



# The Optimizer

February 2024

Menomonee Falls Optimist Club

<http://fallsoptimistclub.org/>

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# Weekly Meeting Schedule

*Submitted by Jerry Mislang*

Meetings are held at 7:15 am at the Community Center unless otherwise noted.

- Wed. Feb. 7** An annual tradition, a visit from the instructors and several students from the **QUEST Alternative Education program**.
- Wed. Feb. 14** – A ‘TWO-FER’! First, a brief visit from **Tyler Zwagerman – Village Planning Technician** with some Village Park updates. That will be followed by **Brooke Jakobi and several students from the new ‘Officials’ class** at MFHS.
- Wed. Feb. 21** NMS, MFHS and St. Mary’s will send us their February **Students of the Month** and will remind us once again how fortunate we are to live in a school district with such outstanding students.
- Wed. Feb. 28** We’re happy to welcome the five participants in this years **Distinguished Young Women’s program**.

**\*\* Do you have ideas for future guest speakers? Contact the speakers committee – Jerry Mislang, Jeanine Dederich, Beth Saunders, Larry Barbera. \*\***



## President's Message



Welcome to February...what often seems like the longest month of Winter! Groundhog Day and Brewers Spring Training remind us that Spring can't be far away!

In case you missed it, here are a few things we accomplished in January...

- The January meat raffle at Wisconsin On Tap raised over \$3,800, the largest yet! So far, the meat raffles have contributed almost \$13,000 to our club's coffers. Many thanks to the teams that put these events together!
- The Board of Directors approved an increase in membership dues that will be collected starting in the Fall, 2024. Dues had not been changed in about 20 years despite increases in the dues we pay to Optimist International and the Southeast Wisconsin District. New annual dues will be:
  - Member \$105
  - Student \$ 45
  - No discounts for couples membership
- A new tent/canopy has been ordered and will be available for use during outside events this year—more visibility for the club and a little bit of shelter for our volunteers!
- Minor by-law changes were approved during the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. More substantive changes will be put to a vote on January 31<sup>st</sup>—results are not available by the newsletter deadline.
- More substantive changes, primarily changing titles of the Club officers, were also approved by a large margin during the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Also at the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, 73% of the voting members approved a by-law change to limit the President, VP and secretary to two consecutive 1-year terms. The Treasurer's term is now defined as 2 years with a limit of 2 consecutive terms.

Here's what's coming up in February and March...

- Meat Raffle 1:00pm – 4:00pm
  - February 3 Sportz Pub and Grill
  - March 2 DJ's Goalpost
- JJ Memorial Happy Hour 4:30pm – 6:30pm
  - February 13 KC Hall on Water Street
- Distinguished Young Women
  - February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at North Middle School
- Oratorical Contest
  - March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Community Center

If you are interested in helping with any of our events, please be sure to reach out to the committee chairperson or me. You'll make more out of your club membership, contribute to our community and probably have some fun!

Cheers!

*President John*

## Volunteers Needed

- Sat. Feb. 17 Distinguished Young Women. See article below.
- Thur. Mar. 14 Oratorical Contest. See article below.



## Upcoming Events

### JJ Memorial Happy Hour

*Submitted by John Yusko*



JJ Seiland used to organize an informal Optimist get-together that allowed members to socialize and get to know each other a little better. No agendas, no reports,...just show up, enjoy an adult beverage of your choice, share ideas and simply have a little fun.

A number of members suggested resurrecting it, so let's give it a try. Please join us on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 at the KC Hall on Water Street for the first JJ Memorial Happy Hour. The more members, the more fun! Please attend if you can!

### Meat Raffle

*Submitted by Marcia Hebbring*

Attention, Attention!!! Our best meat raffle to date brought our club about \$3800.00. If you missed it, it was truly a good one. Wisconsin on Tap was our gracious host for our 5th stop of the Meat Train. What a day!! Standing room only and everyone was filled with excitement with all that was going on. Thanks to all of our volunteers. Thanks to all who attended. It's a huge endeavor and we couldn't do it without our volunteers, attendees, and donations from many. Thanks to Wisconsin on Tap for secondary prize donations and to Miller/Coors for their donations that provide for a great raffle loved by all along with a donation of \$100.00 back to the club from our 50/50 winner.



Our next venue is Sportz Pub and Grille, located on Fond du Lac Avenue. The big date is Saturday, February 3rd from 1:00-4:00pm. Again, 10 meat raffles, beer/wine raffles, and 50/50 raffles along with lots of surprises should make this another great event. Our club's endeavors will truly benefit the kids in our community.

