



OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

Jan-Feb 2025
Newsletter

January / February
2025

Weekly Club Meetings

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

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

OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Marty, 2nd year
Lisa Thelen, 2nd year
Nancy Post, 2nd year
Tom Eder 1st year
Laurie Ewings 1st year
Bob Nelson, 1st year

Club Foundation Board

Tom Eder
Jack Halbleib
Bob Nelson
Dave Schaller
Vicki Wilson

Need volunteer Member

Marty Tlachac, Ex-Officio

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

March

Mar 7 Ralph Cushman
Mar 8 Jerry Verwey
Mar 27 Monica Palecek
Mar 30 Tom Etmund
Mar 31 Mike McGinley

April

April 6 Julia Jilek-Proue
April 11 Amanda Haines

President Marty's Message

A warm, optimistic greeting to all Chippewa Falls Optimists and to our sponsors and enthusiastic supporters.

Soon, we will be "Springing Ahead" again as the sun is already changing its position in the afternoon sunsets. Since the first quarter of our club activity, we have experienced some healthy club activities and warm cozy meetings despite the winter's wrath of variable weather temperatures. The warm hearts of optimism always trump the external conditions.

Our Optimist committees have been making our club more community-sensitive for our Kids. Cathy has been working effectively with our Youth of the Month program, which allows us to see firsthand what young students are accomplishing with their school activities and beyond. Dina has been working diligently in planning the Bike Rodeo, which is scheduled to kick off on May 16. Many of our committee members are busy serving our kids with community service projects

Our club celebrated Optimist Day in February, and we all enjoyed fellowship with Jack's input of a special gesture. Down the road, we have many great opportunities in the works.

Springtime is always exciting, and we are ready to embrace this special time with great enthusiasm. Our 2nd /3rd WINUM Quarter Conference is coming up Friday- Saturday, April 25-26, 2025, in Stevens Point. The OI International convention is in the headlights on June 29- July 3 in St Louis, MO.



President Marty Tlachac



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Youth of the Month - Ben Siegenthaler January 15

Jan-Feb 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS!

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Jan 8 Favorite Christmas Memories Jack Halbleib
Jan 15 Youth of the Month. Board Meeting at 6am
Jan 22 Update from Governor Angie
Jan 29 Austin Preece, Financial Planner

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Feb 5 Tom Cushman, Creating AI Music
Feb 12 Open Mic
Feb 19 at CF Family Restaurant. Board Meeting at 6am
Feb 26 Youth of the Month

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Mar 5 Essay Contest Winners
Mar 12
Mar 19 Board Meeting at 6AM
Mar 26 Youth of the Month
April 2 Night meeting at?
April 9 Teacher & Staff Appreciation Day
April 16 Youth of the Month & Board Meeting at 6AM
April 23 First Robotics, Dr. Wolter & Team
April 30

On January 15, the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club recognized Ben Siegenthaler as January Youth of the Month. Ben is the son of Scott and Val Siegenthaler, has one older brother and two younger sisters, and is a senior at McDonell Central Catholic High School. His extra-curricular activities include: student council, student ambassadors, Kolbe Club, National Honor Society, education commission representative, discipleship, track, and off-road mountain bike racing with the Chippewa Valley Composite team.

Community activities and volunteer work include serving at Mass, being a member of the Knights of Columbus, volunteering at OneFest, packaging food at Feed My People Food Bank, and cleaning up Camp Nawakwa. Ben has been awarded All-Conference in two events for track, First Team All-Conference for cross country, and academic high honor roll.

After high school graduation, Ben plans to attend a university school for Business Communication or enter missionary work. He enjoys outdoor activities like running, biking, hiking, fishing, gardening, and woodworking projects.

Congratulations Ben!

WINUM Governor Angie Riemer - January 22



WINUM Governor and our club member Angie Riemer talked to our club about all the wonderful things Optimist International (OI) does for their Optimist Clubs.

From the dues that all Optimist members pay OI, they have been able to provide over \$1.3M to club campaigns. They have a pass-through program that allows the money from our dues to gain interest for an additional \$200,000 to be returned to these campaigns. Through twenty-one club grants, they assisted 387 club members in helping 13,965 children and their families. OI has given \$282,421 in charitable contributions to our clubs. They have paid \$320,000 to 150 students for their college tuition from the oratorical and essay contests that each club can participate in. Our club participates in the Essay contest every year and invites students from our area to submit their essays.

The OI Foundation is the fundraising arm of OI. With just one dime a day (\$36.50), each of us can support the foundation and make a difference in the lives of children.

We have 42 clubs in our district and are down by 15 members from last year. We are retaining 95.8% but not adding new members. If each club added just one member, think of the impact that would have on helping the youth of our communities.

Angie showed a video message to the club from Optimist International President Janet Oord Graves, who talked about how simple acts of kindness can enhance someone's life with optimism.



