



OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

March and April
Newsletter
May 2024

March-April 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, VP
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
Angie Riemer
Dave Schaller
Cathy Greenseth, Ex-Officio

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

MAY

May 27 - Scott Marty

JUNE

June 19 - Jody Kranig and
Karin Schuler

June 26 - Deb Braden

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

President Cathy's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Optimism,

We are pleased to announce our local club essay winner Olivia Clark earned third place at the WINUM District level and a \$500 scholarship. The seniors at our Chippewa Falls High Schools have another opportunity for a scholarship through the Chippewa Falls Optimist Foundation. With the deadline now past the foundation is processing the applications. Good luck to the seniors who have applied, and congratulations to Olivia.

Look within this newsletter for all the many ways we have supported the youth the last two months. One of my upcoming favorites is supporting the Chippewa Falls Chamber Excellence in Education. On May 1st the top 5% of the high school graduation classes in Chippewa Falls and their most influential teachers will be honored. Two of our club members, who are teachers, will be representing our club at our sponsored table this year.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Fling night at the Fill-Inn recently. Reminder to "Just Ask" those who would represent our club well with optimism to join. We are pleased to welcome new members to our Chippewa Falls club, especially in the month of May. Ask me about the incentive program through our club and Optimist International. They may think we are a "little nutty" but we do have a lot of fun.

Keep your Optimism alive.

Cathy Greenseth, President ChippewaFallsOptimistClub1@gmail.com



President Cathy Greenseth

Club Members Donate to OI Dime-A-Day Program

Every year our club members donate to the Optimist International (OI) Foundation's Dime-A-Day Program.

Participating this year, are left to right, Deb Braden, Jody Kranig, Carleen Sterner, Marty Tlachac, Bob Nelson, Nancy Post, Jack Halbleib, Angie Riemer and Tom Eder.



Missing from photo: Louise Bentley, Dina Brennan, Nadine Bresina, Cathy Greenseth, Joe Niese, Lisa Thelen, and Vicki Wilson. Thanks everyone!



Nutty Fun at Spring Fling April 24

March-April 2024

**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPEAKERS!**

MARCH PROGRAMS

March 6- CFAUSD Referendum, District Administration

March 13- DoTerra Essential Oils, Jody Kranig

March 20- Mission Trip, Rick Koepke

March 27- Youth Of The Month, Anna Thaler

APRIL PROGRAMS

April 3- Community Bank Month, Pillar Bank Staff

April 10- Assemble Donuts, Staff Appreciation Day

April 17- Youth Of The Month, Sophia Yohnk

April 24- Spring Fling, Fill Inn Station

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MAY

May 1- Open Mic, Roundtable Discussion

May 8- Fire Inspector, Jose Lagunas

May 15- YOTM, Sean Rasmus

May 22- Boy Scouts, Andrea Blaeser

May 29- Chip Pack & Ship, Logan Kirby

JUNE

June 5- American Red Cross, Mary Jane Thomson

June 12- Bus Driver Award

June 19- Getting to Know An Optimist Member

June 26- Law Enforcement and Educator Awards

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY OUR CLUB:

Boys & Girls Club - Chippewa Falls Center

Excellence in Education Banquet

Farmer Appreciation Dinner

Mentor Chippewa



Door prizes were jars of peanuts with the label "Optimists can be Nutty and A LOT of FUN!"



Twenty members and their families, pictured above and on left, attended our evening Spring Fling meeting on April 24, 2024 at the Fill Inn Station.

NOW is the perfect time to join our club, contact President Cathy Greenseth at Chip-pewaFallsOptimistClub1@gmail.com to learn how.

Pillar Bank Celebrates Community Banking Month

April is Community Banking Month! To celebrate, staff members of Pillar Bank attended our club's April 3 meeting to talk about some of the important aspects of community banks.

Pillar Bank Market President Neil Mathwig explained that there are 137 community banks in Wisconsin with under \$1 million dollars in assets. Neil said that the number of community banks have decreased as more banks merge together to create larger institutions.

