



# 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](mailto:optimistclubofwestbend@gmail.com)

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



## September 2023



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sept 4	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
Sept 7 Noon	<b>Club Lunch Meeting</b> <i>HORIZON ROOM</i> AT NEW PERSPECTIVE SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Sept 18	<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b> 4pm - Police Classroom – WB City Hall
Sept 21 noon	<b>Club Lunch Meeting</b> <i>HORIZON ROOM</i> AT NEW PERSPECTIVE SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Oct 5	<b>Installation Dinner</b> Time and Location to Be Determined
Oct 19 noon	<b>Club Lunch Meeting</b> <i>HORIZON ROOM</i> AT NEW PERSPECTIVE SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Oct 26	<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b> 4 pm The Threshold 2380 W Washington St
Nov 2 noon	<b>Club Lunch Meeting</b> <b>Student of the Month</b> <b>Badger Middle School</b> <i>HORIZON ROOM</i> AT NEW PERSPECTIVE SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Nov 16 noon	<b>Club Lunch Meeting</b> <i>HORIZON ROOM</i> AT NEW PERSPECTIVE SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Nov 16	<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b> 4 pm The Threshold 2380 W Washington St

## KING J. RIFFEL

Charter Club member and four time Club President, King Riffel, passed away on Friday, August 25, 2023.

**Optimist Club of West Bend**  
**Charter Member - February 8, 1990**

**Optimist Club of West Bend President**  
1990-91 1991-92 1996-97 2000-01

**Optimist International SWIS District**  
**Lt. Governor Zone 10 1994-1995**

King was instrumental in the formation of our Club, and he was an energetic and enthusiastic contributor to the Club's activities. King was directly responsible for the development of our middle school "Student of the Month" award, as well as the "School Crossing Guard of the Year" and "Police Explorer of the Year" awards. After his last stint as president, King was also designated "Club Chaplain" and opened each meeting with a prayer. King resigned from Optimist Club of West Bend in 2010 for health reasons. He has been greatly missed.



King making "Student of the Month" presentations in 2006

### VISITATION

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 9:00 to 11:45 am**

**FUNERAL MASS AT 12:00 pm**

**Holy Trinity Catholic Church**

**331 Main Street, Kewaskum, Wisconsin**

<https://www.myrhum-patten.com/obituary/KingJ-Riffel>



# Optimist Club of West Bend

## OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

September 2023

***Jingle Bell Open***  
***Corn Hole Game Fundraiser***  
 to support the  
***West Bend***  
***Christmas Parade***




<https://baylakesbsa.org/>

### KETTLE COUNTRY DISTRICT

At our August 17 Club Luncheon, we were joined by Jeff Eagen, District Executive of the Kettle Country District of the Boy Scouts of America – Bay-Lakes Council. He first provided some background saying that Bay-Lakes Council is a youth-serving non-profit organization which provides a Scouting program to over 9,000 youth in Eastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and that the Kettle Country District, which is one of eight districts within this Council, proudly serves Wisconsin’s Dodge, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties. Jeff then explained that several Boy Scout Troops in the West Bend area have lost their Chartering (sponsoring) organizations and are now seeking new chartering organizations like an Optimist Club. He then provided info regarding how our Club could become a Charter Organization for Boy Scout Troops by paying a Troop Charter Fee.

**On August 7, during the 2023 Jingle Bell Open at Hon-E-Kor Golf Course, the Optimist Club of West Bend again ran a “Cornhole Game” fundraiser, which according to JBO officials, raised \$460.00 to support the West Bend Christmas Parade.**



*The  
2023 JBO  
Cornhole  
Game  
Crew:  
Heidi,  
Matt,  
Laura, &  
Greg*



*Jeff Eagen,  
District Executive  
of the Kettle  
Country District  
of the Boy Scouts  
of America – Bay-  
Lakes Council,  
addressing the  
Optimist Club of  
West Bend*



**Thanks to those who helped, Matt, Heidi, Laura, and Greg and also to Jeff’s Spirits on Main for providing the game prize.**

Afterwards, Club President Mike Hartwell conducted a survey of Club Members to see if becoming a West Bend Boy Scout Troop Charter Organization is something the Club should do to further fulfill its mission of supporting youth in the West Bend area. A good majority of the survey responses were in favor of the Scouting Charter, but with some questions. At the Club’s August 22 Board of Directors Meeting, Mike addressed the questions raised especially about any additional financial commitments beyond the \$200 Charter fee. The Board determined that any additional financing requests would be handled by the Board on a case-by-case basis, and they approved a Board motion to provide \$200 to become a Boy Scout Troops Charter Organization.



# Optimist Club of West Bend

## OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

### September 2023

### *Annual Budget Meeting*

Also at our August 17 Club Membership Lunch Meeting, the Club’s Board of Directors presented a proposed Budget for the upcoming 2023-2024 Program Year. The Membership first reviewed the proposed “*Supporting Youth*” funding amounts. After a brief discussion and explanations, a motion was made by Maria Gutierrez Gurrola to approve the proposed expenditures as presented by the Board – Heidi Sternig seconded the motion – a vote was called, and the motion was approved.

