



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

January 18, 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**

Jan 25 Breakfast meeting  
 Feb 1 Pancake Day!

**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. 25- Brenda Austin & Bonita Lenger**  
**Program- TBD**

The Optimist Board met on Thursday, Jan. 9th before we received the weather that canceled last Saturday's meeting and basketball games. A bylaws committee of Ken Bishop, Leigh Kottwitz, Tara Blue, and Barrett Glascock was appointed, and John Martin was approved as a new member. The Board also voted to donate \$500 to the Hartsburg American Legion Support for Veterans Project. Robert Blake talked about adding more bleacher supports in the Spring when we clean out more of the brush west of the building.

We need people to sign up for this coming Saturday for basketball games at the middle school and primary buildings, with games continuing through Feb. 15th. Here is the link to volunteer:

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

Lunch for the referees and timekeepers at the Middle School for the first three weeks of Feb., with lunch needed for 4-6 people. This should be dropped off at the score table in the middle school gym between 11:00-11:30, if possible. If interested, you can sign up at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-g3SjSav3PeLgpINzz4h8MAibIT2tttfb4hHZXqY/edit>.

Bev Steelman has agreed to head up this year's Pancake Day again. It will be held on Feb. 1st, serving 6:30-11:30. As with any Optimist event, volunteers are needed to help make each event a success. Same as last year, we will have two work shifts available, so you don't have to be there the whole time. The first shift is 5:30-9:00 a.m. which will include set up. The second shift is 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. which will include cleanup. Bev Steelman is working to get the schedules filled. Her contact info is: [BEVSTEEL52@AOL.COM](mailto:BEVSTEEL52@AOL.COM) or text/call 573-489-2387. Please contact her to sign up for any time you are available to help. If you have a place to hang up a flyer, please let me know and I will send the link to you.

Before we had Bingo last night, with 142 players, we had to replace a gas valve on one of the furnaces, but we were able to double the amount of money that went back in for our deposit. Thank you to everyone who came in and helped.

We enjoyed a tasty breakfast this morning, provided by Barrett Glascock and Shawn Steelman, with Mia Lenger attending with her grandmother, Bonita. Barrett shared information about some of the groups that have used our building, including Mya Zagorac providing an adult CPR/AED class, and a group of retired Army veterans from Amarillo, TX who turned our building into a mock-up drug lab so that the Missouri National Guard could do hazmat training. Barrett also reported that our club received a \$2,000 grant from MFA to replace the flagpole that was damaged last Spring, which sounds great until he shared that he had requested \$5,000. Hopefully, the Cedar Valley Saddle Club will be able to give some money to cover the cost as well.

Our speaker this morning was Joy Rissmiller, who has been setting up group travel for twenty years. She started by sharing that she grew up with terrible motion sickness, but God called her to lead travel groups. When she questioned her ability, she realized that if God calls her to do something, He will guide her through it. Her mother was watching an episode of "The Doctors" on television, where they talked about nausea and shared the use of ginger root to help, which has been her remedy all these years.

Joy shared stories from her travels that showed how unique every person's story may be, including our president, Ken Bishop, leading a comedy show on a cruise they were on, Lynetta Nichols taking on a pickpocket in Rome, and the fact that Yasser Arafat's former assassin has helped her pull together details for tours in Israel. She said that her favorite trip was to Kenya because the people are amazingly happy and faithful, even though they have nothing. Joy shared about going to their church service, where after the preacher finished, without ever needing to open his Bible, people in the congregation stood and shared their testimonies of how God had affected their lives. When Joy was invited to testify, she played hymns for over an hour, with the people singing all of the verses of the hymns she played.

She finished by saying that she believed we should be thankful in everything before she drew for the Attendance drawing. Jamie Metcalf had a chance at riches, but Charlie Selbach was thankful when his number was drawn next.

*Letitia DenHartog*

[ashlandoptimist.org](http://ashlandoptimist.org)