Keep the train a movin!!!



*Submitted by Deb Mattson*

This is the 60th year (yes 60!!!) of the Distinguished Young Women, formerly Junior Miss, program in Menomonee Falls! Nationally, it is one of the oldest and largest scholarship programs for high school seniors in the United States. We owe a large part of its success to the Optimist Club of Menomonee Falls. The Optimist Club took over sponsorship back in 1985 and has helped the program in many different facets. Not only does the club support the program financially, but without the many volunteer hours given by the club members, this program would not be possible. We rely on so many of the club members, who help in so many ways - whether it's backstage, moving props on and off the stage, creating the booklet, running the sound system or tallying the final numbers. This program could not go on without you!

This year our Distinguished Young Women program will happen Saturday, February 17th at 7:00p at the North Middle School auditorium. We are returning to an evening program time to help create an "event type" atmosphere for the participants. We hope to see many of you there to show these girls your support!!!

If you would like to volunteer - please reach out- many hands make light work!  
[menomoneefalls@distinguishedyw.org](mailto:menomoneefalls@distinguishedyw.org) or 262-442-5759

## Optimist Scholarships

*Submitted by Cathy Hazzard*



Thank you to our Optimist Board for granting \$22, 000 in scholarships to the class of 2022/2023! Ten - \$2000 scholarships will be offered to MFHS students attending a four-year college with an additional \$2000 going towards the Quest graduates. SPECIAL NOTE: Members with a graduating senior attending a DIFFERENT high school are welcome to have their child apply for an Optimist Scholarship. Please have your child visit the MFHS web page <https://www.fallsschools.org/mfhs/academics/college-career-planning>. Click on "Scholarship Opportunities" MF Scholarship & Educational Foundation for instructions. Application is ONLY on the school web page. Please print the instruction sheet along with the question pages. In addition to the items required for a completed application PACKET (4 parts), we require an essay written about one of the lines of our creed and special volunteer activity sheets. For questions, please

contact Cathy Hazzard at [hazzardcj@gmail.com](mailto:hazzardcj@gmail.com), or 414-350-4749.

Applications will be available to students from February 22 to April 4, 2024.

**All applications are due by Thursday, April 4 in the gym at MFHS by 2pm**

## Oratorical and Essay Contests

*Submitted by Mike Russell*

Dear Optimist Club Members,



As we gear up for the 2024 Optimist Oratorical and Essay Contests, we invite you to play a crucial role in making this event a success. Your involvement will contribute to the development of young voices and empower them to express their thoughts on creating a more optimistic world. If you have a passion for supporting youth and would like to be part of these inspiring events, please contact Annie Jurczyk ([annie.j@kw.com](mailto:annie.j@kw.com)) or Mike Russell ([michaeldrussell1988@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldrussell1988@gmail.com)). Your commitment will not only enrich the experience for participants but also uphold the spirit of optimism within our community.

**2024 Optimist Oratorical Contest Topic: "How to Change the World with Optimism"** We would like to Thank the following people for volunteering to serve as judges: **Clara Scheckel, Jim Weitzer, Dr. Carolyn Anderson, Jacqueline Rammer, Jonas Mack and Superintendent David Munoz.** Also we would like to Thank **Rema Kunnath** for volunteering as a Tabulator. **We are still in need of two (2) Timekeepers and one (1) more Tabulator for our Club Competition on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm,** hosted at the Menomonee Falls Community Center. If you would more information about the remaining volunteer positions please reach out to Mike ([michaeldrussell1988@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldrussell1988@gmail.com)).

**2024 Optimist Essay Contest Topic: "Optimism: How It Connects Us"** We would like to Thank the following Club members and Community members for volunteering to serve as judges: **Ed Schlumpf, Kristen Stone, Jim Weitzer.** The judges will receive the essays electronically along with the scoresheet on February 14. Score sheets are due back to Mike ([michaeldrussell1988@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldrussell1988@gmail.com)) on Friday, February 23rd.



Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a positive impact!

## Brewer Spring Training Updates

*Submitted by Ed Schlumpf*



Once again, Ed "Swami" Schlumpf will be traveling to Arizona to watch the Brewers in spring training. And once again, he will be sending out reports on the games that he sees. (Usually five or six.) If you are interested in receiving these reports or know of someone who might want to read them, please send your/their e-mail address to Swami at [schlumpfed@yahoo.com](mailto:schlumpfed@yahoo.com). If you are currently on the mailing list, and no longer wish to receive these reports, please let him know.