Jan-Feb 2025

OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES

March

Yvonne Zwiefelhofer, 35 yrs
Joe Niese, 10 yrs
Jenny Starck, 9 yrs
Robert Parkhurst, 6 yrs
Megan Fenner, 6 yrs
Jordan Stoll, 6 yrs
Mark Brennan, 2 yrs
Jody Kranig, 2 yrs
Joe Kranig, 2 yrs
Jay Thelen, 2 yrs

April

CW King, 52 yrs
Rich Estrem-Fuller, 28 yrs
Tom Eder, 16 yrs
Angela Sonnentag, 2 yrs

SECRET HANDSHAKERS

Jan 8 None

Jan 15 Jack Halbleib to Nadine Bresina

Jan 22 Mike McGinley to Dina Brennan

Jan 29 Jack Halbleib to Ralph Cushman

Feb 5 Angie Riemer to Nancy Post

Feb 12 Vicki Wilson to Jack Halbleib

Feb 19 Bob Nelson to Jack Halbleib

Feb 26

BOOST WINNERS

Jan 8 None

Jan 15 Angie Riemer

Jan 22 Mike McGinley

Jan 29 Jack Halbleib

Feb 5 Louise Bentley

Feb 12 Nancy Post

Feb 19 Cathy Greenseth

Feb 26



Follow the Chippewa Falls
Optimist Club on Facebook.

Austin Preece - Personal Finance on Jan 29

Austin Preece has his own business, is a Certified Financial Planner and offers more comprehensive tools. He is a fee only fiduciary, prepares taxes and does bookkeeping for small businesses.

He talked with us on January 29 about our personal finances.

There are four things we all need to do as soon as possible.

1. Review our transactions.
2. Think about our goals (vacations, charitable giving, etc.)
3. Consider saving or investing more to achieve our goals.
4. Increase our retirement savings.

Bad things happen in the world but investments can still grow. The markets are still increasing even with all the stress in the world today.

You should know your net worth, review your insurance, review your beneficiaries, gather all your account



Austin Preece (above) accepting an Optimist mug from our club president, Marty Tlachac.

statements and have your tax documents put together early.

Thank you, Austin for all the good advice.

Tom Cushman shared his love for AI Music

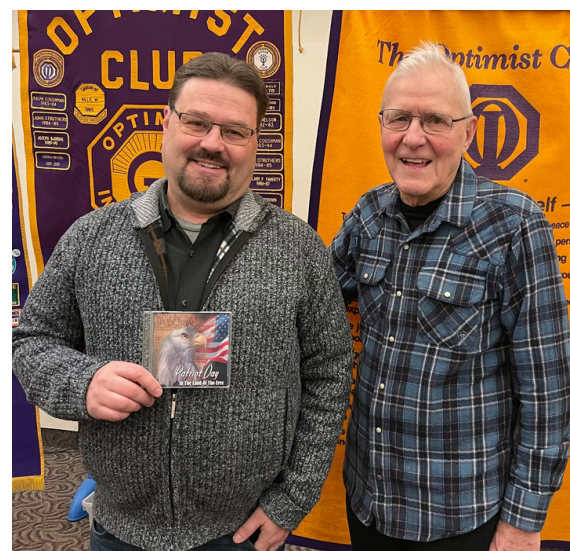
On February 5, Club Member Tom Cushman shared with us his love for writing music and how it started a new hobby nine month ago.

Back in his high school days Tom and friends would jam in the family garage with their instruments and he would play around with writing songs. About nine months ago one of his friends told him to listen to a song out on YouTube. Tom said, "It wasn't very good but the song seemed familiar." It was a song he had written 40 years ago and his friend had put it in a free software that used artificial intelligence to create a singer's voice and apply music. It peaked Tom's interest to use it himself. He now has a paid version of the software to be more creative.

To commemorate Optimist Day on February 6, he wrote an Optimist song using our club activities and the creed which he played for those present.

Tom also shared a patriotic album of his four favorite songs he had written and produced.

Thanks for sharing your talents with us Tom.



President Marty Tlachac thanks member, Tom Cushman for sharing his music writing skills and the use of artificial intelligence to produce a song about our club, the city of Chippewa Falls along with a patriotic theme album.



Optimist Day on Wednesday, February 6

Jan-Feb 2025

2025 EVENTS

- *Agnes Table March 18
- *Teacher & Staff Appreciation Day April 9
- *WINUM Conference April 25-26 in Stevens Point, WI
- *Bike Rodeo May 16
- *OI Convention Jun 29 - July 2 in St Louis, MO
- *Northern WI State Fair July 9-13



Our club members showing off our Optimism at our weekly meeting.



Celebrate Optimist Day!

THANK YOU TO OUR

SPONSORS!

Horan Funeral Home

420 Bay Street
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

What is International Optimist Day?

Optimist Day is celebrated worldwide annually on the first Thursday of February. This is a day on which the world can be an Optimist in action. Join us in honoring Optimist Clubs and Members in their communities and worldwide for all they do year-round to promote efforts to bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.

Our club members more purposely did random acts of kindness on this day to show our support for such a wonderful day. We handed out business cards with the Optimist Creed on them to promote this day and to encourage others to join.

Youth of the Month - Brant Malaney Feb 26



Brant shown here with his parents Colin and Tanya Malaney.

Chippewa Falls Senior High School Senior Brant Malaney was recognized as our February Youth of the Month at the club meeting. His parents are Colin and Tanya Malaney.

Brant's involvement in school includes Harmonics (show choir), American Club, Math Club, National Honor Society, and Cardinal Leaders. He is also active in the community, including volunteering with a church-led mission trip, Flags 4 the Fallen, especially on Veterans Day, and participating in Badger Boys State.

Brant is planning on attending a four-year university and majoring in engineering. He has been accepted at the University of Minnesota but is waiting to hear back from other schools, especially those abroad to which he has applied.

Brant enjoys time with his family and friends, traveling, reading, and running when weather permits.

Congratulations Brant!