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

April 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(Subject to change)

Apr 2	**All Club Meetings Canceled** (Holy Thursday)
Apr 5	He is risen **Happy Easter**
Apr 16	Club Lunch Meeting *Student of the Month* ***St. John's Lutheran*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Apr 26	***Brat Fry*** West Bend Moose Lodge 8am – 3 pm Volunteers Needed – Watch for sign-up
Apr 28	**Board of Directors' Meeting** 4pm Silverbrook School Library
May 7 4 pm	**Special Club Meeting** **At "Top of the Ridge" Restaurant** **New Optimists Welcome Event** With Diane Matuszak & **Fran Wajer Scholarship Winners** No Lunch Meeting This Day - Watch for Details
May 8	happy birthday Billy Hurst
May 10	**MOTHER'S DAY**
May 19	happy birthday Jim Vest
May 21	Club Lunch Meeting ***Club Elections*** 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
April 2026

West Bend Police "Cadet of the Year"

Alicia Krieser

At our March 5th Luncheon, we presented an award plaque as well as a $250 scholarship to the West Bend Police Department's "*Cadet of the Year*" **Alicia Krieser.**

Since **1999**, our West Bend Optimist Club has proudly recognized a West Bend Police Department (WBPD) **"Police Cadet of the Year,"** formerly known as the "Explorer of the Year." For the past 26 years, our Club has consistently supported and encouraged youth engagement in public safety.

This year's recipient, ***Cadet Alicia Krieser***, is an 18-year-old senior in a West Bend High School who joined the West Bend Police Cadet Program on March 7, 2024. WBPD states that when Alicia first joined the program, she was quiet and reserved. Over the past two years, however, she has grown tremendously into a confident and capable leader within the cadet program. Her development speaks volumes about her willingness to learn and her dedication to personal growth. Alicia was just promoted to the rank of *Sergeant*, earning the position through her loyalty to the cadet post and her commitment to serving her community. Since joining the cadets, Alicia has attended nearly every meeting and she now mentors new cadets. She has participated in the Wisconsin Explorer and Cadet State Conferences in both 2025 and 2026. She has contributed more than 150 hours to the cadet program through meetings, competitions, and training.

In addition, Alicia has volunteered more than **100 hours** for community activities including Shop with a Cop, Law Enforcement Memorial, Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades, Fourth of July fireworks, the Christmas Parade, Wheels on Main, the Dirty Ninja Mud Run, Citizen's Academy, Active Attack Training, and Washington County Fair parking.

Alicia consistently prioritizes serving others. Her goal is to become a *Community Service Officer* with the West Bend Police Department and eventually a **police officer**.

Alicia's growth, leadership, and dedication to serving others makes her highly deserving of this recognition. WBPD said, "We are truly grateful for the Optimist Club and for community members who continue to foster, mentor, and support the future leaders of public safety. Thank you for believing in our program and in the future of public safety."

West Bend Police Cadet Alicia Krieser accepts her Cadet of the Year plaque from Cadet advisers officer Breanne Knutson, far left, and Detective Stacie Bruss, who is holding the award, along with, from left, West Bend Optimist Club President Lance Roell, West Bend Police Capt. Matt Rohlinger and Chief Tim Dehring.

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

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

Also at our March 5th Club luncheon, we had a presentation from Brigette David, Girl Scout Camp Silver Brook Site Manager. Camp Silver Brook is located on the west side of West Bend and is a 275-acre camp program that surrounds Lucas Lake, a clear 80-acre spring fed body of water.

Brigette provided an update on many of the activities of the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast (GSWISE) which serves more than 16,000 girls in grades K5 to 12 and has over 6,000 adult volunteers who believe in its mission of "*building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who take the lead in making the world a better place.*" (check it out: www.gswise.org/)

Our $250 donation may be used to sponsor the GSWISE "*Celebration of Volunteer Achievement*" event, where the local Girl Scout volunteers are recognized for their outstanding impact.

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Club President, Lance Roell presents a $250 Club donation to Bridgette David, Girl Scout Camp Silver Brook Site Manager.

April is Financial Literacy MONTH

Financial Literacy Month encourages awareness of the need for more financial education in schools and adults. Financial Literacy Month is not just about awareness; it is a practical invitation to stop guessing and start executing. Use April to strengthen your money skills, audit your spending, and make tangible progress toward financial stability.

