

November 2019



OPTIMIST NEWS

Optimist Club of St. Charles, Missouri

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President Steve Harker



I loved growing up in Saint Louis. I would always look forward to the change in seasons. Even as a child, Fall has always been one of my favorites. The colors of the leaves, the fragrance of a warm fire, and, oh yes, the magic of Halloween!

I was 1 of 4 children of a single mom. We were very poor and never had candy around our house. Our Halloween costumes were homemade and usually pretty bad. Sometimes we would go out, come home, change outfits, and go out again for more candy. Even though we were poor, we were pretty happy kids.

I heard a story on a news program this morning, where the personality described growing up in the projects. His mother had him go out twice as well, however, the 1st time was to get candy for his mom to give out to the other kids. I thought to myself, wow! I had it pretty good.

As our seasons change, so do the times we live in. As a kid, my mom would buy 1 roll of film for the holidays, take them to Fox Photo and hope that the photos she paid for turned out. Today the (free) picture that Roger took of me and Ann after the meeting didn't turn out. He gathered us together again for another one, and it turned out just fine.

In the relatively short time I have been with the Optimists, I have seen us go through a couple of "seasons". Whether we like it, or we don't like it, seasons will always change. As we move into the next season, it is important that those who built the foundation of this club be involved in the direction we take. This is your club.

Our mission is strong, our work is righteous, and there is always something to look forward to in the next season.

Optimistically yours,
Steve

2019-2020 "Pig Funds" Recipient

The Board selected the Foster Adoption Support Team (FAST) nonprofit organization to receive the "Pig" funds collected during weekly meetings in the current fiscal year (October 2019 - September 2020). Jeff Marshall (pictured below) provided a heart-warming summary of the many actions taken by the FAST organization to help make local adoptions successful, both for the adopted children and their adoptive parents. See their flyer on the following page for more information.





FOSTER ADOPTION SUPPORT TEAM

"Improving the quality of life for Missouri's foster and adopted children."



How YOU Can Help

Become a
Foster/Adoptive
Parent

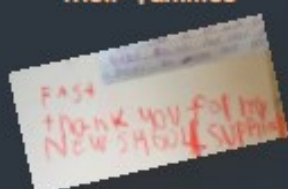
Help us provide
more exceptional
homes for our
Missouri kids.

Become Respite
Provider

Give a much needed
break to our
foster families
for a weekend, a
day or a few
hours.

Spread the word
about FAST

Help us grow to
assist more
children and
their families



Who Are We?

Foster Adoption Support Team (FAST) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a lasting and direct impact on the lives of children and families involved with state care.

Officially established in 2009, we are a St. Charles County chapter of the MFCAA Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association.

Through the generous support of our devoted volunteers, supportive community, and dedicated families we have committed to providing the resources necessary to improve the lives of foster and adoptive families within St. Charles County state care system.



DID YOU KNOW?

The state of Missouri has over 10,000 children in physical or legal custody. These 10,000 children will eventually help shape our government, communities and families.

Missouri continues to be ranked among the lowest providers of financial resources to families within the protective Care community

While most children are eventually reunited with their biological families, the impact of their time spent in the system is ongoing



Foster Adoption Support Team

1806 Boone's Lick Road, Unit B
St. Charles, MO 63301

What We Do?



FAST Food Pantry

- Our Food Pantry helps lessen the weekly grocery bill and alleviate the burden of extra mouths to feed.



Special Events

- We host events such as Christmas in July, Halloween Costume Give away, and No Family Hungry Holiday events for our families.



Social Activities

- We facilitate fun social gatherings intended to allow our families to bond with others in similar situations



Support

- We support one another by sharing previous experiences, knowledge and direction

OCTOBER SPEAKERS



Jeanne Spenser from the Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB) | St. Charles County Kids — The CCRB partners with non-profit agencies to provide mental health and substance use treatment services to improve the quality of life for children, youth and families in St. Charles County.



Angela Berra from National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) — St. Louis. NAMI's mission is to improve the quality of life of persons experiencing mental illness, their families, caregivers and friends through their education, advocacy, support, leadership and customer-centered services.



Ann Wilson from American Heritage Girls (AHG) — The AHG Program is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. AHG girls across the nation and the globe participate in badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement.



Chief George Sheets and Kelly Hunsel (1st & 3rd from left) with the St. Charles City Fire Dept., and St. Charles City Police Chief Randy McKinley (2nd from left) discussed Proposition U that will be on the City of St. Charles ballot on Nov. 5th. Proposition U involves imposing a use tax equal to the city sales tax primarily on the purchase of goods by St. Charles businesses from out-of-state vendors, and creating fair competition for local vendors. Additional revenues from Proposition U could benefit Public Safety—Fire and Police through upgrades to facilities, equipment and technology.

