



McFarland Optimist Newsletter

February
March
2010

PO Box 102

McFarland, WI 53558



President's Message

It's cold out! Perhaps we will have ice for Super Skate this year (February 6th; let Pat Olson know if you can help, even if it's just for a little while). We also have Tri-Star Basketball coming up on February 20th, indoors and warmer! Check out the schedule of events, found elsewhere in the newsletter, for the list of all the projects coming up and your opportunities to pitch in where you can. (WIAA concessions stand participation anyone?)

There won't be another newsletter until April because Rick will be gone and I don't want to work that hard, so keep the schedule handy and watch for Leslie's timely and informative e-mails regarding the club activities. Actually, come to think of it, I will be gone for the better part of February into March also, as Janet is making me go to Florida again. She sure is demanding! She says there are some bonuses to getting older and semi-retired. Now, if that job just paid better....

We had some fascinating meetings and excellent speakers this month. I want to thank the membership for providing interesting, informative topics and speakers thus far. Keep up the good work. I know several of you cannot make the lunch meetings for various reasons (work is such a bother!); even still, some of you have secured speakers for our enjoyment and enlightenment. Tom Fischer would be proud of the club's recent money commitments for youth events. Even though I couldn't make the board meeting this month, Janet, with the help of the board, made sure we spent plenty!

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your kind words, thoughts, prayers and support given to Janet and me during the recent passing of my mother. The past couple of months have been very stressful as we watched her slip away. We are grateful that, though her tired heart was giving way, she did not suffer and was able to enjoy her family to the end. We will also be forever grateful to OSF Hospice and their kind attention and support for my mother and us. I cannot say enough about them and how they helped her and the whole family deal with the end of her very full life.

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---|
| Feb 02 | 7:00am | Meeting: Senior of the Month - Ali Burke. |
| Feb 06 | 12:00-3:00pm | Super Skate (w/ MEAN parents) @ Lewis Park. |
| Feb 09 | Noon | Meeting: Speaker Ingrid Thompson - Senior Outreach Dir. |
| Feb 16 | Noon | Meeting of the Board - Everyone welcome. |
| Feb 20 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Tri-star Basketball Skills @ Waubesa Intermediate School. |
| Feb 25 - 27 | | WIAA Boys Wrestling Concession @ Kohl Center. |
| Mar 01 | 12:00-1:30pm | Youth Appreciation Luncheon @ Edgewater Hotel. |
| Mar 02 | 7:00am | Meeting: Senior of the Month - Taylor Kohlman. |
| Mar 16 | Noon | Meeting of the Board - Everyone welcome. |
| Mar 18 - 20 | | WIAA Boys Basketball Concession @ Kohl Center. |
| Mar 25 - 27 | | WIAA Girls Basketball Concession @ Kohl Center. |
| Mar 30 | Evening | 5th Tuesday Social - Progressive Dinner. |
| Apr 03 | Morning | Easter Egg Scramble @ the High School Football Field. |

Meeting Sponsors

Meetings Held
at the Green Lantern
B = 7 a.m. & L = Noon

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| 02/02 | B | Senior of the Month |
| 02/09 | L | Tom & Sue Fischer |
| 02/16 | L | Board Meeting |
| 02/23 | L | Open |
| 03/02 | B | Senior of the Month |
| 03/09 | L | Sandy Bakk |
| 03/16 | L | Board Meeting |
| 03/23 | L | Steve Newcomer |
| 03/30 | | Progressive Dinner |
| 04/06 | B | Senior of the Month |
| 04/13 | L | Sean Carney |
| 04/20 | L | Board Meeting |
| 04/27 | L | Roger Zoch |

Senior of the Month

Grant Gilbertson, son of Jay and Cindy Gilbertson, was the Optimist Senior of the Month for January, 2010.

Grant was nominated by Bruce Fischer. Grant has exhibited outstanding leadership as manager of the cross country team. Not only does he perform his duties efficiently, but his positive attitude lifts the spirits of individual team members. He willingly gives much of his time to assisting others to achieve their goals. In World Geography, Grant he did a great job on a class project to explore ways to help make McFarland more "green", including putting solar panels on the school. As part of this project, he made an outstanding presentation to the McFarland Village Board of his findings.



Optimist Tom Mooney & Grant Gilbertson

In summary, Grant is an excellent role model for other students. Grant plans to attend either the University of Minnesota or the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His interests are in the areas of pre-law and pre-med.

Congratulations Grant!

McFarland Food Pantry Receives Donations



Optimist VP Janet Garman
presenting checks to Deb DeNure

Deb DeNure, Secretary of the McFarland Food Pantry, was the guest at the January 12, 2010 Optimist Club of McFarland meeting. The Optimist Club presented her with checks totaling \$515.00. The Optimist Club's Holiday Challenge collected \$340.00 from local businesses & individuals and the Santa Hotline collected \$175.00.

