



OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

May and June
Newsletter
July 2024

May-June 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, Vice Pres.
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
Dave Schaller
Cathy Greenseth, Ex-Officio

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

JULY

July 4 - Rich Estrem-Fuller &
Amanda Lofgren

July 15 - Jessica Frederick &
Abbey Rao

AUGUST

Aug 11 -TJ Proue
Aug 22 - Pete Sokup

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

President Cathy's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Optimism,

We welcome our most recent new club Optimist members: Jaden Stolp, Paul and Edie McDonald, and Beth Hahn. Being an Optimist makes us all a better person as we strive to bring out the best in kids, our community and ourselves. We are excited to have you join the club and that you are ready to embrace the Optimist Creed.



President Cathy Greenseth

July and August are the club's busiest months for fun events and also raising money to support the youth in our area. Members and friends are encouraged to go to our website (ChippewaFallsOptimistClub.org) to sign up and volunteer.

- **W-SU July 10-14 Northern Wisconsin State Fair**
We will be deep frying almost a ton of our famous cheese curds and preparing and serving other fair food out of our stand.
- **SU Aug 4 Indianhead Car Show and Swap | 7:00 AM**
Not only will we be frying up our cheese curds but the club will also be flipping pancakes in the morning for this event held at the fairgrounds.
- **TU Aug 6 National Night Out | 5:00 PM**
The club will hand out close to a 1,000 free hotdogs with a bag of chips to families attending at the fairgrounds for this one-night annual event.
- **SA Aug 10 Pure Water Days' Riverfest | 2:00 pm**
Join us at Riverfront Park for fun-filled kids carnival games run by our club.

Please read through the newsletter to learn of all the good things happening as we honor and recognize a bus driver and law enforcement officer of the year, and a student as our Youth of the Month.

See **President's Message** cont. on Page 2

Club Holds Pre-Fair Picnic June 18

In spite of the threat of thunderstorms, the club's annual Pre-Fair Picnic took place on June 18. The location was changed indoors to Central Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Brats, hot dogs and all the picnic fare was coordinated by Deb Braden. Other members contributed delicious desserts.

Member Dick Kauphusman provided us with a song to the tune of "Those Were the Days". Pictured with Dick at the table are left to right, Bob Nelson, Pat Kauphusman, (Dick), Yvonne and Bud Zwiefelhofer, and Mike and Mary McGinley. Thanks to all who attended!





Five Club Members Attend International Convention

May-June 2024

**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPEAKERS!**

MAY PROGRAMS

May 1- Open Mic, Membership Committee

May 8- Chippewa Falls Fire Dept., Jose Lagunas

May 15- Youth of the Month, Sean Rasmus

May 22- Boy Scouts of America, Andrea Blaeser

May 29- Chip, Pack & Ship, Logan Kirby

JUNE PROGRAMS

June 5- Chippewa Family Restaurant, No program

June 12- Bus Driver of the Year Award, Amy Jensen

June 19- American Red Cross, Mary Jane Thomsen

June 26- Law Enforcement Award, Officer Brian Flug

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JULY

July 3- Meeting at fair stand

July 10- Open Mic, Roundtable Discussion

July 17- Getting to Know an Optimist Member, 55th Club Anniversary

July 24- Chippewa Falls Park & Rec, John Jimenez

July 31- TBA

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY OUR CLUB:

Boy Scouts of America



Club President Cathy Greenseth (kneeling), Gov.-Elect Angie Riemer, Club Treasurer Deb Braden and 2024-25 Club Pres.-Elect Vicki Wilson. Missing from photo is Troy Dostal.



Five members of our club attended the 106th Optimist International (OI) Convention in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada June 22-26, 2024, and are pictured on left.

In photo above, Angie Riemer, third from left, with the other 2024-25 Governors of the Great Plains Region. Jodi Arriola, far right, is the incoming Vice President of the Great Plains Region and is from the WINUM District. We are proud to have our area well-represented at OI.

Flug Is Awarded Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The Optimist Club annual Law Enforcement Award goes to Officer Brian Flug of the Chippewa Falls Police Department. Our club presented the award to Officer Flug at our June 26 meeting.

