **Joker Draw:** Carley Borcharding's ticket was drawn, however, she drew the 8 of Spades.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Spring Fling Now Event – April 20:** Terri Ellis encouraged members to go on-line to suggest people to invite to this recruitment event. Deadline for submitting names and demographic information is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also encouraged members to attend.
  - **Tri-Star Basketball – March 23:** Appreciation was noted to those who have volunteered to help at this event. Volunteers should be there by 10:30 a.m. to help set up. The tournament starts at noon.

- **Noon Informational Meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup> at A & W:** Members were reminded of the noon Informational Meeting scheduled for today.
- **Speaker for Next Week – March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Representative from Grant County Sheriff's Dept. K9 Program.
- **Today's Speaker:** Today's speaker, recruited and introduced by Doreen Hlavaty, was Lancaster's Police Chief Deb Reukauf who spoke about their "Teen Court Program".

Chief Reukauf started at the Lancaster Police Department in 2000. She grew up in Ashwaubenon, WI and attended UW-Platteville. She is married to Craig Reukauf, who is the Jail Administrator for the Grant County Sheriff's Department. They have two daughters.

Chief Reukauf began by reporting the history of the "Teen Court Program", noting the program was introduced in 2008 by then Judge George Curry. In 2011 the first teen court was held, through the UW Extension office. Chief Reukauf noted there are 23 counties in Wisconsin that have this program.

Today the program is coordinated in collaboration with the Lancaster High School's Guidance Counselor, Tom Hughey, and Chief Reukauf. There are an additional three adult mentors, and all involved take an oath of confidentiality.

Students who have been cited for legal violations such as underage drinking, use of illegal substances, etc. can be given options ranging from accepting their ticket, going to juvenile court or attending the Teen Court program. If the offending student and their parents elects to go through the Teen Court program, they must admit they are guilty of the offense and commit to attending five educational sessions of the program. Sessions are held one Saturday each month. When the student goes to Teen Court, Tom Huhey acts as the judge, and Chief Reukauf acts as the defense attorney. Teens from the area who have been involved with the program prepare for the case and determine questions that will be asked. The teen jury members hold the trial and come up with sanctions. Sanctions include doing community service and serving on two jury terms, and they may be assigned to make a presentation, check into a college for consideration of future plans, and writing apology letters. Each teen in the program is assigned a mentor, whose job is to check to ensure the teen has completed sanctions at 30 days and again at 60 days. If the sanctions are completed, then the teen can be done with the program. If they aren't completed, they are allowed to go to 90 days, but at that point, if sanctions are not completed, it will be reported back to the appropriate law enforcement agency and the teen will receive a citation.

Chief Reukauf stated the program is very beneficial for jury members as it teaches them problem solving skills.

Funding for the program comes from WI Law Grant and used for shirts for jury members, treats, and a gavel for those who graduate from the program.

**Conclusion:** The meeting concluded at 8:05 a.m.

**Meeting Notes Recorded by:**

Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING – MARCH 15, 2024**

*(There were 26 members and 1 guest speaker and his dog present)*

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bob Hundhausen at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Deputy Ric Hottenstein (*speaker*) and his K-9 dog Riggs, were welcomed as our guests.
- **Welcome Back Engelkes:** Vice President Hundhausen welcomed Gary and Eileen Engelke after their extended absence due to Gary's illness this past summer and then an extended vacation in Alabama.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Dianne Jentz who greeted Gary Engelke.

- **Special Dates to Remember this Upcoming Week:**
  - **Member Birthdays:** Paul Budden & Jerry Schewe on March 19th
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries:** None
- **Joker Draw & Lucky Winner:** Vice President Hundhausen's ticket was drawn and he became very lucky when he drew a Joker. Congratulations to Bob.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Thank you from Platteville Middle School:** An appreciation letter for our grant that was used towards Student Homework Club and Ben's Hope Suicide Prevention Presentation was circulated.
  - **Spring Fling NOW Event – April 20:** Members were reminded that this is the final date to submit names of persons to invite to the recruitment event on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Due date to submit names and demographic information is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Members were encouraged to attend as well.
  - **Tri-Star Basketball – March 23:** Volunteers were reminded to be at UW-Platteville Bo Ryan Court at 10:30 a.m.
  - **Oratorical Contest – March 25:** Charlie Clark reported there are only two students who have registered for the contest. They will do their presentations on March 25<sup>th</sup> competing for our Club' first and second place awards, but both will be able to go on to compete at the Zone contest.
  - **No Morning Meeting on Friday, March 29:** As next Friday is "Good Friday", there will not be a morning meeting, but the 29<sup>th</sup> will be a 5<sup>th</sup> Friday so the "5<sup>th</sup> Friday Noon Meeting" will be held that day at Los Amigos, 135 E. Main.
- **Reflection by Vice President Hundhausen:** Vice President Hundhausen spoke about his recent trip to Angola, Indiana to watch the UW-Platteville Pioneer's Basketball team in the sectional contest of the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship. Vice President Hundhausen talked about the team's successful season, leading up to their appearance as the first "Elite Eight" since 1998. UW-Platteville lost in overtime 88-86 to Trine University from Indiana.

