



# OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

Aug/Sept  
Newsletter  
October 2024

**August September  
2024**

## Weekly Club Meetings

6:45 a.m.-7:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
130 W Central St.  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

## OFFICERS

Cathy Greenseth, President  
Tom Cushman, Vice Pres.  
Marty Tlachac, Pres.-Elect  
Deb Braden, Treasurer  
Jack Halbleib, Secretary  
Amanda Blonigen, Past  
President

## BOARD MEMBERS

Louise Bentley, 2nd year  
Nadine Bresina, 2nd year  
Tom Eder, 2nd year  
Dina Brennan, 1st year  
Scott Marty, 1st year  
Lisa Thelen, 1st year

## Club Foundation Board

Ralph Cushman  
Jack Halbleib  
Joe Niese  
Dave Schaller  
Cathy Greenseth, Ex-Officio

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER

Nov 20 - CW King

Nov 24 - Dave Schaller

### DECEMBER

Dec 2 - Louise Bentley

Dec 16 - Angie Riemer

Dec 18 - Vicki Wilson

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

## President Cathy's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Optimism,

October 1 brings the new Optimist year. A year of hope and opportunity to help the youth in our community grow to be resilient, strong community members.

On September 30, we held our annual banquet to wrap up the 2023-24 year. The food and comradery was really awesome and I was able to thank my past team with certificates and a small token of my appreciation.

*(Pictures from the banquet are on pages 6 & 7)*

Zone 1 Lt. Governor Gale Haas installed our new officers and board members for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. (see page 8)

### Officers:

President Marty Tlachac  
Vice President Dina Brennan, 1st year  
President-Elect Vicki Wilson  
Secretary Jack Halbleib  
Treasurer Deb Braden  
Past President Cathy Greenseth

### Board Members:

Scott Marty, 2nd year  
Nancy Post, 2nd year replacing Dina  
Lisa Thelen, 2nd year  
Tom Eder, 1st year (second.term)  
Laurie Ewings 1st year  
Bob Nelson 1st year



*President Cathy Greenseth*

*Congratulations to Lisa Thelen who was recognized as our Optimist of the Year, bringing out the best in our club.*



*I was very honored to be the president this past year and I proudly hand the gavel on to Marty as the club works together for a successful 56th year in 2024-2025.*





# Oktoberfest at the NWSF Grounds

AUG-SEPT 2024

THANK YOU TO  
OUR SPEAKERS!

## AUGUST PROGRAMS

**Aug 7**— Riverfest Up-  
date, Dina Brennan  
**Aug 14**— Club Survey &  
Goals, Marty Tlachac  
**Aug 21**— Evening  
Meeting, Tracy Huxley  
video.  
**Aug 28**— Self Publishing,  
Darren Kirby

## SEPT PROGRAMS

**Sept 4**— OI Goals, CARE,  
OWLS, Jody Arriola  
**Sept 11**— Educator of  
the Year Award, Dave  
Schaller  
**Sept 18**— History of Ok-  
toberfest, Tom Cough-  
man  
**Sept 25**— Dementia &  
Alti Officer Brian Flug

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Oct 2** New Year-Handing  
over the gavel  
**Oct 9** Open Mic  
**Oct 16** YOM  
**Oct 23** Dictionary Pro-  
ject  
**Oct 30**  
**Nov 6** Open Mic  
**Nov 13** International  
Students  
**Nov 20** YOM  
**Nov 27** Chippewa Fami-  
ly Restaurant

**ORGANIZATIONS  
SUPPORTED BY OUR  
CLUB:**  
Riverfest  
Oktoberfest



*Club Optimist member, Tom Coughman updated us with the history of Oktoberfest on September 18 and told us what we could expect new this year.*



*We grilled the brats & decorated our stand on September 19 in-between the rain. All set up and ready to serve the community on September 20 & 21.*

Lots of members and friends volunteered to help serve food at our permanent food stand for Oktoberfest 2024.



The horses hauled the Golden Keg from Leinie's Lodge to the fairgrounds for tapping!

The rain on Saturday did cause some issues with lower attendance but we got by and sold a lot of food to all the hungry fest goers. Can you say...Cheese Curds!!



