



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

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WASHINGTON JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

01/02 – Evening meeting at Moe’s at 6:00pm – Annual New Year Game Night – Left, Right, Center

01/08 – Noon meeting at Moe’s. Joel Doecker with East Central College will be our guest.

01/15 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – January “Let Your Optimism Shine” program

01/22 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – CASA presentation on what it takes to be a CASA

01/29 – Noon Meeting at Moe’s – MO River Valley Loop presentation with Laura Kohnen and Optimist Sara Hamer

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 & THE GRINCH THANK YOU -



What an awesome crew in this photo that put on another successful Breakfast with Santa & The Grinch!

A fun fast paced few hours on a Saturday morning was had by all. Special thanks to all club members that volunteered including **JOI Club** members, members that purchased/sold tickets, **Mark Trebacz**, our club photographer and **Karen Koopman** and her crew for the awesome cookies. Each year Karen adds more designs. So fun. Special thanks to **Chris Marquart** and **AnnMarie Hoerr** for leading us through the morning. We served 228 meals in less than two hours. That is definitely something we should all be proud of. Let’s not forget all the smiles from the kiddos...and adults!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT



Many members gathered on December 5th and put together 45 “Cookie Kits” that were delivered to Loving Hearts to be given to families to have a fun time baking cookies since it is a “Christmas Tradition”. All kits also had a Christmas card from the club. We appreciate **Jean Naeger, East Mo. District Governor** joining us and helping with this service project on her birthday even!

FESTIVAL OF TREES

We definitely received lots of “votes” with our tree entry at the Annual Festival of Trees. This photo was taken on December 14th so I am sure there were a lot more votes received after that! A big thank you to all the members that contributed items or cash to this event. With the club’s \$100 donation and your contributions we wrote a check to Festival of Trees in the amount of **\$562.00** to help the local food pantries. In the season of giving the club members showed their giving spirit. Special thanks to the committee for their creativity and for putting up the tree and taking it down!



DECEMBER LET YOUR OPTIMISM SHINE

Meet our December recipient:



Gabby Mecker-Schupp from South Point Elementary School

AS A REMINDER....

Now that we have really hit the winter season as a reminder –

If the School District of Washington cancels classes on a meeting day we will not meet!

LT GOVERNOR VISIT –

We were pleased to have **East MO Lt. Gov. Joe Hatfield** join us at our December 11th meeting. His visit even included cookies! Thanks for joining us Joe!



MEMBER NEWS:

Congratulations to **Judy Straatmann** who recently completed her training and is now a CASA. Judy joins fellow Optimist, **Megan Maurer** who is also a CASA. So awesome! Congrats Judy and thank you!

Congratulations to the **Clift Family** on the arrival of **Gracelynn Harper** born on December 7th. **Brianna** and Gracelynn are doing great. Congrats

also to Grandma and Grandpa, **AnnMarie and Brian Hoerr!**

Our condolences are extended to **Robin Kluesner** on the loss of her sister. Our thoughts and prayers are with Robin and her extended family during this difficult time.

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Anton Hinirichs	01/24
Kristen Perriman	01/16
John Rutz	01/31
Richard Steckel	01/30
Judy Straatmann	01/10

HAPPY JANUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARY TO:

AnnMarie Hoerr	12 yrs
Robin Kluesner	16 yrs
Dawn Miller	2 yrs

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

“WHAT THE NEW
YEAR BRINGS
TO YOU WILL
DEPEND A
GREAT DEAL
ON WHAT YOU
BRING TO
THE NEW YEAR.”

— VERN MCLELLAN
ITSALLYOUBOO.COM