



Optimist INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Club of West Bend



Club # 09-208

P.O Box 1076, West Bend, WI 53095

SWIS District (#09)

[f Optimist Club of West Bend](#)

<http://www.optimistclubofwestbend.org/>

optimistclubofwestbend@gmail.com

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



March 2024



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

March 1, 2024

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
Ends

March 4 to March 8

VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
Set-up at West Bend Library

Club Lunch Meeting

March

Family Promise

7

Big Brothers/ Big Sisters

AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

March

9

Cassie Moran

March 10 – March 23

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
Public Voting at West Bend Library

March

17

Happy St. Patrick's Day

March

17

Howard Fink

Club Lunch Meeting

March

Student of the Month

21

St. Frances Cabrini

AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

March

28

Board of Directors' Meeting

4 pm The Threshold 2380 W Washington St

April

1

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
Submit the winners to Optimist International

April

4

Club Lunch Meeting

Boys & Girls' Club & Essay Winner

AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST DAY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

At our February 1 Lunch Meeting, we received a *Proclamation* from West Bend Mayor Joel Ongert to honor "*Optimist Day*" in the City of West Bend. Throughout the world, all members of Optimist International were encouraged to celebrate *Optimist Day* on the first Thursday in February to promote our efforts in bringing out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves. On Optimist Day we celebrate the volunteers who share their enthusiasm, skills, and talent to make tomorrow a vibrant and peaceful one. Optimists around the world wore their Optimist attire (shirts, hats, etc.) to show their support for OPTIMISM!

At the presentation event, Mayor Ongert shared that he has witnessed the positive impact of the Optimist Club first hand.

"My daughter participated in the Optimist Free Throw Competition when she was young, and she was not a basketball player. She was so nervous. But, to get out there and to have the Optimist members, with the way the event was organized, to cheer her on, built that confidence, and now she does play basketball. I swear if she would have had a bad experience at that, she probably never would have picked up a basketball again. So, I really give credit to the Optimist Club for instilling that confidence in her in that one event."



Club President Laura Eggert receives the *Optimist Day Proclamation* from Mayor Ongert

Optimist Club of West Bend
OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



March 2024



**OPTIMIST DAY
 Proclamation**

Proclamation

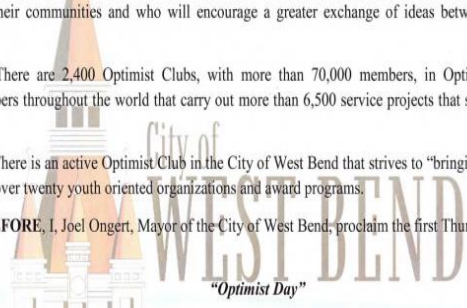
WHEREAS, Volunteers working with young people who are our joy of today and are our hope for tomorrow, are exuberant representatives of the potential to be reached and dreams to come true. They are also unbounded in their enthusiasm to use their own talent, skills, and hard work to make a difference in others' lives, and;

WHEREAS, Members of Optimist International will celebrate OPTIMIST DAY throughout the world the first Thursday of every February to promote their efforts in helping and recognizing the young people that make a difference in their communities and who will encourage a greater exchange of ideas between young people and adults, and;

WHEREAS, There are 2,400 Optimist Clubs, with more than 70,000 members, in Optimist International and Optimist members throughout the world that carry out more than 6,500 service projects that serve six million young people a year;

WHEREAS, There is an active Optimist Club in the City of West Bend that strives to "bringing out the best in kids" by supporting over twenty youth oriented organizations and award programs.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Joel Ongert, Mayor of the City of West Bend, proclaim the first Thursday of every February as



"Optimist Day"

in the City of West Bend. May this day instill pride in our city's Optimists for all of their accomplishments and for the impact they have to truly make a difference in others' lives.

Joel Ongert
 Joel Ongert, Mayor

2-1-2024
 Date

Front Page – Above the Fold!!



The Optimist Club of West Bend receives a proclamation from West Bend Mayor Joel Ongert for International Optimist Day

West Bend Police
"Cadet of the Year"
Kaiden Kemnitz



Also at the February 1st Lunch Meeting, we presented an award plaque as well as a \$250 scholarship to the **"Police Cadet of the Year" Kaiden Kemnitz.**

According to West Bend Police Detective Stacie Bruss, who works with the cadets in the Police Explorers program, Kaiden was "somebody that we knew was going to stick around and was going to be a leader in our post. He was quickly promoted to sergeant because of his leadership skills, which was important because the department had several older cadets who were aging out of the program."