Tom Coughman performing with his Glockenspiel Dancers.





AUG-SEPT 2024

## OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES

### AUGUST

Louise Bentley, 29 years

### SEPTEMBER

Rex Bentley, 24 years

Vicki Wilson, 18 years

Angie Riemer, 16 years

Cathy Greenseth, 14 years

Terri Koca, 12 years

Jerry Verway, 9 years

Dina Brennan, 8 years

Jessica Frederick, 8 years

Amanda Lofgren, 8 years

Julia & TJ Proue, 8 years

Monica Palecek, 7 years

Nadine Bresina, 6 years

## SECRET HANDSHAKERS

**Aug 7** Tom Eder to Jason Stolp

**Aug 14** Jack Halbleib to Jody Kranig

**Aug 21** Louise Bentley to Monica

**Aug 28** Jaden Stolp to Mike McGinley

**Sept 4** Laurie Ewings to Mike McGinley

**Sept 11** Nancy Post to Laurie Ewings

**Sept 18** Yvonne Zweifelhofer to Deb Braden

**Sept 25** Jaden Stolp to Nancy Post

## BOOST WINNERS

**Aug 7** Vicki Wilson

**Aug 14** Dina Brennan

**Aug 21** Nancy Post

**Aug 28** Bob Nelson

**Sept 4** Yvonne Zweifelhofer

**Sept 11** Tom Cushman

**Sept 18** Louise Bentley

**Sept 25** Cathy Greenseth

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# ADRC: Aging & Disability Resource Center

Carla Berscheit, Dementia Care Specialist from the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), gave a presentation to our club at the September 25 meeting.

Prior to joining the ADRC in 2020, Carla worked as an Occupational Therapist for over 20 years. Often, the people she worked with had varying stages of dementia too, which required additional evaluation and coordination to ensure a safe return to their prior living environment. She has a passion for reaching caregivers and empowering them with education and resources to do their personal best.

## Dementia Statistics:

\*5.8 million Americans with some form of dementia

\*126,000 people in Wisconsin have diagnosed dementia

\*Estimated to reach 216,000 people in Wisconsin with dementia by 2035.

\*There are 70-100 different types of dementia

\*Alzheimer's Disease is the most common type.

*Thank you, Carla, for updating our club on the many ways that the ADRC can help with the mental health needs in our communities.*



Carla Berscheit from ADRC with Optimist President Cathy Greenseth

To learn more visit their Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ADRCChippewaCo>

Or go to their ADRC website.

<https://www.chippewacountywi.gov/government/aging-disability-resource-center-adrc>

## David Schaller is Awarded Educator of the Year

The Optimist Club *Educator of the Year Award* goes to our own Optimist member, David Schaller who has been an educator for 34 years.

Starting out as a teacher he retired this past spring as Principal of the Chippewa Valley High School.

Dave said he actually did not apply for the Principal position when looking at jobs available in Chippewa Falls but applied for the Assistant Principal position that was open at the middle school. He wasn't offered the assistant position however, the interview committee asked him to consider the principal position at the alternative high school located just outside of the city of Chippewa Falls. Dave said, "It was the perfect job for me." It matched his organizational skills. When something came up he would make himself available for every situation. Thank you Dave for giving of your heart to the youth of our community.

The club presented the award to Dave at our September 11 meeting. With the award comes a monetary gift for Dave to give to further help the youth in our community.



Educator of the Year David Schaller with our club president, Cathy Greenseth.



## Optimist International VP of the Great Plains Region

Aug-Sept 2024

### 2024 EVENTS

- \*Dictionary Project Oct 23
- \*Trunk or Treat Oct 31
- \*WINUM Conference Nov 1-2 in Manitowoc, WI
- \*International Student Breakfast Nov 13
- \*Thanksgiving week Meeting at Family Restaurant Nov 27
- \*Christmas Cheer Dec 18
- \*Christmas Dec 25 (No Meeting)

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

**Horan Funeral Home**  
420 Bay St.  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-723-4404  
[Website](#)

**Micon Cinemas**  
Mike Olson  
475 Chippewa Falls Drive  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715.720.2291  
[Website](#)

