



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

September 21, 2024

"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

Sep 27 5th/6th grade basketball sign up deadline
Sep 28 Breakfast Sid Popejoy
Sep 29 Our club 60th Anniversary party! [Download the flyer!](#)
Oct 9 Last day to register to vote

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 September 21, 2024 Breakfast: Sept. 28- Dana Cafourek, Mike Fulca, Letitia & Tabi DenHartog Program- Sid Popejoy- Bike to the Future

Our club's 60th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sept. 29th at our building, starting at 5:30. I hope to see many of you there for a delicious meal, our installation of officers, and information on the history of our club from Barrett Glascock.

We hosted Bingo on Friday, Sept. 20th with 119 players trying to win the \$1,199 jackpot. The kitchen brought in just under \$800.

A hearty Optimist breakfast was prepared by Shawn Steelman and Barret Glascock for our weekly meeting. Thank you to Bryan Chapman for taking notes at our breakfast meeting while I was out of town.

Our guest speaker today was Hattie Widhalm. Hattie is the branch manager for the Central Bank aka South County Bank location in Ashland. Her topic today was fraud and how to be an informed consumer. In 2023, the FDIC estimated there was over \$10 Billion in fraud losses in the United States. The most common fraud involves scammers trying to contact you by email or via a phone call. As a consumer you need to protect your Personal Identifying Information (PII). Examples of these include your birth city, birth date, and social security number. If a crook is successful in gathering these data points, they will have an easy job of scamming you.

Email scams are becoming more and more sophisticated in their appearance and how closely they copy legitimate web page addresses. If you have any doubts, do not click on a link in an email. This could lead to malware being loaded onto your computer. Another group of scams is by people called "Legitimate Entity Imposters", these are individuals claiming that your Social Security has been cancelled, or that the IRS is about to seize your bank accounts if you don't pay them immediately. Neither the Social Security Administration or the IRS WILL EVER CALL YOU. They conduct their business by postal and/or certified mail. One July 4th, I had a call from an individual claiming to be from Social Security and they needed to notify me that my account had been canceled. I told them it was a Federal Holiday and that SSA does not work on Federal Holidays. The individual replied that "the Social Security works 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide your benefits." I had my doubts...

Other groups of scams are Romance Scams (trust me, the picture of that beautiful girl is a fake), Lottery Scams (how would they know you won the lottery?), tech support scams where they ask to "remote in" to your computer in order to fix it. (When is the last time Microsoft ever called you?) and Handyman schemes where a person tries to sell you a new roof or driveway and they want a substantial amount of money paid up front. Just don't do it.

Last are the scams where a caller claims to be a relative, or a person who knows that relative and you need to wire a bunch of money to get them out of jail. If you have any doubts, ask for the full name of your relative and their birthdate. Be skeptical of all of these warning signs, and don't ever send money or gift cards to someone you have not met.

After Hattie finished her presentation, she drew for the Attendance drawing. Mary Ann Gowdy, John Travlos, and Tara Blue could have walked away with riches, but the pot will continue to grow for the next meeting.

Madeline Bloss, our Youth Basketball Coordinator, asked that I share the following message:

Youth basketball season will be here soon and registration is already underway! 5th and 6th graders need to register by this Friday, September 27th. 1st-4th graders have until Friday, November 15th to register. Players can register online at <http://ashlandoptimist.org/youthsports/basketball.html>. We will host games nearly every Saturday from November 18-February 15, so we need your help! We are looking for Optimist members to serve as gym supervisors to help keep games on schedule and problem-solve issues that may arise as well as handle set-up/clean-up of the gyms. There will be shifts for this volunteer role and you can volunteer as little or as often as you wish! We will host an info session for this role, date TBD. If you are interested in helping out, please let Madeline Bloss know at AshlandOptimistBasketball@gmail.com so she can keep you in the loop. We are also looking for referees and scoreboard attendants for the season. Optimist members are welcome to volunteer in this capacity, but we are also hiring high school or college students. If you know anyone interested, please have them reach out to Madeline Bloss at AshlandOptimistBasketball@gmail.com. Thank you!

Letitia DenHartog

ashlandoptimist.org