



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

May 9, 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

May 15 Bingo
May 16 Gannon Seyer- Ashland Oratorical
May 22 Pool Open House
May 23 Bike Safety Rodeo
May 23 Pool Opens 12 noon - 6pm

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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Happy Mother's Day weekend!

Breakfast: May 16- Bernie Bartel, Donna, Wobbe, Rich Ward
Program- Gannon Seyer, Club Essay winner (and third at Nationals)
-We will also have election of officers at this meeting

The Ashland Optimist Board will meet on Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 at our building. If you need to be added to the agenda, please let Barrett know by Tuesday. Please attend if you are on the Board since decisions will be made about the slate of officers, which will be presented at Saturday's meeting.

We will host Bingo this Friday, May 15th. If you usually help on Week Three, but won't be available, please let Barrett or me know.

Our Bike Safety event is scheduled for the following Saturday after our meeting on May 23rd, with Leigh Kottwitz and Charlie Salbach leading. Please let one of them know if you are interested in helping.

This week's speakers, Chase Thomas and Lane Williams, came early and helped John Travlos when the rest of his team wasn't available. They provided many of our usual items, but added fresh fruit, french toast, and Lane's chocolate gravy. Ken Bishop led the meeting since Ernie Wren was gone.

Chase and Lane are serving again as co-chairs for the 2026 Cattlemen's Day Rodeo, which is scheduled this year on Aug. 28 & 29. It is one of seven PRCA rodeos in Missouri and third largest in attendance. PRCA is the top tier of rodeos, like NFL or NBA for their sports, and controls where rodeos are allowed on that level. Last year, 67, 577 tickets were sold at the rodeo, three-fifths of them on Saturday (which sold out). These numbers were lower than the previous year by choice because of safety and parking concerns, but this is still the largest event in Ashland.

Overselling the venue in previous years affected safety, parking, and people being able to actually see the rodeo, plus the rodeo committee had no demographics to use for advertising. Because of these issues, the rodeo went to online sales and assigned seats last year. Online ticket sales started this year on May 1st, with tickets costing \$25 each. People can select their seats through ETIX on the website (cattlemendaysrodeo.com) and be guaranteed that seat. This prevents many of the safety issues and improves the rodeo fan's enjoyment of the rodeo.

Another big change this year will be a 11'X20' video board and tv monitors around the venue. This will improve visibility and will allow for additional sponsorship opportunities. Sponsor information can be shared before the rodeo starts, since gates open at 5:30 and the rodeo doesn't start until 8:00, as well as between events. In the past, there were limited locations for sponsor's banners, and some had less visibility. Lane's eventual hope is to sell enough sponsorship that that money would cover costs, which would mean all money from ticket sales would go to the Optimist and Saddle Club. One option for Optimists to get more involved with the rodeo is to donate \$50, which will earn them a "Friend of the Rodeo" yard sign to display.

The Rodeo is working with the Chamber of Commerce to extend the rodeo outside the gates by providing extra competitions among the businesses that week. This will start with a Honky Tonk dance at the Optimist building the Saturday before. Inside the arena, Jessica Ward with in Any Event and Jessica Crump with the Hartsburg Grand will be working the beer tent after Robert & Robin Blake stepped back. The rodeo's stock is being provided by Three Hills Rodeo, which provides stock to many of the Circuit level rodeos. Chase has already found a sponsor for "Tough Luck" gift cards for contestants that have a rough night to build a better relationship with the rodeo. The biggest priority for the future is new bleachers, which quite possibly will cost over \$1 million, so they may replace them 1/4 of the arena at a time. If you have additional questions or are interested in being more involved, the Rodeo Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month in our Boardroom at 6:30 p.m.

After Chase and Lane finished their presentation and answering questions, Chase drew for the Attendance drawing. Jim Green, Bryan Chapman, and Greg Hawkins had their chance at riches, but with their absence, the pot will continue to grow.

Letitia DenHartog

ashlandoptimist.org