



# **Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights November 2020**

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

## **2020-2021 Officers and Board of Directors**

**Officers:** Tom Nall, President | Tim Boldt, Vice President | Dan Engelke, Past President | Duane Borgen, Treasurer | Alaina Reeves, Secretary

**Board of Directors:** Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel, Linda Thomas, Steve Lane, Terri Ellis, Jordan Holthaus

*Published for Members November 30, 2020*

**NOTE:** Due to Covid Pandemic and “safe distancing” requirements, the Platteville Optimist Board and Members have not been able to meet in person since March 6, 2020. In an effort to continue Club business, the Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom’s internet application, with our most recent meeting held on November 3rd, 2020. The following “Governing Board & Committee Updates” highlighted below were reported to the Membership at their Business Meeting on November 6th, 2020.

## **GOVERNING BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- **Treasurer’s Report:** Financial Report dated October 31st, 2020 was submitted by D. Borgen, Treasurer, and approved.
- **Scheduled Donation Changes:** Scheduled donation to Childhood Cancer Fund was reduced and redirected to be split between the Grant Co. Cancer Coalition and the Iowa Co. Cancer Coalition. Scheduled donation to the OI Foundation was reduced.
- **Notes of Appreciation Received:** None to report.

#### **YOUTH COMMITTEE:**

- **Bike Safety Event:** Platteville Optimists teamed up with Platteville Boy Scouts to host this event with necessary social distancing requirements on October 10th.
- **Tri-Star Basketball Event:** The board has had preliminary discussions regarding this event, but there are no specifics to be reported at this time.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE:**

- **Santa’s Calling Event:** Still looking for volunteers for this event. The calls from Santa will be placed from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on December 8th, 9th & 10th. If volunteers do not want to use phones at City Hall, they have the option to obtain a copy of the forms & script and call from home. The deadline for parents to sign up is December 4th. Volunteers can email Platteville Optimist Club at [oc01937@gmail.com](mailto:oc01937@gmail.com) to sign up.
- **Winter Wonderland Books:** C. Borcharding reported that the Halloween books were a hit, there were 83 remaining and she pulled 12 of them for Story Book Walks. Mike Moran was very

enthusiastic about wanting to do this for the Winter Wonderland event at Katie's garden, predicting we'd need at least 300 more books

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:** November speakers were recruited by Doug Martin and include: Jeff Gard (UW-P Men's Basketball Coach) on November 13th and Josh Boots (UW-Platteville Foundation) on November 20th. Linda and Alaina work to send out forms to sign up to be a speaker coordinator.

**MEMBERSHIP:** D. Borgen reported 3 members have not paid their dues that were due on October 1<sup>st</sup>; membership committee has reached out to them and are working on resolution. T. Nall reported that members Jan Waite & John Urness did not renew their membership. D. Borgen reminded members that the deadline for reduced rates on memberships for First Responders (\$30) and teachers or members under 30 y/o (\$50) is on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**PUBLICITY/NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE COMMITTEE:** Rooster Call Maintenance: a motion was made at October Board meeting to table this discussion until new chair/liaison is named.

**CHEESE CURD COMMITTEE:** S. Lane did not attend the November board meeting; nothing to report. T. Nall did mention there is discussion going on regarding cheese curd sales during the holiday events in town.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Platteville High School:** Received letter from Platteville School District re: Club Scholarship. Asked if we'd like to submit a photo of our club to be included in the ceremony's presentation. Tom will be the presenter of the scholarships on this night.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Proposals for additional income**
  - Some folks indicated they had additional ideas. Tom decided to hold off on putting the committee together.
  - Lasagna Drive-Thru suggestion
  - Membership contribute through Donations
  - Membership donating what they would pay for breakfast. (\$5/breakfast)
  - Doug mentioned doing a raffle (like the one we did when paying for the trailer)
  - Use the Cheese Curd Trailer to sell Cheese Curds during the Holidays in association with the Main Street program and the Chamber
    - Suggestion of cheese curds trailer during the holidays/main street program/chamber. Starting on December 4-5th weekend, 3 weekends before Christmas. J. Holthaus brought up the concern of proximity to each other in the cheese curd trailer. Could look into a restaurant that would offer up their kitchen: Pioneer Lanes, Second & Main, business incubator, Fire Station, Elk's Lodge. Once we have a location we would just need volunteers to sign up. T. Nall to relay this information to S. Lane.
- **T. Ellis had a question about committees:** Doug confirmed there hasn't been a list released for this year's committees...
- **Reminder that the deadline for membership dues discount is December 31:** \$30 for first responders, under 30 y/o or they are teachers, \$50 BOTH END DECEMBER 31

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Scheduled to be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 1st, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

