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

February 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(Subject to change)

Feb 1	**Optimist Club Essay Contest** Submission Deadline
Feb 5	Club Lunch Meeting **Police Cadet Award** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Feb 5	**INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST DAY**
Feb 14	***Free Throw Contest*** 8:30 to Noon Jackson Rec
Feb 14	***Happy Valentine's Day***
Feb 19	Club Lunch Meeting ***Student of the Month*** ***Silverbrook*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Feb 24	happy birthday Annette Masek
Feb 24	**Board of Directors' Meeting** 4pm Silverbrook School Library
Feb (29)	happy birthday Gretchen Vest
Mar 5	Club Lunch Meeting ***Big Brothers Big Sisters*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

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.*

Our Club's Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/optimistclubofwb

Club Calendar is now available online.
Click this link:

2025-2026 Optimist Club Calendar

Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

February 2026

On January 8th, we held our Club Lunch Meeting at the Kettle Moraine YMCA and were provided updates from CEO Rob Johnson, District Executive Aaron Schmidt, and Robin Malek with Donar Development. Rob shared that he has been the CEO for eighteen years and would like to acknowledge the great support the Y has received, especially a generous donation from Margaret (Peg) Ziegler that helped the Family Adventure Pool become a reality. This aquatic addition provides an affordable, convenient, year-round play area for families. Other update items are:

- The Y has started a "Boys Mental Health Program." There has been such a program for girls for some time.
- The KM YMCA now has three branches: West Washington Branch and River Shores Branch in West Bend, and the Feith Family Branch in Port Washington.
- All three branches are now operate 24/7 - 365.
- The KM YMCA now has almost 18,000 members
- West Washington Branch serves on average 1,100 members each day.
- Recent remodeling at the West Washington Branch transformed underused racket ball courts into a state-of-the-art free weight center, wellness center, and training center. The project also includes a new second floor featuring two studios and pickleball courts, creating more space for fitness and community engagement.
- The KM YMCA now has 125 full-time staff with a total staff of 600. The Y relies heavily on the many fantastic part timers as well as the help from volunteers and the great support provided by the Y's Board of Directors.
- The KM YMCA also now operates seven summer day camp locations serving almost 1,000 kids a day.
- They currently are in the midst of a 1.1 million dollar capital campaign to support needed facility updates.
- The KM YMCA annually offers $600,000 in scholarships to financially needy individuals.
- The Y continues to offer many other youth-oriented activities like swimming lessons, gymnastics, and organized sports.
- The KM YMCA also shared that they have an upcoming major fundraising event: *"Party with a Purpose"* on February 13. Check it out at:

2026 KM YMCA Party with a Purpose

Our Optimist Club's donation to the Kettle Moraine YMCA supports their scholarship fund for families with financial needs. Rob thanked us for this support and said that it is a part of the more than one-half million dollars in scholarships awarded.

Optimist Club of West Bend presents a $200.00 donation to the Kettle Moraine YMCA. Pictured left to right are: Robin Malek with YMCA Donar Development; Rob Johnson, CEO KM YMCA; Lance Roell, President Optimist Club of West Bend; and YMCA District Executive Aaron Schmidt.

For more info about the Kettle Moraine YMCA:

Kettle Moraine YMCA

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

FYI

Because we have some members who due to scheduling conflicts are unable to attend our noon lunch meetings, our Board of Directors is currently considering moving one of our noon lunch meetings to a 4 pm gathering and possibly at a different location. Please provide feedback to Lance ASAP regarding a possible change in the time and location of an upcoming Club meeting.

Optimist Club of West Bend
OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING
February 2026

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

January 2026

Maysen Worth

Holy Angels Catholic School

At our January 22nd Club Luncheon, we honored *Maysen Worth* from Holy Angels Catholic School as our ***January 2026 Student of the Month.***

The school said this about Maysen:

The Junior High staff of Holy Angels School is proud to choose Maysen Worth as our Optimist Student of the Month for the 2025-2026 school year.