## 34 th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

*Submitted by Todd Paulus  
Golf Committee Chair*



The 34 th Annual Optimist Club Scholarship Golf outing will be held Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Ironwood Golf Course in Sussex. The 18 hole scramble event will tee off at 11:00 am with a shotgun start. The cost this year is \$160 per golfer, which includes golf, cart, lunch, heavy hors d'oeuvres afterwards, driving range, putting green, mulligans, putting contest and all on-course events. We have reserved all 3 nine hole courses there so we need a minimum of 160 golfers. Last year we reached that number and were able to raise over \$15,000.00 for scholarships. We have earmarked \$22,000.00 in scholarships this year so this event is critical to help cover a good portion of those dollars we will give away to Seniors this year.

How can you help? There are many ways. First, you can put together a foursome to golf in this year's event. A great time is had by all that attend.

If you don't golf, please promote the event to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or whoever you think may be interested in golfing. The event is on the Optimist Club Facebook page so please share the event to all your friends.

We will also need prizes to make the event a success. We need voice auction items, and silent auction items. We will also need 16 dozen of new golf balls to use for on-course events, bottles of booze for our booze baskets. Finally, if you want to help at the event, we are always looking for volunteers. Please reach out to me and let me know. Mark this date on your calendar. You will not want to miss it.

## Past Events

### Football Craz

*Submitted by Larry Hebring*

The 18-week season for the Craz Raffle is now over. We didn't have as many winners as in the past, but with only selling 210 tickets we did have 5 winners of around \$240 and the club made over \$2520.00. If in the future, we choose to sell more tickets we could increase the amount of money to the club. At \$20.00 a ticket it isn't a hard sell and a few years ago we made \$14,000.00 selling almost 1000 tickets.

Thanks again for your help this year. The SLLB club also sold tickets in our area and seemed to do well. We are looking for someone to head up this program for the future. If interested, please contact Larry Hebring or the current president.

## Optimist Meetings

### Overdose Aid Kit



**Felicia Behnke Shaw** spoke about the O.A.K (Overdose Aid Kit) which contains Narcan.

### Camo Crew Junk Removal

**Andy Wein** from Camo Crew Junk Removal had an interesting program about his life and his business.





## Students of the Month



**Madelyne Nguyen** from St. Mary Parish School  
**Ella Mlagan** and **Justin Mueller** and from North Middle School  
**Nolan Bowen** and **Mason Goss** from Menomonee Falls High School

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Carol Schulteis

Date: January 16, 2024

Board members in attendance in person: Jerry Mislang, Kim Wenzel, John Yusko, Mike Russell, Carol Schulteis, Clara Scheckel, Dustin Koehler, Linda Zylka. Board members in attendance on Google Meet: Jeanine Dederich, Laura Ciletti, Shannon Dederich, Barb Schmit

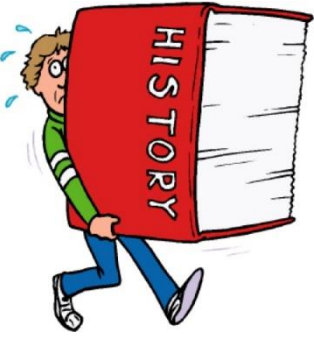
Purpose: Regular monthly meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 am.
2. Falls Foundation Scholarship Overview – Cathy Hazzard
  - a. Cathy went over how students are chosen to receive a scholarship from us. Some of the criteria are: How many volunteer hours a student has acquired, how the overall application looks, how the Optimist essay is. They must also be in the top 50% of their class. One scholarship goes to a son or daughter of a member.
3. Agenda and November meeting minutes. Jerry moved to approve, Mike seconded. Motion carried.

