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

November 14, 2026
"You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do."

Optimist Board

Ernie Wren President
Ken Bishop Past President
Vice President Dorise Slinker
Vice President Madeline Bloss
Barrett Glascock Secretary
Heather Martin Treasurer
Tony Ash
Tara Blue
Leigh Kottwitz
Dennis Sapp
Shawn Steelman
Chase Thomas

COMING UP
Nov 20 Youth Basketball Grades 1-4 registration deadline
Nov 20 Bingo
Nov 21 Breakfast Chase Thomas

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
Rev. Elmer Schiefer 2026
Bern Bonderer 2026

Ashland Optimist Bulletin November 14 2026

Breakfast (Nov. 21): Bonita Lenger & Brenda Austin
Speaker: Chase Thomas- Rodeo Wrap-up

We will be hosting Bingo on Friday, Nov. 20th. If you normally help on Week Three, but won't be available, please let Barrett Glascock or me know so we can find coverage.

5th/6th grade MMYBA games started this morning and will continue through Dec. 19. Registration is still open for 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th grade basketball through Nov. 20th. Contact Madeline Bloss at AshlandOptimistBasketball@gmail.com for more information or to register someone.

We hosted our annual Veteran's Day breakfast on Wed. Nov. 11th, where we fed around 100 people, including 56 veterans! Thank you to everyone who came in and helped with decorating the night before and on that day, especially Leigh Kottwitz, who lead everything, and the FFA students! We had not planned to take donations, but our veterans requested that we make something available and we ended up with $298 to help defray costs.

The Ashland Optimist Board met on Thursday, Nov. 12th, though there was some confusion about the starting time. President Ernie Wren reported on this year's successful Spooktacular, with pleasant weather (we finished before the rain began) and excellent turnout. Since Oct. 31st will be on a Sunday next year, the building is booked from 2-4 p.m. Our Optimist club is also partnering with the Ashland Betterment Coalition to provide space for their Jingle & Mingle on Dec. 12th from 3-5 p.m., which will be followed by the Christmas parade to the city park and the tree lighting.

The Board also approved Janet Glascock, Kelly & Annette Ammons as members, subject to completion of applications and dues, then finished the meeting by discussing updates that the FIG Committee has done in the past month. Some of these items included fixing the lights on the stage, replacing 90% of the stained ceiling tiles, replacing the thermostat in the Board room, and the kickstand on the door by the kitchen. Phil Bentlage received the necessary parts to fix the east air handler that was discussed after the October Board meeting and put them in (at a cost of over $2,700). Other items that the FIG Committee also have on their list for the future include providing new supports for the bleachers, replacing the floors in the kitchen, bathrooms, and entryway, along with replacing the partitions and counters in the bathrooms and working on the parking lots and entry next summer.

We received a thank you note from Optimist International for the money we sent in honor of deceased members and in restricted giving for the interest that we earned and reinvested, with our year-to-date total of $10,556 and our lifetime total of $179,685. We also received a thank you note from Ashland Betterment Coalition for our work with them on the upcoming Jingle & Mingle.

Barrett Glascock and Shawn Steelman provided a wonderful breakfast this morning with egg casseroles, sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy. Jim Chapman, Bryan's brother, was visiting from Omaha.

Our speaker this morning was Tim Freeman, Missouri Senior Grassroots Manager, who lives in Columbia. Because Amy Kralicek, who is in charge of the Road to Recovery program for the four-state area, lives in Kansas, she asked Tim to come speak. Road to Recovery started over 40 years ago and is available in all 50 states with around 90,000 rides provided last year to over 7,300 patients, utilizing over 6,000 drivers. For people with cancer, having access to a ride can often stand between them and lifesaving treatment, which is where Road to Recovery comes in. This program provides rides for medical care, but at this time they are only able to provide 55% of rides requested because of the lack of drivers. Training takes less than an hour, followed by a background and motor vehicle check. Visit cancer.org/drive or contact Amy (amy.kralicek@cancer.org) for more information and to sign up.

I have been involved with this program for several years and will attest to the connections you will make and the positive rewards you will experience. I started with Road to Recovery to honor my mother, a breast cancer survivor.

Letitia DenHartog
ashlandoptimist.org