



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 May 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Club Breakfast Meeting

May 4
7 am **Scholarship Award**
International Firefighters' Day
MPTC – Room L159

May 6 & May 7  **Brat Fry**
West Bend Sausage Plus
9 am – 4 pm
Volunteers Needed

May 14 **MOTHER'S DAY**

Club Lunch Meeting

June 1 noon **School Crossing Guard**
Police Training Room – WB City Hall
(might be moved to Tuesday, May 30)

June 3 & June 4  **Brat Fry**
West Bend Sausage Plus
9 am – 4 pm
Volunteers Needed

June 4 2pm **Scholarship Raffle Drawing**
West Bend Sausage Plus

NO CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS - JUNE 15, JULY 6, JULY 20, & AUGUST 3

June 18 **FATHER'S DAY**

June 19 **JUNETEENTH DAY**

June 26 **Board of Directors' Meeting**
Shorewest Office

July 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**



During our Breakfast Meeting on April 6, we heard an update from Lori Prescott, Executive Director of Family Promise of Washington County. She said that Family Promise of Washington County is a community response to homelessness, which provides emergency shelter and housing solutions to individuals and families. Its Mission: *“Family Promise rebuilds lives with compassion by providing resources and services that prevent and end homelessness for individuals and families in Washington County, WI.”*



Club President Mike Hartwell presents a \$200 check to Lori Prescott to support the work of Family Promise

Currently Family Promise has two homeless operations that has served 250 households each year: [The Promise Center](#) which provides resources for families at risk of homelessness, including shelter, meals, and support services for homeless families in need in our community.

[Karl's Place](#) is a shelter that serves single men & women at risk of homelessness. The singles shelter addresses a gap in services in our community, bringing together shelter, meals, basic health services, and quality case management for individuals at risk of homelessness. More Info- <https://familypromisewc.org/>

Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

May 2023



Also at our breakfast meeting on April 6th, we heard from Rachel Schumacher representing the Wisconsin Leadership Seminars, Inc. (WILS).

This year, a West Bend High School student has been selected to attend the WILS 2023, which will take place on June 9-11 at Carroll University in Waukesha, WI. To help this West Bend student and the work of the WILS, our Club has provided \$200 in support.

Ms. Schumacher shared that the Mission of WILS is: *“To identify outstanding high school sophomores throughout Wisconsin for being responsible citizens in their community and/or school and provide them with the opportunity and encouragement to recognize their leadership potential.”*

They fulfill this mission through an annual 3-day leadership seminar that is provided at no cost to the students or schools.

WILS encourages leadership development through emphasis on four pillars:

Responsibility – Instill self-confidence and personal responsibility in leaders by guiding them to explore their personal values and develop a sense of purpose.

Service – Encourage leaders to volunteer their time to bring about positive change in their communities and schools.

Inclusiveness – Provide leaders with opportunities to engage with individuals who have diverse backgrounds, perspectives and experiences in order to explore ideas and build skills that are essential for success in our communities and in a globally-connected world.

Decision Making – Foster a positive, unbiased setting where leaders can practice forming opinions, making decisions, and engaging in open-minded analysis and discussion of the issues and challenges facing today’s world.

More Info at - <https://wils.us/>



Club President Mike Hartwell presents a \$200 check to Rachel Schumacher to support the work of the Wisconsin Leadership Seminars.

May is Optimists in Action Month

Optimist International has declared the month of May as *Optimists in Action Month*. We already know that Optimists have always believed in making a difference—a difference to children, to citizens in need, to fellow Optimists, to themselves. We Optimists also believe that the best way to make a difference is through *action*—positive action. During the month of May, OI wants Optimist Clubs to help create a widespread view of Optimist Club Members as community volunteers. Not just for our own Club’s activities, fundraisers, and special events, but also for how our individual members volunteer their own time and efforts to support other worthy locally-based causes and organizations that help better our community. During *Optimists in Action Month*, Optimist volunteers from all over the world will create meaningful and powerful positive changes throughout their communities.

To illustrate the impact Optimist Club Volunteers have on our community, at the end of May, we will be creating a document that lists all the volunteer work performed by us throughout our community. So, please keep track of all you do to help others and forward that info to Greg when he asks for it.

Optimist Club of West Bend

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May 2023

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

April 2023

Matthew Merkel

St. John's Lutheran School



At our April 20th Luncheon, we honored Matthew Merkel from St. John's Lutheran School as the *Student of the Month* for April 2023.

Here's what his school had to say:

It is with great joy that the middle school teachers of St. John's West Bend nominate **Matthew Merkel** as the Optimist Club of West Bend's *Student of the Month*.

Matthew is currently in eighth grade at St. John's. He is a student who works hard and performs well academically. He plays percussion in the school band and is involved in sports. He has recently been inducted into the St. John's chapter of the Lutheran Junior Honor Association for his academic achievement, leadership, service, and discipleship.

Matthew is kind, patient and caring. He genuinely cares about other people. He will always help someone in need, whether they are a fellow student or a teacher. Matthew is consistent and dependable in how he treats others. In the hallway, he will always take the time to give his younger sister a hug, which not all big brothers would do!

