

# OPTIMIST NEWS

## Optimist Club of St. Charles, Missouri

### In this issue:

- Club News
- Projects and Events
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Event and Member Calendar
- Speakers Preview
- General Information

## President Steve Harker



*When I first retired from the Fire Department, I thought I would have a ton of free time. Suddenly, things began to fill in my schedule. Almost as if I was trying to dig a hole in sand. It reminded me of a metaphor I once heard:*

*A professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a large and empty jar. He then proceeded to fill the jar with golf balls. "Is the jar full?" he asked his students. "Yes," everyone responded. The professor then picked up a box of marbles and poured them into the jar and the marbles rolled into the areas between the golf balls. "Is the jar full?" he asked again. The students responded with a unanimous: "Yes." The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course the sand filled all the space left. He asked once more: "Is the jar full?". "Yes, of course," everyone responded. The professor then poured two beers into the jar, filling the empty space between the sand. Everyone laughed. "Now," the professor said as the laughter subsided. "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, health, friends and favorite passions. If everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The marbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house or car. The sand is the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the marbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.*

*As I get older in life, not only have I changed the order of things I put in to the jar, but there are now things in my life that are "golf balls" that didn't used to be important.*

*Helping others is a "golf ball" and you all are filling your jar with them. Thank you so much for what you do, being an Optimist, and making the children a priority in your life.*

**Steve**

### Outstanding Lunch Service

Amanda Mackey has been setting up the room and serving lunches for our meetings for over 3 years and has provided dedicated and faithful service, even when faced with unknowns such as the number of guests attending or having to set up an alternate room. In recognition for her outstanding service, President Steve presented Amanda with a holiday gift and words of appreciation at a recent meeting. Nice job Amanda!



# Santa Clause and Pancakes at the ECC



On Saturday, December 7th, Optimist Club members helped serve Early Childhood Center students and families a pancake and sausage breakfast before they visited with Santa Clause to share their Christmas wish lists.

Club volunteers included Bob & Jan Beckman, Mark Cook, Steve & Linda Harker, Paul Heid, Ellen Parker, Jack Ross, and Dale Westby.

Word has it that some club members shared their own wish lists with Santa. Hopefully they were good this year and received all their wishes from Jolly St. Nick!



# St. Charles West Holiday Program



The St. Charles West High School Choir sang holiday songs at our noon meeting on December 3rd. Many of the songs were familiar carols, with a couple of the songs less well-known but just as pleasing to hear. Following the program, President Steve presented the choir director with a plaque and a monetary gift to support the Choir's future events and activities.



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Right: Salvation Army Bell Ringing Club Chair, Alan Suit, stands ready for donations at Schnuck's Market at Lindenwood Commons on December 11th. The Club was scheduled to staff this station the next night also, however another organization mistakenly came to this Schnuck's and started collecting before our scheduled start time. Regardless, we had a good turnout for the one night and took in much needed donations to assist the Salvation Army in their support of families in need of holiday cheer.





## Youth in Government Day:



Above: Dulcie Couillard did her usual fine job as Club Chair for the Youth in Government event by hosting area students for a visit with Steve Ehlmann, St. Charles County Executive, followed by visits and tours at the St. Charles County Department of Corrections and St. Charles County Circuit Court. Students available to attend were (in front row from left) Lily Warden & Trey Faucheux from St. Charles West and Brandon Davis & Nick Greener from Orchard Farm. Brittney Smith, Associate Circuit Judge for District 14 (front row right), and Daniel Keen, Director St. Charles County Department of Corrections and Mary Kinsley, Administrative Director Corrections (back row from left), attended the noon meeting and helped host the students. In the photo at right, Lily Warden describes the day's activities to Club members after Dulcie presented a plaque and gift.

### Blackhurst Santa Breakfast:

Club Chair Mike Ebert reported that on December 7th Blackhurst Elementary had a surprise visit from Santa. Everyone had a nice breakfast with Santa, had a writing station where they mailed letters to the North Pole, students made some reindeer food, had a place to shop for presents and the Optimist Club donated ten (10) \$50 gift cards from Hometowne Market for food during the holidays. The Staff at Blackhurst was very successful at having a great event for the children.