October Optimist Hour



This year's 4th Optimist Hour was held on October 24th at Culpepper's Restaurant. Although the event was lightly attended, you can see those in attendance were enjoying the food, drinks and good company. Optimist Hours are intended to give members who cannot attend the noon meetings an opportunity to participate in a club function in a relaxed atmosphere and to get to know fellow club members on a more personal level. All of the 50/50 club funds, and those donated back by the 50/50 winners, are used to buy much of the night's refreshments, so you can't beat the price! We hope to see you at the next Optimist Hour, and bring a guest!

Notes of Interest to Club Members:

1. Steve Harker requests that you please take a moment to fill out and submit the "Survey Monkey" questionnaire you received in your email. It is anonymous and it will help us decide how we move forward into the next season. The club is always open for ideas and suggestions. Contact Steve if you have any questions regarding the survey.
2. Club Officers and Board Members were inducted into office at the Officer Installation Banquet on Thursday, September 26th. In addition, Gerry Prinster and Mike Ebert were approved as replacement Board members during the Board meeting on October 15th. Steve Harker is actively pursuing a candidate to fill the President-Elect position, which Fred McGinley is currently filling on an interim basis.
3. Starting in the December newsletter, we will be showing the number of attendees at our weekly meetings. Members and prospective members are encouraged to attend the noon meetings for a tasty lunch, good company and interesting speakers. Let's increase attendance and help support our club and the guest speakers who take time to speak at our meetings.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND CHAIR- PERSONS FOR 2020 CLUB EVENTS

Month	Optimist Events & Fundraisers in 2020	Chair Person	Co Chair
January	Elementary & Intermediate Spelling Bees	Ellen Parker	
February	Essay Contest	Bob Beckman	Ed Gettemeier
March	Oratorical Contest	Bob Beckman	Ed Gettemeier
April	Spaghetti Dinner	Sharon North	Dale Westby
April	Shower of Love	Shelly Reuther	
May	Quicklane Ford Fest & Community Test Drive	Rick Pundmann	Jack Ross
May	Respect for Law Day	Jack Ross	
May	High School Scholarships	Mike Ebert	
June	Golf Tournament	Fred McGinley	Jeff Marion
June	Fishing Derby	Mark Cook	Jack Ross
July	St Charles Fair Beer Booth	Dale Westby	
August	All Ford Car Show	Rick Pundmann	Jack Ross
August	St. Charles Festival of the Little Hills Beer Booth	Mark Cook	
August	School Supply Donations	Mary Krogmeier	
October	Installation Banquet	Steve Harker	
November	Youth in Government Day	Dulcie Couillard	
November	NHC Thanksgiving with JOOI	Mike Ebert	
December	Salvation Army Bell Ringing	Allen Suit	
December	Santa Breakfast	Mike Ebert	
December	High School Choir Sings	Jeff Marion	

The above listing shows the current schedule for club events and fundraisers in 2020, along with an unofficial listing of Chairs and Co-Chairs for these events. We have been very successful for many years in running these events due to the hard work and knowledge of the Chairs, Co-Chairs and the many volunteers who enthusiastically come out to cook, serve, judge, take fish off hooks, and whatever else is needed to make the events a success. Please continue to support these events by volunteering and considering becoming a Chair or Co-Chair as needed. The success of these events is what enables our club to financially support the youth of St. Charles County!!

Current openings for co-chairs are highlighted in “yellow”. Contact Steve Harker or Bob Beckman to volunteer or for updates to this listing.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. CHARLES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Steve Harker called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE: Bob Beckman, Dave Borgmeyer, Roger Deppe, Steve Harker, Ellen Parker, Jack Ross, Carl Sandstedt, and Dale Westby. Also in attendance was Jean Kent.

3. SECRETARY REPORT:

- Jack Ross moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2019. Roger Deppe seconded. The minutes were approved.
- Ellen Parker reported that she had sent 7 third and final notices for dues. It was decided that we delete the non-paying members from the roster so we will not be billed for them for the first quarter dues. We can always add them back on the roster if they pay.

4. TREASURER REPORT:

- Treasurer David Borgmeyer reported that the Scholarship Fund is in good shape and that we should receive about \$4,000 from OI before next year's scholarships are determined.
- As of September 30, 2019, the general checking account has a balance of \$10,975.00. The savings account has a balance of \$7,764.41. The c/d's total \$36,719.02. General Accounts Total is \$56,905.27. The Scholarship Funds balance is \$183,612.86. The dues account shows a balance of \$1,446.84.
- Roger Deppe moved to file the financial report with the auditor. Dale Westby seconded. Motion passed.