### *2023-2024 Supporting Youth*

	Line	Support For:	Amount
Youth Organization Sponsorships	1	Big Brothers / Big Sisters	\$200.00
	2	Boys & Girls Club	\$200.00
	3	Girl Scouts	\$250.00
	4	Shop with a Cop	\$100.00
	5	The Threshold Inc.	\$250.00
	6	WB Little League	\$600.00
	7	Kettle Moraine YMCA	\$200.00
	8	Family Promise	\$200.00
	9	WB Library Summer Program	\$250.00
	10	Casa Guadalupe Education Center	\$250.00
	11	Boy Scout Troop Charter Fee	\$200.00
Youth Honors & Awards	12	Award Plaques	\$200.00
	13	Family Christmas	\$200.00
	14	Police Explorer Award	\$250.00
	15	Fran Wajer Scholarship	\$2,000.00
	16	Essay Contest Awards	\$250.00
Youth Activities	17	Ninja Mud Run Water Station	\$150.00
	18	Little League Team Pizza Party	\$100.00
	19	Free Throw Contest Awards & T-shirts	\$500.00
	20	Visual Arts Contest	\$250.00
	21	<i>Total</i>	\$6,600.00

### *Annual Budget Meeting*

After approving the “*Supporting Youth*” funding amounts, the membership looked at the entire proposed “*2023-2024 Budget*” document. Again, after a brief discussion and explanations, a motion was made by Gena Biertzer to approve the Proposed “*2023-2024 Budget*” for Program Year 2023-2024 as presented by the Board of Directors – the motion was seconded by Bitsy Bolan – a vote was called, and the motion was approved.

### **2023–2024 Budget**

For Program Year October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024

Approved August 17, 2023

	Line	Item	\$Amount
I N C O M E	1	New Member Fees	\$30.00
	2	Dues	\$2,400.00
	3	Meals	\$5,140.00
	4	Fund Raising	\$15,415.00
	5	<i>Total Income</i>	\$22,985.00
E X P E N S E S	6	OI & SWIS District Dues	\$2,100.00
	7	New Member Fees	\$30.00
	8	Managerial <small>Office Supplies, Postage, Sunshine Activity, Miscellaneous</small>	\$100.00
	9	Fund Raising	\$7,505.00
	10	Marketing <small>Web Site - Info Folders - Magn - Pens - Brochures - Business Showcases, etc.</small>	\$1,000.00
	11	Meals <small>Membership Meals, Guest Meals, &amp; Satisfaction Dinner</small>	\$5,140.00
	12	Supporting Youth	\$6,600.00
	13	Conventions <small>4 SWIS District Quarterly &amp; 1 OI Annual</small>	\$50.00
	14	Fees <small>WI Inc. Fee-PO Reg-WBACC</small>	\$460.00
	15	<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$22,985.00



# Optimist Club of West Bend

## OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

September 2023



For several months since the end of the West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce's "All Around the Bend Business Showcase" event, we have been trying to present our Club's raffle prize to its raffle winner. Finally, at our August 17 Club Luncheon, Greg Harding, our Club Secretary and our "All Around the Bend Business Showcase" event liaison, was able to present the raffle prize, a \$50 Kwik Trip Gift Card, to raffle winner Maria Gutierrez Gurrola.



Maria Gutierrez Gurrola (L) is presented with her Business Showcase raffle prize by Greg Harding (R).

### Please Make Note:

**CLUB MEETINGS ON THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH WILL NOW BE HELD AT NOON IN THE HORIZON ROOM AT THE NEW PERSPECTIVE SENIOR LIVING CENTER 2130 CONTINENTAL DR., WEST BEND**



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>

### 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>

### September Is

### National Honey Month

Initiated in 1989, by the National Honey Board, September marks an important time for honey producers and beekeepers across the nation. In the United States, honey collection season ends in September as bees begin to prepare their hives for winter. Here are a few fun, crazy facts:

- There are nearly 20,000 known species of bees throughout the world; 4,000 of which are native to the United States.
- A single worker honeybee produces approximately 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. That means around 22,700 bees are needed to fill a single jar of honey!
- Honey bees must tap Two million flowers to make one pound of honey!

# Optimist Club of West Bend

## OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

### September 2023

#### Current 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

#### 2023-2024 Board of Directors

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

#### **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

## *The Writers' Corner*

### *A Memorial Tribute to King Riffel*

#### **A HAPPY MAN**

By Edwin Arlington Robinson

When these graven lines you see,  
Traveler, do not pity me;  
Though I be among the dead,  
Let no mournful word be said.

Children that I leave behind,  
And their children, all were kind;  
Near to them and to my wife,  
I was happy all my life.

My three children married right,  
And their children I rocked at night;  
Death nor sorrow never brought  
Cause for one unhappy thought.

Now, and with no need of tears,  
Here they leave me, full of years,--  
Leave me to my quiet rest  
In the region of the blest.

#### **DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP**

By Clare Harner

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sun on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die.