



OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

March-April
2025
Newsletter

March / April 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
Bob Nelson, 1st year

Club Foundation Board

Tom Eder
Jack Halbleib
Bob Nelson
Dave Schaller
Vicki Wilson
Nadine Bressina
Marty Tlachac, Ex-Officio

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

May

May 27 Scott Marty

June

June 19 Jody Kranig
June 19 Karin Schuler
June 21 Jenny Starck
June 26 Deb Braden

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

President Marty's Message

Spring is advancing fast as the students are past their Spring Breaks and looking forward to the last days of school, either the end of May or the first week of June. The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club is also at the half-year mark for our club's activities. The Dictionary Project and Staff Appreciation Project in the county schools were huge successes. Thanks to all the Optimist coordinators and volunteers involved. It's always satisfying to hear positive comments from the recipients, students, teachers, and staff as we continue to brighten the lives of all affected by our projects. Let's keep up the zeal!!

Optimists also enjoyed serving the evening meal at Agnes table in March. We had a nice turnout with two crews who prepared and served nearly 75 folks of our community. Thanks to all the members and volunteers who participated in this fun event.

Our 2nd /3rd WINUM Quarter Conference was on Friday- Saturday, April 25-26 in Stevens Point. The Optimist International convention is in the headlights on June 29 - July 3 in St Louis, MO.

Amanda Blonigen, Chiropractor - March 12



Amanda is shown here with her son and President, Marty

On March 12, our member, Amanda Blonigen, a Chiropractor, updated us on the student research that she and her team have been working on. A paper started in 2018 has been published: Retrospective review of case records of school-aged children receiving chiropractic care. You can see at: [Click Here](#). Other papers will be published soon. The state is working on a study of 100 students and how it influences the brain for the 2025-2026 school year.

Amanda also updated us on her trip to Cuba with her husband, son, and another friend's family. You need a VISA and a reason to go to Cuba, and it can't be to visit the country. They were able to enter the country with a

Dominican non-profit chiropractic mission. Cubans view chiropractic as a religion, so it is frowned upon.

Cuba takes no American credit cards, and you cannot exchange US dollars for their currency. You use US dollars, and they don't tell you the exchange rate. There have been no infrastructure improvements since the 1950s. The air quality is very bad, and they ration gas for their cars. Amanda and their team donated diapers and clothes and ate a lot of papaya, rice, and beans. Thanks for sharing, Amanda!



President Marty Tlachac

March-April 2025

**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPEAKERS!**

MARCH PROGRAMS

Mar 5 Snow Day

Mar 12 Amanda

Blonigen: Chiropractic

Research & Cuba Trip

Mar 18 Agnes Table

Mar 19 Snow Day

Mar 26 Open Mic

APRIL PROGRAMS

April 2 1st Place Essay

Contest Winner

April 3 NOW Meeting

April 9 Staff Appreciation

Day (Donut Day)

April 16 Youth of the

Month for April & March

Board Meeting at 6am

April 23 Pastor Ed

Williams: Mission Trip to

Ashland, NC

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 7 2nd Place Essay

Contest Winner

May 14 Teri Hagmann

Nutritional Response

Therapy

May 21 Youth of the

Month

Board Meeting at 6AM

May 28 TBD

June 4 TBD

June 11 Bus Driver

Award

June 17 Pre-Fair Picnic

June 18 TBD

Board Meeting at 6AM

June 25 Fair Talk

Club Serves Dinner at Agnes Table on March 18

Our club members prepared and served food for the Chippewa Falls community at Agnes Table on March 18. We had so many members sign up that we formed two groups. One group prepared the food while the other served and cleaned up. Dina brought her granddaughter along. Learning to volunteer starts at a young age.



Dina stirs the corn to heat evenly.



Marty adds the topping to the meat. Looks good!



Members who are unable to make the morning meetings have opportunities to volunteer while socializing with other club members.



Next shift is ready and eager to start.



Angie, governor of the WINUM District says, "Bring on the dirty dishes."

Congratulations to our Essay Contest Winners

Essay contest applicants wrote on the topic chosen by Optimist International, "How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success." Thank you to our three judges: Monica, Louise and Dina and Co-chairs Yvonne and Cathy for all your efforts to hold the contest.

