



ASHLAND OPTIMIST CLUB
Meeting Saturday Mornings @ 7:30 A.M.
Optimist Drive, Ashland, MO 65010

December 20 2025

"You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do."

Optimist Board

Ken Bishop President
Leigh Kottwitz Past President
Tara Blue Vice President
Barrett Glascock Secretary
Heather Martin Treasurer
Bruce Glascock
Shawn Steelman
Robert Blake
Bernie Bartel
Dennis Sapp

COMING UP

Dec 27 Breakfast meeting
Jan 2 Bingo
Jan 3 Breakfast meeting
Jan 3 [Ashland Jam](#) Youth b-ball tourney
Jan 8 Board meeting
Jan 10 Breakfast meeting

TAKE A MINUTE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO MADE US STRONG:

Carroll Sapp – 1987
"Buddy" Glascock – 1988
William Burnett – 1992
Remus James – 1994
Ron Marley – 1997
Cecil Vaughn – 2001
Billy Jo Sapp – 2004
Marvin Sappington – 2004
Arcie Sapp – 2005
Kenneth Nichols – 2006
Lahmon Wren – 2007
Joe Smith - 2009
Jimmy Jo Calvin- 2009
Bob Sappington – 2010
Florence Hahn 2011
Clifford Caldwell-2013
Mel Rupard-2013
Ernest Woods—2013
John Johnson—2013
Michael Dalton--2013
Jim Moore--2016
Carl Long--2016
Don Jones-2017
Clay Austin-2017
Sharon Donley-2017
Ben Nieman- 2017
Nick Kimbler- 2018
Barbara Perry- 2018
Jacob Zagorac- 2019
Joy Woods- 2021
Steve Walsh-2021
Kristi Savage Clarke 2022
Wes Donley 2025

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Breakfast: Dec. 27- Brenda Austin, and Bonita Lenger
Program- Christmas weekend- No speaker scheduled

Our next youth basketball event will be the upcoming Ashland Jam Tournament on Jan. 3rd. We will need lots of help with this since it will be held in the middle school and high school gyms and we will be charging admission. Please consider signing up to help by going to the spreadsheet ([linked here](#)) under the Ashland Jam tag or contacting Madeline Bloss at ashlandoptimistbasketball@gmail.com or Leigh Kottwitz at leighkottwitz@gmail.com.

We only had 100 players at Bingo on Friday night, which meant we could only pay out 95% of the prize money. Fortunately, we had a great crew selling games on the floor, which allowed us to make a positive deposit. We were also able to use food that had been left from Bailey Gipson's funeral dinner (provided by Andrew Young) for our special in the kitchen and made a deposit from there of \$666.

Barrett Glascock and Shawn Steelman provided breakfast this morning of Casey's breakfast pizza and Yummy's doughnuts after Barrett dealt with twelve hours of helping with the funeral on Thursday and then working Bingo until 11:00 the night before. We were glad to have Christian Gregory, owner of Agape Printing, as our guest this morning when he brought our t-shirt order and a membership application. Leigh Kottwitz will work on getting t-shirts to members who ordered them.

President Ernie Wren mentioned that the YMCA has requested that we consider letting them use our facilities to hold their Summer Day Camp program in. The Board will discuss this at their next meeting on Jan. 8th.

Our speaker this morning was Gary Moreau, executive director with the Columbia branch of Mobility Worldwide (giftofmobility.org), a program started by Mel West in 1994 (originally the PET Project). They have provided over 36,000 mobility carts to people in 106 countries around the World who have lost the use of their legs by illness, birth defect, disease or injury from landmines. Gary brought copies of their most recent newsletter, which goes out to over 4,000 subscribers, as well as a mobility cart for people to try out. Mike Egloff, who used to teach at Southern Boone, is the shop foreman for the local 12,500 sq. ft. facility on E. Meyer Industrial Dr., where volunteers build around 65 carts per week. There are three different types of carts: a large cart for adults, a child cart, and a pole cart which can be pulled. These are produced and shipped at the low cost of \$425 each, thanks to the volunteer help. two volunteers can build five carts in two hours with the parts provided. All of these carts provide the gift of mobility and dignity to people who have no independent way to work or attend school.

On July 12, 2025, they held a fundraiser called Hearts for Carts at the MU Health Care Pavilion where 149 groups decorated a sponsored cart, which was judged and then sent to help people with leg disabilities in Kenya. Mobility Worldwide also asks for donations of canes, wheelchairs, walkers, sewing machines, clean & dry gallon-sized plastic jugs (used as packing for shipments), and clean & dry regular soup or vegetable cans to cover axles. They are also looking for people with welding experience and pickup trucks to transport parts.

Gary finished his presentation and shared that tours of the facility are available Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. by contacting him at 573-886-7877, then drew for the Attendance drawing. Heather Martin, Janet Popejoy, and Nancy Nicholaus had their chance at riches, but with their absence, the pot will continue to grow.

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