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PROMISE YOURSELF RP SUNRISE OPTIMIST, AUG 19, 2025 Vol 9 - Issue 36

Pictured: Mike Sanders, Sgt. Bill Talley, Lt. Christine Edelman, Tom Circo

Honoring Sgt. Bill Talley: A Life of Service and Sacrifice

Today, August 19, the Ray-Pec Optimist Club proudly recognized Sgt. Bill Talley of the Cass County Sheriff's Office for his dedication to honoring Missouri's fallen officers.

Sgt. Talley began his law enforcement journey in 2010, following his graduation from the Missouri Sheriff's Association Academy in 2009. Starting with jail duty, he quickly advanced to patrol officer, then corporal, and now serves as Commander of the Honor Guard, a role he's held for 14 of his 15 years in service.

As Funeral Assistance Team Commander, Sgt. Talley travels across Missouri to coordinate honors for officers who've made the ultimate sacrifice. He serves as a liaison—making initial contact with grieving families and agencies and overseeing every detail of the funeral process to ensure each tribute is carried out with respect.

His commitment to excellence began during his time in the U.S. Marine Corps Infantry, where he served in Washington, D.C. performing Honor Guard duties. That experience paved the way for his interview and eventual service with Cass County.

Sgt. Talley's leadership, empathy, and devotion to honoring the fallen reflect his commitment to public service. We are proud to celebrate his impact on our community and state.

Lt. Christine Eddleman accompanied Sgt Talley and gave members update of activities in the Sheriff's Department including another 8-week Citizen's Academy starting on Wednesdays in September. Members were invited to register and attend!

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself

To be **SO STRONG** that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk **health, happiness and prosperity** to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that **THERE IS SOMETHING IN THEM.**

To look at the **sunny side** of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to **work** only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the **success** of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the **GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS** of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance **at all times** and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have **NO TIME TO CRITICIZE OTHERS.**

To be too large for worry, to noble for anger, to strong for fear and **too happy** to permit the presence of trouble.



Pictured L to R: Ryen Pilialoha, Secretary, Belton Optimist Gov Designate Brian Mills, Jon Overacre, President, Belton Optimist; Not pictured: Mike Sanders, President, RayPec Sunrise

WEMO District 4th Quarter Convention, Springfield MO

Governor Designate Brian Mills is scheduled to take office on October 1st. At the District Convention, Ray-Pec received several awards: Grand Master 1st Place in the Scrapbook Contest, 1st Place in the Newsletter Contest, and 1st Place in Awards and Achievements. Builders of Excellence Medals were given to Brian Mills, Mike Sanders, Jon Overacre, and Ryen Pilialoha for chartering a new club. Denise Woolf has been appointed as the new WEMO District Chair of the Leadership Development Committee to coordinate upcoming conferences and programming.

Next Week: Sunset Meeting, Two Clubs. One Cause.

Tues 8/26 – 6: 00pm Johnny's Tavern, RayPec & Belton Clubs

Tues 9/2 – Gov. Designate, Brian Mills, WEMO A New Vision

Tues 9/9 – Tentative: Boys & Girls State Students, Board Member Vote Today

Tues 9/16 – Students of the Month

Tues 9/23 – Officer Installation, Catered Dinner, Dogwood Gardens, Peculiar 6pm

Members supporting Cass County Sheriff's Office today!

Janet Aliano, Rob Arner, Connie Circo, Tom Circo, Frank Jiminez, Jerri-Lynn Keith, Pete Kerckhoff, Alan Klein, Jim Kopetsky, Brian Mills, Joe O'Neal, Ed Russell, Mike Sanders, Richard Sanders, Kris Turnbow, Denise Woolf



Optimists Get Down and Dirty at Rugged Raymore!

On August 15th, several Ray-Pec Optimists ditched the clean shoes and dove into the fun at **Rugged Raymore**, affectionately known as the **Mini Mud Run**. This beloved annual event isn't just about splashes and splatters—it's a sensory-rich obstacle course designed to help kids build strength, coordination, and confidence as they navigate muddy challenges.

Helping guide the way through the muck and mayhem were club members *Janet Aliano, Alan Klein, Jim Kopetsky, Joe O'Neal, and Connie Circo*, who proved that optimism shines even when covered in mud. Their cheerful support and muddy footprints left a lasting impression on young participants and families alike.

Whether it's lending a hand or getting a little dirty for a good cause, the Mini Mud Run remains a favorite among our club's community events. After all, what's a little mud when you're making a big impact?



... and more from WEMO 4th Quarter Convention