Deb was very appreciative of the community's support of the food pantry, which has experienced a great demand in the past year. Approximately 1790 households (4682 individuals) were served during 2009, which is a 50% increase over 2008. There are 178 registered households regularly using the pantry, which represents about 8 to 10% of McFarland's population.

The pantry purchases food, which is doesn't receive from donations, through Second Harvest of Wisconsin, where a \$1 donation is able to purchase 7 meals of food. The donations she received through our campaigns would be able to purchase 3700 meals! Cash is also used to purchase non-food items such as paper products and detergent, for which there also is a great demand.

The Optimist Club of McFarland wishes to express our sincere thanks to all individuals and businesses who generously donated to the McFarland Food Pantry through our Holiday Challenge and Santa Hotline events.

SWIS Newsletter



Several local clubs, including ours, were featured in the SWIS Optimist Winter Edition newsletter. To see what other clubs are doing go to: http://www.swisdistrict.org/newsletters/pdfs/SWIS_2009-10_Q2_Winter_NL.pdf.

Youth Appreciation Luncheon

The Youth Appreciation Luncheon, where we honor two outstanding students, will be held at the Edgewater Hotel on Monday, March 1st, from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. This is a multi-Optimist Club meeting where each club sponsors their students. Any McFarland Optimist member who plans to attend this luncheon, **please RSVP Leslie Grenzow**, at grenzow3@msn.com, in order for her to give the downtown club a headcount.

Choose the Gift of HospiceCare

Jennifer Tiedemann, Community Outreach Coordinator for HospiceCare, spoke at our January 26th meeting. Her primary goal is to provide accurate information about HospiceCare to the community.

Any person, who is terminally ill and with a life expectancy of 6 months or less, is eligible for hospice services. Hospice services have a treatment goal of comfort rather than cure, but 20 percent of patients actually graduated from (left) Hospice in 2008 due to increased vitality.

Worried about leaving your home? 90% of hospice patients receive their care in their own homes. Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance cover the cost of HospiceCare services. Patients never see a bill. The staff provides care and support to the patient and the family, removing the burden of decision making.

Jennifer left us with this message: It is never too early to call for HospiceCare services -- don't wait until the last few days to call for support! You can reach HospiceCare at:

HospiceCare Inc.
5395 E. Cheryl Parkway
Madison, WI 53711
Phone: (608) 276-4660
<http://www.hospicecareinc.com/>



Jennifer Tiedemann with President Garman



Thanks for your help!

President **Gary Garman** presents \$350 checks to **Mike Smits**, of the Basketball Boosters and to **Tana Laudolff**, of the McFarland Youth Center. The checks are in appreciation of their organizations' volunteers who help staff our fundraising events. The Youth Center helped staff the Bingo Tent at the Family Festival and the Basketball Boosters helped staff the concession stand at the WIAA football tournament. Thank you very much!



Optimist Board Actions

The Board, at its January 20th meeting, approved the following expenditures:

- Donate \$350.00 to the **McFarland Youth Center** out of the funds raised from the McFarland Family Festival Bingo games.
- Donate \$500.00 to the **Optimist International Foundation** out of funds raised from the Football Craze raffle ticket sales.
- Donate \$350.00 to the **Girls Basketball Boosters** out of funds raised from the WIAA Football Tournament for their help running the concession stand.
- Donate \$200.00 to the **Curling Club** to offset costs to send 3 local kids to the National Tournament in Minneapolis.
- Donate \$850 to the **Police Explorers** to cover the costs to send one explorer to the Explorer Nationals in Atlanta.



Happy Birthday to Optimist Paula Anderson

We wish you good health & many more birthdays!

(And many more years on the Optimist Board - LOL!)

Optilotto Jackpot

Optimist **Janet Garman** won the Optilotto Jackpot on January 5, 2010. The jackpot was worth \$77; half for Janet and half for the Optimist Foundation. Congratulations Janet!

Jackie Bacon and **Ken Anderson's** names were drawn at the January 12th & 26th meetings. Unfortunately, for them, they were absent from the meetings.

It pays to attend meetings!



Officers & Board

2009-2010

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| President: | Gary Garman |
| President-elect: | Tom Fischer |
| Vice President: | Janet Garman |
| Treasurer: | Leslie Grenzow |
| Secretary: | Pat Olson |
| Past President: | Scott Brown |
| Board Members: | JoAnn Hoffman |
| | Bob Schneider |
| | Linda Nellen |
| | Sean Carney |
| | Paula Anderson |
| | Roger Zoch |

Editor's Note

This is a special bimonthly edition of the newsletter. The newsletter will be published monthly resuming with the April edition.

Items for the Newsletter?

Email items/pictures by the last Tuesday of the month to Rick Hoffman at:
jehoffma@wisc.edu