



OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

Sept and Oct
Newsletter
Nov 2023

Sept-Oct 2023

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, VP
Marty Tlachac,
President-Elect
Deb Braden, Sec.-Treas.
Amanda Blonigen, Past Pres.

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Club Foundation Board

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

CW King - Nov 20
Dave Schaller - Nov 24

DECEMBER

Louise Bentley - Dec 2
Rik Greenseth - Dec 13
Angie Riemer - Dec 16
Vicki Wilson - Dec 18
Megan Fenner - Dec 20

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

President Cathy's Message

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Optimist Year, and WINUM Governor Chuck Erickson's theme "Optimism: Peace of Mind." Several of our local club members are putting their Optimism into action at the district level: Governor-Elect Angie Riemer, Hospitality Committee Chair Deb Braden, and Communications Chair/Newsletter Editor Louise Bentley.

The success of the summer fundraising with our food stand has set the tone for our "giving season" to the youth in the area. We encourage area youth groups and organizations who support youth to fill out the application for funding within this newsletter.

In October, Chair Dina Brennan organized our Gary Gartner Dictionary Project. Thank you to Zone 1 Lt. Governor Gale Haas for stopping by to help club members insert the Optimist Creed stickers to the inside covers of the books. We delivered over 600 dictionaries to third graders in Chippewa County! We also had some fun on October 31 sharing with the youth how being an Optimist is "just ducky" at Trunk or Treat. Check out the photos in this newsletter.

In November we will honor another student as our Youth of the Month and look forward to welcoming international students to Chippewa Falls and the United States when we host a breakfast for them and their host families. Wednesday, November 22 we will be reflecting on all we are thankful for when we meet with the Hallie Club Optimists at Chippewa Family Restaurant for our regular club meeting. Plan on being there at 6:30 a.m.

Keep your Optimism alive!
Cathy



President Cathy Greenseth

Happy Optimist New Year!

Cathy Greenseth, pictured on left, 2023-24 Chippewa Falls Optimist Club President, accepted the gavel from 2022-23 President Amanda Blonigen at the end of the September 27 meeting. This signifies the beginning of a new Optimist year. We wish Cathy a great Optimist year, and thank Amanda for successfully leading our club this past year.





Annual Installation and Awards Banquet

Sept-Oct 2023

**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPEAKERS!**

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

- Sept 6** - Jodi Arriola
- Sept 13** - Oktoberfest Update, Tom Cushman
- Sept 20** - Youth of the Month, Maria Herron
- Sept 27** - Club Updates

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

- Oct 4** - New Optimist Year, Cathy Greenseth
- Oct 11** - Moose Club, Barb Abraham
- Oct 18** - Youth of the Month, Mya Post
- Oct 25** - Dictionary Project

SECRET HANDSHAKERS

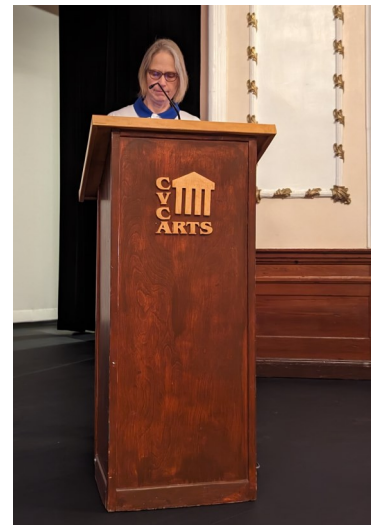
- Sept 6** - Nancy Post to Vicki Wilson
- Sept 13** - Angie Riemer to Deb Braden
- Sept 20** - Marty Tlachac to Scott Marty
- Sept 27** - Nadine Bresina to Louise Bentley
- Oct 4** - Deb Braden to Bob Nelson
- Oct 11** - Rik Greenseth to Jody Kranig
- Oct 18** - Laurie Ewings to Scott Marty
- Oct 25** - Tom Cushman to Rik Greenseth

BOOST WINNERS

- Sept 6** - Tom Cushman
- Sept 13** - Yvonne Zwiefelhofer
- Sept 20** - Carleen Steiner
- Sept 27** - Marty Tlachac
- Oct 4** - Dina Brennan
- Oct 11** - Nancy Post
- Oct 18** - Nadine Bresina
- Oct 25** - Carleen Sterner



Thank you to our 2022-23 Board of Directors for your service to the club: Tom Cushman, Marty Tlachac, Deb Braden, Vicki Wilson, Louise Bentley, Nadine Bresina, Cathy Greenseth, Jack Halbleib, Angie Reimer, and Amanda Blonigen. Missing from photo is Tom Eder.



OI Vice President-Elect of the Great Plains Region Jodi Arriola installed our board members and officers.

**September 26, 2023
Heyde Center for the Arts**



Nadine Bresina accepts the Optimist of the Year Award from Amanda Blonigen. Congratulations, Nadine! Pictured on left top, charter member Dick Kauphusman sings "What a Wonderful World", an Optimist tradition. On left, 2022-23 President Amanda Blonigen (holding baby Avi) receives her president's plaque from 2023-24 president Cathy Greenseth. What a wonderful evening!



Sept-Oct 2023

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY OUR CLUB

Friends of the Library
Heyde Center for the Arts

2023 EVENTS

WINUM First Quarter Conference - Nov. 3-4, Weston
Meeting with Hallie Club - Nov. 22
Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Dec. 8-9, Family Fare
Christmas Party - Dec. 12, Fill Inn Station

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

StrongBridgE Wealth Advisors
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matthew.s.pope@ampf.com
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[Website](#)

Country Treasures
216 N Bridge St.
Chippewa Falls, WI
715.723.8883
[Website](#)

Dove Healthcare
Wissota Health & Regional Vent Center
2815 Cty Hwy I
Chippewa Falls, WI
715.723.9341
[Website](#)

Film Tech LLC
799 N. Broadway St.
Stanley, WI 54768
715.644.3663
[Website](#)

Horan Funeral Home
420 Bay St.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715.723.4404
[Website](#)

September Youth of the Month -- Maria Herron

The club honored Maria Herron, senior at McDonell High School, as the Youth of the Month on September 20. Maria's parents are Jim and Diane Herron.

Maria's extra-curricular school activities include cross country, track, the annual school musical, jazz band, and student council. As a Student Ambassador, she has helped with St. Joseph's charity dinners, the diaper drive, and Salvation Army bell ringing. She is one of two editors of the newsletter *Connections*. Outside of Ambassadors, she has helped at Agnes Table and loaded clothes for St. Francesca Resource Center. She is also a cantor at St. Peter's Church in Tilden.

Recent awards/honors include being a member of the National Honor Society, Youth Rotarian, and Badger Girls State delegate. Maria spends her free time playing piano, hiking, and spending time with friends. She also writes stories and poems for fun.

A trip to Rome was the educational destination over the summer of 2023, which our Optimist Club supported, and Maria attended. She said, "I'd have to say that it was an amazing trip. I really liked seeing the catacombs and the churches. Those first century architects must have been on to something because every church we walked into was stunning. I loved every part of it and am very grateful that I had the opportunity to go."

Maria's future plans are to attend Benedictine College and major in business. *Congratulations, Maria, on being chosen the September Optimist Youth of the Month!*



Maria and Diane Herron

October Youth of the Month -- Mya Post

On October 18, Mya Post was honored as our Youth of the Month. Her parents are Heather and Derek Post and grandparents include Club Member Nancy Post and husband Dusty Post. She is a senior at Chippewa Falls High School.

Mya's extra-curricular school activities included golf in the fall and now that it is hockey season, she plays in the wing position. She was a freshman on the co-op hockey team who won the state tournament. The co-op team is made up of girls from Chippewa Falls High School, McDonell Central and Menomonie. She is also a member of the National English Honor Society.

Mya is very involved at Central Lutheran Church, where she enjoys volunteering in the daycare on Wednesdays during the summer and also helps with Vacation Bible School. Twice she has gone to Luther Park to volunteer during summer camp, and participates in her church group in activities like making veterans cards and cleaning up trash. You can also find Mya volunteering at our Optimist club food stand setting up during the Northern Wisconsin State Fair and Oktoberfest.

Recent awards/honors include Honor Roll, and varsity letter in both golf and hockey. Post high school plan for Mya is to attend UW-La Crosse to study Elementary Education.

How does Mya spend her free time? She said, "I love to read, so that is a staple part of my night routine. I also can be found at the hockey rink from October until the middle of February. And, of course, I love being around my friends and family whenever I can." *Congratulations Mya! Thank you for being an Optimist volunteer and helping at our stand.*



Dusty and Nancy Post, Mya and Derek Post



Barb Abraham Visits from the Moose Lodge

It is always interesting to hear about what other service clubs are doing in our community. On October 11, Barb Abraham of the Moose Lodge was the speaker at our meeting.

Barb grew up in Bloomer and has lived in Chippewa Falls for 18 years. She joined the Chippewa Falls Moose Lodge in 2008 and is a past president. Their club meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at their Lodge at 8118 149th St.

According to their website, the Moose Fraternity is "an International organization of men and women dedicated to caring for young and old, bringing communities closer together, and celebrating life." They accomplish this in a variety of projects that they do throughout the year. The local Lodge puts up the lights in Christmas Village, has clean up days at Irvine Park, helps serve at Agnes Table, holds food drives, and provides donations to local organizations.

The Moose hold fundraisers every month such as Pork Steak & Dumplings Meal, Burger Night, and Charcoal Chicken Dinners. They also work at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, and have a bar at their Lodge. The Moose have a scholarship program and Moose Youth Awareness Program. They also support Mooseheart residential childcare facility and Moosehaven retirement community.

To learn more about the local Moose Lodge, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chippewafallsmoose.org/> or go to the international Moose website <https://www.moosintl.org/>. Thank you, Barb, for visiting our club and telling us all about your organization.



