



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



December 2023



Optimist Club of West Bend Remembers

Pete Lieven



The entire Club is saddened at the loss of fellow member Pete Lieven, who passed away on November 23. Pete joined the Optimist Club on October 20, 2019, and was an active member in supporting the Club's activities. He was elected to the Club's Board of Directors, first in 2021, and then re-elected in 2023. Pete was a retired West Bend Police Captain who was active in many West Bend area community events and organizations. Not only will he be greatly missed by the Optimist Club, but also by the entire West Bend community as well.

Here's what some Club members had to say:

I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Pete. It is truly difficult to find the right words to express the sorrow that comes with an unexpected loss.

Pete was a remarkable individual who touched the lives of those around him in a quiet and understated way. His gentle nature and genuine kindness made him a friend to all.

Pete was a wonderful person and will be dearly missed by our club.

I have known Pete since we came to West Bend. He was always an exceptional person and a great friend. And this is a great loss.

I'm so shocked and saddened to hear this. He will be missed greatly.

I'm so sorry to hear this. I'm absolutely heart broken. Pete was a wonderful person, welcoming and supportive.

PETE LIEVEN FUNERAL SERVICE

VISITATION: *Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 AM to 12:45 PM*

SERVICE: *Saturday, Dec. 2, 1:00 PM.*

Myrhum-Patten Funeral and Cremation Service
1315 W. Washington Street, West Bend



"School Crossing Guard Award"
June 15, 2006



Optimist Club Brat Fry
June 4, 2023

A Hero's Welcome

By Robert Longley

Time to come home dear brother
Your tour of duty through
You've given as much as anyone
Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further
The smoke will start to clear
Others here will guide you
You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers
You clearly gave it all
And through your selfless actions
Others will hear the call

So take your place of honor
Among those who have gone before
And know you will be remembered
For now and evermore

Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

December 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

December 1, 2023, to February 1, 2024

Essay Contest

Topic: *Optimism: How It Connects Us*

PETE LIEVEN FUNERAL SERVICE

VISITATION: *Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 AM to 12:45 PM*
 SERVICE: *Saturday, Dec. 2, 1:00 PM*
 Myrhum-Patten 1315 W. Washington Street, West Bend

Waukesha Holiday Parade Support

Governor Diane's house: N53 W22155 Bonnie Ln, Sussex
 Sunday, December 3rd 1pm
 Contact Mike Hartwell

Dec
7
noon

Club Lunch Meeting
Student of the Month
Good Shepherd

AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

Dec
19

Board of Directors' Meeting

4 pm The Threshold 2380 W Washington St

Dec
21
5:30 pm

Christmas Party

(Significant others are welcome to join us)

Westridge Clubhouse

BYOB & Pot-Luck Goodies

Dec 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Jan 1

Happy New Year!

January 1 to March 1, 2024

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

Jan
4

Club Lunch Meeting

KM YMCA

AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

Jan
18
noon

Club Lunch Meeting
Student of the Month
Holy Angels

AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

Christmas

Family

This year, our Club will be providing a stash of Christmas gifts for two young families who have children being served by the Threshold's "Birth to Three Program." We have been doing this for many years now, and it is always something special. This year's



Christmas Families are the Bates Family from Hartford (6 children and two parents) and the Froehlich/Hahn Family from Slinger (2 children and 2 parents).

For details on how to help make a joyous Christmas for them, check out this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p1HE_njVUEUkKQo-nv0UrtbtSvXj9Iobuv89u6z2fJg/edit?usp=sharing

Please plan to again be generous to really help brighten Christmas for these families. Gifts need to be brought to Laura Eggert at her Threshold office on Rolfs Avenue no later than December 15.



Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

December 2023

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

November 2023

TAYLOR FRANKLIN

Badger Middle School

Taylor was nominated by her Spanish teacher, Janet Jackson, for this honor, and this is what she and some of her other teachers shared about Taylor:



Dear Optimist Club of West Bend:

I am honored to nominate Taylor Franklin for the 2023 Badger Optimist Club Student of the Month Award. Academically, Taylor is at the top of the

class, maintaining high honor roll since she started at Badger in 2021. However, her grades are not what set Taylor apart from the average kid. It's her kind and optimistic attitude

Since I've known Taylor a year ago, she has always found ways to get involved and help others. Last year she volunteered to make and sell hot chocolate and candy to students, she laid flags in cemeteries on Memorial Day, she made crafts and cards to decorate residents of the Samaritan's doors and teachers' doors at school. Just last month, she ran and was elected for the President of Builders Club! She always has a big, bright smile on her face and that youthful joy and contagious excitement that I hope never fades! Here are a few thoughts on Taylor from some of her other teachers at Badger:

- Taylor is a wonderful young lady and with her friendly, positive and kind attitude, I can always guarantee that my class will go well. Each day she is committed to being the best version of herself that she can be!!!
- Taylor is very energetic and happy! She is always helping her peers be successful in class.
- I have had the privilege of getting to know Taylor at Silverbrook and now at Badger. Taylor exceeds optimism. She always comes to class excited to learn with a positive attitude no matter what she is doing. She is always willing to help others, try new things and has a positive, growth mindset when learning. Taylor is a talented artist, participates in school activities and encourages others around her to do their best! I cannot think of another student who is more deserving of this award than Taylor!