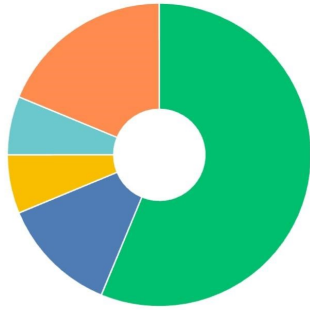
### Club Member Survey:



President Harker presented the Club Survey results and suggested next steps for a path forward for the club. See the next page for a summary of the four (4) survey questions and the responses received from 16 club members. Thanks to everyone who responded.

# "SURVEY MONKEY" RESULTS

1. How do you feel about our meeting format?



Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

We should leave the meetings at once a week.	56.25%	9
We should meet once a month.	12.5%	2
We should change the location of the meeting.	6.25%	1
We should change the time of the meeting.	6.25%	1
We should have a combination of both day and evening meetings.	18.75%	3

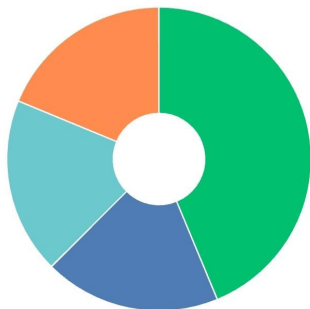
2. What is the best way to increase membership?



Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

Social media.	25%	4
Recruit friends.	25%	4
Press releases and media presence.	0%	0
Community involvement.	43.75%	7
Other	6.25%	1

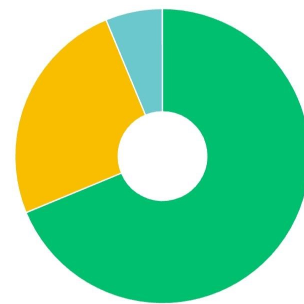
3. How do you feel about our fundraising events?



Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

We should leave them as is. Do not add or remove any events.	43.75%	7
We should add events.	18.75%	3
We should remove events.	0%	0
We should leave the events however, change how we do them.	18.75%	3
Other	18.75%	3

4. How do you feel about the causes we give our money to?



Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

I am happy with the organizations we give our money to.	68.75%	11
I am not happy with the organizations we give our money to.	0%	0
I am happy with who we give to however, there are other organizations I would like to see our money go to.	25%	4
Other	6.25%	1

### ***Notes of Interest to Club Members:***

1. Fred McGinley is leading a Recruitment & Membership committee, with Dale Westby and Bob Beckman assisting. The committee will be looking at ways to increase membership and to reach out to currently inactive members and encourage their involvement in Club activities. Contact Fred if you are interested in assisting on the committee.
2. Bob Beckman and Carl Sandstedt are exploring having a St. Charles Optimist Night at a Lindenwood Women's Basketball game. If possible, the event would also include the Lindenwood Men's Basketball game. We are tentatively looking at a home game against Rockhurst on Thursday, February 20th, which would give us and Lindenwood time to prepare for the event. Women's Coach Katie Falco has been such an enthusiastic speaker at our meetings the past two years, and Men's Coach Kyle Gerdeman, along with Assistant Coach Terry Hollander, were interesting speakers this year. Stay tuned for further details as they become available.
3. Weekly club meetings will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

## **SCHEDULE OF 2020 CLUB EVENTS**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Optimist Events &amp; Fundraisers in 2020</b>	<b>Chair Person</b>	<b>Co Chair</b>
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	

OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. CHARLES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (minor edits for space)  
December 17, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: President Steve Harker called the meeting to order at 1:16 pm.

ATTENDANCE: Bob Beckman, Dave Borgmeyer, Roger Deppe, Mike Ebert, Steve Harker, Mary Krogmeier, Fred McGinley, Ellen Parker, Gerry Prinster, Carl Sandstedt, and Dale Westby.

SECRETARY REPORT:

- Carl Sandstedt moved to approve minutes of November 19, 2019. Mike Ebert seconded. Minutes approved.

