



OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

Nov and Dec
Newsletter
Jan 2024

Nov-Dec 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
President

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

JANUARY

Lisa Thelen - Jan 4
Marty Tlachac - Jan 5
Rex Bentley - Jan 8
Cathy Greenseth - Jan 9

FEBRUARY

Carleen Sterner - Feb 3
Dina Brennen - Feb 5
Laurie Ewings - Feb 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

President Cathy's Message

Can you believe January 2024 is already here? We have several service projects under our belt: distributing dictionaries, honoring Optimist Youth of the Month, recognizing and welcoming international high school students, who are so far away from home, and bell ringing! With the successful fundraisers this past summer it is so good to distribute the funds, and support the youth in our community. You can find who our club supported in the left column of each newsletter.

I am very optimistic on what 2024 will hold for our club. At this time, we are working on the backend of a new website. Our club continues the special \$35 for annual dues. Keep talking to others about being in our organization, and give every living creature you meet a smile. Additional members create more opportunities to help the youth.

Please help promote the essay contest whose topic this year is: "**Optimism: How it Connects Us?**" Essays are due before or on **Friday, January 19, 2024**. Look for the letter and the application within this newsletter.

As we wrap up our calendar year, we thank the First Presbyterian Church men for their hospitality every Wednesday morning.

Have a blessed twelve days of Christmas, everyone.

Keep your Optimism alive!
Cathy Greenseth, 2023-2024 President



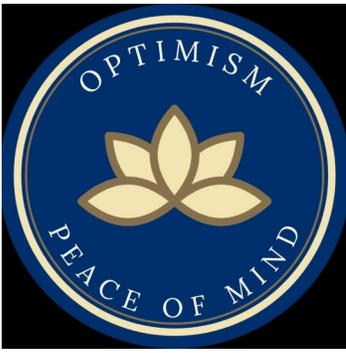
President Cathy Greenseth

Last Meeting of 2023 at Chippewa Family Restaurant



December 27, 2023





Nov-Dec 2023

**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPEAKERS!**

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

- Nov 1 - Club Updates
- Nov 8 - Variety Show at Heyde Center, Paul McDonald
- Nov 15 - YOM, Frederick Blair
- Nov 22 - Meeting with Hallie Club, Chippewa Family Rest.
- Nov 29 - International Students Day

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

- Dec. 6 - Chamber of Commerce, Angela Kapp
- Dec 13 -YOM, Antonio Balderas
- Dec 20 - Christmas Sing Along
- Dec 27 - Chippewa Family Rest.

SECRET HANDSHAKERS

- Nov 1 - Deb Braden to Rik Greenseth
- Nov 8 - Nancy Post to Marty Tlachac
- Nov 15 - Scott Marty to Laurie Ewings
- Nov 22 - None chosen
- Nov 29 - Louise Bentley to Jack Halbleib
- Dec 6 - Louise Bentley to Lisa Thelen
- Dec 13 - Mike McGinley to Nadine Bresina
- Dec 20 - Bob Nelson to Scott Marty
- Dec 27 - None chosen

BOOST WINNERS

- Nov 1 - Jody Kranig
- Nov 8 - Ralph Cushman
- Nov 15 - Mike McGinley
- Nov 22 - None chosen
- Nov 29 - Tom Eder
- Dec 6 - Yvonne Zwiefelhofer
- Dec 13 - Angie Riemer
- Dec 20 - Marty Tlachac
- Dec 27 - None chosen

International Students Share Experiences



Every year students from other countries who are attending either Chippewa Falls or McDonell Central high schools pay a visit to our club to talk about their experiences here in Chippewa Falls. On November 29, there were 11 students (eight from McDonell and three from Chi Hi) who came to our meeting. Ten are pictured in the photo above. The students are from Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Norway and Denmark. All of the students received an Optimist T-shirt as a souvenir of their visit.

Angela Kapp Provides Chamber Update

Our club welcomed speaker Angela Kapp to our December 6 meeting. Angela is the membership director of the Chippewa Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Angela grew up in Chippewa Falls, moved to the Appleton area, and came back here about a year ago, so is fairly new to her position at the Chamber. She serves as the main contact for Chamber members and her focus is on obtaining new members and retaining current ones. She organizes some of their monthly events including Coffee and Commerce, Chamber 101, and Business After Hours. She is also the head of their Ambassador Program and attends ribbon cuttings and ground breakings.

Angela encouraged us to shop locally, and to purchase Chamber Bucks to spend at Chamber members.

Thanks for filling us in on happenings at the Chamber, Angela!



Angela Kapp receives an Optimist mug from our president Cathy Greenseth on Dec. 6.



