



The Optimizer

January 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. Jan. 3** We start the year off meeting new **MFHS Varsity Boys' Basketball Head Coach Freddie Riley and his team**. When the basketball team shows up, we're always 'lookin' up'!
- Wed. Jan. 10** Our guest will be the son of club member Eileen Weins, **Andy Weins of Camo Crew Junk Removal**. His company was just awarded the prestigious title of 2023 Wisconsin Disabled Owned Business of the Year!
- Wed. Jan. 17** What will probably be a 'first' for all of us, our guest speaker will be **Felicia Behnke Shaw explaining the Narcon training program for overdose prevention**. It's always great to have a speaker talking about health and wellness.
- Wed. Jan. 24** We welcome the first five **Students of the Month** for 2024.
- Wed. Jan. 31** At press time we're waiting for documentation and confirmation from several potential speakers to book the 'fifth' speaker this month!

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

Volunteers Needed

Thur. Mar. 14 Oratorical Contest. See article below.



President's Message



Happy 2024! I wish everyone a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year!

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

- We held the Annual Drop n Shop at the Community Center. Over 90 kids participated, enjoyed a fun morning and had an opportunity to visit with Santa. Thanks to Dawn Mariscal and her team of Optimist helpers for making the event another success!
- On the same day, we held our fourth scheduled monthly meat raffle at Players Pub. Host Burton Brody donated a wide-screen smart tv that helped us raise over \$2,400. Thanks to Burton for his donation. Our three meat raffles in this term have now contributed around \$9,000 in revenue to the club, allowing us to continue to support the kids in our community. Thanks to Marcia Hebring, Shannon Dederich, Greg Mattson, Clara Scheckel and the rest of the meat raffle team for your efforts!
- On December 6th, approximately 50 Optimists and their guests enjoyed good food, entertainment, and, most importantly, the company of other Optimists at our annual Holiday Party. Kristy Gruenwald and Carol Schulteis deserve kudos for once again putting together a sparkling event.
- We approved the following donations at December's board meeting:
 - Badger State Girls' Sponsorship, \$400
 - Badger State Boys' Sponsorship, \$400
 - MFHS Baseball, \$1,800
 - 2024 Scholarships, \$22,000
 - Leaf-raking Groups, \$4,300 (\$2,150 resident donations matched by the Club)
- The Board also approved proposed budgets for the Oratorical Contest, the Essay Contest and the Fishing Derby.

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

- Meat Raffle 1:00pm – 4:00pm
 - January 6 Wisconsin on Tap
 - February 3 Sportz Pub and Grill

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!

Happy New Year!

President John

Membership

Submitted by Cathy Sharkey



All members have been updated to receive an electronic copy of the Optimist International Magazine and communications from SWIS District and OI via email. Should you prefer a hard copy of either, please email Cathy Sharkey at csharkey224@yahoo.com. Those settings can be easily changed to your preference. Current and past issues of the magazine can also be found online here <https://www.optimist.org/member/magazine.cfm>.

Optimist Apparel is Open

Submitted by Larry Hebring

Welcome to the Menomonee Falls Optimist Club Online Apparel Store! The store is open this year with our original Optimist logo embroidered on the left chest. All orders will be ganged and ordered on a deadline date of January 17th. Delivery will be 2 to 4 weeks later. You will pay for the items when you receive, please make check out to the Optimist Club of Menomonee Falls. New items have been added. Begin shopping by clicking on a category.

How to shop:

Click on the "add to Shopping Cart" link.

Next select your sizes and colors.

Then click update cart button. Review your shopping cart and click the submit button.

You can go directly to the store by the link below or go to the club website and use the link there.

<http://www.companycasuals.com/fallsoptimistclub>



Upcoming Events

Oratorical and Essay Contests

Submitted by Annie Jurczyk

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) or Mike Russell (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),

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, Kristen Kubisiak, Also we would like to Thank Jim Weitzer for agreeing to be an alternate judge.** The judges will receive the essays electronically along with the scoresheet on February 14. Scoresheets are due back to Mike (michaeldrussell1988@gmail.com) on Friday, February 23rd.

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



Meat Raffle

Submitted by Marcia Hebbring

Our last Meat Raffle was held December 2nd at Players Pub. A donation of a TV to raffle off and our golden raffle of Surf and Turf, Burton Brody helped this Raffle to exceed \$2500.00. We also received a fantastic amount of beer and seltzers to raffle donated by Miller/Coors. Our friends of Optimism along with the multitude of club members are truly making these monthly meat raffles a success and fun for all. If you haven't been to an Optimist Meat Raffle, please feel free to do so as the Meat Train travels through Menomonee Falls. These local establishments are helping the Optimist Club of Menomonee Falls, lets support them too.