Since he joined the program, Kaiden has volunteered about 240 hours, with about 100 hours volunteered in 2023 alone (which far surpasses the amount required by the program.)

Kaiden has performed so well that he was promoted to captain in 2023, the highest rank a cadet can achieve.



(From left) West Bend Police Captain Matt Rohlinger, Detective Stacie Bruss, Optimist Club President Laura Eggert, Cadet of the Year Kaiden Kemnitz, Officer Jordan Dolezal, and West Bend Police Chief Tim Dehring.

Every year since 1999, The Club has recognized a "Police Cadet of the Year". The police explorer cadet program is for youth ages 14-21. For the past 24 years, the Club has supported and encouraged youth engagement in Law Enforcement.

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



March 2024



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

February 2024

LOGAN BUNKELMANN

Silverbrook Intermediate School

At our February 15 Club Luncheon, we honored our February 2024 *Student of the Month*, Logan Bunkelmann from Silverbrook Intermediate School



Here's what the School shared:

It is Silverbrook Intermediate School's pleasure to have Logan Bunkelmann represent Silverbrook as our Student of the Month.

Logan is a positive leader in 6 Green and at Silverbrook. He is a hard worker, conscientious about his academics, and willingly helps others. He is a great role model; his classmates look up to him because he is a kind and humble peer. He sees the good in others and celebrates their successes. He is helpful to those who need it and will take the initiative to offer to help his classmates before being asked to do so. Logan has high standards for himself, and he exceeds our expectations every day. He maintains a 4.0 with all of his classes. Additionally, Logan participates in Math Counts, Viking Attack, and Battle of the Books. Outside of school he plays baseball.

Logan's friends, Eli, Mannin, and Nolan describe him as honest, not selfish, or greedy. They said he is a loyal friend, and when you make a mistake, he tells you it's wrong and helps fix it. All in all, he is a great friend.

Logan Bunkelman is an outstanding example of what an Optimist Student of the Month should be, and we are proud to recognize him.

Sincerely,
House 6 Green & Silverbrook School Staff

S O T M

Club President Laura Eggert presents the February *Student of the Month* award to Logan Bunkelmann from Silverbrook Intermediate School



WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

Sponsorship

Also at our February 15 Lunch Meeting, we met Annelisa Paczesny, a student at West Bend East High School, who was our sponsored attendee at the 2023 Wisconsin



Annelisa Paczesny (left), who was our sponsored attendee at the 2023 Wisconsin Leadership Seminar (WILS) Conference being congratulated by Club President Laura Eggert.

Leadership Seminar (WILS) Conference.

WILS is a statewide 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that identifies high school sophomores from throughout Wisconsin that are considered by their schools as young leaders. It provides them with the opportunity and encouragement to develop their leadership potential. Each high school in the state is invited to nominate one student who exhibits positive leadership qualities in their school and community to attend the WILS annual three day seminar.

The optimist Club of West Bend provided the \$200 needed by WILS to sponsor Annelisa for the 2023 seminars.

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



March 2024



And at our February 15 Club Lunch Meeting, we also had a presentation by Jacob Moeller from the City of West Bend announcing a new event starting this year:

BOCKFEST

Bockfest will be a German craft beer festival celebrating the end of winter and beginning of spring taking place at:

Regner Park on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

According to Jacob, the City of West Bend was awarded a *New Major Event Grant* worth \$20,000 to develop *Bockfest*. This funding will offset startup costs, secure musical talent, and support promotional efforts. The main goal of *Bockfest* will be to welcome residents and visitors to Regner Park and local businesses during a time of year that is historically slower in visitation and thus generate a positive economic impact for the community. The hallmark of *Bockfest* is the bock beer, which will be specially brewed by the 1840 Brewing Company – which is set to open a new tap room in downtown West Bend later this year. *Bockfest* attendees will enjoy live music, outdoor games, German food, fire pits, and costume contests. Admission will be open to adults ages 21 and older. Tickets are available for purchase online for \$15. Every attendee will receive a custom 24 oz. beer stein and \$5 in Bock Bucks (to be spent over the weekend at participating businesses). Learn more about the event and purchase tickets at:

bockfestwb.com.



