



The Optimizer

October 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. Oct. 4** The room will be packed for John's first meeting as President with the **39 Optimist Tristar Soccer Winners** and their families. We're also inviting several 'Surprise Soccer Speakers' that day too!
- Wed. Oct. 11** We'll be joined by current **Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow** who will speak on a variety of topics. Looking forward to a great Q&A session following his talk.
- Wed. Oct. 18** Always a favorite, **Students of the Month** winners will be in the house. Great way to start your day!
- Wed. Oct. 25** We're pleased and honored to have new **MFSD Superintendent Dave Munoz** join us for his first Optimist Club "State of the Schools" presentation. This is annually one of our most informative meetings, especially for our club, the "Friend of Youth".

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



Presidents' Letters

2022-2023 President Shannon Dederich

Dear Optimists!

What a year it has been! One full of growth and learning for me and the club!

On my way out, I don't have much more I can say in these letters other than impose a few reminders...

#1 Take care of our new members... they are our future.

#2 Take care of yourself... its impossible to help others if you aren't your best self.

#3 Take care of your neighbor... they might be different, but they are the same.

#4 Take care of the kids... see #1.

Looking forward to what the next year brings for us all!

President Shannon

2023-2024 President John Yusko

As we embark on a new year with a new Board, I want to start by thanking Shannon and the 2022-2023 Board for a job well-done. Despite losing a couple fund-raisers, we donated over \$16,000 to various organizations, awarded \$22,000 of scholarships, and met our commitment to Village Park with our second \$16,000+ donation. We have added members and our financials are in decent shape. Thank you, Shannon! And thanks to our outgoing Board members...Fred Blanke, Tom Ciskoski, Stacie Estrada and Scott Dreier!

I'm looking forward to collaborating with our members, our event captains, and our Board to continue our mission of bringing out the best in kids. If you have ideas to help improve our club, please don't be shy about letting me or other Board members know. Board members for 2023-2024 are: Mike Russell, Kim Wenzel, Carol Schulteis, Barb Schmit, Jerry Mislant, Clara Scheckel, Linda Zylka, Laura Ciletti, Dustin Koehler and Shannon Dederich.

Here's what's coming up in October and November:

- Bags Tournament/Meat Raffle, 1pm – 4pm
 - October 7 Henny's Dugout, 7273 N. Lannon Road
 - November 4 American Legion Post 382
- 50th Anniversary Celebration
 - November 4, 4:00 pm
 - Hot House Tavern
- Leaf Raking
 - November 4th through 19th
- Christmas Parade
 - November 24th

If you are interested in helping with any of our events, please be sure to reach out to the committee chairperson or me. The more you are involved, the bigger the difference you make...and the more fun you'll have!

President John

2022-2023 Year in Review

Submitted by John Yusko

A big thanks to Shannon Dederich for her leadership during the past year. Despite the loss of a couple fund-raisers, our club...

- Raised over \$50,000 to use to help our community's youth
- Donated over \$16,000 to organizations that support kids' activities
- Met our commitment to donate \$16,667 to the Village Park
- Funded \$22,000 of scholarships

Some other accomplishments:

- The Village Park fund-raising committee reached its goal of raising \$1.1 million for Phase 2 of Village Park.
 - Menomonee Falls recognized the Optimist Club by changing the name of Mill Street between Appleton and Garfield to Optimist Way and erecting a plaque thanking us for our contributions.
 - Our efforts were also featured in the Summer 2023 edition of the Optimist International magazine. Got to [Optimist Magazine – Summer 2023 by optimistintl - Issuu](#) to read it online.
 - Thanks to our members for taking an active role in this project, including Larry Barbera, Jeanine Dederich, Don Eisenhauer, Cathy Hazzard, Larry Hebring, Rick Kohl, Todd Paulus, and Dan Schwind.



- New fund-raising records were posted by the popcorn wagon, golf outing and Packers' raffle. Thanks to Larry Podolske, Todd Paulus, and Tom Ciskoski & Ed Schlumpf for leading the teams for those events.
- We continue to celebrate our 50th anniversary.
 - Teams that included Don Eisenhauer, Eileen Weins, Christine Fredrich, Carol Schulteis, Joy Fricke, Stacie Estada did a great job of putting together a banner advertising our 50th anniversary during the July 3rd parade.
 - Jeanine Dederich is leading a team putting together a 50th anniversary celebration to be held November 4th.
- And, of course, we continued to put on many other events (Fishing Derby, Tri-Star competitions, DYW, Oratorical & Essay contests, Drop-n-Shop, and more...) that contribute to our community.