Nov-Dec 2023

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY OUR CLUB

Children's Resource Center - West
YMCA Strongs Kids Program

2024 EVENTS

WINUM Second Quarter Conference - Feb 16-17, Shawano

WINUM Third Quarter Conference - May 3-4, Appleton

Northern WI State Fair - July 10-14, Chippewa Falls

WINUM Fourth Quarter Convention - Aug. 16-17, Eau Claire

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

On-Site Chiropractic
Dr. Amanda Blonigen
2029 Co. Hwy I Ste 5
Chippewa Falls, WI
715.382.6864

[Website](#)

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

November Youth of the Month -- Fred Blair

Fred Blair was honored as the Chippewa Falls Optimist Youth of the Month for November on Nov. 15. His parents are Dave and Frances Blair and he has two older sisters. Fred is a senior at McDonell Central Catholic High School. He is involved in track and field, theater, forensics, Student Council, and is the student representative on the Education Commission School Board.

In the community, Fred volunteers through a student-led organization called the Student Ambassadors. His recent honors include the honor roll, National Honor Society member, and Youth Rotarian.

After high school, he will be pursuing a degree in biology to study medicine in graduate school with hopes to become a veterinarian or doctor. Fred enjoys exploring the outdoors, growing connections with his friends, and reading books.

Congratulations, Fred, on being chosen our November Youth of the Month!



President Cathy Greenseth and Youth of the Month Fred Blair

December Youth of the Month -- Antonio Balderas



Carlos, Solea, Antonio and Nikki Balderas

On December 13, Antonio Balderas was honored as the Optimist Youth of the Month for December. His parents are Carlos and Nikki Balderas, and he has a younger sister Solea. Antonio is a senior honor roll student at Chippewa Falls High School. He is currently the president of the Spanish Club, a LINK crew leader (mentor for an incoming freshman), and is a part of the Madrigals, Harmonics Show Choir, cross country, and track and field teams.

In the community, Antonio is an active participant in the youth group at his church (Our Hope Lutheran Church) and most recently has become involved at the ECCT volunteering his time as a Youth Advisory Council Member and was just cast in the upcoming show *Percy Jackson The Lightning Thief The Musical*.

His recent honors include receiving the Men's Cross Country Team Spirit award and being named Science Student of the Month. When he is not working at Micon Cinemas, he enjoys running community 5K events and spending time with family and friends.

After high school, Antonio plans to attend Chippewa Valley Technical College in the Manufacturing Engineering Technologist Associate Degree Program. After completion, he will attend the University of Wisconsin-Stout for a bachelor's degree in Engineering.

We are pleased to honor Antonio as our December Youth of the Month! Congratulations!



Club Rings Bell for Salvation Army

On December 8 and 9, our club rang the bell for the Salvation Army at the downtown Family Fare, Chippewa Falls. Pictured in photo on left is Carleen Sterner. In photo on right are Nadine Bresina, Tom Cushman and Angie Riemer.

Thank you to everyone who took a shift ringing the bell, and to all the people who stopped to say hi or make a donation.



Singing and Giving Thanks at Dec. 20 Meeting



At our December 20 meeting, we sang Christmas carols, brought in items for the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, and presented a check to the Presbyterian Men. Pictured on left are members still celebrating after the meeting. In photo on right are Kevin and Pastor from the Presbyterian Church and President Cathy Greenseth. We are very thankful to be able to meet in such a welcoming building.



President Cathy Greenseth and Paul McDonald

Thank you to Paul McDonald!

A special thank you to local business person and talented performer Paul McDonald for visiting our club on November 8. Paul told the club about the variety show on November 18 and 19 at the Heyde Center called "Paul McDonald & Friends".

The Saturday night dinner and Sunday matinee brunch were catered by McDonald Company's Five Star Catering. Various local organizations received funding from ticket sales, and the performances were all sold out! We appreciated learning about it in advance, so we could get our tickets early.



Optimist Cheer at Christmas Party on Dec. 12



December 12, 2023
Fill Inn Station
White Elephant Sale,
Pizza, Cake, Games,
and Lots of FUN!



And to All a Good Night!

The Optimist Duck Waddles in to November 1 Meeting



Baby Avi meets the Optimist Duck with the help of his mom Amanda and Rick of the Presbyterian Men who serve us breakfast each week.



Angie Riemer, Carleen Sterner, Jody Kranig, Louise Bentley, and Deb Braden are part of the flock surrounding the Duck because "Optimists are Just Ducky."

Anniversaries of Chippewa Falls Optimist Club Members

As part of the 2023-24 Optimist Year, President Cathy Greenseth recognizes the club anniversaries of our members. Here is a list for December and January that includes their names, anniversary dates, and how many years they have been in the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club:

December

Mary Hutchinson: December 5, 6 years

Jeff Flaig: January 3, 6 years

Jason Frederick: January 8, 5 years

January

Ralph Cushman: January 1, 43 years

Robert Nelson: January 21, 30 years

Marty Tlachac: January 6, 8 years



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 Club

P.O. Box 64 • Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Essay Contest and Scholarship Opportunity

Attention: All principals, guidance counselors and teachers, we would like your students to participate in the **Optimist International Essay Contest to potentially earn a scholarship. Please encourage middle and high school students to participate.**

Any youth under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2023 who has not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent may enter. *There is no minimum age.*

Any student interested should submit an essay on the official topic:

"Optimism: How it Connects Us?"