Jacob Moeller from the City of West Bend announcing the new event starting this year: **BOCKFEST**.



SWIS District Conferences

Our Club's Board of Directors has deemed it important that all of 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 of attending.

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

March is IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Irish-American Heritage Month is a month-long celebration that recognizes the contributions of Irish Americans to American society and culture and promotes awareness of the history, language, and traditions of the Irish in America. The campaign highlights the achievements of Irish Americans and encourages the celebration of their heritage.



Since the formation of the United States, Irish immigration has been widespread. Early Irish immigrants had to fight against harmful stereotypes to be accepted in the New World. Slowly, Irish culture began to merge into an American subculture that became recognizable across the country. One example are the St. Patrick's Day celebrations that have become events across the United States, with parades celebrating the history of Ireland and its people each March 17. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush signed a Presidential Proclamation issuing March as *Irish American Heritage Month*.



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



March 2024



Free Throw Contest

FEBRUARY 10, 2024



The *Optimist Club of West Bend* again sponsored a youth free-throw contest along with the Jackson Park and Recreation Department. Kids in grades 3-6 from area schools participated. It is always heartwarming to see good kids displaying good sportsmanship skills in this competition! The youth come from all around Washington County to participate and winners move on to compete with other Free Throw winners from SE WI Recreation Centers. Thanks to all who came out to participate, watch, and volunteer! Also, a special thank you to Matt Muehlbauer and Renee Fisher for all your work in organizing this event!



Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



March 2024



Mark Your Calendars

March 10 – March 23

**OPTIMIST
VISUAL ARTS
COMPETITION**

Public Voting at West Bend Library

Saturday, April 13, 2024
8am-4pm

**All Around the Bend
Business Showcase**

WB HS Fieldhouse *Volunteers Needed*

May 4
9am – 3pm

Brat Fry

West Bend Harley-Davidson
Volunteers Needed



June 1
9am – 3pm

Brat Fry

West Bend Harley-Davidson
Volunteers Needed

June 1
2 pm

**SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE
DRAWING**

West Bend Harley-Davidson

July 20

**Dirty Ninja
Mud Run for Kids**

Regner Park 8am – 12 noon

Board of Directors

Position	2023-2024
President 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024	Laura Eggert 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024
Vice-President President Elect 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024	Heidi Sternig 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024
Past-President 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024	Mike Hartwell 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024
Secretary 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024	Greg Harding 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024
Treasurer 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024	Cassie Schmidt 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024
Director 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2025	Matt Muehlbauer 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2025
Director 10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024	Maria Gutierrez Gurrola 10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024
Director 10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024	Gena Biertzer 10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024

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.



Writers' Corner

(A couple of items just because Greg likes them!)

"Landslide"

By Stevie Nicks

I took my love, and I took it down
I climbed a mountain and I turned around

And I saw my reflection
in the snow-covered hills
'Til the landslide brought me down

Oh, mirror in the sky, what is love
Can the child within my heart rise above
Can I sail through the changing ocean
tides

Can I handle the seasons of my life

Well, I've been afraid of changing
Beause I've built my life around you
But time makes you bolder
even children get older
and I'm getting older, too
Oh, I'm getting older, too

Take my love, take it down
Climb a mountain and turned around
And if you see my reflection in the
snow-covered hills
Well, the landslide will bring it down, down

And if you see my reflection in the
snow-covered hills
Well, the landslide will bring it down
Oh the landslide will bring it down

"THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE"

by Paul Simon

Hello darkness, my old friend,
I've come to talk with you again,
Because a vision softly creeping,
Left its seeds while I was sleeping,
And the visions that was planted in my brain
Still remain –
Within the sound of silence.

In restless dreams I walked alone
Down narrow streets of cobblestone,
'Neath the halo of a street lamp,
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash
of a neon light
That split the night
And touched the sound of silence.

And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more.
People talking without speaking,
People hearing without listening,
People writing songs that voices never share
And no one dare
Disturb the sound of silence.

"Fools" said I, "You do not know
Silence like a cancer grows.
Hear my words that I might teach you,
Take my arms that I might reach you."
But my words like silent raindrops fell,
And echoed – *in the wells of silence*

And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made.
And the sign flashed out its warning,
In the words that it was forming.
And the sign said, "The words of the prophets
Are written on the subway walls
And tenement halls."
And whisper'd in the sounds of silence.