Vice President Hundhausen noted he watched Coach Jeff Gard's press conference after the game. During that press conference, Brady Olson, a successful senior starter on the team, didn't focus on the heartbreaking loss, but stated he was going to miss his friends and family that he had grown close to in his experience with the team. This was a tribute to Coach Gard, his teammates, supporters and the program at UW-Platteville. Vice President Hundhausen was very impressed by this.

- **Speaker for Next Week – March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Lancaster Police Chief, Deb Reukauf will be with us talking about Lancaster's "Straight as an Arrow Program", which involves teaching kids about drugs.
- **Today's Speaker:** Deputy Ric Hottenstein & his K9 dog Riggs, were recruited and introduced by Doreen Hlavaty

Ric has been around Platteville all his life. He is married, with one son. Ric spent 8 years in the Army as 31k - dual purpose explosive detector dog handler. He completed his education at UW-Platteville and Madison Area Technical College.

He and his wife live outside of Platteville and have just under 14 acres. He has a dedicated 5-acre area for a Law Enforcement / Military only K9 Training Center that is completely fenced in. The rest of their land is for horses.

Currently he is working with a few facilities in housing retired Military Working K9s. Ric also has a gun range and hosts an annual SWAT training.

Ric spoke about his K9 dog Riggs, stating on July 15<sup>th</sup> Riggs will be 8 years old. Riggs is a Belgian Malinois. Ric got Riggs when he was 14 months old after he spent 6 weeks at a training site where trainers determine which dog has the drive and engagement to become a service dog. Ric noted the best dogs go to police departments. Most of these dogs cost between 16 and 20 thousand dollars.

Riggs is trained to find drugs and articles such as clothing, cell phones, gun shells, etc. Riggs is also trained to protect officers and goes along for “high risk stops”. When a search finds a suspect who may be hiding, the officers provide three warnings to the suspect before they release the K9 to go to the suspect. Ric stated that 90% of the time suspects will give up before being attacked and risking being bitten by the dog.

Ric and Riggs train on a monthly basis and talked about various things they do in training. Riggs is trained to receive a favorite toy when he completes the action his officer is advising him to do. Tasks are spoken to the dog in Dutch. It was obvious and entertaining to the members as Riggs was very cognizant of that toy which was on Ric’s person during the presentation.

Ric talked about some of the bigger cases he and Riggs have been involved with, including tracking the missing boy in Baraboo this past year. Searches are taxing, so the dogs are fed electrolytes and a high calorie paste so they don’t lose any weight while searching.

When Riggs is retired, Ric will probably keep him as K9 dogs still need a lot of stimulation so it’s difficult for them to adapt to new people and new environment.

**Conclusion:** The meeting concluded at 8:05 a.m.

**Meeting Notes Recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING – MARCH 22, 2024**

*(There were 17 members and 1 guest (speaker) present)*

- **Convene:** The meeting was called to order by President Reeves at 7:00 a.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed:** The meeting began by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.
- **Guests Welcomed:** Our speaker, Lancaster Police Chief, Deb Raukauf.
- **Mystery Greeter:** The Mystery Greeter was Hap Daus who greeted Becky Schambow.
- **Special Dates to Remember in the next two weeks:**
  - **Member Birthdays:**
    - Linda Thomas & Wayne Wodarz – March 24<sup>th</sup>
    - Bob Hundhausen – March 30<sup>th</sup>
  - **Member Wedding Anniversaries this Upcoming Week:**
    - Diane and Charlie Paynter – March 25<sup>th</sup>;
    - Bob and Victoria Hundhausen – April 1<sup>st</sup>;
    - Robert and Jeanette Stephens – April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Joker Draw:** Ernie Thalmann’s ticket was drawn, however, he drew the 8 of Hearts.
- **Announcements / Items Discussed:**
  - **Spring Fling Now Event – April 20:** Members were reminded that this day was the last day to submit names and demographic information of people to invite to the recruiting event. Members are encouraged to sign up to attend and can still sign-up within the next two weeks.
  - **Tri-Star Basketball March 23:** Volunteers were reminded to be at UWP at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.
  - **No Morning Meeting on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, but a Noon Social will be at Las Amigos (135 E. Main St):** President Reeves advised members of these meeting notices.
  - **Oratorical Contest – March 25:** Charlie Clark reported that two students have entered and will do their presentations to determine our Club’s first and second place winners. They will both be eligible to compete at the Zone competition.