Deadline: Essays are due before or on **Friday, January 19, 2024**

- *Postal mailed entries must be postmarked on or before January 19, 2024.*
- *Emailed entries sent no later than midnight on January 19, 2024. Late entries will not be accepted.*
- Read all entry details and rules on the application form enclosed.
- **Note:** Copy of birth certificate will be required of first place winner at the club level.

Chippewa Falls Club Level Prizes:

- Club first place winner – medallion and \$200
- Club second place winner – medallion and \$100
- Club third place winner – medallion and \$50

Club levels prizes will be awarded during the **Wednesday, February 21, 2024** Chippewa Falls Optimist 6:45AM club meeting. The winners will read their essay to club members at that time.

WINUM District Level Prize: The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club *first place winner's* essay will advance to the WINUM District level competition.

- District first place winner – \$2500 college scholarship
- District second place winner – \$1000 college scholarship
- District third place winner – \$500 college scholarship

How to enter:

- **Read and follow all the contest rules carefully.**
- Complete and turn in the [application form](#) and essay on or before the deadline.
- Send by email to: cgreenseth@gmail.com
- OR by postal mail on or before deadline:

ATTN: Mrs. Cathy Greenseth
Chippewa Falls Optimist Club
3201 Cottage Ln
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Revised 2023-2024 Optimist International Essay Scholarship Competition Application

PRINT Name _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Age on Oct 1, 2023 _____

Did you enter any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year? Yes No

Contestant Agreement: I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all the requirements. I understand entries will be run through plagiarism and AI detection software.

Contestant's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Parent or Guardian Permission:

I, _____, grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture or video of my son/daughter, for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo or video in any publication they see fit.

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this scholarship contest.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Relationship _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Language: English, or if District language is different: French or Spanish

Official Topic: "Optimism: How it Connects Us"

Each contestant must be given this copy of the rules and complete the entry form, above.

Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay Contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club (preliminary contest) and District (scholarship competition). The winner of a local club contest advances to the District Scholarship Competition.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's Dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. All District-level contests must have a minimum of three (3) contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of **19** as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) **and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada.** There is no minimum age. Contestants must enter in the District in which they reside. United States contestants attending school on a military installation outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record. Contestants residing in non-Districted areas where there are no Optimist Clubs are not eligible for competition.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's essay contest during any given year. (October 1st - September 30th)
3. No individual having previously won a District Essay scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must provide proof of age and identification in the form of a copy of either their birth certificate or passport before participating. A copy of the Club winner's document will be submitted to the District contest.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official contest topic for the current year.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. The official topic should be at the top of title page and at the top of page 1. (penalty of 3 points)
4. The word count must also be listed at the top of page 1 (penalty of 5 points)
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography, or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word. (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit – French essays will allow 50 words over/under before deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.

7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly, using a recognized citation format. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA, APA, Chicago style). Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No reference can be made in the essay that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)
9. An essay should be written in English, or it may be written in either French or Spanish if the language used is accepted by the District of entry.
10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

Section IV – Judging

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists. (Friends of Optimists are excluded and can be used as judges).
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be anonymized and assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essays bearing only the assigned numbers.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare the essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V – Scoring of Contest

1. Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
2. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 30 points
3. Creativity: 15 points
4. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points

5. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
6. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in a proper format): 5 points

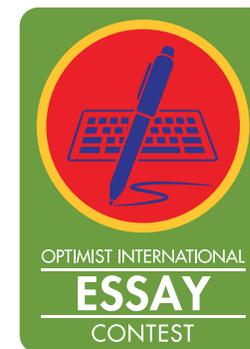
Section VI – Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic on the title page and at the top of page 1 of the essay: 3 points
2. Failure to identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay, doubled-spaced and single-sided: 5 pts. per infraction (15 pt. max)
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 words: 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit. French Essays will allow 50 words over/under for the deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction based on degree.

Section VII - Awards

1. Club level – official medallion and/or certificate
2. Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay contest in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.
3. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner.
 - A. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundations in the United States and Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada.
 - B. Scholarships awarded are for use only at a college, university, or trade school.
 - C. All scholarships will be payable only to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - D. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - E. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

The contest chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The District Chair is the final authority, and no appeals will be recognized.



HOW TO ENTER:

Students are to enter through a local Optimist Club in their area. Most local clubs run their Essay contest from October to the end of January. Judging at the local level is completed in February. Late entries are not accepted.

Once submitted, essays may not be returned. Standings are not reported to applicants. The sponsoring club will contact the winners.

Name of local Club:

Chairperson: _____

How to contact: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In-person to:

Special Instructions, if any: