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

May 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(Subject to change)

May 7 — 4 pm
Special Club Meeting
At "Top of the Ridge" Restaurant
New Optimists Welcome Event
With Diane Matuszak &
Fran Wajer Scholarship Winners
Click HERE to sign-up
No Lunch Meeting This Day

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

May 20 — happy birthday — Gena Biertzer

May 24 — happy birthday — Greg Harding

May 26
Board of Directors' Meeting
4 pm West Bend Library 1st Floor Conf Rm

May 31 — happy birthday — Mike Hartwell

June 4
Noon Club Lunch Meeting
Pete Lieven Memorial Crossing Guard Award
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
May 2026

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

April 2026

Amelia Merkel

Saint John's Lutheran School

At our April 16 Club Luncheon, we honored our April 2026 *Student of the Month*, **Amelia Merkel**, from Saint John's Lutheran School.

According to her school, Amelia was chosen because of her generous spirit, kindness towards her peers, and strong academic work. She consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic in her academics by dedicating herself to high quality work that is completed on time. Her enthusiasm is an encouragement to her peers, and her work ethic motivates her classmates.

This school year, Amelia joined the Book Challenge at St. John's, where students voluntarily challenge themselves to read books on their own, and she challenged herself to read 10 books, and has already read eight so far.

Beyond academics, Amelia reflects good character by setting an example as evidences by winning the JOY Award for three years in a row. The JOY Award (which stands for Jesus, Others, You) is given to a student each month who consistently puts Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last. This is no surprise, as regular church attendance and family devotions is an expectation of her parents. Amelia truly is a joy to her teachers and peers.

She is also a member of the Lutheran Junior Honor Association, St. John's volleyball and basketball teams, and the advanced band.

She treats her classmates, teachers and staff with kindness and respect at all times. Whether by helping a struggling peer, volunteering for school events or simply offering a smile to brighten someone's day, she has a positive impact on those around her.

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Club President, Lance Roell, presents the Optimist Club of West Bend's *Student of the Month Award* for April 2026 to Amelia Merkel from Saint John's 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

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

Optimist Club of West Bend
OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING
May 2026

Brat Fry Fundraiser

At West Bend Moose Lodge

On April 26th, our Club held a Brat Fry Fundraiser at the West Bend Moose Lodge. We would like to give a big thank you to all those who helped: Mike, Geri, Annette, Heidi, Greg, Erinn, and Erinn's daughters and friend – Addison, Caitlin, and Madison. The final fundraising breakdown for this event is not yet available.

May is NATIONAL EGG MONTH

In the 1990s, the American Egg Board established National Egg Month in May. It encourages us to remember all the things an egg is *cracked* up to be! An egg sure *beats* many other foods and can *whip* up a great meal. We rely on eggs for a variety of uses, too. They're essential for baked goods, but on their own, eggs can make an *eggcellent* meal.

Eggs are one of the world's most affordable food sources. Whether boiled, baked, basted, or fried, an egg is full of protein and contains all the nutrients a body needs except vitamin C. So, if you want to stay healthy, add eggs to your food list.

A good way to celebrate National Egg Month is to look up and try new recipes throughout the month. Eggs are very versatile and portable. They can be incorporated into every meal of the day.

Welcome Tobias Pat Moran

On March 15, 2026, Club member Cassie Moran gave birth to a son, Tobias Pat Moran: 7 lbs. 14 oz. – 21 in Mom and baby are both at home and doing well.

Congratulations to PJ and Cassie Moran on the birth of Tobias Pat Moran on March 15, 2026

NOW Event

New Optimists Welcome

Thursday, May 7 at 4p.m.

A message from our Club President:

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.

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

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

Lance

Click HERE to sign-up

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

Sunday, June 7
Fran Wajer Memorial Schplarship
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

May 21 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.

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/

West Bend Moose Lodge 1398
MOOSE
Moose1398@yahoo.com

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

Mini Quiz

A. What is the one word in the English language that is always pronounced incorrectly?
B. *Their are three errers in this statement.* What are they?
C. How much dirt is in a hole 2ft. deep and 2ft. in diameter?

Answers on page 5

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The Writers' Corner

Equipment

By Edgar A. Guest

Figure it out for yourself, my lad,
You've all that the greatest of men have had,
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes,
And a brain to use if you would be wise.
With this equipment they all began,
So start for the top and say "I can."

Look them over, the wise and great,
They take their food from a common plate
And similar knives and forks they use,
With similar laces they tie their shoes,
The world considers them brave and smart.
But you've all they had when they made their start.

You can triumph and come to skill,
You can be great if only you will,
You're well equipped for what fight you choose,
You have legs and arms and a brain to use,
And the man who has risen, great deeds to do
Began his life with no more than you.

You are the handicap you must face,
You are the one who must choose your place,
You must say where you want to go.
How much you will study the truth to know,
God has equipped you for life, But He
Lets you decide what you want to be.

Courage must come from the soul within,
The man must furnish the will to win,
So figure it out for yourself, my lad,
You were born with all that the great have had,
With your equipment they all began.
Get hold of yourself, and say: "I can."

As You Go Through Life

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life;
And even when you find them,
It is wise and kind to be somewhat blind
And look for the virtue behind them.

For the cloudiest night has a hint of light
Somewhere in its shadows hiding;
It is better by far to hunt for a star,
Than the spots on the sun abiding.

The current of life runs ever away
To the bosom of God's great ocean.
Don't set your force 'gainst the river's course
And think to alter its motion.

Don't waste a curse on the universe--
Remember it lived before you.
Don't butt at the storm with your puny form,
But bend and let it go o'er you.

The world will never adjust itself
To suit your whims to the letter.
Some things must go wrong your whole life long,
And the sooner you know it the better.

It is folly to fight with the Infinite,
And go under at last in the wrestle;
The wiser man shapes into God's plan
As water shapes into a vessel.

Mini Quiz Answers

A. Incorectly
B. 1- There, 2- errors, 3- there are only 2 errors
C. None, the dirt was removed