Many thanks to all our dedicated club members for making a difference!

Membership Dues

Membership dues for the 2023-24 Optimist year are now due. Rates and payment options are below. If you decide you will not be renewing your membership, please contact Scott Dreier asap to let him know. If your financial situation makes paying your dues difficult, we can make arrangements to help you out.

Single Membership \$90

Couples Membership \$160

Life Members will receive a separate invoice.

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE WITH A CREDIT CARD!! Visit the club website and scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link that takes you to a secure pay site.

<https://fallsoptimistclub.org/>

Remit checks to: OPTIMIST CLUB OF MENOMONEE FALLS, P.O. Box 671, Menomonee Falls, WI 53052-0671



Volunteers Needed

Between Nov. 4 and
Nov. 19

We need a group of Optimist members available to help with trucks or trailers to haul leaves to our drop-off point at Johnson's Nursery if or when necessary. ***You don't have to rake!*** See article below.

Upcoming Events

Calendar

Sat. Oct. 7	Meat Raffle at Henny's Dugout
Tue. Oct. 10	OA5 meeting at 5:45 PM, location TBD - watch weekly email for update.
Sat. Nov. 4	50 th anniversary celebration. See article below.
Sat. Nov. 4	Meat Raffle at American Legion Post 382
Sat. Nov. 4 to Sun. Nov. 19	Leaf Raking. See article below
Sat. Dec. 2	Drop and Shop
Wed. Dec.6	Optimist Club Christmas Party

50th Anniversary Celebration

Submitted by Jeanine Dederich

The 50th anniversary committee is hard at work as we prepare to celebrate! Join us on Saturday, November 4 for amusement and memories. See the invitation in this newsletter for more details.

Questions? Contact Jeanine Dederich at Jeanine.dederich@gmail.com or Carol Schulteis at carolschulteis@twc.com



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF MENOMONEE FALLS

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023
4:00- 8:00 pm

WHERE: HOT HOUSE TAVERN (2ND FLOOR BANQUET ROOM)
N88W16631 APPLETON AVE MENOMONEE FALLS

WHAT: COCKTAIL PARTY WITH A VARIETY OF ABUNDANT HORS D'OEUVRES
(beginning at 4:30pm)
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00 pm

WHO: ALL OPTIMIST INVITEES AND ONE GUEST

COST: \$30 PER PERSON / CASH BAR.
** RESERVATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 18, 2023.
** RESERVATION ACCEPTED UPON PAYMENT BY CASH OR CHECK (space
limited to 100 guests – RESERVE TODAY!)

MAIL PAYMENT TO:
OPTIMIST CLUB OF MENOMONEE FALLS
PO BOX 672
MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53052

or

GIVE TO JEANINE DEDERICH OR CAROL SCHULTEIS AT ANY MEETING

We hope you can join us!!

OPTIMIST CLUB OF MENOMONEE FALLS PRESENTS

2023-24 Tour Dates

MEAT RAFFLE

Pleased to
MEAT You!

September 16	Knights of Columbus
October 7	Henny's Dugout
November 4	American Legion Post 382
December 2	Players Pub
January 6	Wisconsin on Tap
February 3	Sportz Pub & Grill
March 2	DJs Goalpost
April 6	Players Pub
May 4	Water Street Pub & Grill

1:00pm - 4:00pm

• Ribeyes • Beef Tenderloins • Baby Back Pork Ribs • Chops
• Chicken • Brats • Pork Sausages

And MORE!!



Proceeds Benefit Community Youth Programs



SCAN ME

It's Time to Think About Leaves!

It's Almost Here!

Next month, we will begin our annual senior citizen leaf-raking event! We're scheduled to start the process on Saturday, November 4th and end by Sunday, November 19th.

How Does It Work?

Senior citizens sign up to have their yards raked by calling the CE&Rec Office by the end of October.