Officer Flug began his law enforcement career in the fall of 2005. He was hired in Chippewa Falls in February 2007, and has 18 years total law enforcement experience. He serves as the school resource officer at Chippewa Falls Senior High School, is a master patrol officer, a member of the child abduction response team, the bike patrol coordinator, chaplain program coordinator, drone operator and peer support member along with other day to day operations.

Brian said that he appreciates the support of the Optimist Club, and we are thankful for all that he does in his law enforcement capacity in our community.



Officer Of the Year Brian Flug with his family. Left to right: Amy (wife), Dawson (son), Officer Flug, and his parents Jane and Lee Flug.

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President's Message cont. from Page 1

Five club members recently returned from the Optimist International Convention where we had the opportunity to hear fantastic internationally known speakers, have training for leadership roles we currently hold or will have next year, along with ways to improve and grow our clubs and as individuals.

As Tracey Huxley, international president reminds all of us

If you want to sing, sing.

If you want to dance, dance.

If you want to laugh, laugh.

If you want to hug, get permission first, then hug.

Keep your Optimism alive.

Cathy Greenseth, President

ChippewaFallsOptimistClub1@gmail.com



Red Cross Provides Emergency Services

Mary Jane Thomsen, executive director for the American Red Cross Northwest Wisconsin Chapter, gave a presentation to our club at the June 19 meeting.

Mary Jane has been in her role since August of 2021. Prior to assuming this role, Mary Jane worked for Red Cross as executive director in St. Louis, Missouri for nearly four years and district manager for Blood Services for over eight years. Originally from Minnesota, she and her husband moved to Eau Claire to be closer to family.

“The mission of the Red Cross, “ said Mary Jane, “is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.” They accomplish this mission by providing a variety of services including blood drives, disaster relief, service to armed forces, as well as training, volunteer and international services. For more than 100 years, the American Red Cross of Wisconsin has provided aid and resources to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The Summer Blood Drive will be held July 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northwest Chapter



Mary Jane Thomsen of the American Red Cross and Optimist President Cathy Greenseth

Headquarters in Altoona. For an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code NWBoard.

Thank you, Mary Jane, for updating our club on the many ways that the Red Cross assists our communities.

May-June 2024

OPTIMIST MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

Abbey Rao, 2 years

JULY

Dick Kauphusman- 55 years
Lyle Krumenauer- 55 years
Tom Coughman- 25 years
Norb Kirk- 25 years

SECRET HANDSHAKERS

May 1- Deb Braden to Jody Kranig

May 8- Jack Halbleib to Carleen Sterner

May 15- Mike McGinley to Marty Tlachac

May 22- Angie Riemer to Scott Marty

May 29- Vicki Wilson to Cathy Greenseth

June 5- None chosen

June 12- Laurie Ewings to Dina Brennan

June 19- Amanda Blonigen to Nancy Post

June 26- Jack Halbleib to Jody Kranig

BOOST WINNERS

May 1- Ralph Coughman

May 8- Deb Braden

May 15- Mike McGinley

May 22- Tom Eder

May 29- Tom Eder

June 5- None chosen

June 12- Yvonne Zwiefelhofer

June 19- Bob Nelson

June 26- Nadine Bresina

Blaeser Updates Club on Boy Scouts

The speaker on May 22 was Andrea Blaeser, development director of the Chippewa Valley Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Andrea said that the Chippewa Valley Council provides scouting programs to 2,500 youth throughout 10 counties in northwestern Wisconsin, with about 275 of these in Chippewa County. Cub Scouting is designed for youth in kindergarten through 5th grade and offers fun and challenging experiences that children and parents can do together. BSA is for youth ages 11-18 who learn skills through projects like camping, hiking, building projects and community service.

The local Boy Scouts use Camp Brunswick in Eau Claire, and volunteers are needed for Camp Brunswick Days in August. It costs about \$211/year to support a person in Scouting, and scholarships are available through donations.

To learn more about BSA, doing business



Angela Woofter and Andrea Blaeser of the Boy Scouts of America with President Cathy Greenseth

as Scouting America, go to their website at bsa-cvc.org. Thanks, Andrea, for your update on this valuable program.