**Board Report Respectfully Submitted By: Alaina Reeves, Secretary**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN NOVEMBER:

### NOVEMBER 6TH, 2020 - Virtual "Business Meeting" via Zoom - Hosted by Alaina Reeves

- **Attendees:** There were 21 members who attended and participated including: Joan Bahr, Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Dan Engelke, Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Kevin Haerten, Bob Hundhausen, Fern & Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Diane Paynter, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Robert Stephens, Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas, and Ron & Jan Weir.
- **Business Meeting Highlights:** Meeting was called to order by T. Nall at 7:03 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by T.Nall, followed by the Optimist Creed led by L. Neuheisel.
- **Special Dates Noted:** President Nall announced special dates for celebration including:
  - **Birthdays - this upcoming week:**
    - **Jeff White, November 7th**
    - **Brad Brogley, November 9th**
  - **Wedding anniversaries - this upcoming week: Doug & Kathy Martin - November 11th**
  - **Membership anniversaries this week: None**
- **Board of Directors Meeting Report:** D. Borgen presented financial report; T. Nall reviewed November board meeting summary (as listed above)
- **Other Businesses - Items Discussed**
  - **Drive-thru lasagna:** L. Neuheisel brought up the idea of a lasagna drive-thru during board meeting; D. Martin had more details to share about the event held in River Ridge during board meeting; Discussion today included where the event would be held (i.e., Methodist church, First Lutheran, LCOP), where to purchase the lasagna (Hy-Vee, Ma's Bakery), how sales would be made (pre-sale or other). B. Hundhausen offered insight on how Kiwanis coordinated the chicken dinner pick-up and agreed to help the Optimist Club on the coordination of a lasagna drive-thru event. It was also recommended to include cookies or French bread for excitement.
- **Upcoming Speakers & Topics:**
  - **November 13th:** Jeff Gard, UW-P Men's Basketball Coach
  - **November 20th:** Josh Boots, UW-Platteville Foundation
  - **November 27th:** No meeting
- **Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

### NOVEMBER 13th, 2020 - Jeff Gard (UW-Platteville Men's Basketball) via Zoom

- **Attendees:** There were 27 members, 2 Friends of Optimist and 1 guest who attended and participated including: Joan Bahr, Tim Boldt, Carley Borcharding, Duane Borgen, Paul & Chris Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Steve & Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tom & Fern Nall, Leon & Madge (guest) Neuheisel, Diane Paynter, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Barb Stockhausen (FOO-H & R Block), Ernie Thalmann, Linda Thomas, Gene Weber (FOO- Weber Business Consulting), and Wayne Wodarz.
- **Meeting Highlights:** Meeting was called to order by President T. Nall at 7:05 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Optimist Creed were recited.
  - Birthdays this week:
    - George Byykkonen, November 18th
    - Dan Engelke, November 18th
  - Wedding anniversaries: none
  - Membership anniversaries:
    - Joy Schewe: November 16, 2015
    - Dan Engelke: November 19, 2015
- **GUEST SPEAKER: Jeff Gard, UW-Platteville Men's Basketball Coach**
- Introduced by Doug Martin, who gave us a review of last season's metrics: UW-Platteville Men's Basketball ended last season 23-5 and took their 13<sup>th</sup> trip to the Division 3 national tournament. Jeff Gard was named WIAC conference coach of the year, D-3 Hoops Central Coach of the Year,

Jack Bennet Man of the Year, and was all-district under the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Jeff is headed into his 12<sup>th</sup> season and is excited about the freshman class they have. Fortunately, they did a lot of recruiting work early which allowed them to capitalize on recruits prior to COVID hitting. They began practice on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, but the University athletics recently made the tough call to pause all athletic related activities until there are enough resources (tests, etc.) available to the athletes. This means no team lifting or practices going on, just home workouts made available by the coaches. Jeff also explained that the NCAA Division 3 has granted all players another year of eligibility and given there are only 2 seniors scheduled to graduate in May with jobs lined up, it appears several of this year's seniors will be around for one more season. There is no game schedule on record as of now, and if they go forward with a season, games will likely be reduced to playing every team in their league just once. As for ticket holders, if the Pioneers do have a season, they will not be able to have fans in the stands. Jeff is excited about some "throwbacks" they will be sharing on social media to maintain a presence without being able to generate new content. Jeff spoke to this year's competition, stating that this year's league in general is going to be extremely talented. All COVID-19 challenges aside, Jeff has valued the extra time he has had with his family, including turkey & soon deer hunting with his daughter Hannah. For more updates on the Pioneers, visit [letsgopioneers.com](http://letsgopioneers.com). Thank you, Jeff, for spending the morning with us!

- **Upcoming Meetings:** Next Week we will hear from Josh Boots from the UW-Platteville Foundation and their efforts and success stories from the year.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 a.m.