Our next stop for the Meat Train is **Wisconsin on Tap; Saturday, January 6th from 1:00 - 4:00pm**. We are very excited to start the new year, 2024 with an Optimistic 'power punch' fund raiser. I wish to thank everyone who has participated or worked the 2023 Meat Raffles. Cheers to many more in 2024

Past Events

2023 Leaf Raking is in the Books!



Submitted by John Yusko

Success!

Mother Nature gave our leaf-raking teams almost ideal weather this year. No snow, no bitter cold and fairly dry conditions...

What are the numbers?

- 36 homes were raked; we usually average 20-25 homes.
- 7 youth organizations participated; two new groups this year!
- Over 300 volunteers helped
- Homeowners donated \$2,150
- The Optimist Club matched the donations

- We distributed a total of \$4,300 among the participating groups

A big thanks to...

- Johnson's Nursery, which again allowed us to dump leaves at its facility, saving us the time and expense of dumping them at the landfill;
- The Optimist volunteers who offered to help haul leaves;
- Jason Husslein, who handled team assignments and administered the collection of donations.

Mark your calendars.

The 2024 Leaf Raking event will again take place in early November (final dates to be determined.) If you are a senior homeowner and would like your yard raked, sign up by calling the CE & Rec Office at (262) 255-8460 in October. They will get you on the list to be contacted by one of the youth groups.

Questions?

Contact Jason Husslein (414-852-9634) or John Yusko (414-339-2637).

Optimists in Waukesha Parade

Submitted by Joy Fricke

Diane L. Matuszak held a cookies and hot cocoa Sunday get together, at her house, before a group walked in the Waukesha Christmas parade, in support of the Waukesha Optimist club.

Fun was had by all, Christmas music and Christmas decorations. Here is a photo with Menomonee Falls optimist members: Carl Trapp, Joy, Fricke, Diane Matuszak, and honorary optimist, Mike Vosen, and others from Optimist international. Off they went to walk in the Waukesha Christmas parade, to do what we do best, promote Optimist clubs and bring out the best in kids.



Friends of Education Award

Optimist club member Jerry Missing received the **Friends of Education award** during a December school board meeting



Students of the Month

Addison Roesch (St. Mary School)

Aubrey Jakubowski and **Timothy Xiong** (North Middle School)

Brendan Bonenberger and **Isabella Barkimer** (Menomonee Falls High School)

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Carol Schulteis

Date: December 19, 2023

Board members in attendance: Jerry Mislant, Kim Wenzel, John Yusko, Mike Russell, Carol Schulteis, Jeanine Dederich, Laura Ciletti, Clara Scheckel, Dustin Koehler, Linda Zylka, Barb Schmit

Board members absent: Shannon Dederich

Purpose: Regular monthly meeting



1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 am.
2. Agenda and November meeting minutes. Linda moved to approve; Barb seconded. Motion carried.
3. Presentation of Donation Requests
 - a. American Legion Badger State Girls-Jeff Paige and Kim Wenzel
 - b. American Legion Badger State Boys-Jeff Paige
 - i. Donation requests of \$400 each
 - c. MFHS Baseball-Tim Gotzler
 - i. Donation request of \$2500
 - d. 2024 Scholarship Donation-Cathy Hazzard
 - i. Donation request of \$22,000, \$2,000 of this for Quest scholarships
4. Presentation of Budget Approvals
 - a. Oratorical & Essay Contest-Michael Russell
 - i. Oratorical request-\$1160, essay request-\$805
 - b. Fishing Derby-Dustin Koehler
 - i. Requesting \$1,507
5. Activity Post-Budget Results
 - a. Christmas Parade-Larry Hebbring
 - i. Budget was \$500, actual was \$267
 - b. Drop N Shop-Dawn Mariscal
 - i. Budget was \$2,000, actual was \$1,116.27
 - c. Meat Raffle-Marcia Hebbring
 - i. Actual was \$2,453
 - d. Christmas Party-Carol Schulteis
 - i. Budget was \$727.89 expense to the club, actual was \$24.79 income
 - e. Leaf Raking-John Yusko
 - i. Budget was \$1,200, actual was \$2,150
6. Treasurer's Report-Kim Wenzel
 - a. Mike moved to approve; John seconded. Motion carried.
7. Action of Donation Requests
 - a. 2024 Scholarship Donation

- i. Linda moved to approve the request of \$22,000, Mike seconded. Motion carried with 2 opposed.
 - b. American Legion Badger State Girls
 - c. American Legion Badger State Boys
 - i. Mike moved to approve \$400 each, Barb seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. MFHS Baseball
 - i. Jerry moved to approve a donation of \$2500, Carol seconded. After some discussion, Barb made a motion to approve \$1800 and Clara seconded. Motion carried with 2 opposed.
 - e. Leaf Raking
 - i. Jerry moved to approve donations totaling \$4,300 to participating groups (\$2,150 donations from residents, \$2,150 matched by club). Linda seconded. Motion carried.
- 8. Action on Budget Approvals
 - a. Oratorical & Essay Contest
 - i. Jerry moved to approve as presented. Barb seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Fishing Derby
 - i. Jerry moved to approve as presented. Barb seconded. Motion carried.
- 9. New Member Applications
 - i. None this month.
- 10. Old Business
 - a. Tent Recommendation-Linda Zylka
 - i. Linda checked with 3 different places for pricing and quality of tents and weights. After some discussion, it was decided to go with Star Promotions for a price of \$1379, plus shipping.
 - 1. Carol made a motion to approve, Mike seconded. Motion carried.
- 11. New Business
 - a. By-laws Review
 - i. We reviewed suggested by-law changes and agreed on changes. John will summarize and get the changes out to the board for review.
- 12. Next Meeting: January 16, 2024 at 7am
- 13. Adjournment: Barb moved to adjourn; Clara seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15am.

