



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

February 21 2026

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

Optimist Board

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

COMING UP

Feb 28 Pool employment application deadline
 Feb 28 Breakfast meeting Cub Scouts-Paden Gentry
 Mar 6 Bingo \$1199 night
 Mar 7 No Breakfast meeting – bldg rented
 Mar 12 Board meeting
 Mar 14 Breakfast meeting Junior Beta Club

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
 Louise Martin 2025

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Breakfast: Feb. 28- Brenda Austin & Bonita Lenger
Program-Paden Gentry, Ashland Cub Scout

The Ashland Optimist Board met on Feb. 19th. The Board meeting started at 7:00, as in the past and going forward. Heather Martin reported that there was not much change from last year, except that Basketball brought in more because of the tournament, Bingo was down because of only one Bingo in January, and soccer revenue is down since the YMCA partnership.

Several members of the Cedar Valley Riders Saddle Club were guests at the meeting to present updated bylaws that they plan to adopt. They wanted to know if the Optimist Club wanted to change their bylaws as well. Discussion will continue once the Board has a chance to consider this change. Lane Williams and Chase Thomas gave a presentation about updated ideas for this year's Cattleman's Day Rodeo, scheduled for Aug. 28 & 29. We have them scheduled to speak at a Breakfast Meeting on May 9th. As Chamber liaison, I presented an invitation from the Southern Boone County Chamber of Commerce for their Annual Meeting to be held on March 11th at the Hartsburg Grand. This is available to any interested member of the Club, with a \$20 price for the dinner.

After all of the guests had left, the Board voted to provide breakfast for the Southern Boone Leadership Breakfast for the Economic Development Council on Apr. 23. Our Club has done this for the past several years and will be looking for people to help. The last item of business was to approve Kalyn Pilsudski, Marcia Martin, Teresa Wren, and Robin Bullard as new members, pending payment of membership fees.

We hosted Bingo on Feb. 20th, with 157 players and plenty of sales for horse races and extra games. The kitchen was able to deposit just over \$1,000 our first night during Lent. Our next Bingo will be March 6th, and this will be a \$1,199 game.

Barrett Glascock was thrilled to have help from members of Scouts BSA Troop 134, who made a terrific breakfast after they spent the night at our building. Our speaker this morning was Jay Niemeyer, the new Fire Chief for the Southern Boone Fire Protection District. He shared that he grew up on a farm outside of Bowling Green, MO, then attended Mizzou to become an Ag teacher. In 1990, a church member invited him to join the Boone County Fire Protection District, which provided housing. He served in Lee Summit for four years, then seven years as a paramedic in Columbia, and has worked with the Jefferson City Fire Department for 24 years, rising to Assistant Chief there. He is also an instructor with the Mizzou Fire & Training Institute, a member of Missouri task Force 1, and the FEMA Urban Search & Rescue team. He is a member of the Jeff City Rotary and said that their meetings are very similar to ours and a member of Sons of the Revolution.

He spoke about the five fire stations that the Fire Protection District has, which allows us to have an ISO rating of 5 on a 1-10 range, which means that most properties in our area are within five miles of a fire station. They have pumper engines, tanker, rescue vehicles, pickups that are set up as grass fire rigs, a boat, and UTVs that are set up to carry water and can help with rescues when it's too muddy for the other trucks. They currently have 52 members, most of whom are volunteers who only receive \$10 reimbursement per call and that they answered 791 calls last year, 60% of which are medical calls. Because their members have training as EMTs, they can assist when needed before, as well as after, the ambulance arrives. Dispatch ranks incoming calls and the Fire District is only summoned when they can make an impact. Our firefighters train with the Holt Summit Fire Department.

Jay also spoke about the Junior Firefighter program, which allows students as young as sixteen to receive four hours of regular training and assist with some calls. They are not allowed to help on Highway 63, but through a cooperative program with the school, they are allowed to leave school to help with other calls. They are also invited to attend an annual Junior Firefighter Academy, which is supported by the Fire District.

He spoke glowingly about the five-member Board, which has been fiscally conservative enough to be able to cover fleet replacement needs, even though their main income is from a .4813% property tax. Jay shared that being a volunteer fire department saves a lot of money because it would cost \$793,000 to staff one truck with three people. He talked about the challenges of recruitment & retention and fleet replacement, then spoke about the Missouri lawmakers who are actively advancing legislation to overhaul property tax, which could hurt groups that are supported by Property Tax, including the Fire District and libraries. Jay Said to vote in every election because the smaller elections for local offices affect so much in our community.

When Jay was finished speaking, he drew for the Attendance drawing. Sue Rodgers, Les Hahn, and Chaz Nicholaus had their chance at riches, but with their absence, the pot will have a chance to grow.

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