5. PRESIDENT REPORT:

- President Steve Harker stated that he is going to send out an electronic survey to the general membership about the state of the club and any concerns as we begin the new Optimistic year. He requested that board members email any questions or concerns to include in the survey.
- President Harker will finalize those who are attending the Black and White Gala and will send those names to Care to Learn.
- President Harker asked that we track the 50/50 proceeds and attach it as an addendum to the financial report each month.
- President Harker stated that input about the dates and frequency of Optimistic Hour will be added to the electronic survey.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Membership: Jack will send a list of committees and events so that we can make sure each has a chairperson or sponsor.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President-Elect Replacement: Request will be added to the electronic survey to try to find a replacement for Fred McGinley.
- Board Member Replacement: President Harker recommended Mike Ebert to replace Jeff Marion's two-year term on the Board and Gerry Prinster to replace Joe Gegg's remaining one-year term. Jack Ross moved to approve the recommendation. Bob Beckman seconded. Motion passed.
- Establish Check Signees: Steve Harker, current president; David Borgmeyer, current treasurer; and Mark Cook, member at large were approved as check signees. Paperwork is being completed to file with the bank.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- 2019-20 Budget: Ellen Parker moved to approve this year's budget and bring any necessary amendments to that budget to next month's meeting. Jack Ross seconded. Motion passed.
- By-laws: Roger Deppe moved to reprove the current by-laws as effective for 2019-20. Dale Westby seconded. Motion passed.
- Pig Fund: Ellen Parker moved to designate F.A.S.T. (Foster Adoption Support Team) as the recipient of our pig money collections in 2019-20. Bob Beckman seconded. Motion passed.
- Benevolent Gift Amount: David Borgmeyer moved to change the amount at \$60 per person. Roger Deppe seconded. Motion passed.
- Credit Card: Past President Jack Ross will go to New Frontier Bank and transfer his Optimist credit card to Steve Harker.
- New Member: Dale Westby moved to approve Cathleen Lenihan as a new member. Jack Ross seconded. Motion passed.
- Oratorical/Essay Contests: Bob Beckman will again chair the Oratorical and Essay Contests with Ed Gettemeier and Megan Hallam as co-chairs pending their agreement to help.
- Dale Westby presented some ideas for new projects/events for the upcoming year:
 - * Giving plaques instead of gift certificates to "Respect for Law" honorees
 - * Recognize School Resource officers in some way, similar to what we do for Respect for Law recognition
 - * Add First Responder recognition to our Respect for Law program.
 - * Dale asked that members look over his proposals and bring thoughts for discussion of these ideas to the next board meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you note from Youth in Need.
- Invitation to SC City/County Library Gala.

ADJOURNMENT: Ellen Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Harker seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Parker, Secretary

Events Calendar



November 5	Noon Meeting
November 12	Noon Meeting
November 19	Noon Meeting (Board Meeting at 1pm)
November 26	Noon Meeting

Birthdays



November 12	Ernie Dempsey
November 14	John White
November 20	John Sarantakis
November 23	Pat McDonnell
November 29	Ed Gettemeier

Anniversaries



November	None Listed in Club Roster
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SPEAKERS PREVIEW

November 5	Nancy Semon , The Ray Day Observation
November 12	Dulcie Couillard , Youth in Government
November 19	The Child Center , Child Advocacy
November 26	Lori Winkler , Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital



ST. CHARLES CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	STEVE HARKER (636-947-3179)
PRESIDENT-ELECT	FRED MCGINLEY (314-393-0706) (Interim)
VICE PRESIDENT	BOB BECKMAN (636-947-9023)
SECRETARY	ELLEN PARKER (636-441-6857)
TREASURER	DAVE BORGMEYER (636-723-0275)
PAST PRESIDENT	JACK ROSS (314-287-0569)

CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

ROGER DEPPE (636-723-1937)	GERRY PRINSTER (314-973-2928)
MIKE EBERT (314-402-9039)	CARL SANDSTEDT (636-293-9559)
MARY KROGMEIER (636-734-5903)	DALE WESTBY (314-550-7723)

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

Optimist Club of St. Charles
P.O. Box 234
St. Charles, Missouri 63302

<https://scoptimists.weebly.com/>

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

EASTERN MO DISTRICT OFFICERS

GOVERNOR	MICHAEL BOLES (theoptimismike@gmail.com)
SECRETARY/TREASURER	CHERYL ROTHE (crothe@budrovich.com)
LT. GOV. ZONE 7	ANGELIA BUNCH (abunch@movlic.com)