#### **NOVEMBER 20th, 2020 - Josh Boots (UW-Platteville Foundation) via Zoom**

- **Attendees:** There were 23 members and 2 Friend of Optimist (FOO) who attended and participated including: Tim Boldt, Duane Borgen, Howard Crofoot, Charlie Clark, Hap Daus, Terri Ellis, Dan Engelke, Mark Essex, Mike & Priscilla Hahn, Bob Hundhausen, Maggie Kleisath, Maxine Lane, Doug Martin, Tim Murphy, Fern & Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Alaina Reeves, Becky Schambow, Bob Stephens, Ernie Thalman, Linda Thomas, Gene Weber (FOO-Weber Business Consulting), and Tim Zauche (FOO-Thrivent Financial).
- **Meeting Highlights:** Meeting was called to order by President T. Nall at 7:02 a.m. D. Borgen recited the pledge of allegiance and T. Ellis led us through the Optimist Creed.
- **Announcements:** President T. Nall shared notice of T. Boldt's resignation from President Elect and complimented his invaluable contribution of time to our community.
  - **Birthdays this week:**
    - Joy Schewe: November 24th
    - Linda Foht: November 25th
    - Mary Siekman: November 25th
  - **Wedding Anniversaries this week:**
    - Barb Dies, and her husband Tim, on November 20th.
  - **Membership Anniversaries this week:**
  - **FOO Anniversaries:**
    - Bel-Aire (2018)
    - Family Advocates (2019)
- **GUEST SPEAKER: Josh Boots, UW-Platteville Foundation**
- Sponsored and introduced by Doug Martin, Joshua Boots is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development & Alumni Engagement, and the Executive Director of the UW-Platteville Foundation. Prior to starting at UW-Platteville, he spent 15 years in fundraising including working for the Cedar Rapids Cardinals (Minor League Baseball) and Loras College in Dubuque. He attained both his undergraduate degree and his MBA in Data Analytics from Loras. His personal story includes living in East Dubuque with his wife of 12 years, Mary, and their daughter Charlotte. The UWP Foundation is a 501(c3) organization that, as Josh put it, is around to make sure UWP not only *survives*, but *thrives*. As state funding continues to go down, the UW-Platteville Foundation fills that void in enabling students to receive a high quality education at an affordable price. The foundation is made up of 8 team members, governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 24 members. Their main focus is to raise money to deliver this mission, and they do so through various avenues: annual giving (mail, email, phonathon), special events

(golf outings, gala), major giving (gifts of \$25,000+, and planned giving (gifts left in estate provisions). Josh shared that they had their best fiscal year in history FY20 (July 1, 2019-June 30,2020), raising nearly \$1,000,000 more than FY19. A notable initiative they cover is the Pioneers Helping Pioneers initiative, which became especially invaluable when COVID-19 hit. Many Pioneers were sent home, lost jobs, were displaced, etc. and this initiative allowed them to go through an application process to apply for funds. This year's goal was to raise \$100,000, and they have raised over \$122,000 from 757 donors (and counting). Along with support from the CARES act, they still hope to raise more money as the money these students have received does not entirely meet the needs that they are facing. Another notable fundraising accomplishment was their Pioneers Day of Giving event held on October 9th (Founder's Day). This year the event was held all online, and in one day they raised \$141,000 from 293 donors. In Q&A, Josh explained that the 24 board members consist of alumni and friends - not just exclusively alumni - throughout the U.S. He also answered a question regarding government funding in the education system: the federal government contributes about 13% to the costs of students.

- **Adjournment:** There will be no meeting next Friday, November 27th. Our next meeting topic will be our Business Meeting, held on December 4th at 7:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 a.m.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS IN DECEMBER**

Please note recognition of membership anniversaries, birthdays, and members' wedding anniversaries that will occur in December.

### **DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES**

- **Kathy Kopp** - December 9, 1993
- **Tim Boldt** - December 10, 2012
- **Becky Schambow** - December 12, 2014
- **Beth Frieders** - December 13, 2006
- **Bob Weier** - December 14, 2012
- **Tom Nall** - December 19, 2000

### **DECEMBER FRIENDS OF OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES**

- **Busch Insurance**, December 2015

### **DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- **Eileen McCartney & her husband Terry** - December 7
- **Duane Borgen & his wife Amy** - December 17
- **David Jones & his wife Mary Lou** - December 18
- **Mike & Priscilla Hahn** - December 27

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- **Virgil Pufahl** - December 1
- **Priscilla Hahn** - December 4
- **Howard Crofoot** - December 16
- **Kevin Haertzen** - December 16
- **Eileen Engelke** - December 19
- **Phil Swift** - December 23
- **Anne Klawiter** - December 27

