



BY PROVIDING hope and positive vision,
OPTIMISTS bring out the best in youth, our
communities and ourselves!

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WASHINGTON APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

04/03 – Evening Meeting at Moe’s at 6:00pm. Madison Noland – Grant recipient for Task Boxes Project for students with the Specialized Autism Program at South Point Elementary.

04/09 – Noon meeting at Moe’s. Troy Merseal with Life’s River

04/16 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – April Let Your Optimism Shine

04/23 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – Optimist Richard Steckel with a presentation on owning and operating an Electric Vehicle

04/30 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – Ruth McInnis, Children’s Librarian at Washington Library with a presentation on the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

Wednesday Gatherings – Noon at Moe’s Restaurant

1st Thursday of each month Gathering – 6:00pm at Moe’s Restaurant

If you have not already be sure to “like” us on Facebook at Optimist Club Wash Mo.

And continue to check out our website.

<http://optimistclubwashmo.wixsite.com/optimistclubwashmo>

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, April 12th – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

Thursday, May 8th – Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner.

Saturday, May 17th – 49th Annual Bike Safety Rodeo.

LET’S TALK ABOUT THE ABOVE UPCOMING EVENTS.

ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY – April 12th

Tickets have been delivered and the sign up sheet is out BUT we really need some more members to step up and volunteer that morning. We are short some workers. It is only a few hours on a Saturday morning so please consider.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS DINNER – May 8th

The planning committee has been moving right along with planning this annual event. The scholarship committee is hard at work reading through the scholarship applications and making decisions. Invitations will be out next week.

If you have not attended this evening please consider joining. You will not be disappointed. We have some outstanding youth in our community and we are happy to recognize and support them. Hope to see you there!

49th ANNUAL BIKE SAFETY RODEO – May 17th

Planning is underway with co-partners Washington Police Department and Mercy Washington. The sign-up sheet will be out shortly and we really, really need your help for this big free community event that we do for the children.

SAVE THE DATES FOR ALL OF THESE EVENTS

LET YOUR OPTIMISM SHINE –

Well we had a busy month of recognizing students in our community.

First we welcomed Evie Bryson a January recipient to our Thursday evening meeting on March 6th.



Evie attends Washington High School

Then on March 19th we welcomed recipients from both February (snow day) and March –



Allyson Eaton attends Washington Middle School



Carl Lewis attends Crosspoint Christian School



Randi Dimmitt attends Augusta Elementary School

not have an accurate number the committee feels they had at least 500+ in attendance!

Dawn Kitchell, Chair of Family Reading Night had a last minute change (she had to go to the airport and pickup the author, Marla Frazee) so FRN Committee member, **Julie Frankenberg** stepped in and gave a presentation and received our donation at the March 6th meeting. **Mark, Trebacz, Curt Beers and Rita Griesheimer** were the lucky recipients of three of Marla's books that the Family Reading Night committee gave away. Happy Grandkids!



SWIM LESSON SCHOLARSHIPS–

We are happy to report that the Swim Lessons Scholarship Committee received a \$750.00 grant from Optimist International Foundation again this year. Congrats to committee Chair, Peg Winzenburger and her committee for securing this opportunity for children with disabilities to be able to take swimming lessons at the YMCA.

CROCHET WITH THE JOI CLUB –

An enjoyable time was had by all that attended the “Crochet Event” sponsored by the JOI Club. A fun event that they invited the adult club to join them. Hopefully we will have more projects together in the

GRANT APPLICATION RECIPIENTS –

Congratulations to the following recipients of our new Grant Application program for the first quarter

American Legion Auxiliary (Girls State sponsorship)	\$500.00
American Legion (Boys State sponsorship)	\$500.00
Washington Youth Sports (Team sponsorship)	\$350.00
Soar Into Stem (event sponsorship)	\$250.00
Exceptional Equestrians (Summer Camp sponsorship)	\$250.00
Jordan Scheer Relay for Life (event sponsorship)	\$200.00
South Point School Teachers/ Madison Noland (Task Boxes Project)	\$160.00
Total	\$2,210.00

FAMILY READING NIGHT

The club has been a major sponsor of Family Reading Night for 10+ years and we were happy again to support this free community event this year that promotes reading with children. While they do

future. I hear they had some great teachers in Adult Club members, **Karen Koopman and Shannon Chrisco**. Great idea JOI Club!

MEMBER NEWS:

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Chris Marquart on her retirement from the School District of Washington. Happy Retirement Chris!

CONDOLENCES TO:

Dan and Guin Yoest on the passing of Dan's sister. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO:

Robyn Busekrus	04/16
Lukas Copeland	04/30
Elizabeth Hellebusch	04/14

HAPPY APRIL CLUB ANNIVERSARY TO:

Jim Armstrong	9 years
Ina Rutz	10 years

2024-2025 Officers & Board Members

Cory Davis	President
Megan Maurer	Vice President
Judy Straatmann	Secretary
Julie Frankenberg	Treasurer
Nell Redhage	Past President
Guin Yoest (2025)	Board Member
Robin Kluesner(2025)	Board Member
Chris Marquart(2026)	Board Member
Peggy Winzenburger(2026)	Board Member
Sheila Marquart(2027)	Board Member
Shannon Chrisco(2027)	Board Member

OPTIMISTIC THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