In early November, various youth groups will be assigned to handle the raking. We've added a couple new groups this year—Menomonee Falls 4H Club and the Falls Food Pantry. They will contact the residents to arrange a convenient date and time to rake. While the service is free, donations are encouraged; every donated dollar is matched by the Optimist Club and shared among the participating groups.

How Can You Help? —No Raking Required!

We need a group of Optimist members available to help with trucks or trailers to haul leaves to our drop-off point at Johnson's Nursery if or when necessary. ***You don't have to rake!***

If you have access to a pick-up truck or trailer and can be available at times during the leaf-raking period, please let us know so we can add you to the list. If a team needs to have leaves hauled, you will be contacted by the leaf-raking team to coordinate available dates. There are no dedicated dates; the teams will work with you and the homeowner to find a date that works for everyone.

Please contact John or Jason if you can help!

Got Leaves?

And, if you are a senior homeowner and would like your yard raked, sign up by calling the CE & Rec Office at (262) 255-8460 by October 31st. 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).

Christmas Party

Submitted by Carol Schulteis

Are You Ready For The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year?

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Ebenezer and Tiny Tim...and the Optimist Club Christmas Party!

Save the date: **Wednesday, December 6th at the Delta Hotel.**

More info and sign-up sheets will be coming in November.



Past Events

2023 Popcorn Year in Review

Submitted by The Kernel (aka Larry Podolske)



This year the season began in mid-May, with the dedication of the Optimist fund raised playground and a movie. It was great for popcorn sales, but it got really cold and it was said to be too windy to inflate the screen. But a fine start for the popcorn wagon as we took in about \$1,200.

Sales for 2023 totaled \$29,264, expenses were \$6,794 and net income was \$22,470. A tidy sum. It seems less than what I remember from last year, but that doesn't seem possible given the additional events this year. I'm looking to get last year's detail so I can see exactly what it was and how the years compare. But I feel things went extremely well this year.

Some new events provided more opportunities, two additional movie nights (with movie problems each time, but we had already sold the popcorn) and Kids Fest, which was an incredible event (popcorn sales were \$875), but attendance was phenomenal and my observation was that the kids loved it. Very well done. Popcorn sales at the events are not as robust as the first couple of years as there simply are more food options available now. Attendance at the Thursday (Sunset series) concerts remains huge. Lavender Fest was again very successful. Sales were down at Memorial Fest to about \$1,500 (from \$1,800), but that is probably a more realistic figure.

A huge thank you to the captains this year, **Len Kimmel, Larry Barbera, Jason Husslein, Barb Schmit, Jeff Saunders, Terry Fitzsimmons, Meg Latus, Linda Tetting, Kathy Matthiessen, Tom Ciskoski, Greg Mattson, Jim & Linda Weitzer** (newbies this year and did great with 2 concerts plus kids fest in their week), **Shannon Dederich, Carl Trapp** and the **Sussex club, John Yusko** and **Dan Schwind**. They invariably end up working themselves a couple of nights or more depending on what is happening during their week.

There are two people that aren't captains, but deserve a huge thank you for all they did during various times of need over the summer. First is **Marcia Hebbring** (and **Larry**) who took on multiple concerts and recruited workers even for times she wasn't involved. She also sold popcorn during Memorial Fest in the park for the kids events. The other is **Ann Freudenthal** (and **Fred**) who are always my most reliable fill in when nobody will step up, not to mention how nice clean she keeps things and the signs she makes for me. Thanks so much Marcia and Ann.

Top weeks this year were Jim & Linda Weitzer (\$2,979 who had 2 concerts and kids fest all in their week and Barb Schmit who had 2 concerts in her week. One other week exceeded \$2K, Larry Barbera had \$2,166 buoyed by some very busy week nights which often happens early in the season.

It was great to see a number of new members getting involved at the wagon. It is the most visible part of our club and the easiest way to get involved with other members. One new member, Mitch Rea served as my assistant this summer, helping load and unload the 50 lb. boxes of corn and moving the wagon. Thanks Mitch.

At this writing the wagon should be parked for the winter in Jackson at Tim Newman's business. Amen.

The Kernel
Larry Podolske

Installation Dinner

Photos by Jon Cline



Packer Raffle

Photos by Jon Cline

Photos this month. Wrap-up article next month.





Bags Tournament and Meat Raffle

Photos by Jon Cline

We had a great start to the meat raffle season, netting \$1,969.00.







