



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

December 28, 2024

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

Optimist Board

Ken Bishop President
Leigh Kottwitz Past President
Tara Blue Vice President
Barrett Glascock Secretary
Heather Martin Treasurer
Bruce Glascock
Shawn Steelman
Robert Blake
Bernie Bartel
Dennis Sapp

COMING UP

Now thru Dec 31 [Bell Ringing](#)
Jan 3 Bingo
Jan 4 Breakfast Meeting - Aya Kinney
Jan 9 Board 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

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Breakfast: Jan. 4- Bernie Bartel, Donna Wobbe, Taylor Elliott

Program- Ayla Kinney- horse riding championship

We will have Bingo on Friday, Jan. 3rd. If you normally help on the first week and are not available, please let Barrett Glascock or me know.

Bern Bonderer is still looking for bell ringers at Moser's for the Salvation Army through Dec. 31. Numbers have been down this year, with just over \$700 raised (normally \$3,000) so if you can ring before the weather and the year change, please contact Bern at bern.bonderer@twehous.com first since he needs to keep track of ringers. You can ring as long or as short as you wish, but please help in his 15th year of coordinating!

The Ashland Optimist Club is offering Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED + First Aid certification classes at the Ashland Optimist Club on January 5th & 12th. (This is a 4-hour course held on one day; two dates of opportunity.) Registration is due Jan. 1 and 5th. These classes are for anyone, aged 15 and above to receive CPR/AED Certification. To find out more and sign up through the Ashland Optimist Club, click on the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/243375228203048> or go to our website at ashlandoptimist.org.

Madeline Bloss is signed up to cover third-sixth grade basketball games on Jan. 4th, but starting Jan. 11th-Feb. 15th, there will be games at the middle school and primary buildings. Extra help will be needed on Jan. 11th since Madeline will not be available. Here is the link to volunteer:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w4JWpm71-cgSESc2UmmJ3jaoaHZjbNZpXmc4hEqBJ4w/edit>.

Lunch for the referees and timekeepers will restart January 11-Feb. 15. Lunch for 4-6 people should be dropped off at the score table in the middle school gym between 11:00-11:30, if possible. If you are interested, you can sign up at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-q3SqJ_Sav3PeLqpINzz4h8MAibIT2ttf1b4hHZXqY/edit.

Bern Bonderer, John Travlos, and Robert Blake provided their regular, unique, and delicious breakfast of breakfast casserole, sausage balls, candied bacon, and an impressive display of fruit this morning.

Our speaker was Bern Bonderer, who has been organizing the Optimist baseball program since 2007, by himself since 2009. He got involved because of his three sons. In the beginning, tee ball games were at the Bob Sappington field on Sundays, with coach pitch games during the week, but the Optimist Board approved the building of a second field which was dedicated in June 2009 and named after one of our founding members, Laymon Wren. To help with costs, starting in 2010, Bern got rid of student umpires and switched to the coaches being umpires. The teams are coached by parents and Bern does the best he can to work with their schedules.

The actual season is from mid-July (after soccer ends) for six weeks with two games per week. Twelve games are scheduled, with ten games promised after rainouts. The best place to check if your team is playing is through the website: ashlandoptimist.org. The tee ball teams are for pre-k and kindergarten students, with coach pitch for first and second grade. Registration starts in March and the cost has remained at \$40. The Optimist baseball program provides shirts and caps for all players and shirts for the coaches, as well as scholarships (nine this year) and participation medals for all players at a cost of \$190. The numbers of players haven't increased much over the years because many families prefer to sign up for competitive leagues rather than playing local kids with no score kept only.

Bern said that he has to drag the fields to keep the weeds down most of the year and he chucks the lines before games and after it rains, which requires 24 bags of chalk a year, at a cost of \$134. There is also money paid for support and improvement of the fields and a porta-potty. The program brought in \$7,600, with \$496 profit, but Bern reminded us that this is not a fundraiser, so the goal is just to break even. Bern doesn't allow concession sales unless it is for a cause, such as band or FFA trips. Most weeks, the teams provide their own treats.

When Bern was finished sharing his report, he drew for the Attendance drawing. Loren Plank had a chance at riches, but Lester Gilpin was thrilled to say, "It pays to attend!" when his number was drawn. Barrett combined the cards that were drawn in November and December for the seven-card poker hand. There were several people with pairs and three people with three-of-a-kind, but Barrett had the top hand with three Queens.

Letitia DenHartog

ashlandoptimist.org