



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

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WASHINGTON DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

12/5 – Evening meeting at Moe’s at 6:00pm – Annual service project of making Cookie Baking kits for families with Loving Hearts. Also, East Mo Dist. Gov. Jean Naeger will be joining us.

12/11 – Noon meeting at Moe’s. Discussion on new Club Grant Program.

12/18 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – December “Let Your Optimism Shine” program

12/25 – No Noon meeting – Merry Christmas

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>

[Club Venmo - @WashMO-Optimist](#)

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND THE GRINCH

As you know our annual **Breakfast with Santa and the Grinch** is just around the corner on **Saturday, December 7th at Miller’s Grill**. We hope you can join us that morning because as the saying goes “It’s The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” complete with breakfast, visits/photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus & The Grinch along with cookie treats and a chance to win some children books. The smiles are the best!

The link to the sign-up sheet is found in the email or just show up! There are always tasks to do at this breakfast.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

This has become an annual event and it is a great evening of social time. Join us this **Thursday, 12/5** as we assemble cookie kits which we then donate to **Loving Hearts** for the Christmas families. Loving Hearts is so grateful for this addition to this project. Be sure to join us!

East Mo District Gov. Jean Naeger will also be joining us.

FESTIVAL OF TREES



The committee did a fabulous job creating our tree this year for the annual Festival of Trees event at St. Peter's UCC in Washington. You can be a part also. You have two different ways of donating to the local food pantries this year.

You can stop by the church and bring non-perishable items every Saturday and Sunday in the month of December, 12/01, 12/7, 12/8, 12/14, 12/15, 12/21 and 12/22 and vote for the club's tree by placing those items under our tree or

You can bring either items or cash donations to a meeting in December and the committee will get the items under our tree. By bringing items to a meeting you also have an opportunity to win a prize for your contribution. Congrats to our first winner, **Sara Hamer!**

NOVEMBER LET YOUR OPTIMISM SHINE

Meet our November recipients



Lyla Schneider from Washington West School

And



Layla Level from St. Ignatius School

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

What a special evening we had on November 7th! We were blessed to have many join us to celebrate 75 years of us being a service club in Washington. Optimist International President Jan Oord Graves and her husband, East Mo. Governor Jean Naeger

and her husband, Phyllis Neff, Immediate Past Governor of East Mo District, Mayor Doug Hagedorn and his wife, State Representative, Kyle Marquart (and of course his wife, Erin, fellow Optimist) and our WHS JOI Club Officers, Emma Grafrath, Madelyn Ley and Taylor Carpenter.

The food was great catered by B&B BBQ & Catering, the celebration cake was awesome and the presentations were rewarding. Enjoy a few pictures from the evening courtesy of our club photographer Mark Trebacz –



Optimist International President, Jan Oord Graves presented Nell Redhage with an Optimist International Proclamation. What an honor to have her join us.



Kyle Marquart, State Representative presented Nell with a House Resolution.



Optimist International President, Jan Oord Graves & husband, East Mo Governor, Jean Naeger and Past Governor, Phyllis Neff along with current President Cory Davis and Planning Committee members.



Our special guests for the evening!



A group photo of club members JOI Club members and East Mo District representatives in attendance minus a few that left prior to the photo.

WASHINGTON TOWN AND COUNTRY FAIR:

It seems like a long time ago we were making those ice cream waffle sandwiches along with all the other goodies.

We received our Fair proceeds check on November 6th and we are happy to report we broke a record.

Our check was for \$11,558.22. In 2023 we received \$8,561.49. Congrats to us!

Thanks to co-chairs **Karen Koopman** and **Shannon Chrisco** for all their hard work and new ideas like the Chicken n' Waffle Sandwich. Can't wait to see what next year brings.

Thanks also to all the club members, family and friends that volunteered during those very busy 5 days!

JOI CLUB NEWS –

The WHS JOI Club officers joined us at the 75th Anniversary Celebration and they will be volunteering at the Franklin County Foster Closet on December 3rd. Then on December 6th they will be helping at the Angel of Hope Ceremony at the city park. They will also be volunteering their time with us at Breakfast with Santa and The Grinch on Saturday, Dec. 7th. This group has been very active which is awesome to see!

MEMBER NEWS:

CONGRATULATIONS to fellow Optimist, **Rich Steckel** and Tammy Kuddes who were married on November 16th. Blessings and happiness to the happy couple!

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Rita Griesheimer	12/11
Sara Hamer	12/28
Brandy Koch	12/15
Paul Redhage	12/25

HAPPY DECEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARY TO:

Shannon Chrisco	2 yrs
Carol Maune	7 yrs
Judy Smith	2 yrs

2024-2025 Officers & Board Members

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

OPTIMISTIC THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

