



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

April 25 2026
"You cannot do all the good the

Optimist Board

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

COMING UP

Apr 30 Pool Season Pass early bird discounts expire
May 1 Bingo
May 2 Breakfast Meeting John Martin
May 9- Chase Thomas- rodeo
May 16 Gannon Seyer- Ashland Oratorical
May 23 Bike Safety Rodeo

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
Wes Donley 2025
Louise Martin 2025

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Breakfast: May 2- Leigh Kottwitz, Chris Felmlee, and Loren Plank
Program- State Representative John Martin, Legislative update

We will host Bingo this Friday, May 1st, with a \$1,000 horse race game, so we will need a full crew on the floor. We are rebuilding the team for Week One and will gladly train anyone interested, just please contact me.

Our Bike Safety event is scheduled for May 23rd, with Rich Ward and Charlie Salbach leading. Please let one of them know if you are interested in helping. Tara and Will Blue will be leading the Fishing Derby, with support from Dorise Slinker, on June 20th. Please contact them if you can help.

The Southern Boone Economic Development Leaders Breakfast was held in our building on Thursday, April 23, with 125 attendees, including Gov. Mike Keogh. Our own Barrett Glascock won the 2026 Economic Development Distinguished Impact Award. Thanks to Danna Wren, Leigh Kottwitz, and everyone who helped cook and serve.

On a busy weekend, with the Ashland City-wide garage sale and the Masonic Lodge fish fry, Carole Iles, Tony Ash, Dorise & Reese Slinker provided a delicious breakfast to this morning's small crowd, with egg boats and cinnamon rolls added to the normal fare. Because President Ernie Wren was among the missing, Barrett Glascock ran the meeting in addition to providing the invocation.

Our speaker this morning was Southern Boone High School & Middle School band director, T.J. Higgins. This past January, he was selected to be one of the members of the 2026 Michael D. Sewell Memorial "Saluting America's Band Directors" band at the Rose Parade. This group included 350 band directors from all fifty states, Mexico, Panama, and an exchange teacher from Japan performing with the "Banding Together" float. This was T.J.'s second opportunity to perform at the Rose Parade. They were led this time by Dr. Jon Waters from Bowling Green State University.

TJ had to apply for this privilege and received notice last spring that he had been selected, then he had to raise money for his uniform, travel costs, and toward the float, but some of the drums and brass instruments for members to use while they were in California were donated by Conn-Selmer. The Band Directors band was registered as a float so that they didn't take the place of any of the twelve high school and college bands that were invited. Each band director receives the music in August and practices independently, as well as building stamina for marching the six-mile route. On Dec. 28th, they all flew into Pasadena and practiced together for the first time in the hotel ballroom. Over the next several days, they practiced outdoors at Glendale Community College, since they planned to do a special maneuver of splitting the band to allow the float to come through when they were marching at the TV corner.

They also put together concert and jazz groups which did performances and taped recordings to apply for an international competition in Chicago. The band was also involved in the Band Fest of all the bands that were there for the Rose Parade. They had the opportunity to see many of the floats during the float competition. They performed Amazing Grace for the people affiliated with the Donate Life America float, which included a picture of Josh Boyd's (a band director from California) daughter. The director on their float was modeled after Jim Hahn, retired music consultant for previous Band Fests. They had to be on the bus at 6:00 a.m. and as part of the parade, there was over a mile that they played continually while they were in the TV area.

When T.J. had finished speaking and answering questions, he drew for the Attendance drawing. Gunny Kline, Robert Blake, and Peggy Wren had their chance at riches, but since they weren't there, the pot will continue to grow. Since this was the final meeting of April, Barrett figured the poker pot and with a pair of Jacks, I was thrilled to say, "It pays to attend!"

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