



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

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

September 16 2023

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

Optimist Board

Dana Cafourek	President
Lisa Barnum	VP
Jan Palmer	Past Pres.
Barrett Glascock	Secretary
Heather Martin	Treasurer
Bruce Glascock	
Bernie Bartel	
Ken Bishop	
Shawn Steelman	
Robert Blake	
Leigh Kottwitz	

COMING UP

Sep 14 Board meeting
Sep 15 Bingo
Sep 19 Nat'l Voter Registration Day
Sep 30 Installation of new officers

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
Johnny Pauley 2023

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Breakfast: Sep. 23- Carole Iles, Jennifer Lawson, Dorise Slinker
Speaker-Ashland Interim Police Chief, Scott Young

Our installation of Officers is scheduled for Sep. 30th during the breakfast meeting. Please come support your new officers. Governor Ernie Wren will be leading this as one of his final duties as Eastern Missouri District Governor.

Incoming president, Leigh Kottwitz, would like to learn more about the Ashland Optimist Club members and is asking that you fill out the following survey. It's only ten questions: <https://forms.gle/mwBLYSFJCFbDyuhq9> Please fill it out, if you haven't had a chance to yet. Leigh also has a goal for the coming year of every member serving in some way -- large or small! [Share you would like to serve.](#) Thank you to our many members who are generous with their time and effort. There will also be paper copies of both of these surveys at the upcoming meetings, if you would prefer to handle it that way.

The first Eastern Missouri District Conference of the year will be held in Columbia at Courtyard by Marriott on Fri., Oct. 13th and Sat. Oct. 14th. You do not have to be an officer or on the Board to attend, but you do need to register through Barrett soon if you are interested in joining this kick-off themed time to spend with fellow Optimists.

Our next big event will be Spooktacular on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31, 5-7 p.m. Please help promote this to kids and organizations, businesses, families and individuals who would like to host a "Trunk or Treat" and pass out candy. We also need members to help provide or solicit prizes, serve as judges and welcome the community that night. [The form to host a trunk is up!](#) Flyers will also be available at Saturday's meeting.

Several members of the Ashland Optimist Board of Directors met on Thursday, Sep. 14th, but because there weren't enough for a quorum, the meeting ended early with no business transacted.

On Friday, Sep. 15th, we had Bingo, with good help on the floor and in the kitchen and 116 players. Multiple special games were sold and several local residents won money. Our next Bingo will be on Oct. 6th.

A delicious breakfast was served this morning by Brenda Austin, Bonita Lenger, and John Dougan, including his delightful pear crisp. Jori Sullivan with Probst Foundation, who spoke to several of us at the Fall Festival last weekend, came as a guest.

Our speaker this morning was Sophia White, a senior at Battle High School in Columbia who participated in the States 4H International Exchange program last summer, traveling to Costa Rica for four weeks. The Exchange program is 50 years old and there is additional information at their website: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/>. Besides Costa Rica, they also send students to Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Argentina, and Norway.

Sophia told us that as part of their application, students were required to list their goals. Hers included becoming fluent in Spanish and learning more about the culture of Costa Rica. She had taken Spanish in school, but didn't feel that she had learned enough to be conversational. Costa Rica requires English classes in their schools, but since many of the teachers have not been to the United States, the students deal with the same complications. Sophia did say that most people were willing to slow down so that communication worked.

Costa Rica is a small rugged, tropical country in Central America with a population of just under five million residents and access to the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. It includes twelve ecosystems, including mountains, volcanos, beaches, and protected jungles. The group's time started with two days of guided tours before they met their host families. Then Sophia lived with her host family in a four-room house with a small front yard, but the jungle as the backyard for the rest of the time. They spoke no English during the time she was there. The family lived fifteen minutes from San Ramon, the nearest large community, and took a bus to get there. Sophia talked about the fact that every town had a plaza in the middle of town, which included a soccer field. Her host family took her to the beach on the Pacific Ocean, which was very rocky, a ranch which had a variety of plants but no animals, and a sugar processing plant.

Sophia felt that she learned how resilient she could be, visiting a different country, and would recommend the experience to other students. After she finished her presentation and shared pictures she had brought, she drew for the Attendance drawing. Chris Felmler, Mike Gilmore, and Jim Green had their chance at riches, but with their absence the pot will continue to grow,

Letitia DenHartog

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