A Bit of Club History

From the 50th Anniversary Booklet

Jan. 1992. - The Club decides to start meetings at 7:15 instead of 7:30. Fewer people need to leave during the speaker's presentation (Club later opts to have speakers go first followed by the business meeting.)



January Birthdays

1/6	Joanne Wanner
1/7	Matt Hakes
1/8	Jenn Dedrick
1/8	Rog Rogers
1/10	Joy Fricke
1/22	Linda Zylka
1/22	Fred Blanke
1/23	Dawn Mariscal
1/27	Sharon Ellis



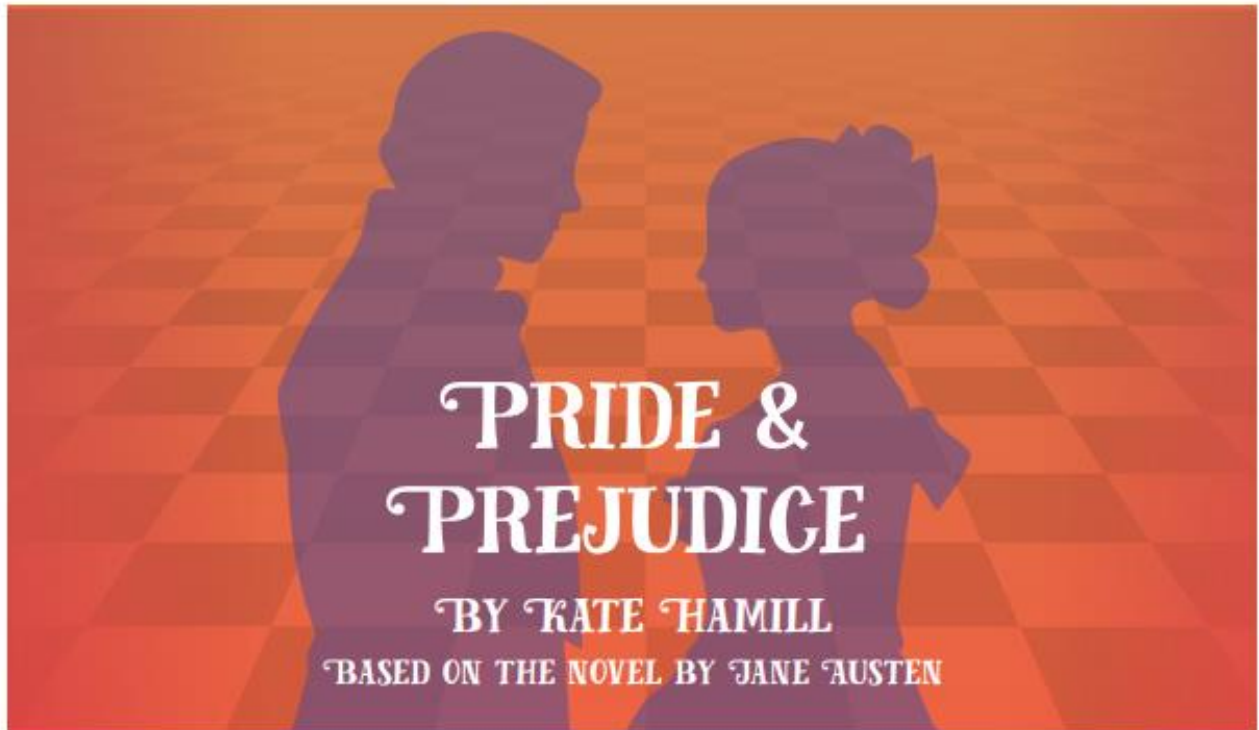
How to Publish Optimist News and Events

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	<i>Barb Schmit no later than the 28th of each month - schmitbarb@gmail.com</i>
NEWSPAPERS	<i>Shannon Dederich three or more weeks prior to your event, as quickly as possible after an event - shannon.dederich@gmail.com</i>
FACEBOOK	<i>Cathy Sharkey or Dawn Mariscal - csharkey224@yahoo.com, dmariscal@wi.rr.com,</i>
WEBSITE	<i>John Yusko - jyusko505@twc.com</i>

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 • Information Line: (262) 255-8372