4. Presentation of Donation Requests
  - a. No Donation Requests
5. Presentation of Budget Requests
  - a. No Budget Requests
6. Activity Post-Budget Results
  - a. January 6<sup>th</sup> Meat Raffle
7. Treasurer's Report-Kim Wenzel
  - a. Jerry moved to approve, Linda seconded. Motion carried.
8. Action on Donation Requests
  - a. NA
9. Action on Budget Approvals
  - a. NA
10. New Member Applications
  - a. None this month.
11. Old Business
  - a. Tent is ordered, should receive by the end of January.
12. New Business
  - a. Membership Dues
    - i. There was discussion on the fact that the membership dues have not been raised in almost 20 years and they are not now covering what Optimist International is charging us and our expenses per person.
    - ii. A motion was made to raise dues to \$105 per person, to not offer any special couples pricing, to raise college pricing to \$45 per person, and to leave the life member pricing as is. Mike moved to approve this motion, Clara seconded. Motion carried.
  - b. Ideas for Improvement
    - i. John read the ideas he had received and there was some discussion on some of the ideas.
      1. Shannon brought up that they will most likely want captains for the different meat raffles next year.
      2. Jerry brought up a roast for Ed Schlumpf.
      3. Jerry mentioned bringing back Dodgeball.
      4. John said he will work on bringing back a President's social hour and Kim said we should call it JJ's happy hour since JJ started them.
  - c. State of the Club Topics
    - i. We plan to discuss
      1. Financials
      2. Membership
      3. Member feedback
      4. Board activities/openings
  - d. Background Checks
    - i. There was discussion on whether we should do this maybe just on new members coming in, or possibly just for the Treasurer's position.
    - ii. John is going to check with our insurance company on what the ramifications would be if we don't do background checks.
13. Next Meeting: February 20, 2024 at 7am
14. Adjournment: Jerry moved to adjourn, Linda seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35am.



## A Bit of Club History



**A history message from member Larry Barbera**

***Optimist Club of Menomonee Falls President –2006-2007.***

Our club enjoyed 140+ members, the second largest in the state; our club awarded recognition by SWIS Governor, Don Damon.

***SWIS District Governor October 1, 2012-2013.***

It was a great opportunity to grow Optimism while enhancing our standing tall for kids in our district. We started at the Heidel House in Green Lake in November, 2012. This was our first conference with WINUM (Wisconsin North Upper Michigan), our first since the '90s. February 2013 brought us to the American Center in Sun Prairie, Kalahari in the Dells in May and the return to Country Springs in August. We also had 4 other events around the state. For fun, we went in July to the International Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Over the year, we got around to about 34 SWIS clubs. It was fun being the SWIS Governor for a year. Thank you to club #09103 in Menomonee Falls!

## February Birthdays

2/2	Carl Holzem	2/17	Brad Hoffman
2/4	Corrine Reiter	2/17	Mike Yanke
2/6	Linda Wagner	2/19	Niccole Becker
2/6	Jean Lynch	2/20	Dan Schwind
2/8	Jerry Mislant	2/20	Linda Weitzer
2/10	Emily Lukasek	2/21	Sue Jeskewitz
2/10	Jason Husslein	2/23	Steve Fleming
2/12	Jon Cline	2/24	Cathy Sharkey
2/13	Kathie Jensen	2/24	Brooke Tabbert
2/15	Burton Brody	2/24	Paul Matson
2/16	Chris Forston	2/26	Donna Bosch



## How to Publish Optimist News and Events

There are multiple options for publishing Optimist news and events to the community and to the Optimist members. It is important to get the word out so everyone is aware of the events we sponsor to benefit the youth of the community. Committee chairs are responsible for writing the articles and sending them via email to the people listed below:



**NEWSLETTER** Barb Schmit **no later than the 28th of each month** - [schmitbarb@gmail.com](mailto:schmitbarb@gmail.com)

**NEWSPAPERS** Shannon Dederich **three or more weeks prior to your event, as quickly as possible after an event** - [shannon.dederich@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.dederich@gmail.com)

**FACEBOOK** Cathy Sharkey or Dawn Mariscal  
- [csharkey224@yahoo.com](mailto:csharkey224@yahoo.com), [dmariscal@wi.rr.com](mailto:dmariscal@wi.rr.com),

**WEBSITE** John Yusko - [jyusko505@twc.com](mailto:jyusko505@twc.com)

The Optimist Club of  
**MENOMONEE FALLS**  
*Serving Our Youth Since 1973*



You're Invited to Participate in the 34th Annual Menomonee Falls  
**“OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING”**  
 (All Proceeds to Benefit the Youth of Our Community)

**Date:** *Wed. May 15, 2024*

**Location:** **Ironwood Golf Course**  
*W270 N6166 Moraine Dr. Sussex, WI 53089 (on ~~County~~ MD, southwest of Sussex)*

**Events:** **Four Person Scramble**  
*First place team prizes for Women, Men, Senior Flights & Additional Prizes,  
 Special PUTTING Contest, Individual HOLE PRIZES, HOLE EVENTS, & More!*

**Tee Times:** *Shotgun Start at 11:00 AM, Registration Starts at 9:30 AM*

**Lunch:** *Included in Fees. Begins at 9:30 AM*

**Fees:** **\$160 per person** *Includes 18 holes of golf, Free Range Balls, 4 Free Mulligans,  
 Free Entrance in Putting Contest, Cart, Beverage, Lunch,  
 Heavy Hors d'oeuvres  
 (Hors d'oeuvres only \$40)*

