



Promise Yourself

“To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.”

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WASHINGTON MARCH, 2024 NEWSLETTER

GATHERINGS THIS MONTH:

03/07 – Evening Gathering at Moe’s beginning at 6:00pm. “Membership Milestones” Recognition and New Member Induction.

03/13 – Noon meeting @ Moe’s – City of Washington Mayor, Doug Hagedorn will be our guest.

03/20 – Noon meeting @ Moe’s – March “Let Your Optimism Shine” honors.

03/27 – Noon meeting @ Moe’s

Wednesday Gatherings – Noon at Moe’s Restaurant

1st Thursday of each month Gathering – 6:00pm at Moe’s Restaurant

If you have not already be sure to “like” us on Facebook at Optimist Club Wash Mo.

And continue to check out our website.

<http://optimistclubwashmo.wixsite.com/optimistclubwashmo>

[Club Venmo - @WashMO-Optimist](#)

SAVE THE DATES....

03/23 – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

05/02 – Annual Scholarship & Awards Dinner

05/18 – 48th Annual Bike Safety Rodeo

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY.....

By now you should have received your breakfast tickets to sell/purchase. The breakfast this year will be Saturday, March 23rd from 8-10 at Miller’s Grill.

Sign-up Sheet has been out also and we still are in need of some help. Checkout the sign-up sheet and volunteer your time. FYI...this breakfast is a little more calmer than the Christmas one! On the Sign-up sheet you will find what time you need to arrive for your task.

Hope to see you on the 23rd!

LET YOUR OPTIMISM SHINE HONORS...

How fun was our February “Let Your Optimism Shine” honors celebration. To not only celebrate the February recipients but January (due to the *snow* day). Pictured with our recipients is **Chris**

Marquart, Committee Member. We had great attendance at that meeting but if you missed it.....meet:

January Students:



Olivia Zastrow from Washington High School



Jack Dunard from St. Francis Borgia High School. (Jack is FFA Advisor Chris Dunard's son)

Then our February Students:



Maggie Mahoney from Crosspoint Christian School



Colton Burns from Washington Middle School. Side note on Colton he also received this honor when he was at Marthasville Elementary. Awesome to see nothing has changed in Colton!

RESPECT FOR LAW DINNER....

At our 4th Annual Respect for Law Dinner on February 1st we honored **Washington Police Officer, Rebecca Chaplin** as our recipient this year. The club made a \$200.00 donation to Officer Chaplin's charity of choice. This year's recipient was Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Excellent choice!



Police Officer Rebecca Chaplin & Chris Marquart

As you know each year for this event we collect single item snacks for the department as a small token of our appreciation for all their hard work.



Chris Marquart, Officer Chaplin and Washington Police Chief and Optimist member, Jim Armstrong

This year was no exception. Optimist International is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year and all clubs were challenged to collect 100 items for a group of their choice. We naturally chose our very own Washington Police Department. With that being said the challenge was accepted and we collected **797 single serving items for our police officers to snack on**. WOW! This should keep them in snacks for awhile! Thanks to everyone for the donations!

22ND FAMILY READING NIGHT....

For 11 years as a club we have supported this awesome free event that brings readers young and old together to READ. Besides donating for the past 11 years, we have had members that served/still serving on the planning committee and members who have read story books in the Reading Rooms. Awesome support! At our club meeting, February 26th we had **Dawn Kitchell with Community Literacy Foundation** as our guest speaker. She talked about this years event that is March 1st and shared the featured story book, "The Reflection in Me". We then presented our donation that helps make this event what it is...hard to track the number of attendees but it is easily over 500 and growing.



Check presentation at our February 28th gathering to Dawn.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS NIGHT DINNER....

This year our special night of honoring high school students, A Friend of Youth and our own Optimist of the Year is scheduled May 2nd at Life Stream Church. We are so appreciative of Paul Schepeler for opening up the church for this event.

Invitations will be forthcoming. The caterer has been booked. Ballots for Optimist of the Year will be forthcoming also.

In last Monday night's email the committee was asking for additional scholarship application readers and in optimistic fashion four members stepped up. Thank you so much! Scholarship applications will be arriving in the next couple of weeks.

Save the date and plan to attend this very special evening!