President Cathy Greenseth and Barb Abraham of the Moose Lodge

Sept-Oct 2023

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

NIS Financial Services, Inc
Mutual Funds
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Life Insurance
Marty Tlachac
715.720.8726
715.404.0720 cell

Northwestern Bank
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715.723.4461
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On-Site Chiropractic
Dr. Amanda Blonigen
2029 Co. Hwy I Ste 5
Chippewa Falls, WI
715.382.6864
[Website](#)

Post Glass and Mirror
35 E Park Ave
Chippewa Falls, WI
715.723.8676
postglass@outlook.com
[Website](#)

State Farm
Jeff Flaig, Agent
421 Island Street
Chippewa Falls, WI
jeff.flraig.g6k6@statefarm.com
715.723.9128

Sokup's Market
624 N Bridge St,
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715.723.4953
[Facebook](#)

Wissota Self Storage
16947 County Highway X,
Chippewa Falls, WI
715.559.5597
[Website](#)

Want to sponsor our club with an ad? [Send us an email.](#)

VP-Elect Jodi Arriola Pays a Club Visit

On September 7, Jodi Arriola, vice president-elect for Optimist International and Hallie Optimist Club member, talked to the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club about the structure of Optimist International.

Our club is in Zone 1 of eight zones that make up the Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan District (WINUM). The WINUM Governor for the 2023-24 year is Chuck Erickson from Appleton. His theme will be "Optimism: Peace of Mind."

Each district belongs to a region. Our region is called the Great Plains. Jodi is the Vice President-Elect to the Great Plains region. She will be coordinating all the districts in the region in 2024-25 by being in communication with all the Governors of the districts.

In 2024-25, Chippewa Falls Club Member Angie Reimer will be Governor of the WINUM District. She and Jodi will be part of a "team". Angie is learning her role to be Governor while serving as Governor-Elect this year for the WINUM District. Thank you, Jodi for explaining this wonderful international organization, which we are a member.



Amanda Blonigen, baby Avi, and Jodi Arriola

Trunk or Treat Was "Just Ducky"



Deb Braden, Jody Kranig, The Optimist Duck, Angie Riemer and Carleen Sterner



The Optimist Duck



Members Katie and Eddie Crise and their daughters as characters from "The Little Mermaid"



October 31, 2023
Family Fare Parking Lot
Sponsored by First
Presbyterian Church



Louise Bentley and Deb Braden showing the front and back of our new shirt.



Anniversaries of Chippewa Falls Optimist Club Members

As part of the 2023-24 Optimist Year, President Cathy Greenseth would like to recognize the club anniversaries of our members. Here is a list for October and November that includes member names and how many years they have been in the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club:

October

- Nancy Post: 17 years
- Almeada Sullivan: 4 years
- Troy Dostal: 1 year
- Laurie Ewings: 1 year
- Carleen Sterner: 1 year
- Lisa Thelen: 1 Year

November

- Julia Jilek-Proue: 7 years
- Keith Hutchinson: 6 years
- Amanda Blonigen: 5 years
- Eddie Crise: 2 years
- Katie Crise: 2 years
- Scott Marty: 1 year



Another Successful Optimist Food Stand for Oktoberfest



Saturday Night Volunteers



Sept.
15-16
Northern
WI
State
Fair-
Grounds

Tom Cushman provided an update on what is new at this year's Oktoberfest.



Friday Back Crew



Friday Front Crew



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



Chippewa Falls Optimist Club

Donation Request Form

"Optimist, bringing out the best in youth!"

The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club provides monetary support to local organizations that support the youth in our community. All requests require an application and certain criteria must be met to receive funds.

Our financial support depends largely on the success of our two fundraising activities: the food stand at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair and Oktoberfest. *We are always looking for organizations to help us run these stands!*

Application process:

Applicants must submit an Official Request Form **each year** to receive donations. Applications will be accepted throughout the year; however, our fiscal year starts October 1st and funds will be dispersed according to the budget and evaluation from the Board of Directors.

Notification:

Organizations will be notified within 30 days of submission on whether they have been selected for funding. The organization will be asked to appear at a club meeting (Wednesday mornings at 6:45AM at the Frist Presbyterian Church) to receive their funds.

Exclusions:

The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club does not make donations to political parties or government agencies. In some cases, the Club will contribute to an individual for educational purposes, after review by the Board of Directors.

General Information:

Organization Name: _____

Organization Address: _____

Organization Website: _____

Name of Contact: _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Purpose of the Request:

Please describe the purpose of your request in 1-3 sentences:

Total amount needed for the above request: _____

Population of youth served: _____

Geographic area served (Cities/Townships): _____

Specifically, how will the funds be used:

Total amount being requested: _____ **Date funds are needed by:** _____

Have you applied for the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club in the past? **Yes or No**

Please note the year and amount within the last 3 years: _____

Are there any Optimist members involved in the organization requesting funds? **Yes or No**

If yes, who? _____

Is your organization willing to come to club to receive the donation? **Yes or No**

Is your organization willing to help work the food stand at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair and Oktoberfest? **Yes or No**

I hereby authorize that I have answered these questions to the best of my knowledge.

Sign: _____

Date: _____

Please mail completed form to:

Chippewa Falls Optimist Club

PO Box 64

Chippewa Falls WI 54729