First Bank of Baldwin changed its name to Pillar Bank in February 2023 to recognize its rich history and be inclusive of the variety of communities and local individuals they serve. Pillar Bank then built their Chippewa Falls location at 2868 County Highway I. They share a lobby with Caribou Coffee and got to know members of the Optimist Club who meet there regularly for coffee and use their conference room for special meetings.

We appreciate the partnership that our club has with Pillar Bank and thank them for taking the time to attend our club meeting.



Attending our club meeting from Pillar Bank are Haedynn Leazott, Derek Kuehni, Lori Davis, Neil Mathwig and Hunter Engstrom.



School Staff Appreciation Day Held April 10

The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club recently recognized all area educators and support staff with our annual "School Staff Appreciation Day." Schools in the Chippewa Falls area received GLAZER donuts provided by KWIK TRIP for all their staff members.



One hundred forty-eight boxes of donuts were delivered to 17 area schools by club members.

March-April 2024

OPTIMIST MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

- CW King - 1973 = 51 yrs.
- Rich Estrem Fuller - 1997 = 27 yrs.
- Tom Eder - 2009 = 15 yrs.
- Angelia Sonnentag - 2023 = 1 yr.

MAY

- Dave Schaller - 2016 = 8 yrs.

SECRET HANDSHAKERS

- March 6-** Angie Riemer to Ralph Coughman
- March 13-** Marty Tlachac to Carleen Sterner
- March 20-** Tom Eder to Louise Bentley
- March 27-** Nancy Post to Deb Braden
- April 3-** Lisa Thelen to Ralph Coughman
- April 10-** Jack Halbleib to Laurie Ewings
- April 17-** Rik Greenseth to Laurie Ewings
- April 24-** None Chosen

BOOST WINNERS

- March 6-** Angie Riemer
- March 13-** Lisa Thelen
- March 20-** Tom Coughman
- March 27-** Louise Bentley
- April 3-** Nancy Post
- April 10-** Jack Halbleib
- April 17-** Amanda Blonigen
- April 24-** None Chosen

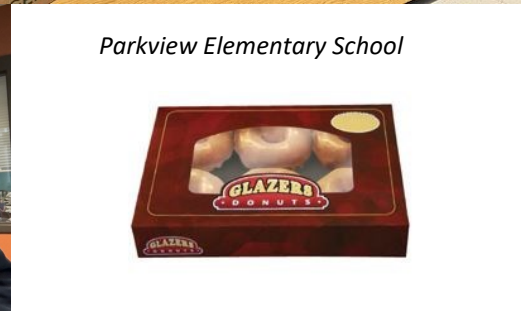


Liberty Christian School



McDonell Central Catholic High School

Thank you!



Parkview Elementary School



Chippewa Falls Middle School



Chippewa Valley High School

Check out our Website!

Have you viewed our redesigned website? New items, like signing up to work at the fair stand, have been added. You can find it at <https://chippewafalloptimistclub.org>.



March-April 2024

2024 EVENTS

- *WINUM Third Quarter Conference - May 3-4, Appleton
- *Pre-Fair Picnic- June 18, Irvine Park
- *Northern WI State Fair - July 10-14, Chippewa Falls
- *Our Club's 55th Anniversary - July 17
- *Indianhead Car Show & Swap Meet- Aug. 4
- *WINUM Fourth Quarter Convention- Aug. 16-17, Eau Claire
- *Oktoberfest- Sept. 20-21
- *Club Banquet & Awards- Sept. 30, St. Charles Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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](#)

To sponsor our club with an ad or if you have newsletter questions:

[Send us an email](#)

April Youth of the Month -- Sophia Yohnk

Sophia Yohnk, daughter of Alex and Sarah Yohnk, is a senior at Chippewa Falls High School. She is the founder and president of the Just Dance Club as well as a member of the forensics team, National English Honors Society, Psychology Club and a Thespian, most recognized for her role as Mrs. White in Chi-Hi's production of Clue.