Matthew is very involved in his home church. He has run audio and video for services. He has been a Vacation Bible School assistant at St. John's. Matthew has also been involved in SEA Literacy.

St. John's has been blessed by Matthew, his work ethic and his kind and caring heart. He is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Krista Radewahn
Middle School Teacher
St. John's West Bend

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Optimist Club President Mike Hartwell presents the March 2023 "Student of the Month" award to Matthew Merkel from St. John's Lutheran School.

SWIS District Conferences



According to the SWIS District, "Our district conferences and events are geared to help our clubs achieve more by sharing ideas and learning together."

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.

SWIS District Quarterly Conferences

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



The Optimist Club of West Bend is committed to being a good community partner. One way to do that is to support the activities and events sponsored by the Downtown

West Bend Association, check 'em out:

<http://www.downtownwestbend.com/calendar.html>

Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

May 2023

OPTIMISTS BREWER GAME



All Inclusive 

On Sunday, April 23, several WB Club members joined many other Optimists from the Southern Wisconsin District (SWIS) in the Northwestern Mutual Legends Club for the Brewers – Red Sox game at American Family Field. Everything was great until the Red Sox scored nine runs in the eighth inning  leading to a Brewer loss.

Yet, all enjoyed the Optimistic camaraderie and the multitude of food and beverage stations throughout the Northwestern Mutual Legends Club. We know of one group of Optimists (who shall remain nameless) who feasted on brats, burgers, chicken tenders, bacon, French toast, sliced ham, omelets, cheeses, sausages, crackers, chips, nachos, tacos, burritos, melons, grapes, salads, choc chip cookies, brownies, fudge, cake, sodas, cocktails, wine, and of course a variety of beers.



Representing the Optimist Club of West Bend at the Optimist Brewer Game on April 23 from Left to Right: Club Secretary Greg Harding, Greg’s daughter Emma Nelson, Kaytlyn Muehlbauer (Matt’s wife, Greg’s daughter) and Club Board Member Matt Muehlbauer

All Around the Bend Business Showcase



On Saturday, April 29, our Club participated in the first *All Around the Bend Business Showcase* sponsored by the West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce (WBACC), in partnership with the West Bend School District (WBSD). The event was held at the WB High School Fieldhouse, and over 70 businesses and organizations gathered. The purpose of the event was to offer WBACC members and area businesses a new occasion to explain what they do. This was an incredible opportunity for our Club to have face-to-face interactions with the public and to share info and generate awareness about all that we do to “bring out the best in kids”

Working the Optimist Club of West Bend’s table at the “All Around the Bend Business Showcase” event on Saturday, April 29 are Club member Cassie Schmidt and Club Secretary Greg Harding



A big THANK YOU to all the Club members who helped: Greg Harding, Cassie Schmidt, Mike Hartwell, and Matt & Kaytlyn Muehlbauer!

2022-2023 Board of Directors

President	Mike Hartwell
VP/President Elect	Laura Eggert
Past-President	Lance Roell
Secretary	Greg Harding
Treasurer	Heidi Sternig
Director	Pete Lieven
Director	Matt Muehlbauer
Director	Maria Gutierrez Gurrola
Director	Gena Biertzer

Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

May 2023

Mark Your Calendars

May 6 & 7 & June 3 & 4
Brat Fry

9am – 4pm West Bend Sausage Plus - Volunteers Needed

June 4 - 2 pm

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE DRAWING

West Bend Sausage Plus

July 13 – *Music on Main*

Beverage Tent Bartending Fundraiser

Volunteers Needed – Sign Up Here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A0A8rmt9CGrXZFXHlKZ1XuJ8HV9DOF4FVvPnEqmi82E/edit?usp=sharing>

Dirty Ninja Mud Run for Kids

July 15 Regner Park 8am – 12 noon

Jingle Bell Open

AUGUST 7 9 AM TO 3 PM

Hon-E-Kor Golf Course

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - WATCH FOR DETAILS



Locations of Optimist Club MPTC Meeting Rooms



THE WRITERS' CORNER:

I Simply Can't Rhyme!

Thanks to: Aisha O. Maabreh

I can't write a poem; I simply can't!
I can't sing, rhyme, nor chant.
All my words are always so fumbled.
Last time I read something, I mumbled.
I can't write a poem, I simply can't!
Every time I try, I begin to rant.
I will refuse and start to whine,
You see, I simply can't make it rhyme!
My poems are downright bad!
As you can see, my dear lad.
A slug can rhyme better than me!
Read my poem, you'll snicker with glee.
You'll laugh and point and then say,
You're not a poet, no way!
Then you'll conclude and agree,
My poems earn a negative degree,
They're awful, terrible, hideous, and lousy!
Shocking, dreadful, and always frowzy!
Merely reading them will make you drowsy.
You'll say, please, please go away!
I'd rather eat a mouthful of hay!
You were right, write a poem, I simply can't!
I told you I can't sing, rhyme, nor chant.
I created a beast of a poem, ad lib!
Me, a poet? What a gigantic fib!

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