Third place Addy Seaholm, senior at Chi-Hi won \$50 and is congratulated by Co-Chair Cathy below.



First place Lauren Misfeldt, senior at McDonell High won \$200 and advanced to the district level for a chance to win a \$2500 scholarship. Shown above with her parents.



To the left, Second place Eric Andreo, senior at Chi-Hi won \$100 and is shown with his mom.

March 26 Celebrating 40th Year with Hallie Club

Forty years ago, the Chippewa Falls Club started a new club in Hallie. They have many active charter members attending their weekly meetings yet today. We thank the Hallie club for inviting Chippewa Falls members to celebrate with them on March 26. The event was held at the Hallie Golf Course, where they have their evening meetings monthly. It was a lovely evening with many fond memories shared. Congratulations to the Hallie Optimist Club!



NOW Meeting, April 3

March-April 2025

OPTIMIST ANNIVERSARIES

May

Edith McDonald, 1 yr
Paul McDonald, 1 yr
Jaden Stolp, 1 yr
Dave Schaller, 9 yrs

June

Abbey Rao, 3 yrs



WINUM Governor Angie explained why we have ducks for our theme.



President Marty spoke about our club and the many ways we work to help the children in our community.



Lt Governor Louise explained the differences in types of potatoes.



Member Dick sang the song, Smile to close out the night. Thanks, Dick!

Our club had a New Optimist Welcome (NOW) event on April 3 at the church. Three potential new members joined us, and our 3rd place essay contest winner read her essay and stayed for dinner. We enjoyed a wonderful fish dinner cooked by the men from the church. It was fun to enjoy the evening with everyone and share why optimism is so important in our lives and the lives of our community.



SECRET HANDSHAKERS

Mar 12 Jack Halbleib to Nadine Bresina

Mar 26 Louise Bentley to Mike McGinley

April 2 Nancy Post to Bob Nelson

April 9 Jack Halbleib to Yvonne Zwiefelhofer

April 16 Mike McGinley to Yvonne Zwiefelhofer

April 23 Rich Estrem Fuller to Angie Riemer

April 30 Louise Bentley to Jack Halbleib

BOOST WINNERS

Mar 12 Tom Eder

Mar 26 Nadine Bresina

April 2 Deb Braden

April 9 Marty Tlachac

April 16 Cathy Greenseth

April 23 Angie Riemer

April 30 Bob Nelson

School Districts Staff Appreciation Day, April 9

Club member Jack Halbleib organized the annual school staff appreciation day with our partner Kwik Trip. Everyone loves a glazer donut. The Chippewa Falls Unified School District, McDonell Area Catholic Schools and other private schools in our city were recognized by our club and Kwik Trip for their outstanding work in educating the children. Over 140 boxes of glazers were divided up by 18 locations and delivered. That's a lot of sweetness!



Club members get right to work organizing by school, counting, and labeling the donut packaging.



Donuts are ready to go. Heading out to load up a vehicle for delivery.



Staff members from the Chippewa Falls Unified School District enjoyed the donuts.



Staff members from the Chippewa Falls Unified School District are all smiles.



Follow the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club on Facebook.



March-April 2025

2025 EVENTS

- *Bike Rodeo May 16
- *Pre-Fair Picnic June 17
- *OI Convention Jun 29 - July 2 in St Louis, MO
- *Northern WI State Fair July 9-13
- *National Night Out Aug

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Horan Funeral Home

420 Bay Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715-723-4404
[Website](#)

Micon Cinemas

Mike and Connie 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

March Youth of the Month - Gavin Bowe



Gavin is shown above with his father, Matt, and his grandparents.

McDonell Senior Gavin Bowe was recognized by the Optimist Club of Chippewa Falls as our March Youth of the Month. His parents are Nicole and Matt Bowe.

His school activities include running the technology for the theater productions, golf and A/V Club. He also does technology for the Eau Claire Children's Theater. His plans after high school are to attend the University of Eau Claire for business information systems.

Gavin spends his free time fixing his truck, playing games on his computer and spending time with friends. *Congratulations Gavin!*

April Youth of the Month - Kagan Valencia

Chippewa Falls High School Senior Kagan Valencia was recognized by the Optimist Club of Chippewa Falls as our April Youth of the Month.

