



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

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

December 30 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

Jan 5 Bingo
Jan 6 SPECIAL Breakfast meeting
Jan 6 Youth basketball resumes
Jan 11 Board Meeting
Feb 3 Pancake Day Everybody cooks!
Feb 18 Social gathering BYO
Feb 23-24 Eastern Conf meeting

**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

**Ashland Optimist Bulletin December 30, 2023
Happy New Year!!**

Breakfast: Jan 6- John (and possibly Ben Travlos), Bern Bonderer, and Robert Blake
Program- John Travlos This will be a special breakfast, so please come! There will be a work day scheduled afterward, for those interested in helping. Most of the items will be outdoors.

Optimist dues are \$90 for individuals or \$135 for couples that are both members. You can pay through:
<https://form.jotform.com/7213672872160>, bring a check to Barrett, or mail your check to Ashland Optimists, PO Box 201, Ashland, MO 65010.

Leigh is looking into whether there are members interested in ordering Optimist t-shirts. Please let her know so that we can start looking at options and prices.

The elementary basketball games will restart next Saturday January 6th, continuing each Saturday through Feb. 17th, with games at the Primary and Middle schools. Leigh Kottwitz sent out an email on Dec. 27th with full information or you can contact her at leighkottwitz@gmail.com if you can't find the email.

Our next Bingo will be on Friday Jan. 5th. Extra hands in the kitchen or on the floor are always welcome.

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

Our next Social will be Sun. Feb. 18th with a carry-in meal at 5:00 p.m. 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 will be held virtually on Feb. 23-24. As a service project in conjunction with this conference, clubs will hold food drives with a goal of at least 100 items during the month of January (but please not cans of corn or green beans). The food we collect will go to Helping Hands and possibly our local Buddy Pack program.

This morning, we enjoyed a breakfast provided by Bernie Bartel and Donna Wobbe. Thank you ladies for the delicious food!

Our speaker this morning was Sherry Eisenhart. She has lived in Missouri for many years, but moved to Ashland in 2007 while they built the house they currently live in, just south in Hartsburg. When she retired in June of this year, she made the decision to find a project to take on and chose walking the Camino de Santiago. In English, this is the Way of St. James, the Greater, whose bones were discovered near Compostela. The route she took starts in France and finishes 488 miles later in northern Spain. Approximately 30,000 people walked this entire route last year. For Sherry, this took thirty-two days in August and September. The first twenty-one days, she stayed with the same group and walked thirteen miles a day. After she started walking on her own, she normally walked over eighteen miles a day. She utilized guidebooks and apps on her phone to plan each day's routes. There are numerous hostels along the way for pilgrims to stay in.

Sherry brought many of the pictures she had taken and talked about the hilliness and rockiness of the path. She said that she changed shoes everyday and, once she discovered the option, would forward her backpack to the next night's lodgings so that she didn't have to carry the weight.

Sherry claimed that the hardest part for her was to just rest at the end of the day instead of adventuring and that the best part was all the people from around the World that she met.

When Sherry was finished sharing her amazing adventures, she drew for the Attendance drawing and Jan Palmer was thrilled to say, "It pays to attend!" Barrett figured the poker pot, since it was the final meeting of the month. Even though Bryan Chapman and Bernie Bartel had pairs, they lost to Barrett's pair of Kings.

Note from President Leigh: **Meeting attendance - 24 in 24:** I want to encourage all members to attend a Saturday meeting, enjoy a delicious breakfast, visit with other members and hear an interesting program. Can we get at least 24 members at our meetings in 2024? We would love to see all members attend! For the first three meetings where we meet that goal, I will donate to the Optimist Foundation.

Letitia DenHartog
ashlandoptimist.org