You do not need to become a financial expert in 30 days. Choose one specific area—like reviewing your credit report, cutting one recurring expense, or mapping out a debt payoff plan—and make that your focus.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

March 2026

Estella Rinzel

Saint Frances Cabrini School

At our March 19 Club Luncheon, we honored our March 2026 *Student of the Month*, **Estella Rinzel**, from Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic School

Cabrini Teachers said this about Estella:

Estella has shown tremendous growth throughout her middle school years. As an eighth grader, she has retained a positive attitude and encourages others to do their best. She is committed to her own self-improvement, especially in Forensics, when she seeks out others' advice and critiques, and uses them to make adjustments. She is a great cheerleader for her teammates as well! She works hard on her schoolwork and maintains good grades.

Estella has a great sense of humor and has a positive disposition during the school day. She is genuinely kind to the people around here.

Estella exhibits perseverance during all physical activities in PE. She is especially excited and optimistic when beating her fitness scores time and time again, knowing she puts in the work at home.

Estella always brings a smile and a positive attitude to Spanish class. I love how she always tries her best. Even when she finds something challenging, she goes at it with a can-do attitude!

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Club President, Lance Roell, presents the Optimist Club of West Bend's *Student of the Month Award* for March 2026 to Estella Rinzel from Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic School

OPTIMIST CLUB 2025-26

ESSAY CONTEST

***The Topic*: How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me**

1st Place: Hannah Feeney

Hannah is a seventh-grade student from St. Frances Cabrini School. She was able to join us for lunch on March 19 where she read her first-place essay.

Club President, Lance Roell Presents the First-Place $150.00 award check to Hannah Feeney

To quote from Hannah's essay: "Many people all over the world do great acts of service. Some are shown on the news, or displayed in schools and businesses, to promote their cause. But service is any action of helping or doing work. Whether it's buying Christmas gifts for people in need, donating to a local pregnancy resource center, or doing acts of service at school and in my parish. No form of service is trivial, no matter how small it may seem in comparison to others. Using service to understand my community helps me to understand the problems and be a part of the solution.

OPTIMIST CLUB 2025-26

ESSAY CONTEST

***The Topic*: How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me**

2nd Place: Julia Wolfe

Julia is an eighth-grade student from St. Frances Cabrini School. She was able to join us for lunch on March 19 where she read her second-place essay.

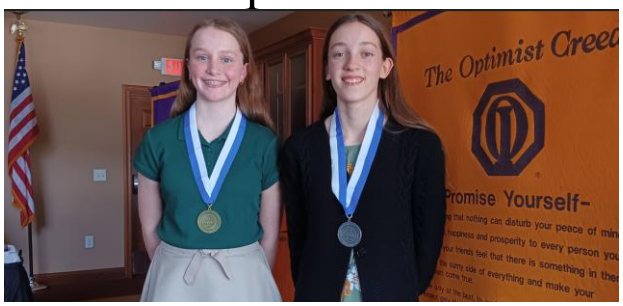
Club President, Lance Roell, Presents the Second-Place $100.00 award check to Julia Wolfe

To quote from Julia's essay: "Service is also an effective way to gain new perspectives. When doing work with a group of people, you start understanding the network built up by supporting others. Overall, service is a way to connect with others. Being able to get to know the people around the area that I have lived in for my whole life is an incredible opportunity that anyone can experience if they just choose to provide support around their own community. Yet you can go beyond just your hometown. There are people around the world that are part of the community, and service brings this into light"

Optimist Club of West Bend
OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING
April 2026

OPTIMIST CLUB 2025-26
ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Hannah & Julia wearing their 1st and 2nd place medallions



Boy Scout Troop 796
Eagle Scout Activity

Boy Scout Miles Beisbier is currently working toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout with our Club's sponsored Boy Scout Troop 796. For his Eagle Scout project, he is planning to design and build four new raised garden beds that will benefit The Threshold. Two of the beds will be constructed at standing height, and two will be wheelchair accessible to ensure that all participants can comfortably take part in gardening activities. To complete this project, he is seeking financial donations to help cover the cost of lumber, hardware, soil, and other necessary materials. The total estimated cost of the project is $1500. Any contribution, large or small, would be greatly appreciated and will go directly toward materials for the garden beds. If you can help support this project, donations can be made by cash or check to Troop 796 and identified as being for Miles' Eagle Scout Project (Optimist Club member Mike Hartwell will collect any donations and pass them on to Troop 796).

Mini Quiz

1. **If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring?**
2. **If April showers bring May flowers, what do May showers bring?**
3. **April has 30 days – which months have 28 days**

Answers on page 7

New Optimists Welcome NOW Event

Thursday, May 7 at 4p.m.

A message from our Club President:

The board has been actively discussing ways to engage current and prospective members. One action step has been the scheduling of a "New Optimists Welcome" - NOW, event.

