



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

March 22, 2025

"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

Mar 22 Breakfast meeting TBA
 Mar 29 Breakfast meeting- TBA
 Apr 1 renamed to Mar 32
 Apr 4 Bingo
 Apr 5 Breakfast meeting-Jenni Elliott
 Apr 5 early voting Ashland Library
 Apr 8 Election Day
 Apr 10 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
 Florence Hahn 2011
 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: Mar. 29- Bern Bonderer, Robert Blake, and John Travlos

Program- TBD

Our club hosted Bingo on Friday, with 171 (or 181) players. We gave out over \$9,000. We could have used more help on the floor and in the kitchen. The kitchen deposited \$1,273.

Tabi and Letitia DenHartog served breakfast this morning, with many regular items, plus Casey's breakfast pizza and a variety of fresh fruit. President Ken Bishop reminded us that the Nominating Committee is still interested in people for Board positions.

Our speaker this morning was Jeff Branch, whose wife was Crystal Branch, a twenty-four year P.E. teacher in the Southern Boone Schools who coached a variety of track & field teams during her years. After Crystal's death last February, a poker run that had been planned raised \$65,000, the most raised in the Southern Boone area. Much of this money went to scholarships and to help other local residents dealing with health issues.

The School Board renamed the new track at the High School the Crystal Branch Track. That is where the Crystal Branch Invitational will be held on Apr. 4 & 5. It will start with Middle School competitions at 2:00 and the Southern Boone Barbeque in the Eagle's Nest, which will be from 5:30-7:00, and then the Distance Carnival all on Friday. High School competitions start at 10:00 Saturday morning. For more information, go to crystalbranchinvite.com.

River Region Credit Union gave a \$25,000 sponsorship toward the Invitational, which will help provide shirts and banners from Brian Kirmse through his business, Witt Print Shop, along with other necessary expenditures. Jeff shared that he is looking for volunteers to help, since he needs over 100 people to help. Please call or text him at 573-424-4952. Jeff will try to have you close to where your child or grandchild are competing.

The scoring will be handled through Primetime Timing, a full service event & race management company which Jeff & Crystal's son, Cody Branch works for. You can watch up-to-the minute results on the scoreboard at the field or on your phone through their website: pttiming.com. Unfortunately, Cody will not be able to attend the Invitational since he will be in Jamaica helping with the Olympic Trials.

When Jeff finished his presentation and answering questions, he drew for the Attendance drawing and Brenda Austin was thrilled to say, "It pays to attend!" when her number was drawn.

Letitia DenHartog

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