Whether on her best day or worst, Taylor keeps life in perspective and chooses joy. I have met only a handful of people in my fifty years that can muster as much optimism and goodwill. As you can see, Taylor is an incredible student at Badger Middle School. She makes our school a better place!

Janet Jackson,
Spanish Teacher,
Builders Club Advisor

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Club President, Laura Eggert, presents the Optimist Club of West Bend' Student of the Month Award for November 2023 to Taylor Franklin from Badger Middle School

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>



Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

December 2023



Birth to 3 Program

Joining us for lunch on November 16, was Katie Skuban, Coordinator for the Washington County *Birth to Three* program. The Birth to Three program, operated through The Threshold Incorporated, is an early intervention program that supports families in Washington County with children with delays or disabilities under the age of three. It provides in-home therapy services, including Speech and Feeding therapy, Occupational therapy, and Physical therapy, as well Family Education and Counseling. It also contracts with Hear WI and Vision Forward to provide hearing and vision services for children with vision or hearing impairments as well.

On average, it serves almost 500 families per year, with approximately 400 children who are active in the program at any given time. For those children who are enrolled in the program, it collectively conducts over 8,000 visits per year to Washington county families alone. The families come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, and each has their own unique story to tell.

<https://www.thresholdinc.org/birth-to-3.html>



Katie Skuban Coordinator for the Washington County *Birth to Three* program receives a \$250 Optimist Club donation from Club President Laura Eggert



Christmas Gathering

December 21

5:30pm – 10pm

At the Westridge Clubhouse

(Significant others are welcome to join us)

Nibbling-Food Pot Luck

Appetizers and Christmas Sweets prepared by you and other culinary experts in the Club

BYOB

Bring Your Own Beverages to enjoy while we party

Home Vintner Wine Tasting

Our Club's vintner, Greg, will again be supplying some of his own wines for your assessment and enjoyment

Christmas Music Conversation

Always suitable

Optimists do like to share

Group Activities

Greg will again provide some fun activities

General Knowledge Quiz

Christmas Trivia

So don't be a Scrooge. Plan to get your holidays off to an optimistically great start by attending.

Let us know via SignupGenius.

Westridge Clubhouse

At the Westridge Condominiums next to the pool

616 E. Tamarack Dr, West Bend

On the corner of E. Tamarack Dr. & Westridge Dr.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

December 2023

Mark Your Calendars

December 1 to February 1
Essay Contest

PETE LIEVEN FUNERAL SERVICE

VISITATION: *Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 AM to 12:45 PM*
SERVICE: *Saturday, Dec. 2, 1:00 PM*
Myrhum-Patten 1315 W. Washington Street, West Bend

Waukesha Holiday Parade Support

WHEN: Sunday, Dec 3, 2023, Noon to 1:45 PM
WHERE: @ Governor Diane's house: N53 W22155
Bonnie Lane, Sussex, WI 53089
THEN: @ 1:45 – We car-pool to Parade Line-up @ Lee
Sherman Dreyfus State Building, 141 NW Barstow (7
miles from Gov Diane's). Must be lined up 2-2:30 pm
PARADE START TIME: 4:00 PM parade route=1 mile.
AFTER: Return to Governor Diane's house
Mike Hartwell has offered up his time and his vehicle
for anyone interested in participating - thank you
Mike! Please be sure to contact Mike if interested!

Christmas Family

**December 15 deadline to get gifts to Laura at
the Threshold.**

**For details on how to make a joyous Christmas
for the families, check out this link:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p1HE_nJvVEUkKQo-nvOUrtbtSvXj9Iobuv89u6z2fJq/edit?usp=sharing

Christmas Party

December 21 5:30 p.m.

(Significant others are welcome to join us)

Westridge Clubhouse



January 1 to March 1

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

Intenational Optimist Day
February 1, 2024

Free Throw Contest
February 10, 2024

Jackson Rec 8:30am – 12noon
Volunteers Needed - Watch for upcoming details

Board of Directors 2023-2024

President <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>	Laura Eggert <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>
Vice-President President Elect <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>	Heidi Sternig <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>
Past-President <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>	Mike Hartwell <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>
Secretary <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>	Greg Harding <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>
Treasurer <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>	Cassie Schmidt <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024</small>
Director <small>10/01/2022 to 09/30/2025</small>	<small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2025</small>
Director <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2025</small>	Matt Muehlbauer <small>10/01/2023 to 09/30/2025</small>
Director <small>10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024</small>	Maria Gutierrez Gurrola <small>10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024</small>
Director <small>10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024</small>	Gena Biertzer <small>Resigned 9/30/2023</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.*

Optimist Club of West Bend

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

December 2023

The Writers' Corner

A Visit from St. Nicholas

BY CLEMENT CLARKE MOORE

Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;



The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
He whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

“Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*
On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!*
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!”

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—

***“Happy Christmas to all,
and to all a good night!”***

