



July 9, 2022

"You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do."

Optimist Board

Jan Palmer	President
Lisa Barnum	VP
Dana Cafourek	VP
Missy Bonderer	Past Pres.
Barrett Glascock	Secretary
Heather Martin	Treasurer
Bruce Glascock	2021
Bernie Bartel	2021
Ken Bishop	2021
Shawn Steelman	2022
Robert Blake	2022
John Dougan	2022

COMING UP

Board Meeting: July 14

**TAKE A MINUTE TO REMEMBER
THOSE WHO MADE US STRONG:**

- Carroll Sapp – 1987
- “Buddy” Glascock – 1988
- William Burnett – 1992
- Remus James – 1994
- Ron Marley – 1997
- Cecil Vaughn – 2001
- Billy Jo Sapp – 2004
- Marvin Sappington – 2004
- Arcie Sapp – 2005
- Kenneth Nichols – 2006
- Lahmon Wren – 2007
- Joe Smith - 2009
- Jimmy Jo Calvin- 2009
- Bob Sappington – 2010
- Clifford Caldwell-2013
- Mel Rupard-2013
- Ernest Woods—2013
- John Johnson—2013
- Michael Dalton--2013
- Jim Moore--2016
- Carl Long--2016
- Don Jones-2017
- Clay Austin-2017
- Sharon Donley-2017
- Ben Nieman- 2017
- Nick Kimbler- 2018
- Barbara Perry- 2018
- Jacob Zagorac- 2019
- Joy Woods- 2021
- Steve Walsh-2021
- Kristi Savage Clarke 2022

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Next week:

Breakfast: July 16- Barrett Glascock and Shawn Steelman

Program- To be announced

There will be an Optimist Board meeting at the building on July 14th at 7:00.

This morning John Travlos, Robert Blake, and Bern Bonderer provided another one of their incredible breakfasts, with an egg casserole on a pancake base, and lots of fresh fruit.

Ernie Wren is in the hospital in Colorado with his second round of Covid, which he received after attending the Optimist International convention. Hopefully he will feel better and come home soon!

We need someone to take notes at the breakfast meeting on July 23 since I will be out of town celebrating my aunt's 92nd birthday. All that I ask is that you take notes and send them to me. I will feed the information into the template and get it sent out.

Our speaker this morning was Mayor Dorise Slinker presenting a State of the City message. He started by talking about the positive factor of having the city of Ashland fully staffed. Dorise had asked Kyle Michel, the City Administrator, Gabe Edwards, Chief of Police, and James Creel, Public Works Director, to weigh in on important bullet points from their department's perspective and this information is what he based his talk on this morning.

Kyle Michels had focused on the need our community has to embrace change: from the new location of our City offices, the cloud-based accounting software we're using, the cloud based utility metering that allows for real-time meter data, the citywide Wi-Fi access for internal use of server data and file access, as well as a complete GIS mapping system. The city has also worked on developing people assets, including staff appreciation and options for personnel development. Kyle mentioned the fact that Ashland city staff is on opposite ends of the spectrum, with employees having 30+ years of service or staff with 5 years or less of tenure. With this as our reality, we need to strive for the best ways to improve our systems, instead of doing things the way they have always been done.

James Creel mentioned the grant Ashland received that will allow us to upgrade the ballfields with bathrooms, plus repair dugouts and stormwater runoff issues. The grant will also allow us to replace the current bleachers, allowing us to share the old bleachers with the Lions club field in Hartsburg. James continues to work on streets and stormwater issues in other parts of Ashland and is trying to establish a volunteer program for citizens to work with city employees to keep our parks clean.

The Ashland Police Department were able to move to their current space in the same building as the city offices, which has been more conducive to efficient operations according to Police Chief Gabe Edwards. All full-time positions are currently filled, but they are still understaffed after a duty related injury and an officer currently on field training. David Rice was able to provide access to protective gear by donation for our officers. On the first day of Summer School, an officer checked the doors at all of the schools that were being used to make sure everything was safe.

Dorise wrapped up his talk by saying that he preferred face-to-face communication and hopes to keep communication open between city staff and Ashland residents. When he was finished speaking and answering questions, he drew for the Attendance drawing. Cory Fischer, Dayton Grover, and Jerilyn Hahn had their chance at riches, but since they missed the breakfast and the meeting, the pot will continue to grow.

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