

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

Apr 20 T-ball Coach pitch [registration deadline](#)
Apr 20 Easter Sunday
Apr 26 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

Ashland Optimist Bulletin April 19 2025
Breakfast: Apr. 26- Dana Cafourek, Letitia & Tabi DenHartog
Program- TBD Remember, members are always welcome to speak if they have a topic or to offer a program.

Kids' T-ball and Coach Pitch registration deadline is Sunday, April 20th. Games will start after Optimist Soccer ends (usually late May).
[Here is the link for all the registration, dates and other info you will need.](#)

Our club provided breakfast for the SBEDC Leader's breakfast this Thursday morning, with Bev Steelman leadership. There were 5-6 people who came in on Wednesday to help set up casseroles, including Jenni Elliott and her mother Renee, followed by Bev, Ken Bishop, Tara Blue, helping Thursday. Bernie Bartel, Brenda Austin, and Bonita Lenger cooked food at home and brought it in for a crowd of approximately 100 people.

Friday night, we hosted Bingo with a small crowd of 117 players, but the floor crew was able to sell enough special games that we could make a positive deposit. The kitchen served fish for the final Friday of Lent and deposited over \$850.

Chris Felmlee, Leigh Kottwitz, and Loren Plank served a wonderful breakfast this morning, with all the regular breakfast items, plus fruit salad and cinnamon rolls left from Thursday's breakfast.

Our speakers this morning were new Optimist members Chase Thomas and Lane Williams, who shared about changes that are being instituted for this year's Cattlemen Days Rodeo, which will be held Aug. 22-23. Our rodeo is one of seven PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) rodeos in Missouri and we are in the top half of attendance among those rodeos. Last year we sold 7,929 tickets over the two days and were able to split the proceeds between the Ashland Optimist and the Cedar Valley Riders, with each group receiving over \$56,000. The rodeo is the largest entertainment event in Ashland and has been going on for over fifty years.

The challenges in the past have included limited parking, long lines for tickets, and no historical data from previous rodeos. Some of the solutions that Chase and Lane are looking at include limiting ticket sales, so we aren't overselling our seats and having reserved seating. Tickets will be sold on-line through ETIX on the website: [cattlemendaysrodeo.com](#), starting May 1st at 10:00 a.m. The website has been improved with help from Grace Ballew and Chase, who is also in charge of parking and media. Each ticket will cost an additional \$2 over last year but will allow people to select their seat in advance. There will be ushers to help people find their seats the night of the rodeo, plus help keep people off the fence for safety's sake. The plan is to limit sales to 3,200 seats each night, with an additional 240 standing room only tickets near the main concession stand, beer tent, and stage. Tickets will also be available at pop-up sales at the main ticket booth the two weeks before the rodeo for people who are less confident about buying on-line. Once tickets for each night are sold out, sales will stop, and announcements will go out over social media to let people know.

When Chase and Lane were finished with their presentation. They drew the attendance drawing. Janet Popejoy, Jay Richardson, and Carole Iles had their chance at riches, but since they didn't make it this morning, the pot will have a chance to regrow.

Barrett shared that Gerturde Sappington, long time friend of the Ashland Optimist and wife of the Bob Sappington that one of our baseball fields is named for, died on Wed. Apr. 16th at the age of 94. Her visitation will be held at the Ashland Baptist Church on Thursday, Apr. 24th from 4-7, with the funeral on Friday at 10:00. Burial will be at Salem Cemetery with lunch following at the Ashland American Legion. Bev assured us that food donations would be welcomed before the funeral.

Barrett also shared that the Saddle Club installed all new LED lights in the arena and that Cameron Burns finished clearing the fence line on the back of the baseball fields. He invites people to take time to appreciate how nice it looks. The plan is to keep this area cleaned out regularly in the future.

Letitia DenHartog

[ashlandoptimist.org](#)