**Social Hour:** *3:30 PM to 4:30 PM  
 Hors d'oeuvres & Awards to follow the conclusion of golf. Raffle prizes to be  
 posted after golf*

- - - - - **Register Below (Please return by May 8, 2024)** - - - - -

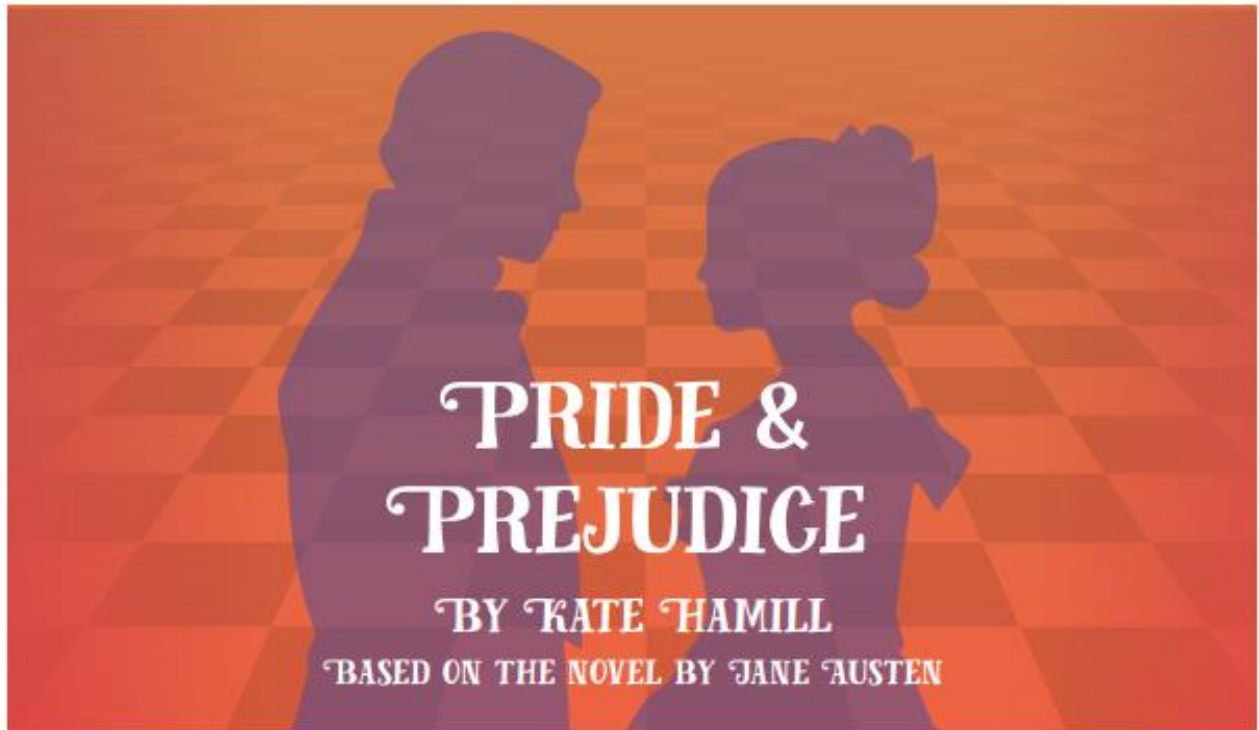
Players in foursome: \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_,

Total ages of the 4 golfers: \_\_\_\_\_ (If your total is 265 or above, your team will be flight 2)  
 Advance registration and payment preferred - Checks payable to: Men. Falls Optimist Club

Return to: Todd Paulus W169N8757 Sheridan Dr. Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
 Cell:414-719-0009 Wk: 414-362-3715 or email

[tpaulus@wi.rr.com](mailto:tpaulus@wi.rr.com)

## Falls Patio Players: Pride & Prejudice



A DELIGHTFUL, ZANY, ENERGETIC TAKE  
ON THE CLASSIC TALE FULL OF HILARITY  
AND HEARTFELT FUN.

FRIDAY + SATURDAY EVENINGS  
at 7:30pm:

**FEB 2, 3, 9, & 10**  
2024

SUNDAY MATINEES  
at 2:00pm:

**FEB 4 & 11**  
2024

**North Middle School Auditorium**  
N88W16750 Garfield Dr.  
Menomonee Falls, WI

**\$18**  
Adults

**\$15**  
Seniors/Students



[fallspatioplayers.com](http://fallspatioplayers.com) • Information Line: (262) 255-8372

