Optimist INTERNATIONAL Optimist Club of West Bend

Club # 09-208 | P.O Box 1076, West Bend, WI 53095 | SWIS District (#09)
facebook.com/optimistclubofwb | http://www.optimistclubofwestbend.org/ | optimistclubofwestbend@gmail.com

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

January 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Jan 1	
	IMPORTANT NOTE *Because the first Thursday in January is a holiday,* ***for January 2026, the Club will meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday***
Jan 8	Club Lunch Meeting ***KM YMCA*** AT KM YMCA – WATCH FOR SIGN-UP INFO
Jan 9	**National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day**
Jan 12	Erinn O'Boyle
Jan 20	Heidi Sternig
Jan 22	Club Lunch Meeting ***Student of the Month*** ***Holy Angels School and Boys' and Girls' Club*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Jan 27	Board of Directors' Meeting 4pm Silverbrook School Library
Feb 5	Club Lunch Meeting ***Police Cadet Award*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Feb 5	**INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST DAY**
Feb 7	***Free Throw Contest*** 8:30 to Noon Jackson Rec

Christmas Gathering

On December 11, our Club held its annual Christmas Party. This year it was at the home of Club President Lance Roell.

All attendees felt it was a joyous event filled with good socializing, great snacks & beverages, and fun activities.

OMG what a fantastic food buffet – Sub sandwiches and crackers and dips and meatballs and cheese and sausage and veggies and cookies and lotsa other tasty stuff!!

And who knew that Lance was such a good bartender!

Club members and guests really put on their thinking caps to work through the evening's games: "Grinch Trivia" & "Les Français Correspondre jeu" ("The French Match Game").

All attendees agree it was a really good time, and we should plan to do the same next Christmas Season!

Our Club's Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/optimistclubofwb

Club Calendar is now available online. Click this link:

2025-2026 Optimist Club Calendar

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH

December 2025

Joscelyn Bertram

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Lutheran School staff shared this is about Joscelyn: Joscelyn has been selected as *Student of the Month* for the positive spirit she brings to everything she does. Her kindness, humility, and willingness to serve reflect a heart that seeks to honor God. Whether she is helping younger students, encouraging her peers, or assisting teachers, Joscelyn consistently shows the love of Christ through her actions.

Each morning, Joscelyn joyfully supports younger students with their routines. She approaches them with patience, gentleness, and genuine care—qualities that make her a wonderful role model. Her service continues beyond the school day as she faithfully assists in Sunday School every week. There, too, she demonstrates a servant's heart, helping children learn about Jesus.

In the classroom, Joscelyn demonstrates a dedication to learning. She seeks help when she needs it, works diligently, and strives to use the abilities God has given her to their fullest. She readily helps classmates with assignments, offering encouragement and support. Teachers regularly notice her willingness to step in, lend a hand, and create a positive, welcoming atmosphere.

Joscelyn is also engaged in activities that reflect her commitment to living out her faith. As a volleyball player, she encourages her teammates with grace and positivity, modeling good sportsmanship and unity. In her church youth group, she actively participates and displays a sincere desire to grow spiritually while uplifting others in the process.

What makes Joscelyn stand out most is her humble, servant-hearted approach to life. She does not seek recognition; instead, she quietly and consistently looks for ways to help. Her actions mirror Christ's call to serve others with love, compassion, and joy.

We are honored to nominate Joscelyn as Student of the Month. She is a blessing to our school community, and her Christ-like attitude of service makes her a shining example of how faith lived out daily can make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

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Club Vice-President, Mike Hartwell, presents the Optimist Club of West Bend' Student of the Month Award for December 2025 to Joscelyn Bertram from Good Shepherd Lutheran School

SWIS District Conferences

Our Club's Board of Directors has deemed it important that all our Club members get the necessary information and are encouraged to attend the Quarterly Conferences of the SWIS District. Our Club will help offset some of the costs.

https://www.swisdistrict.org/conferences/default.asp

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Christmas Family

This year, our Club again provided a load of Christmas gifts for a family being served by the Threshold's "*Birth to Three Program.*" This year's Christmas Family was the Murillo-Aparicios. The child in the birth to 3 program is Izrael Murillo-Aparicio; he's 10 months old. They also have a 6-year-old little girl, Ximena. Mom is Celeste Aparicio and Dad is Damian Murillo.