TREASURER REPORT:

- Treasurer David Borgmeyer reported major expenses this past month were donations for the Duchesne High School Auction and the Jefferson Love awards. Only income was lunch and pig money. There are no major expenses before our next fundraiser, the Spaghetti Dinner.
- The Club's food license for the trailer is due. Dave will fill out & send forms to the Dept of Health for a 2020 license.
- As of November 30, 2019, the general checking account has a balance of \$5,807.52. The savings account has a balance of \$7,766.35. The c/d's total \$36,719.02. General Accounts Total is \$50,292.25. Scholarship Funds balance is \$184,853.97. The dues account shows a balance of \$1,597.98.
- Roger Deppe moved to file the financial report with the auditor. Fred McGinley seconded. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

President Steve Harker reported that:

- He visited Jefferson Intermediate School and visited with the students who will organize the 2020 Love Awards. If anyone is interested in attending this event on Friday, December 20, they should send an email to Steve Harker so he can notify them.
- President Harker commented that the board should follow through with actionable items that resulted from the survey discussed at the general meeting today and come up with goals and a plan to achieve them at the next board meeting.
- Current members of the Recruitment/Membership Committee are Fred McGinley, Bob Beckman, and Dale Westby.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Blackhurst Christmas Event: Mike Ebert reported that we donated \$500 in the form of ten \$50.00 gift cards for needy families from Blackhurst.
- Spelling Bees: Ellen Parker reported that the Jefferson Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jefferson library. The District Elementary Spelling Bee will also be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Monroe.
- Golf Tournament: Committee has not heard from Bear Creek Golf Course. If necessary, they will shop for a better price.
- Essay/Oratorical Contests: Chairman Bob Beckman will be seeking judges for the Essay Contest in early February and judges for the Oratorical Contest on March 14, 2020.
- New Awards Recognition for First Responders and School Resource Officers: Dale Westby talked to OI awards company, Shumsky, about creating a plaque for our First Responder recognition. They would have to create a new one similar to the one used for Respect for Law plaques. Currently looking at First Responder Recognition for May of 2020, with separate meetings for First Responder, Respect for Law and SRO recognition.
- Mike Ebert requested that Scholarship winners be recognized at the May 12, 2020 noon meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President-Elect Replacement: Fred McGinley volunteered to stay on as President-Elect since no one has expressed an interest in the position.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion about finances: "How do we know if we have enough money for all these projects: Dale Westby stated his concern resulted from when he looked into costs for new recognition programs. He wanted to make sure we were looking into finances before starting any new projects or donations. President Harker stated that we check finances for new requests as they come in. Treasurer David Borgmeyer responded he keeps close watch on finances and that's why we have a monthly financial report for board review.
- David Borgmeyer moved to apply to participate in Ford Motor's "Drive 4 UR Community" in conjunction with the annual Ford Fest. Gerry Prinster seconded. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you from "We Love St. Charles" for our donation sponsoring the 2019 Jefferson Love Awards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Deadline for the Newsletter is December 20, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT: Ellen Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Gerry Prinster seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Parker, Secretary

## Events Calendar



## Birthdays



<b>January 7</b>	Noon Meeting
<b>January 14</b>	Noon Meeting
<b>January 21</b>	Noon Meeting (Board Meeting at 1pm)
<b>January 28</b>	Noon Meeting

<b>January 5</b>	Alison Griffith
<b>January 15</b>	Mark Cook
<b>January 24</b>	Mike King

## December Attendance

<b>December 3</b>	20 Members & 17 Guests
<b>December 10</b>	17 Members & 7 Guests
<b>December 17</b>	15 Members & 0 Guests
<b>December 24</b>	No Meeting—Holiday
<b>December 31</b>	No Meeting—Holiday

## Anniversaries



<b>January 14</b>	Fred & Lori McGinley
<b>January 20</b>	Paul & Ellen Heid
<b>January 20</b>	John & Lorraine Sarantakis

## SPEAKERS PREVIEW

<b>January 7</b>	To Be Announced
<b>January 14</b>	To Be Announced
<b>January 21</b>	To Be Announced
<b>January 28</b>	To Be Announced







## **ST. CHARLES CLUB OFFICERS**

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

## **CLUB BOARD MEMBERS**

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

## **CLUB MAILING ADDRESS**

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

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