



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

March 16, 2024

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

**Optimist Board**

Leigh Kottwitz President  
Ken Bishop Vice President  
Jan Palmer Lt. Gov, Zone 1  
Dana Cafourek Past President  
Barrett Glascock Secretary  
Heather Martin Treasurer  
Bruce Glascock  
Shawn Steelman  
Robert Blake  
Marsha Lessley  
Tara Blue  
Bernie Bartel

**COMING UP**

Mar 19 No excuse absentee "early" voting opens for Apr 2 election  
Mar 23 Breakfast meeting Izzy Smith  
Mar 30 Early voting at Ashland public library 10a-3p  
April Oratorical essays due  
April 2 Municipal and School Board elections  
April 5 Bingo

**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: Mar. 23- Carole Iles, Dorise Slinker, and Jennifer Lawson**  
**Speaker- Izzy Smith- Ashland Betterment Coalition**

**Our next Bingo will be April 5th.**

The Board met Thursday night, Mar. 14th. Madeline Bloss came with her new baby, Henry, to talk about the basketball program. Kyle Baker also came to let the Board know how the Optimist soccer program is going. We have 375 kids signed up, 120 of which are kindergarteners. Kyle said that after ten years of being the soccer commissioner, he is looking to step back and would enjoy working with interested people to teach them during this season. John Travlos also attended the Board meeting to request an increase for the local prizes for the Oratorical and Essay competitions that he leads. Sharon Donley donated \$100 as the prize when she was in charge, but higher scholarship prize amounts of \$500 for 1st, \$350 for 2nd, and \$250 for 3rd will hopefully draw more participation. The Board also discussed the fact that our club will be celebrating its 60th anniversary later this year (watch for further developments in regard to this) and welcomed new members Bryce and Rachel Beal.

We had Bingo on Friday, Mar. 15th, with 144 players on a \$1,199 game night. The floor made a good deposit and the kitchen deposited \$929. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped! Charlie Selbach brought his desserts for Bingo last night, then ended up in the hospital with multiple health issues.

Brenda Austin, Bonita Lenger, and John Dougan provided an excellent breakfast this morning, including pear/bran/chocolate muffins from John's trees.

Bev Steelman stood up and introduced her guest, Steve Sapp, then invited everyone to the Spaghetti Fundraiser to knock out student lunch debt at the Middle School from 11-6 yesterday. It was a delicious meal and a chance to help students in our schools.

Jan Palmer is requesting donations to help cover the Oratorical Luncheon for all oratorical participants and their families on May 4th before their competition. If anyone is interested in donating as members of the Ashland Optimists, please contact Jan.

Our speakers this morning were Dr. Tim Roth, Superintendent of Southern Boone Schools, and Matt Sharp, publicity director for the schools. They came to share information about the two ballot issues that will be part of the April 2nd election. The first issue is a \$11.6 million no tax rate increase bond issue for a high school expansion project. The expansion will include a new voc-ag wing, new art and family & consumer science classrooms, repairs to the 1991 roof, and parking lot improvements. At this point, 416 students have to leave the high school to attend classes in the current voc-ag building, across the street from the middle school. The new wing would mean that they, as well as students who are attending art classes at the middle school, will all be able to stay in the building once the new wing opens, hopefully in 2026.

The second ballot issue is for a 20 cent levy transfer. This will not require a tax increase because it will just be a fund transfer regarding the way the current tax rates are handled and will not affect the school districts ability to pay their bills but will allow them to provide a 3% raise to teachers and staff next year and provide more competitive compensation structure for incoming teachers and staff.

The next Bond issue is not planned until April 2027 and that will be a potential \$15 million no tax increase bond for a performing arts center at the high school. For further information about either ballot issue, please email [communications@sbschools.us](mailto:communications@sbschools.us).

After they finished their presentation, Tim drew for the Attendance drawing. Jason Martin had his chance at riches, but Loren Plank was thrilled to say, "It pays to attend!" when his number was drawn.

*Letitia DenHartog*

[ashlandoptimist.org](http://ashlandoptimist.org)