



The Optimizer

December 2023

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. Dec. 6 **NO MEETING**, Annual Club Christmas Party at the Delta Hotel.

Wed. Dec. 13 A **new MFHS Club, Project Hero**, honoring both Veterans and First Responders, will be our guest speaker.

Wed. Dec. 20 Mark your calendars for as we honor the December **Students of the Month** for the last time in 2023.

Wed. Dec. 27 **NO MEETING**, Holiday Break.

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

President's Letter



As we approach the festive holiday season, I want to wish everyone warmth, joy and peace...and a healthy, prosperous 2024! Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Optimist Club! And please stay safe!

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

- We netted over \$3,400 from November's Gobble Wobble meat raffle; part of the proceeds were turned into a \$2,800 donation to the Resource Room
- We honored our 50th anniversary with a celebration at Hot House Tavern on November 4th with a host of past Presidents in attendance
- We approved the following donations at November's board meeting
 - \$400 for Blessings in a Backpack
 - \$1,500 for the North Middle School Choir and Jazz Club
 - \$500 for the Falls High School soccer Go Pink apparel
 - \$3,000 for the Falls High School Robotics Club
 - \$2,000 for the 2023 Menomonee Falls Parade Committee
- Seven organizations completed our annual leaf-raking program for around 35 (final numbers are still being tabulated...) senior citizens
- And, of course, we welcomed in the holiday season with the annual Menomonee Falls Christmas parade on the 26th.



Here's what's coming up in December & January...

- Meat Raffle 1:00pm – 4:00pm
 - December 2 Players Pub
- Holiday Drop-n-Shop
 - December 2, 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - Menomonee Falls Community Center
- Member Christmas Party
 - December 6, 6:15pm – 10:00pm
 - Delta Hotel, N88W14750 Main Street
- Meat Raffle 1:00pm – 4:00pm
 - January 6 Wisconsin on Tap

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 Holidays!

President John

Volunteers Needed

- Thur. Mar. 14 Oratorical Contest. See article below.
- Feb. 14 to 23 Essay Contest. See article below.



Upcoming Events

Oratorical and Essay Contest

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 Russel (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 are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to serve as judges, timekeepers, and tabulators for our Club Competition on **Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm**, hosted at the Menomonee Falls Community Center.

2024 Optimist Essay Contest Topic: "Optimism: How It Connects Us" We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to serve as judges. This can be done from home. You 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 Hebring

The Meat Train arrived at the American Legion this month. AKA the "Gobble Wobble" was a profitable day of food, fun, and raffles galore. Once again, standing room only, produced a great stop on our Meat Raffle tour. Happily, we raised just under \$3500.00 for our club with \$2800 designated to the Resource Center at Ben Franklin School. With this donation, much needed winter items for our kids, elementary through high school, will be purchased and given to them. What a wonderful feeling for all. To date with our 3 monthly Meat Raffles, we've netted just under \$8,500.00 and the train is still moving. Our next stop is **Players Pub on Saturday December 2nd**. Hope to see you there and if you did make it to this stop, THANK YOU!!



The Meat Raffle Group wishes all of our Club members and their families a very Merry Christmas!!

Past Events

Christmas Parade

Submitted by Larry Hebring



We had a chilly snow-covered Sunday night Christmas Parade but great participation with 53 units and hundreds of people along the route. Numerous Optimist members were on hand to help make the parade run smoothly and enjoyable. THANK YOU for your help and making our community special.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Submitted by Jeanine Dederich

Many thanks to all who were able to attend our Club's 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, November 4. Our members and guests enjoyed fellowship as well as reflecting on the past and present, hearing highlights from many past presidents and playing a trivia game which brought out some history of the club. It was great to see so many past presidents in attendance.

A huge shout out to the committee members who made the event fun and successful:

Jeanine Dederich, Carol Schulteis – co chairs; Eileen Weins, Joy Fricke, Chris Fredrich and Jenny O'Keefe - decorations; Molly Paulus, Sarah France, Sue Jeskewitz – trivia game; Jerry Mislant – emcee; Ed Schlumpf – detailed history booklet; Shannon Dederich -photo stream; Larry Hebring – guest gifts; Rick Kohl – moment of reflection; and Don Eisenhower – whose passion for the 50th motivated us all.

Now on to the next 50.....!



Photos by Jon Cline







Falls Angels - Leaf Raking



Football Craz Raffle Winner



Congrats to Terry Fitzsimmons who won 2nd place for week 12 for \$103.33.