The list of gift items for this year's Christmas Family is quite impressive. A brief listing includes a variety of clothing for both Izrael and Ximena, as well as toy blocks, a stuffed animal, a xylophone, and a traveling playpen for Izrael, dolls, coloring books, play doctor's kit, and a scooter for Ximena. Also, sets of crayons and markers for both kids along with candy and many other items. Additionally, mom and dad were given gift cards for Walmart, McDonalds, and Kwik Trip.

The Murillo-Aparicios are very thankful for the generosity provided by our Club.

2025 Christmas Family Photos

Mark Your Calendars

January 8 Noon Club Lunch Meeting
Is At the KM YMCA
1111 W Washington St. West Bend

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
January 23 deadline to submit to Library
The topic this year is: ***Be Bold - Be The Change***

Essay Contest
Ends January 31- Topic for the 2025-2026 school year is:
"How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me"
The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st

January 9, 2026
National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Intenational Optimist Day
February 5, 2026

Free Throw Contest
February 7, 2026
Jackson Rec 8:30am – 12noon
Volunteers Needed - Watch for details

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January is NATIONAL SOUP MONTH

In 1986. Campbell's founded *National Soup Month* to acknowledge that in the deep chill of January, soup warms us up with piping hot bowls of comfort. We all have our favorites: Mom's chicken noodle doesn't compare to anyone else's, and Grandma's bean can't be beat. A savory broth filled with vegetables and seasonings covers our homes with a delicious aroma.

Soups not only warm us up on cold winter days, but they fulfill our need for nutrients lost working hard in the elements. If you've been out in the cold shoveling snow, chopping wood, caring for animals, or just running errands, a bowl of warm soup full of vegetables, minerals, and oils replenishes our energy.

Gather up your recipes and fixings. Where to start? When it comes to soups, there are so many choices - creamy squash, split pea, hearty beef and vegetables, French onion, or baked potato soup, you know these filling soups are a staple of winter meals. Chicken noodle soup is known for its healing properties, as well. What better way to stay healthy than to eat a big, beautiful bowl of tomato soup? It's a month-long celebration, so make them all! And when we make a large kettle of soup, there's plenty to share making the soup a social meal. If there is soup leftover, it stores and reheats easily.

Business Buddies

Our Club has a membership category specifically for businesses. We have named this Business Membership category: ***Business Buddies.*** Mike Hartwell, is coordinating this initiative, and he will gladly answer any questions. Check out *Business Buddies* on our Site: **https://www.optimistclubofwestbend.org/business-buddy-membership.html**

Our Current Business Buddies

westbury bank
welcome to what if.
https://www.westburybankwi.com/

MORRIE'S
West Bend Honda
https://www.morrieswestbendhonda.com/

West Bend Moose Lodge 1398
MOOSE
Moose1398@yahoo.com

The Optimist Creed

PROMISE YOURSELF:

- *to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind;*
- *to talk health happiness and prosperity to every person you meet;*
- *to make all of your friends feel that there is something in them;*
- *to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true;*
- *to think only of the best; to work only for the best; and to expect only the best;*
- *to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own;*
- *to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future;*
- *to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile;*
- *to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others;*
- *to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*

Optimist Club of West Bend
2025-2026 Board of Directors

President	Lance Roell
VP / President Elect	Mike Hartwell
Past-President	Heidi Sternig
Secretary	Mike Hartwell
Treasurer	Hannah Langhoff
Director	Matt Muehlbauer
Director	Greg Harding
Director	Maria Gutierrez Gurrola

The Writers' Corner

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

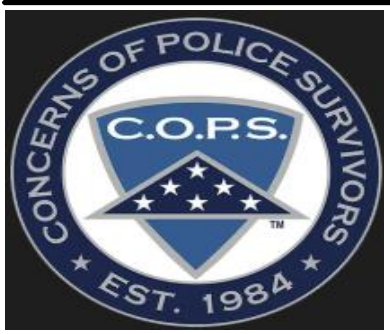
January 9

Each year, those citizens who appreciate law enforcement are encouraged to take time on January 9th to show their support. Many

organizations, including Optimist International and its local Optimist Clubs, will partner with law enforcement officers nationwide to support and promote National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.). We can show our support in several ways:

• Wear blue clothing in support of law enforcement.
• Send cards of support to your local police department, state agency, or federal bureau.
• Share a story about a positive law enforcement experience with others or on social media.
• Ask children in your community to write letters in support of law enforcement.
• Post the public service announcement supplied by C.O.P.S. (Concerns Of Police Survivors) to your organization's webpage or social media pages.

Most importantly, thank a police officer whenever you see one.

For more info regarding L.E.A.D. click:

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY (L.E.A.D.)