



ASHLAND OPTIMIST CLUB
Meeting Saturday Mornings @ 7:30 A.M.
Optimist Drive, Ashland, MO 65010

December 16 2023

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

Optimist Board

Leigh Kottwitz President
Ken Bishop Vice President
Jan Palmer Lt. Gov, Zone 1
Dana Cafourek Past President
Barrett Glascock Secretary
Heather Martin Treasurer
Bruce Glascock
Shawn Steelman
Robert Blake
Marsha Lessley
Tara Blue
Bernie Bartel

COMING UP

Red Kettle Campaign thru Dec 31
Dec 23 Breakfast: Holiday fun
Jan 5 Bingo
Jan 6 Breakfast meeting
Jan 11 Board Meeting
Feb 3 Pancake Day Everybody cooks!

**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
Johnny Pauley 2023

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Breakfast: Dec. 23- Dana Cafourek, Mike Fulca, and Letitia DenHartog

Program- Christmas weekend (Holiday fun!)

Optimist dues are \$90 for individuals or \$135 for couples that are both members. You can pay through: <https://form.jotform.com/72136728772160>, bring a check to Barrett, or mail your check to Ashland Optimists, PO Box 201, Ashland, MO 65010.

Bern Bonderer continues to coordinate the Red Kettle Campaign this year at Moser's through the end of December. Everything will be the same as in the past. If you would like to ring, please contact Bern at bern.bonderer@twehous.com or call 573-632-1919 to get more details. You may ring for 10 minutes or 10 hours! There is no set schedule, but he has to report all ringers and times to the Salvation Army so please do NOT just go over there and ring. Bern shared last Friday that he has not had many ringers yet, so please get friends, church groups, or just consider ringing by yourself sometime.

The elementary basketball games are covered through the end of December, but will continue each Saturday January 6th-Feb. 17th, with games at the Primary and Middle schools. Please contact Leigh Kottwitz to sign up at leighkottwitz@gmail.com if you are interested in helping. There will be two games at each school every Saturday and you can sign up for all day or just one game, but we need an adult available the entire time.

Our next Bingo will be on Friday Jan. 5th.

Feb. 3rd will be our annual Pancake Day, from 6:30-11:30. Bev Steelman will be coordinating and hopes for plenty of help.

Our next Social will be Sun. Feb. 18th with a carry-in meal at 5:00 in our building. We look forward to lots of members (and possible new members) to be in attendance.

The 2nd Quarter Conference of the Optimist Eastern Missouri District Conference will be held virtually on Feb. 23-24. As the service project for the conference, clubs will hold food drives with a goal of at least 100 items during the month of Jan. The food we collect will go to Helping Hands and possibly our local Buddy Pack program.

The Ashland Optimist Board of Directors met on Thursday, Dec. 14th. They voted to purchase hams for the CTA Christmas baskets again this year. They also voted to renew membership in the Southern Boone Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Charitable Games of Missouri. Taylor Elliott, who has helped at the Veteran's breakfast recently, was approved as a member and the Board approved purchasing the sodas that the Scouts had left over from Santa's Little Workshop for use at Bingo.

We held Bingo on Friday, Dec. 15th with 108 players and \$795 deposited from the kitchen. Eric and Katie Barmann came and helped in the kitchen, even though it was his birthday, and they are moving to Kansas City in January. If anyone is interested in joining the kitchen team for the third Friday of each month, please let me know.

Dorise Slinker's breakfast team was short-handed, but Tara Blue and Ken Bishop stepped up to help provide a delicious breakfast.

Our speaker this morning was Janeene Johnston, Executive Director for the Spay Neuter Project. It is a high-quality, low-cost spay and neuter clinic that also provides vaccines and microchipping. They started in 2015 on Austin Ave. (behind Taco Bell on Rangeline) with a group of concerned volunteers and have done over 26,000 surgeries. They are not a full-service vet clinic, which helps with their costs, but they do referrals to vets in the area. Word of mouth is the biggest way that people hear of them and they can usually see pets within two weeks, even though they only have a staff of five people. Janeene did share that they do have limits. They do not handle any dogs over 80 lbs. or pets under 3 pounds or 3 months of age.

She talked about the health benefits that spaying and neutering help with, including preventing cancers. Regular spay and neutering services range from \$70 for cats and \$80-120 for dogs, depending on the gender and size, with \$15 for other vaccines, but they can provide financial help if it is needed. At this time, there are no residency or income restrictions. For more information, you can go to their website at www.spayneuterprojectmo.org.

After Janeene was finished answering questions, she drew for the Attendance drawing. Nancy Nicholas, Donna Wobbe, and David Winarski had their chance at riches, but with their absence, the pot will continue to grow.

We finished the meeting with Rev. Elmer Schiefer's annual presentation of the Christmas gospel from Luke and sung Stille Nacht, followed by leading us in Silent Night in English.

Letitia DenHartog

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