Students of the Month

Photo by Jon Cline



Alea Powell (Menomonee Falls High School), **Maliha Amadou Hamidou** (North Middle School), **Rachel Kessler** (North Middle School), **Mackenzie Allen** (Menomonee Falls High School)

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 19, 2023

Board member attendees: Shannon Dederich, John Yusko, Kim Wenzel, Barb Schmit, Dustin Koehler, Tom Ciskoski, Todd Paulus, Fred Blanke, Scott Dreier, Dan Schwind

Absent: Michael Russel, Stacie Estrada

New board members in attendance: Linda Zylka, Carol Schulteis, Jerry Mislant

1. Approval of September meeting agenda, any additions/corrections?

A. Update to Dates September 19, and next meeting is October 17

Motion: ___John_____ Second:_____Tom_____

2. Approval of August meeting minutes, any additions/corrections?

Request "Did not fit" - adding to the existing minutes for Coach Cassidy Classic.

Motion: ___Scott_____

Second:___John_____

Passed

3. Presentation of donation requests (approvals post presentations)

A. Marquette Optimist Club Sponsorship

i. Need someone to come in on October 17 to explain commitment to the club.

B. Super Servos FTC 18339: Isaiah Trice - Postponed to November meeting when someone can represent



4. Presentation of budget approvals (approvals post presentations)

A. Post Budget: Meat Raffles / Bags Tourney: Marcia Hebring (sub Shannon)

B. 23/24 Speakers Budget: Jerry Mislant Jon/Barb passed

C. Old Falls Village: No presenter

i. Tom motion to \$250, Barb second, Approved

5. Presentation of Treasurer's Report

August income \$29,000 largely due to packer raffle, expenses to come

Down \$9500 from last year, due to website

Motion: ___Barb_____ Second:_____John_____

Passed

6. New Member Applications

A. Patti Ambroch - Linda Zylka

i. Tom / Scott: Passed

7. Old Business

A. None

8. New Business

A. PCI Compliance - what/who needs to be done to confirm and not sent to the wrong person

9. Anything else for the good of the club

10. Next meeting date: October 17, 2023

11. Adjournment

Motion: ___Tom_____ Second:___Scott_____



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Mike Russell | 21 | Steven Yunto |
| 3 | Suzanne Carney | 21 | Gerilyn Yanke |
| 4 | Todd Paulus | 24 | Gary Pollpeter |
| 6 | Deborah Kimmel | 25 | Laura Ciletti |
| 7 | Linda Podolske | 25 | Jeff Saunders |
| 7 | Luanne Rambert | 26 | Jean Christian |
| 14 | Keri Duce | 27 | Herb Gross |
| 19 | Daniel Shepherd | 27 | Kimberly Wenzel |

Charter Member Dies

Submitted by Ed Schlumpf

Ron Wilfer, 81 died in Eagle River on August 26, 2023. He was a graduate of Washington High School in Germantown and was one of the 25 original members of the Menomonee Falls Optimist Club when it was formed on August 22, 1973. Ron also served on the Community Memorial Hospital Foundation Board and founded two companies, ArcRon in 1973 and later BurnRight which he sold in 2022. He is survived by his three sons, Todd (Shayne) of Eagle River, Gregg (Lynda) of West Bend, Ryan (Ronja) of Fairbanks, AK and his former wife Jean.

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 27th 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 Beth Saunders - bethjsaunders@gmail.com

Falls Patio Players – Finding Nemo Jr.

THE FALLS PATIO PLAYERS
Production of

Disney • PIXAR

FINDING NEMO JR.

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez

Book Adapted by
Lindsay Anderson

Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by
Myrna Conn

Based on the 2003 Disney/Pixar Film *Finding Nemo* written by Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson, David Reynolds and directed by Andrew Stanton




FRIDAY + SATURDAY EVENINGS: OCT 20 & 21 7:00pm	SUNDAY MATINEE: OCT 22 1:00pm	North Middle School Auditorium N88W16750 Garfield Dr. Menomonee Falls, WI
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\$13
Adults/Seniors

\$10
Students

DISNEY'S FINDING NEMO JR.
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com

fallspatioplayers.com
Information Line: (262) 255-8372

  
@fallspatio