



Feb 11 2023

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

Optimist Board

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COMING UP

Feb 17 Bingo

Feb 18 FFA -Free Breakfast!

**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
 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
 Norma Bennett 2022

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**Breakfast: Feb. 18- FFA Appreciation breakfast
No program. Come at 7:30 for a free breakfast
from the Southern Boone FFA students. We
plan to meet in the Boardroom for a quick
Optimist meeting after we get our food.**

We had a wonderful breakfast this morning, provided by Brenda Austin, Bonita Lenger, and John Dougan who brought a delicious peach cobbler prepared by his wife.

Cameron Burns, who had been a member in the past, came this morning, along with Jerome Glascock and President Dana's grandson, Weston.

Barrett shared a report from the short Board meeting this past Thursday. There were two girls who have applied for Girl State, one of whom will be sponsored by the Hartsburg American Legion and one by the Ashland American Legion Auxiliary, but because the cost has increased since last year, the Board agreed to cover the \$200 difference to help out. Virginia "Ginny" Lewis' application for membership was accepted and there was discussion about Pancake Day last Saturday, Ernie Wren heading up the Essay contest, John Travlos heading up the Oratorical Contest again, liability insurance so we can continue holding basketball games at the Southern Boone schools and finding a cook for Bingo concessions.

Ken Bishop shared information about the upcoming Spring Fling Fundraiser for the Ashland Senior Center on Mar. 2-3. Lunch will be provided from 11-2 each day, along with lots of sale items. Go to our website at ashlandoptimist.org to see the complete flier. These meals are open to everyone in the community.

Our speaker today was Colin Wright with the Southern Boone Fire District. He currently works as a driver/paramedic for the Jefferson City Fire District and does recruitment and retention for Southern Boone, which involves writing grants. His wife Sarah, who is Nurse Manager at the VA Hospital, came with him this morning. They have two teenage kids, the older of whom is active with the Southern Boone Fire District.

Colin got started fighting fires when he was in high school and talked about the history of firefighters in our area, as well as the dangers involved. Colin shared about the changes in equipment over the years and the growth that the Southern Boone Fire District has seen since it started in November of 1982. It was a combination of Hartsburg and Ashland volunteer fire groups and the cities supported the Fire District for the first year until they began receiving tax money. They purchased their first four door fire truck and built the Ashland firehouse in 1993 where firefighters could live, built stations on Mt. Pleasant road and out at the airport in 2004, and purchased the three fire trucks. In 2015, the fire district bought a CAS foam pumper (Compressed Air Supply) which allows firefighters to triple the output from the truck, plus purchased the three acre former MDOT shed as a training site. In March of 2020, they ordered new fire trucks, which haven't been received because of supply issues.

Colin shared that they responded to 798 calls in the past year, many of which were not fire emergencies. He talked about the problem of finding people who are interested in being firefighters and the fact that too many firefighters are dealing with cancer because so much of what they deal with becomes carcinogenic when it burns. Colin spoke about the importance of the Junior Firefighter program, in conjunction with Southern Boone High School.

I hope that we all remember and appreciate everything that firefighters do for our community!

When Colin was finished speaking and answering the many questions he received, he drew for the Attendance drawing. Mark Wanserski was thrilled to say, "It pays to attend!" when his number was drawn.

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