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

October 31, 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 6 Bingo
Nov 7 Breakfast meeting Micheal Dwyer
Nov 11 Annual Veterans Breakfast
Nov 12 Board meeting
Nov 20 Youth Basketball Grades 1-4 registration deadline

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

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Breakfast (Nov. 7): Dana Cafourek, Letitia & Tabi DenHartog
Speaker: Micheal Dwyer- PTSD: Reasons & Recovery

We will host Bingo on Nov. 6th, which will include a $1,000 horse race, so we will need all hands on-deck. If you normally help on the first Friday, but won't be available, please let Barrett or me know.

Our next event will be the Veteran's Breakfast on Wednesday, Nov. 11th from 7:00-9:00 a.m. spearheaded by Leigh Kottwitz. If you haven't contacted her and are still interested in helping, contact her at leighkottwitz@gmail.com.

We enjoyed a delicious breakfast this morning from Bernie Bartel, Bev Steelman, and Rich Ward, which included Bernie's apple cake and plenty of fresh fruit. Because President Ernie Wren was helping with the Monster Dash 5K at the YMCA, vice-president Madeline Bloss (with help from her son, Henry) stepped up to lead the meeting this morning. program Our speaker this morning was State Representative, John Martin. He is also the owner of Pro Pumping & Hydrojetting, a small local business. He spoke about his three focuses:

1. Public safety- including the Blue Shield Grant program which helped the Ashland Police Force be able to do fingerprinting locally. John also talked about the legislation that was passed recently which works to eliminate minimum sentencing and allows juveniles to be fingerprinted for felony crimes so that they are in the system.

2. Infrastructure- John spoke about the work that MODOT has been doing to improve road safety across the state and the struggles they are encountering with finding workers. John commented that this is a struggle across the state because we have low unemployment

3. Education- The state constitution requires that 25% of general revenue must go to education. According to John, because of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money that was provided by the Federal Government after Covid over the past five years, school budgets have grown by 50%, while state revenue has only grown by 40%. Because of this, last year's budget called for level funding, which involves no cuts or increases. John also shared that he has sponsored an Elementary Ag education bill, which will help other schools to provide programs like our Learning Garden. John also talked about college funding changing to a performance-based model, which will take retention and graduation numbers into account for funding.

His goals if he is reelected include fighting waste and fraud through the Attorney General's office. John sponsored a bill to help the Auditor's office focus on specific areas of departments instead of requiring them to audit the entire department, which should save money. John also talked about the need to balance property tax between personal, commercial, and home taxes by averaging the three so none of them increases more than the others.

At that point, John asked for questions and shared his responses, before he helped Henry draw for the Attendance Drawing. Greg Hawkins, Jim Green, and Doyle Welker had their chance at riches, but with their absence, the pot will have a chance to regrow. Because of weeks without breakfast meetings, Barrett had seven weeks' worth of cards to figure for the Poker Pot. Even though there were several people with pairs, Ken Bishop won with pairs of jacks and eights.

This evening, we held our annual Optimist Spooktacular, with fifteen folks decorating their trunks to hand out over five hundred treats. Check in a future Boone County Journal for many of the incredible costumes and go to the Ashland Optimist Club Facebook page to see the winners in the trunk competition.

Letitia DenHartog
ashlandoptimist.org