Designer Coco Chanel is someone who has inspired Kagan and sparked her dream to be the CEO of her own Haute Couture fashion business. She is the founder and president of Chi Hi's Fashion Club, along with being in the Principal's Advisory Council.

Kagan is currently working at Davids Bridal in their alterations department and next year will be attending UW-Stout with a major in Fashion Design & Development and minoring in some kind of business or marketing.

Congratulations Kagan!



Kagan accepting her recognition plaque from Immediate Past President Cathy Greenseth.



Junior golfers are invited to compete in the 2025 Optimist International WINUM District Junior Golf Qualifier. It will be held on June 11, 2025, at the Mid-Vallee Golf Course in De Pere, WI. Girls and boys aged 10 to 18 are welcome. All the information about this qualifier and how to register can be found at this link: [Registration Information](#).



Ed Williams Mission Trip to North Carolina

Lay Pastor Ed Williams from the First Presbyterian Church was our guest speaker on April 23. He is part of the morning breakfast crew who makes our Optimist Club breakfasts every Wednesday morning.

He and 18 other churches volunteered with the Fuller Center for Housing. The Center rebuilds homes after national disasters.

Volunteers arrived at the site on a Sunday, stayed at a YMCA camp and started each morning with devotions. The Fuller staff instructed the volunteers how to make house repairs prior to heading out to the construction site. They made sure the volunteers were reassured they would not finish the work but just moving the rebuilding forward for the next group to come in and build off what they will complete. Wednesday was a half day of work allowing volunteers to explore and support local businesses, restaurants, and shops. The volunteers' work was completed on Friday afternoon. Anyone can volunteer with no construction experience necessary.



Marty thanks Lay Pastor Ed for sharing information and pictures of his trip to North Carolina.

WINUM Second-Third Combined Conference



WINUM Governor Angie delivers a check to Leigh Ann Trzinski for the Stevens Point Salvation Army.

On April 25 and 26 the WINUM District held their conference in Stevens Point, WI. Friday evening we enjoyed a delicious meal of snacks and treats put on by Deb Braden. Past Governor, Chuck Erickson gave out his awards from last year and he received an award from current Governor, Angie.

On Saturday morning a local Girl Scout troop presented the colors to get our meeting started. Our guest speaker was Leigh Ann Trzinski from The Bread of Life - Hope Center which is part of the Salvation Army. Leigh did a very interesting presentation that showed the entire history of the Salvation Army.



Governor Angie awards last year's WINUM Governor, Chuck Erickson a large bag of goodies from Door County and a beautiful hour glass for his service last year.



Louise and Deb show off their "Just Ducky" shirts and stuffed duck.

The WINUM District Oratorical contest was held in the morning at the conference, and the winners were honored after lunch. The first-place winner did his presentation for all of us. We also had the first-place winner of the WINUM District Essay Contest at lunch, and she read her essay, as well.

The WINUM District will be going through some changes, and our zones will be decreasing from eight zones to six zones. This is being done to make it easier for the Lieutenant Governors to travel to clubs within their zones.

There is still time to contribute to the OI Foundation Dime-A-Day, either personally or as a club. [Click Here to learn more.](#)



Mission Trip of Healing to El Salvador



On April 30th, President Marty thanked Diane Koss for sharing her 15 years of traveling to El Salvador to help those needing healing.

For the past 15 years, Diane Koss and a crew of four others have been setting aside two weeks out of the year to bring medical and spiritual help to those living in the northern region of El Salvador.

Every morning, they leave at 5:00 AM for the hour-long trip by bus to the camp. The residents are waiting to be seen before they open at 6:00 AM and may wait all day, even though they close at 6:00 PM. Diane and the crew brought nine suitcases full of medical supplies with them. Any extra supplies they may have left over will go to a local clinic. With police protection everywhere they went, Diane felt safe.

A wide range of services is provided to the people: eyeglasses, dental, prenatal vitamins, and other medicines for high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart health. This year, five women were diagnosed with breast cancer. They also set up a mini health fair to teach people how to stay healthy with yoga, music to relax, and reflexology for their hands. The people work hard all day in the sugar cane and tobacco fields, so their hands get very sore. Diane's crew provides hand massaging and rubbing. Also present in El Salvador is the Red Cross, who provide vaccinations.



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