



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

May 16, 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 22 Pool Open House  
May 23 Bike Safety Rodeo  
May 23 Pool Opens 12 noon – 6pm\  
May 24 Memorial Day (observed)  
May 30 Breakfast Richard Aubuchon-  
June 5 Bingo  
June 6 Breakfast author Jane Rutter

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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Speaker- Memorial Day Weekend  
Breakfast: May 23- Dana Cafourek, Tabi & Letitia DenHartog

Our Bike Safety event is scheduled for this coming Saturday after our meeting on May 23rd, with Leigh Kottwitz and Charlie Salbach leading. We will have help from Folks on Spokes members and Jenny Brooks with Safe Kids Coalition, but we can always use more, so let Leigh or Charlie know if you are interested in helping.

The Open House for the pool will be Friday, May 22nd at 6:00 p.m. with free swimming, followed by the pool Grand Opening on Saturday from noon-6:00 p.m.

The Board met on Thursday, May 14th. Heather Martin gave the Treasurer's report, including the \$20,000 of interest from our scholarship fund with Optimist International Foundation. The Board chose to keep half toward the parking lot upgrade and reinvest the other half. Rich Ward and Charlie Selbach came in to talk about the Bike Safety program, scheduled for May 23rd. Leigh Kottwitz and Charlie Selbach agreed to oversee this since Rich will be out of town. The Southern Boone Economic Development Council was thrilled with the breakfast that we provided food for and gave a \$1,000 donation to our club. The pool committee had requested money for a new backboard and were approved for up to \$800. The Board also reviewed two bids on resurfacing/stripping our parking lot but tabled the decision until they have complete information next month. A new member sponsored by Tara Blue, William Remos, was approved pending payment. He works with Will Blue and served with him in the military. The Board also voted on a slate of officers, which was presented at our breakfast meeting this morning.

We hosted Bingo on Friday, May 15th, with only 103 players (possibly because of local graduations). Fortunately, our floor crew sold \$1,900 in pull tab games, which allowed us to have a positive deposit. The kitchen deposited \$761.

Donna Wobbe, Bernie Bartel, and Rich Ward served up a delicious breakfast of a variety of breakfast pizzas, as well as Bernie's apple cake and strawberry cake. Our speaker, Gannon Seyer, and his family, which includes new Optimist members Lyra Noce and Phil Seyer, plus Gannon's grandmother, Sharon Kilfoyle, led the way.

After breakfast, Ernie presented the slate of officers, including:

Madeline Bloss and Dorise Slinker as Vice Presidents,

Dennis Sapp, Leigh Kottwitz, and Tony Ash (replacing Bruce Glascock) 2005 2027

Shawn Steelman, Tara Blue, and Chase Thomas (rodeo representative) 2026-2028

These selections passed unanimously and will take office in October.

Our speaker this morning was Gannon Seyer, who won the Optimist Oratorical contest on our club level and took third at the Eastern Missouri District competition in St. Louis, for which he received an additional \$1,000 scholarship. The topic for the 2025-2026 school year contest was: “How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me”, which Gannon used to talk about the importance of local governance. Gannon just finished his Junior year at Southern Boone High School, has been elected President of the Area FFA and the local FFA chapter, has been a reporter for the Columbia City Council for the past five months (a position he had to compete against college students for), and will be attending Boy's State this summer. Gannon thanked John Travlos for his leadership and guidance. This was a powerful speech that I wish more people had been in attendance for.

When Gannon had finished his essay and answered the many questions that people in attendance asked, he drew for the Attendance drawing. The first number belonged to Ernie Wren, who said, "It pays to attend!"

Letitia DenHartog

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