Meetings

Photos by Jon Cline

Students of the Month



L to R: Summer Schroeder (MFHS), Sakari Skenandore (MFHS),
Paige Melzer (NMS) Avery Soltwedel (NMS) Ben Tappa (St. Mary)

MFHS Football Captains and Coach



MFHS Varsity Volleyball



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Carol Schulteis

Date: November 21, 2023

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

Board members absent: Barb Schmit

Purpose: Regular monthly meeting



1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 am.
2. The meeting agenda and October meeting minutes. Linda moved to approve, Mike seconded. Motion carried.
3. Budget Approval
 - a. Distinguished Young Women-Deb Mattson
 - i. Requested \$6,102, including scholarships of \$4,500
4. Donation Requests
 - a. North Middle School Choir-Kelly Francis
 - i. Donation request of \$1500
 - b. Menomonee Falls High School Soccer-Scott Stein
 - i. Donation request of \$2,000, \$500 for pink T-shirts, \$1500 for scholarships
 - c. MFHS Robotics Club-Vicki Bell
 - i. Donation request of \$3,000
 - d. Parade Committee-Larry Hebbring
 - i. Requesting \$2,000 to cover all 3 parades of 2023
 - ii. Originally requested earlier in 2023 but somehow fell through the cracks
 - e. Blessings in a Backpack-Greg Mattson
 - i. Requesting \$400
5. Activity Post-Budget Results
 - i. Packers Raffle-Tom Ciskoski
 1. Roughly \$200 over budget but still netted more than \$21,000
 - ii. 50th Anniversary Celebration-Jeanine Dederich
 1. Roughly \$1,466 over budget; no previous benchmarks
 - iii. Gobble Wobble-Marcia Hebbring/Clara Scheckel
 1. Netted \$3,462
 2. Donated \$2,800 to Resource Center
6. Treasurer's Report—Kim Wenzel
 - a. The treasurer's report was approved.
 - b. We had a short general discussion about the need to improve the interest rates we earn on our funds. We will consider options.
7. Action on Donation Requests
 - a. North Middle School Choir
 - i. Jerry moved to approve the donation of \$1500; Linda seconded. Motion carried.

- b. MFHS Soccer
 - i. Jerry moved to approve a donation of \$500 to cover the T-shirts part of the request; Mike seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. MFHS Robotics Club
 - i. Jerry moved to approve a donation of \$3,000, Kim seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. Parade Committee
 - i. Kim moved to approve a donation of \$2,000, Mike seconded. Motion carried.
 - e. Blessings in a Backpack
 - i. Linda moved to approve a donation of \$400, Laura seconded. Motion carried with the stipulation it should be earmarked for Menomonee Falls kids.
8. Action on Budget Approvals
- a. Distinguished Young Women
 - i. Kim moved to approve as presented. Mike seconded. Motion carried with the stipulation scholarships should be presented on scholarship night.
9. New Member Applications
- i. None this month.
10. Old Business
- a. Marquette Club sponsorship update-John. John said that we ended up not sponsoring them, they got sponsored by a different club.
 - b. Tent update-Linda. Linda stated that the base price would be between \$800 - \$1400. She got one estimate of \$1200 with another \$200 for all 4 weights. She is getting more info/pricing for next month's meeting.
 - c. Website progress-John. He is working on it with Amanda and looking for more volunteers.
 - d. By-law Review – going over it in December. Please provide input to the rest of the board before then.
11. New Business
- a. Buffalo Trace/Golf Outing-Todd Paulus. We agreed this would be fine.
 - b. Sunshine Club Policy. Linda made a motion to approve, Jerry seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. Finance Audit Committee – Consists of the vice president, treasurer, Jim Foster and then 2 at large people were needed. Linda and John volunteered to be the at large people.
 - d. Other committees (marketing, membership, board member solicitations). More people needed on these committees. Will be talked about again at the December meeting.
 - e. Donation form update. Revising new donation form.
 - f. Background Checks. John talked to Diane Matuzak about what that would all entail. Tabled until a future meeting.
 - g. Club improvement ideas. John has received several and some are his own. He is welcome to hearing more. Decided to table and discuss in December.
12. Next Meeting: December 19, 2023 at 7am
13. Adjournment: Kim moved to adjourn, Linda seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00am.

A Bit of Club History

From the 50th Anniversary Booklet



March 2014

The club pledges \$25,000 to the Capital Improvement Campaign (CIC) to be used for artificial turf on the football field and restrooms at Schuman Stadium.

December Birthdays

12/9	Don Eisenhower
12/12	Don Gorzek
12/13	Anna Listwan
12/14	Dan Knodl
12/16	Linda Tetting
12/18	Brad Posnanski
12/21	Kristy Gruenwald
12/23	Carol Schulteis
12/26	Vickie Dederich
12/26	John Seymour
12/27	Larry Newman
12/28	Carolyn Anderson
12/30	Jim Lowe
12/31	Janet Olson



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

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

FACEBOOK Cathy Sharkey or Dawn Mariscal - csharkey224@yahoo.com, dmariscal@wi.rr.com

WEBSITE John Yusko - jyusko505@twc.com