[Follow the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club on Facebook.](#)



May-June 2024

2024 EVENTS

- *Northern WI State Fair- July 10-14
- *Club 55th Anniversary- July 17
- *Indianhead Car Show & Swap Meet- Aug. 4
- *National Night Out- Aug. 6
- *Pure Water Days Riverfest- Aug. 10
- *WINUM Fourth Quarter Convention- Aug. 16-17, Eau Claire

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Horan Funeral Home
 420 Bay St.
 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

May Youth of the Month -- Sean Rasmus

On May 15, Sean Rasmus was honored as the Optimist Youth of the Month for May. His parents are Pat and Missy Rasmus; and he has two older sisters.

Sean is a junior at McDonell Central Catholic High School. He has been a member of the National Honor Society since his sophomore year and participated at Badger Boys State. In athletics he is a member of the co-op swim team with Chippewa High/McDonell, and the co-op McDonell/Regis golf team.

Since middle school Sean has worked with stage crew and lighting for all the school musicals. In the community he has been a member of the Chippewa Valley Mountain Biking Team. Sean has earned his Eagle Scout by mapping all the "You Are Here" signs with GPS Coordinates for emergency vehicles in the county reserve.

Sean enjoys golfing, biking, online gaming and hanging out with family and friends.



May Youth of the Month Sean Rasmus with his parents Pat and Melissa Rasmus

This summer Sean is working for the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District helping to get the school buildings ready for the new school year.

Congratulations, Sean, on being chosen May Youth of the Month!

Logan Kirby Opens Chip Pack & Ship

It is always a pleasure when the speaker is a relative to members of our club. This was the case on May 29 when Logan Kirby, son of Lisa and Jay Thelen, spoke at our meeting about his new business -- Chip Pack & Ship.

Logan is a graduate of Chippewa Falls Senior High School and has a marketing degree from CVTC. After holding jobs in sales and shipping, Logan realized that there was a demand for packing and shipping services in our community and a need to modernize the shipping process.

To meet this demand, Logan recently opened Chip Pack & Ship in Lake Hallie. In addition to full-service packing and shipping, he offers document services like printing, copying, and scanning. The business also has private mailbox rental, office supplies, direct mailers, and greeting cards. Logan said it is a one-stop shop as the post office, UPS, and FedEx services are all under one roof. FedEx and USPS pick up securely packaged items with pre-paid labels each week day.

We would like to thank Logan for telling us all about his business, and if you would like to learn more about Chip Pack & Ship, visit their website at chippackship.com.



President Cathy Greenseth presents an Optimist mug to Logan Kirby of Chip Pack & Ship.

Jose Lagunas Speaks on his Role at Fire Department

Our club welcomed Jose Lagunas of the Chippewa Falls Fire Department as our speaker on May 8.

Jose fills many important roles in the fire department including fire inspector, American Heart Association provider, emergency medical technician (EMT), and Spanish translator. Jose teaches CPR and first aid classes for free, including to kids in the schools, and also teaches a babysitter class. As a fire inspector, he said that two things that he looks for are clear pathways and smoke alarms. Jose added that in his job as an EMT, it is important to have a list of medications as well as a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) readily available.

Jose grew up in the Chicago area and has lived in Chippewa Falls for six years with his wife and three kids. We enjoyed hearing about all of the services that Jose provides in our community through the fire department and appreciate him coming to talk to us.



Jose Lagunas with Club President-Elect Marty Tlachac

Amy Jensen Chosen Bus Driver of the Year



Congratulations to Amy Jensen, this year's recipient of the Paul V. Rasmus School Bus Driver of the Year Award. Amy received her award at our June 12 club meeting. She has been driving bus for Chippewa Yellow Bus Company for 32 years, and her current route is out by Lake Wissota.

Amy truly is a mentor for the kids on her bus as many of them have stayed in touch long after graduation. One of those is now 34 years old!

Thanks, Amy, for driving our children safely to and from school for so many years!

In photo on left, Amy Jensen receives her Bus Driver of the Year Award from President Cathy Greenseth.



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