She enjoys reading, spending time outside and latte art. Sophia is also a connoisseur of movies and musicals with her favorites being Lego Batman and Mama Mia. She is a three-time forensics state finalist participating in a variety of differing categories. Sophia is also the recipient of the Scholastic Arts and Writing Silver Key Award for an essay titled *The Walls I've Built (In My Mind)* as well as being recognized as English Student of the Month of April. After high school, Sophia plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay studying kinesiology with the intentions of becoming a chiropractor.



April Youth of the Month Sophia Yohnk, center, with her parents Sarah and Alex Yohnk

Congratulations Sophia on being chosen our April Youth of the Month!

March Youth of the Month -- Anna Thaler



Anna Thaler, March Youth of the Month, with Cathy Greenseth

Our March Youth of the Month is Anna Thaler, daughter of Steve Thaler. Anna is the youngest of seven children and has a twin brother. She is a senior at McDonell Central High School. She is a member of the student ambassadors and participates in the concert band as a tenor saxophone player, as well as on volleyball and track teams. As a member of the student ambassadors, she volunteers in the community as well as the school. She is a member of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee helping research positive uses for students to use AI. Anna also was chosen with a group of students to be a member of the MACS Kolbe Club. They meet once a month to discuss virtues and how to implement them into day-to-day life. Then, the club travels to educate other MACS youth.

Outside of the school community she is an altar server for her parish, and enjoys reading and hiking. During the summer months she is a counselor at YMCA Camp Manitou. After high school Anna plans to attend University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and participate with the track team and become a dental hygienist. *Congratulations, Anna!*

Club Member Jody Kranig Shares Essential Oils Info

On March 13, Club Member Jody Kranig shared with members her knowledge about doTERRA essential oils. After experiencing health successes for herself and her family using the oils, Jody decided she would open her own business, selling the oils to share their natural solutions in wellness and enhancing a person's living space.

You can use the oils in so many different ways from purifying the air in your house, topical application, and do it yourself cleaning products. Different essential oils were passed around the room as Jody explained how each one is used. For example, lavender is used by applying just a few drops to the skin to soothe bee stings and bug bites, relieve headaches, and for aromatherapy. Some of the oils are digestible. All the oils are well labeled for their purposes.



Jody Kanig and Cathy Greenseth

Thanks for speaking to our club about essential oils, Jody! [Check out Jody's website for more information.](#)

Rick Koepke Tells Club About Mission Trip

During the late evening of Friday, December 10, 2021, a violent, long-tracked EF4 tornado moved across Western Kentucky, producing severe to catastrophic damage in numerous towns, including Dawson Springs. One of the people who came to help rebuild Dawson Springs was Rick Koepke, a member of the men's group at First Presbyterian Church who serves our club breakfast on Wednesday mornings.

Rick spoke to our club about his experiences on his mission trip to Kentucky at our March 20 club meeting. Rick and fellow First Presbyterian Church member Gary Reich were part of a group of 15 members of the Presbytery of Northern Waters who went on the trip. The group worked on the interior of houses, including new roofing, siding, flooring, insulation and more, and stayed a week. Rick has done about 10 of these mission trips, and said that the people that they met really appreciated the work that they did; many had nothing left after the tornado hit.

Our club appreciates Rick and all that he does to serve our local community and beyond.



Rick Koepke and Cathy Greenseth

Administration Presents School Referendum Information

On March 6, Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District (CFAUSD) Superintendent Jeff Holmes, Business Manager Chad Trowbridge, and School Board President Dave Czech presented information to the club about the Operational Referendum on the April 2 ballot.

The referendum states: "Shall the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District, Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 per year for three years, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and ending with the 2026-2027 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses to maintain staffing levels, programs, services and facilities?"

The group said that since 1994, Wisconsin school districts have relied on state aid and property taxes to fund operations, but revenue limits haven't kept pace with rising costs, forcing over 80 percent of school districts to utilize temporary operational referendums approved by voters to maintain student services. CFAUSD is now in that same situation.



CFAUSD Superintendent Jeff Holmes, Business Manager Chad Trowbridge, and School Board President Dave Czech with Optimist President Cathy Greenseth on March 6

UPDATE: The referendum passed with 53% of the vote and will pay to maintain current staff levels in the district.

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