ANNUAL BIKE SAFETY RODEO.....

Save the Date for our 48th Annual Bike Safety Rodeo that we do with the Washington Police Department and Mercy Hospital. This year's event

is Saturday, May 18th at the Pavilion on the Washington Fairgrounds.

More info will be available in April!

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT....

A tradition is coming to an end. The Board of Directors along with the Christmas Tree Lot Committee met and decided to discontinue the Christmas Tree Lot Fundraiser. It was a difficult discussion with many factors that played a part in this decision. Please know that this was a tough decision and it was not decided lightly. Never fear though, the **Fundraising Committee** will be meeting to discuss other possible fundraising endeavours.

WHS JOI CLUB HAPPENINGS....

Our Junior Optimist Club at WHS has been very active and they have many upcoming events.

March 12th – They will be volunteering their time at the Franklin County Foster Closet sorting thru clothes switching out Winter to Summer clothes, etc.

March 23rd – Besides helping us at our Breakfast a couple of members will be helping/playing the Easter Bunny for the City of Washington Easter Egg Hunt

April 6th – Volunteering at the The Harvest Table at St. Peter's UCC Church

They are also working with Bethel Hills on holding an All Abilities Easter Egg Hunt. No definite date decided yet.

Awesome projects the Junior Optimists are doing in the community!

WE WELCOMED EAST MISSOURI DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES TO OUR MEETING.



We were happy to welcome representatives with the East Missouri District Team.

In the photo with **Club President, Nell Redhage is Beth Watts, Jean Naeger and Phyllis Neff, EMO Governor.** They shared information with us about the District.

They also visited the location of the 3rd Quarter Conference and Oratorical Contest which will be held here in Washington in May. We are happy to be able to host this conference because we all know how proud we are of Washington! More information to follow.

CONDOLENCES....

Please keep **Shannon Chrisco and her husband, Bob** in your thoughts and prayers. Bob's mother recently passed away. We hope you find comfort in those awesome memories we know you had with her.

WELL WISHES FOR HEALING...

Thoughts and prayers for healing for **Diane Borovic's son, Matthew** who went through a procedure last week. Continued healing Matthew as we know this has been a long journey for you.

CONGRATULATIONS....

To WHS Girls Swim Coach and fellow Optimist, **Tracy Moreland** on a successful season with some of the students going on to the State level.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Karen Koopman</i>	<i>03/04</i>
<i>Julie Frankenberg</i>	<i>03/08</i>
<i>Tim Hellebusch</i>	<i>03/10</i>
<i>Chris Marquart</i>	<i>03/18</i>
<i>Alina Brown</i>	<i>03/19</i>
<i>Joyce Marchand</i>	<i>03/22</i>

HAPPY MARCH CLUB ANNIVERSARY TO:

<i>Curt Beers</i>	<i>6 yrs</i>
<i>Robyn Busekrus</i>	<i>5 yrs</i>
<i>Brianna Clift</i>	<i>6 yrs</i>
<i>Lukas Copeland</i>	<i>6 yrs</i>
<i>Sara Hamer</i>	<i>6 yrs</i>
<i>Elizabeth Hellebusch</i>	<i>6 yrs</i>
<i>Tim Hellebusch</i>	<i>6 yrs</i>
<i>Anton Hinirichs</i>	<i>6 yrs</i>
<i>Carole Lohmeyer</i>	<i>18 yrs</i>
<i>Nell Redhage</i>	<i>14 yrs</i>
<i>Richard Steckel</i>	<i>7 yrs</i>

2023-2024 Officers & Board Members

<i>Nell Redhage</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Cory Davis</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Judy Straatmann</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Julie Frankenberg</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Tim Willard</i>	<i>Past President</i>
<i>Megan Maurer (2024)</i>	<i>Board Member</i>
<i>Sheila Marquart (2024)</i>	<i>Board Member</i>
<i>Guin Yoest (2025)</i>	<i>Board Member</i>
<i>Robin Kluesner(2025)</i>	<i>Board Member</i>
<i>Chris Marquart(2026)</i>	<i>Board Member</i>
<i>Peggy Winzenburger(2026)</i>	<i>Board Member</i>

OPTIMISTIC THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