Maysen is a great mix of strong focus on the future and enjoying the present. She treats everyone with respect and always has a smile on her face. Maysen is a wonderful role model and leader. Her teachers wish all students had the same interest in learning and producing quality assignments. She can be counted on to participate in a variety of activities at school and in the community. She plays volleyball, and is involved in the yearbook committee, art club, crochet club and forensics. She serves during mass at church and is a leader in school-led services such as food and clothing drives. She volunteers at school fundraisers such as the Fish Fry and Festival of Angels. In any activity, she will always work hard and put forth great effort.

Maysen embodies the values we expect of our students at Holy Angels. She is helpful, respectful and kind, and looks for good in others. She pushes herself to do her best in every situation. The Holy Angels community is a better place because of her friendly and sweet personality, and she is worthy of recognition of the Optimist Student of the Month award.

Sincerely,
The Holy Angels Middle School Staff &
Principal, Michelle Spaeth

S O T M

Club President, Lance Roell, presents the Optimist Club of West Bend's *Student of the Month Award* for January 2026 to Maysen Worth from Holy Angels Catholic School

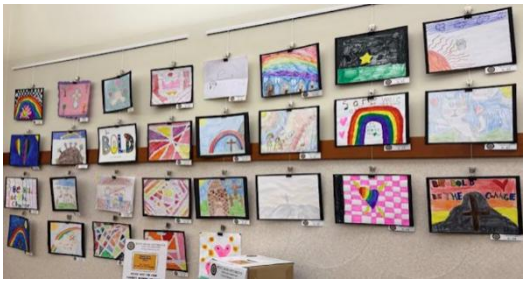
Visual Arts Competition 2026

Public Voting

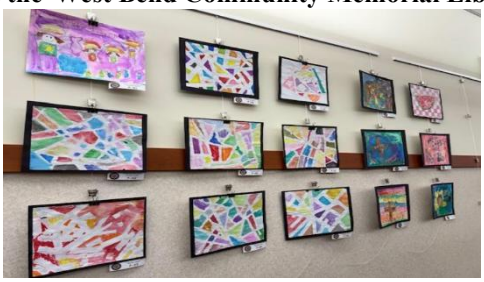
At West Bend Library

The Optimist Club of West Bend and the West Bend Community Memorial Library are now displaying the *2026 Visual Arts Competition* artwork for the public to vote on. It will be on display for voting until February 13th. Everyone is encouraged to visit the library and cast their vote for the best representative of this year's theme:

"Be Bold, Be the Change."



This Year's *2026 Visual Arts Competition* on display at the West Bend Community Memorial Library



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Also at our January 22nd Club Luncheon, we were joined by Jay Fisher, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls' Club of Washington County (B&GCWC). The Mission of the B&GCWC is: *"to enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."* Jay shared that since its beginning, the B&GCQC has served about 70,000 kids. Jay provided an update on the club's activities and status:

- B&GCWC now has five locations –
  - ✓ West Bend Prescott Center
  - ✓ Kewaskum Elementary School
  - ✓ Jackson Community Rec Center
  - ✓ Hartford Rossman School
  - ✓ Hartford Lincoln School
- B&GCWC serves youth ages six to seventeen
- They are serving about 500 students in their after-school program
- They serve 600+ per day during the summer
- A minimum annual contribution per membership is $125 per year or $300 for a family of three or more, but financial assistance is available to those in need.
- All memberships are valid from September 1st to August 31st.
- The B&GCWC is grateful for their 300+ volunteers
- The programs and activities of the B&GCWC include:
  1. Tech Centers
  2. Lunch and Dinner Programs
  3. Homework Help
  4. Game Activities
  5. Arts and Crafts
  6. Various sport related events and sport leagues
  7. Counselling Services

Jay went on to say that the B&GCWC is always looking for sources of funding as well as volunteers to help. Check 'em out: https://www.wcbgc.org/

Optimist Club President, Lance Roell presents a $200 donation to Jay Fischer, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls' Club of Washington County

INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST DAY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Throughout the world, all Optimist Club members are encouraged to celebrate ***Optimist Day*** on the first Thursday of every February to promote efforts in "***bringing out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.***" On Optimist Day, Optimists around the world are asked to wear their Optimist attire (shirts, pins, hats, etc.) to show that they stand for OPTIMISM!