- **Zone Oratorical – April 10:** Jerry Schewe is coordinating the Zone Oratorical contest. If members are interested in assisting at the event, they should contact him.
- **Next Morning Meeting – Friday, April 5:** President Reeves noted our next meeting on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> will be the monthly Business Meeting.
- **Today’s Speaker: Lancaster Police Chief, Deb Raukauf.** Doreen Hlavaty recruited Chief Raukauf to speak again today on the topic of Lancaster’s “Straight as an Arrow” program that teaches kids about drugs.

Having a long history as a Police Officer in Chicago, Doreen noted the importance of sharing positive news about things police officers do, often times with youth programs such as this program in Lancaster.

Chief Raukauf noted that she taught “DARE” (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) for approximately three years before the program went away due to budget cuts. When this occurred, she collaborated with other people in Lancaster to determine how they could continue educating Lancaster youth about drugs. Ultimately they created their own program entitled “Straight as an Arrow”, naming it after the school system’s “Flying Arrows”.

The Chief addressed some of the reasons or risk factors for youth getting involved with alcohol and drugs such as family pressure (*“parents do it”*) and peer pressure.

One of the goals Lancaster Police Department has is to introduce students to police officers in both good and bad times.

To be able to provide drug awareness education, and yet decrease police staff costs, the education is built into officer’s “off time” schedule and officers use power points with no book or handout costs.

They have a program entitled “Police Pal” that starts in early childhood through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. It is offered every fall and spring, where officers visit students’ classes. Fall education is provide on safety when trick or treating, and the spring program involves training on summer safety, walking safety, etc. Bike safety training is also provided. Police officers also do weekly walk-throughs of the schools.

A successful program they offer involves coordinating “The Plunge” event each spring. This event is primarily offered to the Junior Class before prom night. The event involves having a mock traffic crash with injured and deceased victims. Students and volunteers portray the victims, bystanders, etc. The police, EMS and fire departments are called and respond to the scene. Victims are transported to the hospital and/or morgue. The scene plays out with additional actors portraying grieving parents and friends. Students are split into groups and visit the local hospital to see victims being treated, while others are taken to the local funeral home where decisions need to be made relative to funeral arrangements. Students learn about decisions that need to be made such as organ donation. Finally, the students are taken to a court hearing where the driver causing the accident appears in court in shackles and is sentenced. This is followed by a tour of the jail. The “Plunge” event ends at the school where guest speakers present their experience with loss of family due to vehicle accidents.

Lancaster businesses help support these educational programs with donations.

**Conclusion:** The meeting concluded at 8:00 a.m.

**Meeting notes recorded by:** Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS’ SPECIAL DAYS in APRIL 2024**

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

- Leon Neuheisel – April 9<sup>th</sup>;
- Diane Paynter – April 10<sup>th</sup>;
- Mark Haas – April 15<sup>th</sup>;
- Penny Droessler – April 29<sup>th</sup>;
- Tim Murphy – April 30<sup>th</sup>.



### **MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES in APRIL:**

- Bob and Victoria Hundhausen – April 1<sup>st</sup>;
- Bob and Jeanette Stephens – April 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- Ernie and Shirley Thalmann – April 8<sup>th</sup>;
- Chris and Paul Budden – April 14<sup>th</sup>;
- Eileen and Thomas Nickels – April 25<sup>th</sup>;
- Libby and Wayne Sides – April 25<sup>th</sup>;
- Melissa and Levi Palfrey – April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES in APRIL:**

- Lynn Schlager – April 7, 1999;
- Ronald Holl – April 17, 2003;
- Greg and Mary Sieckman, and Linda Thomas - April 17, 2017;
- Jeff White – April 28, 2017;
- Jordan Holthaus – April 14, 2018;
- Penny Droessler and Alaina Reeves – April 30, 2019;
- Darlene Masters – April 16, 2023.

### **FRIEND OF OPTIMISTS ANNIVERSARIES in APRIL:**

- Family Pet Hospital – April 30, 2019