**On-Site Chiropractic**  
Dr. Amanda Blonigen  
2029 Co. Hwy I Ste 5  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
715.382.6864  
[Website](#)

**Ozark National Life Insurance/N.I.S. Financial Services, Inc.**  
Marty Tlachac  
PO Box 361  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715.720.8726/715.404.0720

**Post Glass and Mirror**  
35 E Park Ave  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
715.723.867  
[Website](#)

**Sokup's Market**  
624 N Bridge St  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715.723.4953

On September 4, Hallie Club member Jody Arriola, who is also the incoming Optimist International Vice President of the Great Plains Region, updated us on Optimist International's new president Janet D Oord Graves, along with the goals and core values for the upcoming year. These items were presented to all who attended the international convention in June at Niagara Falls, Canada.

Jodi highlighted many of the programs that are available through Optimist International and complemented the activities and service the Chippewa Falls club has actively participated to make successful.

She has been traveling already throughout the Great Plains Region that covers many of the midwestern states.

Thank you Jodi for your leadership and role model as an outstanding Optimist.



*President Cathy Greenseth thanks Jodi Ariola for giving us a summary of the Optimist International Convention.*

## Happy Optimist New Year

### October 1, 2024

## Celebrating 56 years—Chippewa Falls



## Self Publishing by Darren Kirby

On August 28, Darren Kirby talked with us about Self-Publishing books and the ups and downs that he has learned about this process. Darren always loved to read and in 2008 he helped form a Writer's Critique group. After a few years he finally managed to finish his first short story, "Pins And Dolls" and then went on to write a novel and another short story.

From his extensive experience getting his writings published, he now coaches others through this tidiest process. Darren can help with story crafting, book design, layout, editing, publicity and so much more. Darren says on his website; "I will help you avoid the landmines that even seasoned indie publishers get tripped up on."

He has coached many clients and has some amazing reviews from them on his website. They all commented on how helpful Darren was in navigating the word of self-publishing and helping them meet their goal of publishing their book.

You can learn more about Darren and get help from him at his website if you're interested in writing at:  
<https://www.darrenkirby.com/>



*President Cathy Greenseth presents a club Optimist mug to Darren Kirby as a thank you gift for his time.*



## WINUM Conference come to our area



The fall WINUM conference was held in Eau Claire which made it easier for more of our club members to attend. Pictured above is the Great Plains Region Vice President Mark Feilmann who zoomed in to the meeting to swear in the new year district officers. Far right, club president Cathy Greenseth joined WINUM Governor Chuck Erickson in remembering the 11 district Optimist members who passed away during his year as governor. Immediate right photo is Chippewa Falls club member and newly sworn in WINUM Governor Angie Riemer as she introduces her theme "Optimist are just ducky!" to all present. She was given the blue duck as a gift from outgoing Governor Chuck.



## Our Optimist Club Participated in Riverfest



On August 7 Dina Brennan updated the club on what activities our club will be providing for the kids at the Pure Waters Riverfest event on August 10 at Riverfront Park in Chippewa Falls. The event followed the annual parade. We provided free fun carnival style games with prizes for the youth.







## Camaraderie at the Optimist Banquet September 30, 2024







## Thanking Officers & Board Members for the 2023-2024 Year



Dina Brannen, Board



Amanda B, Past President



Lisa Thelen, Board



Tom Eder, Board



Jack H, Secretary



Marty Tlachac, President Elect



Nadine Bresina, Board



Deb Braden, Treasurer



Tom Cushman, Vice President





## Inducting Officers & Board Members for the 2024-2025 Year

The 2023-24 Lt. Governor Gale Haas inducted the 2024-25 Chippewa Falls Officers and Board during the end of year banquet.

### Officers

President Marty Tlachac  
Vice President Dina Brennan  
Treasurer Deb Braden  
Secretary Jack Halbleib  
President Elect Vicki Wilson  
Past President Cathy Greenseth



### Board Members

Lisa Thelen  
Nancy Post  
Laurie Ewings  
Tom Eder  
Not pictured:  
Scott Marty  
Bob Nelson



### 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, too noble for fear,  
and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

--Optimist International