



BY PROVIDING hope and positive vision,  
OPTIMISTS bring out the best in youth, our  
communities and ourselves!

## **OPTIMIST CLUB OF WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER**

### **GATHERINGS THIS MONTH**

*02/05 – No meeting this week -Service Project at Loving  
Hearts Outreach*

*02/11 – Noon Meeting at Moe’s – Jeremy Koerber with  
Alzheimer’s Assn as our guest speaker*

*02/18 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – February “Let Your  
Optimism Shine” recipients*

*02/25 – Noon meeting at Moe’s – Lindsey Jasper with  
“Fighting Hunger, Fueling Minds” Program as our  
guest speaker*

*Wednesday Gatherings – Noon at Moe’s Restaurant*

*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month Gathering – 6:00pm at  
Moe’s Restaurant*

---

If you have not already be sure to “like” us on Facebook  
at **Optimist Club Wash Mo.**

And continue to check out our website.

<http://optimistclubwashmo.wixsite.com/optimistclubwashmo>

[Club Venmo - @WashMO-Optimist](#)

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR – SAVE THE DATE:**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> – Respect for Law Dinner**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> – Annual Scholarship & Awards Dinner**

**May 16<sup>th</sup> – 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Safety Rodeo**

---

### **RESPECT FOR LAW DINNER –**

By now you should have received your invitation to  
our **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Respect for Law Dinner on March  
5<sup>th</sup>**. This is an awesome evening when we honor a  
local police officer. This program is part of  
Optimist International and was started 61 years ago.  
If you have not attended one of these in the past,  
consider this year. It is a great evening.

Also as in years past the committee will again be  
collecting individual snacks to donate to the police  
department. If you cannot attend consider donating.  
Donations will be accepted up to February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Hope to see you March 5<sup>th</sup>!

---

### **LOVING HEARTS OUTREACH SERVICE PROJECT –**

There is no meeting the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup> but 15  
of us will be doing a service project at Loving  
Hearts Outreach in Washington Thursday evening,

February 5th. Thanks to everyone that signed up and to the extras that are on a waiting list. This shows our true community spirit! Since this only allowed a limited number of participants no worries we will take photos to share.

---

### NEW YEAR “GAME NIGHT” –

A fun time was had by all that attended our annual New Year “Game Night” gathering in January. Congratulations to our winners of the lottery tickets – Paul Redhage and Rick Frankenberg. I hear they were BIG winners....not really but it was still fun!



**The Winners!**

---

### JANUARY “LET YOUR OPTIMISM SHINE HONORS”.

Congratulations to:



Very intense round of Left, Right, Center



**Grace Gargrave from Washington High School**

And



**Carter Gerlemann from St. Francis Borgia High School**

Congrats to these outstanding students. Our future is in great hands!

---

**MEALS OF HOPE PRESENTATION –**

Members of **Washington High School FFA** joined us in January with a presentation on “Meals of Hope.” Together with the Union, St. Clair and Sullivan FFA chapters and with the support of the FFA Alumni and Franklin County FFA Foundation on February 23<sup>rd</sup> they will gather to package 50,000 shelf safe meals to help with food insecurity in the community. Once they are packaged they will be delivered to local food pantries for distribution.



We were happy to present a donation to help make this project a success. It is awesome to see these FFA students in the area come together and work together for a great cause!

---

**ALUMINUM CAN TABS REMINDER –**

**To date we have collected \$261.16! Thanks for the support!**

Just a friendly reminder about the collection of tabs from drink cans and other pop top cans. We have an account set up at **Franklin County Recycling at 6365 Bluff Rd under Optimist Club of Washington**. You can take items from the list and donate the funds to the club’s account which will benefit **Ronald McDonald House and the club**. You can also bring the tabs to a weekly meeting and give them to Chris.

---

**CONDOLENCES TO –**

**Dan Yoest** on the passing of our dear fellow Optimist, **Guin Yoest**. Our thoughts and prayers continue for comfort to Dan along with his family. We miss you Guin.

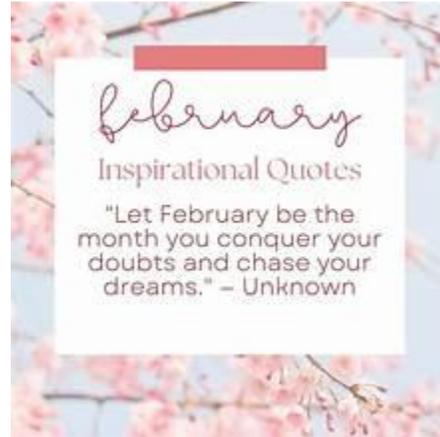
**HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:**

<b>Maranda Anderson</b>	<b>02/06</b>
<b>Matt Busekrus</b>	<b>02/28</b>
<b>Brianna Clift</b>	<b>02/11</b>
<b>Carole Lohmeyer</b>	<b>02/06</b>
<b>Erin Marquart</b>	<b>02/19</b>
<b>Carol Maune</b>	<b>02/24</b>

**HAPPY FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARY TO:**

<b>Matt Busekrus</b>	<b>6 yrs</b>
<b>Cory Davis</b>	<b>4 yrs</b>
<b>Julie Frankenberg</b>	<b>27 yrs</b>
<b>Mike &amp; Brenda Johns (Friend of Optimist)</b>	<b>6 yrs</b>

**OPTIMISTIC THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**



---

**2025-2026 Officers & Board Members**

<b><i>Megan Maurer</i></b>	<b><i>President</i></b>
<b><i>Robin Kluesner</i></b>	<b><i>Vice President</i></b>
<b><i>Judy Smith</i></b>	<b><i>Secretary</i></b>
<b><i>Julie Frankenberg</i></b>	<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>
<b><i>Cory Davis</i></b>	<b><i>Past President</i></b>
<b><i>Chris Marquart(2026)</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member</i></b>
<b><i>Peggy Winzenburger(2026)</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member</i></b>
<b><i>Sheila Marquart(2027)</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member</i></b>
<b><i>Shannon Chrisco(2027)</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member</i></b>
<b><i>Carol Maune(2028)</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member</i></b>
<b><i>Judy Straatmann(2028)</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member</i></b>