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

Optimist Club of West Bend
OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING
February 2026

February is NATIONAL HOT BREAKFAST MONTH

February is a cold month, so what better way to start our days than with a steaming hot breakfast? *National Hot Breakfast Month* is celebrated every February to encourage everyone to set aside some extra time every morning to make a hot, fresh breakfast.

You know what they say about breakfast... It's the most important meal of the day! However, in the busyness of everyday life, it's easy to put breakfast on the back burner and just grab a quick granola bar on your way out the door in the morning. This month, we challenge you to wake up a little earlier and take the time to really make and enjoy a hot breakfast. Enjoying a hot breakfast will surely make you feel more full, more energized, and just better all day long!

Here are some ideas for hot breakfasts. And remember, you can add any variations to these ideas according to your personal preferences.

- Hot toast with peanut butter and bananas sliced up over the top
- Oatmeal with fried egg(s) on the top
- Cream cheese spread over a toasted bagel with a poached egg on top
- Overnight egg bakes for much less work to do in the morning
- French toast with melting butter and maple syrup.
- Warm breakfast muffins right from the oven with jam or margarine.
- Stuffed breakfast burrito (use your imagination for the stuffing).

So, it's not just about the meal, though there's something about bacon and eggs for breakfast with a hot toasted English Muffin that just makes the day better. It's also about taking the time to take care of yourself and spend a little time on something special.

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

Fish Fry Fundraiser

West Bend Moose Lodge on March 20

Please help our Club prepare for and manage our upcoming major fundraiser: the Fish Fry at the West Bend Moose Lodge on March 20 from approximately 4pm until 8:30pm. We will need many helpers to facilitate this event. Along with helping staff the Fish Fry, we will also need donations of *"Raffle Baskets"* as well as *"Desserts"* to sell to help raise more money. Last year, the *"Raffle Basket"* raffle and the sale of *"Desserts"* were both very successful money raisers. Please let Mike Hartwell know how you will be supporting this fundraiser. Watch for a sign-up.

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Mark Your Calendars
Special Club Events & Fundraisers

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
Public Voting At West Bend Library
Until February 13th

Intenational Optimist Day
February 5, 2026

Free Throw Contest
Feb. 14 8:30 to Noon Jackson Rec

Friday, March 20
Fish Fry Fundraiser
At West Bend Moose Lodge 4pm – 8:30pm
Volunteers Needed – Watch for sign-up

Saturday, April 11
8am-4pm
All Around the Bend Business Showcase
WB HS Fieldhouse Volunteers Needed

Sunday, April 26
Brat Fry Fundraiser
West Bend Moose Lodge
8am – 3 pm
Volunteers Needed – Watch for sign-up

Sunday, June 7
Brat Fry Fundraiser
West Bend Moose Lodge
8am – 3 pm
Volunteers Needed – Watch for sign-up

Beginning in March
FRAN WAJER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
RAFFLE TICKETS SALES
BUY - BUY - BUY - SELL - SELL - SELL
Drawing on June 7 at Brat Fry Fundraiser

The Writers' Corner

My True Friend

By Abimbola T. Alabi

You always answer when I call
And help me up if I should fall,
But you never complain at all,
My true friend.

You confront me when I am wrong
But will never scold me for too long,
Instead, you try to keep me strong,
My true friend.

You know the funny things to say
To make me laugh my fears away.
Like the sun, you brighten my day,
My true friend.

You see in me gifts I deny
And urge me to give things a try.
You spread for me my wings to fly,
My true friend.

You always perceive what I need
And offer it before I plead.
Just like a book, my mind you read,
My true friend.

You value little things I do
But won't brag of what you do too.
How can I ever repay you,
My true friend?

And greatest of all I have found
When times are tough and I'm down,
You are the one who sticks around,
My true friend.