We are switching our May 7th lunch meeting to a 4PM meeting at the *Top of the Ridge* restaurant at Cedar Ridge in West Bend. The board is asking that everyone ask at least one friend/prospective member to come to the event with them. The club will provide heavy appetizers and soft drinks. There is a cash bar available, too. A sign-up genius will be coming out a little closer to the event.

We will be joined by former SWISS governor Diane Matuszak, who will speak about involvement.

Please plan on attending if you can. We are looking forward to a fun and engaging event!

Lance

Fish Fry Fundraiser

At West Bend Moose Lodge

On March 20th, our Club held a Fish Fry Fundraiser at the West Bend Moose Lodge. We would like to send out a big thank you to all the Club members who helped and to those who donated a raffle basket, and a special thank you to Mike Hartwell for coordinating. All agree it was a success and a very rewarding event. Here is the final fundraising breakdown for this event:

Moose Fish Fry Income	$$$
Fish Fry Sales	$1,523.50
Basket Raffle	$591.00
50/50 Raffle	$185.00
Desert Sales & Tips	$178.00
Misc. Tips	$110.00
Fundraising Total	**$2,587.50**

Mark Your Calendars

Special Club Events & Fundraisers

FRAN WAJER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

RAFFLE TICKET SALES

BUY – BUY – BUY – SELL – SELL – SELL

Drawing on June 7 at Brat Fry Fundraiser

This raffle supports two $1000 scholarships!

Sunday, April 26

Brat Fry Fundraiser

West Bend Moose Lodge

8am – 3 pm

Volunteers Needed – Watch for sign-up

Thursday, May 7

N.O.W. Event

New Optimists Welcome

Special Club Meeting

4 pm

At "Top of the Ridge" Restaurant

No Lunch Meeting This Day - Watch for Details

Sunday, June 7

Brat Fry Fundraiser

West Bend Moose Lodge

8am – 3 pm

Volunteers Needed – Watch for sign-up

Sunday, June 7

Raffle Drawing

West Bend Moose Lodge 2 pm

NO CLUB LUNCH MEETINGS ON JUNE 18, JULY 2 & 16, AUGUST 6 LUNCH MEETINGS START UP AGAIN ON AUGUST 20

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

https://www.westburybankwi.com/

https://www.morrieswestbendhonda.com/

May 15 Club Luncheon

CLUB LEADERSHIP & ELECTIONS

At our May 21 Luncheon, we will be identifying our activity leaders and electing our officers and directors for 2026-2027. The strength of any organization is based on the commitment of all members to take leadership roles from time to time. Please consider becoming a Club leader, officer, or director.

Optimist Club of West Bend
OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING
April 2026

The Writers' Corner

WINTER'S ENDING

By Jrlinson

The final throes of winter fade,
And life again renews.
The chilling bite of winter's blade
Is broken by spring's light dews.
Now light touches once again.
All things beautiful and green
While blossoms bloom in brilliant fen
And fragrant flowers make the scene.
Quiet brooks flow ever on
With melted snow as fuel
To quench the thirst of newborn fawn
And haste life's great renewal!

SPRING

By Ann D. Stevenson

There's a hum from the bees in the air
which stirs up gentle musings in my mind,
scented blossom is making me aware
of certain hidden treasure they may find.

There's a stir in the branches of the trees
it reflects quiet awakenings of my own,
leaves unfurl in a warm and gentle breeze
they stretch out until they become full-grown.

There's music in the garden from the bird,
cheerful sounds that make my spirits glow,
is this a calling that the flowers have heard
a time to bloom, to blossom, and to grow.

There's joy in new beginnings, a fresh start,
it grows deep inside and lifts up my heart.

SPRING

By Teresa Underwood

The air is cool, the breeze is light.
The clouds in the sky are fluffy and white.
The flowers open to show their bright faces,
as the garden snail alongside paces.

The trees unfold their bright green leaves.
The spider, a silken web she weaves.
The birds sing their notes high and clear.
Cheer up! Cheer up! Spring is here!

GREEN IS SPRING

By Elizabeth Y. Linn

Green is spring, Bright, fresh, and new.
Yellow is the sun, Bright, bold, and true.
Blue is the sky, Shimmering and cool.
Purple is the king, Royal in his rule.
Orange is the fire, Burning hot in the night.
White are the clouds, Bold, brilliant, and bright.
All these vivid colors in this world combine,
So that, we never get bored, and that is fine!

GLORY OF SPRING

By Patricia L. Cisco

Pastel petals sprouting high
Rainbows, showers fill the sky
Inspiring beauty to the eye
Newborn creatures call and cry
Graceful Monarch butterfly

Mini Quiz Answers

1. Mayflowers bring Pilgrims
2. May Showers bring June Brides
3. All 12 months have 28 days