



iMagine

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WASHINGTON BI-WEEKLY UPDATE 04/06/2020

AWESOME OPTIMIST NEWS....

We might not be meeting but believe it or not there is one Optimist event on the club and district level that was able to take place. The Annual Optimist Essay Contest was held and we are happy to report that our club winner, Audrey Bush, a senior at WHS won the district contest and was awarded a \$2,500.00 scholarship. How awesome is this for both the club (since it is a first) and for Audrey. FYI...Audrey is also a member of the WHS JOI Club! Since we had to cancel the Awards Dinner, we will have Audrey hopefully join us at a meeting this summer.

Special thanks to our club's essay contest judges, Ina Rutz, Megan Maurer and Milt Lane. It appears you three know a good essay when you read it!!

Meet our March "Let Your Optimism Shine" recipient... Sydnee Winchester from Washington West Elementary!



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING.....

Since we want to stay in touch with everyone but there unfortunately is not a lot of news to report I put on my "reporter hat" and went out searching to see what you the members of the club are doing to stay safe and healthy. No worries I will ask more of you but I hope for just a short time frame. This first group I asked was our "Optimist Couples". So let's hear in their own words from:

Gary and Peggy Winzenburger

Peg and I are doing fine trying to stay up with our new puppy. His name is Baxter and is a Shetland Sheepdog, 10 weeks old and full of puppy energy. Never a dull moment. His mouth is full of needles and wants to use them on anything within his reach. He came along at just the right time with each day a new adventure that brings us a lot of happiness.

We haven't gotten out much, I shop early at Wal-Mart when we need things. Our sons worry about that and have volunteered to shop for us on weekends. One daughter-in-law has to go into work at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis Co, but has no contact with patients, but we still worry about her. Steven and Adam work from home now, as well as Adam's wife Sarah. We use a computer video program called Zoom to communicate with them.

I keep wondering why I miss our weekly meetings so much, besides getting together with friends and fellow members. It finally came to me that I miss our weekly allegiance to our country, allegiance to our club and

bowing of heads in prayers of allegiance to our faith. It keeps us going in our belief that we can make a difference in someone's life.

I'm Optimistic that our events, and fund raisers will go this summer and winter. I've ordered **270 Christmas trees** for delivery mid-November, and hope to start selling a week earlier.

Mark and Trish Mitchell

Mark and I have been keeping busy with projects! We remodeled our pantry and cleaned out several drawers and closets! He has gone on a trip now (to Asia no less) and will be back April 8th. I am relining my kitchen cabinets today and will continue with more closets and drawers tomorrow! Looking forward to cleaning out the garage Saturday if it's not raining! We are not ordering out for meals at this time. We are well stocked (my boys are hunters). This quarantine has been good for my house! It's getting very organized. We are of course observing frequent hand washing, 6 feet of social distancing and we wear a glove when we pump gas now. I'm making homemade masks as well. Staying at home A LOT. Been outside in the yard soaking up some nice weather!

Paul and Nell Redhage

Cannot say that we are doing anything unusual, other than we are actually at home in Labadie! We got back from Grand Cayman on March 13, just in time before the travel restrictions began.

Since we are home earlier in the spring than we have been in the last five years, our yard and flowerbeds have gotten earlier attention. They have not been this cleaned out and ready for the perennials to pop up in a long time.

Paul has been working on a job that has been on his to-do list for a very long time. He has blazed trails through our 5 acres of woods and been chipping up small tree branches to make mulch for the trails. As a result, I have now walked through parts of our property that I had never been on before! His hope was to get these trails done

before the NY grandsons showed up for a visit, which was supposed to have started today, but alas will have to be sometime in the future.

I started a job that's been on my to-do list since I retired. Since moving here to Missouri, I have been throwing notes and cards from friends and families into a big plastic storage box. I took a huge trip down memory lane through these past 12 years (yes, can you believe we have been here in Missouri for 12 years already?) and re-read every note and card and then organized them by person from whom they were received and in chronological order and filed them in a file box. Does that sound like something a librarian would do!? In the upcoming months, I will do the same thing to another box full of notes, cards and letters that I have saved since we were married in 1972!

Other than that, we have done a lot of reading, watching movies and TV series, playing Words with Friends and working on family history.

Although we miss seeing friends and family, we are determined to abide by social distancing guidelines and are quite happy to be staying here in our oasis. It has been great to communicate with our far-flung daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren through FaceTime and Zoom. Our New York musician kids are now doing a family band concert for their closest relatives every Sunday afternoon on Zoom. We really look forward to those!

Rick and Julie Frankenberg

Well we both are still working so it is business as usual in our house. Unfortunately, neither of us can work from home so now we carry our letters that says we are going to work during the "Stay at Home" timeframe. I am a banker and Rick is in production at Parker Hannifin. I learned something new with this adventure...Parker makes valves for ventilators and for some type of farm machinery besides valves for refrigeration and A/C so he is in an essential job. So, we continue our daily routines for the most part. Weekends get interesting for us.... spending all that time together well let's just say.... very interesting but instead of going out to dinner (like we did a lot) Rick is making dinner more often (trying new creations with the Air Fryer) but we are still getting carryout now and again to

support our local small businesses. Just not the same as it is going in and sitting down at a restaurant. I do miss my retail therapy...boy do I miss those trips to the mall and Rick is spending more time with the grand dog Finley! We are staying healthy and optimistically waiting for the day we can be together again as a club and crossing the fingers and toes that we will not have to cancel or postpone the Bike Rodeo!

**Rita Griesheimer
Julie Frankenberg
Gary Winzenburger
Dan Yoest
Sara Cunningham
Nick Frankenberg
Sally Brock
Judy Straatmann**

**Treasurer
Past President
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member**

Hope you have enjoyed what your fellow members are doing to keep themselves from going stir-crazy and thanks to our "couples" for sharing with us!

OPTIMISTIC THOUGHT FOR THE BI-WEEK

Keep smiling everyone! Be kind to everyone! We are all in this together!

Be Safe, Be Healthy and most importantly Be Optimistic!

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO.....

Robyn Busekrus	04/16
Lukas Copeland	04/30
Boyd Eversole	04/02
Elizabeth Hellebusch	04/14
Mary Robertson	04/29

HAPPY CLUB ANNIVERSARY TO.....

Jim Armstrong	4 yrs
Joey Bartle	1 yr
Mark Mitchell	2 yrs
Ina Rutz	5 yrs



2019-2020 Officers & Board Members

Chris Marquart	President
Tim Willard	Vice President
George Dohm	Secretary