



THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF UPTOWN GREAT FALLS
P.O. Box 462 / Great Falls, Montana 59403

the **OPTIMIST** AMS & NW DISTRICT



<http://www.uptownoptimistclub.com/default.asp>

Join the Uptown Facebook page

MEETING DATE/LOCATION: January 21 at the Pit Stop at 6:30 pm

CONDUCTED BY: President Eric Christian

PRAYER & PLEDGE: Pres. Eric

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sara Robbin

SECRET GREETER: Rachel Huotari

SECRET GREETER REPORT: all shook

GUESTS: Sara Branom Mindy Grassman (James & Jana Rehm)

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 7

NEW MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 3

District Board Meeting: Roger Lesofski reminds old members as well as new to attend. Lots of education and fun!!!! Early registration is \$95, need to know by January 28. To attend just the dinner, \$35, need to know by January 28. Need a couple of volunteers for Friday night for decorating for the Hawaiian theme. Jana Rehm reminds everyone that they need to be well lei'd. Maitais will be aflowin'.

Roger Lesofski reports that all the clubs in the Zone are up in the member count. Black Falds has brought in more members than Uptown. Gov. Edie will be sure to remind us that her little town (pop. 5000) has brought in more members/FOOs than Uptown. The District is continuing to grow with members. The energy is rising!!

Sara Robbin reminded members that there is a Spouse's program on Saturday. Companion cost is \$75, includes banquets and Friday Night events.

Reimbursement form on the website, then give to Jodi Merry.

Uptown Foundation - a position will be coming available for those interested

MEETING NOTES: "IF EVERYONE DOES A LITTLE, A LOT GETS DONE"

P.R./MEMBERSHIP: Pres. Eric would like to see everyone bring in at least one member before the District Board meeting in February. If you need help, get with Eric or any senior member, they will help you. Dues for new members right now are \$67.50 for the rest of the year. Pres. Eric is doing bios on Facebook for FOO's and other members. He has gotten several hits already. Keep working on new members.

Bob Pancich and Denny Hanenburg wrote a letter that was in the Great Falls Tribune. Ev Hall reported that it is very well written and a great thing for the community to see.

Shane Neuman and Ike Kaufman are working on Uptown's 60th Birthday on April 2. Pictures are needed. Getting together next weekend to go thru photos

Jan Mader presented a thank you card from GFHS for help with the Giving Tree.

CASCADE OF TALENT: Shane Neuman - Rehearsals will be March 5, with one show on March 6 at 4 pm at GFHS. Jan Mader has posters available for tickets. Will need help with rehearsals and the show. Also chaperones for the dressing rooms and backstage.

STRIPPING: Bob Pancich reported, bids are coming in for next year already.

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT: Roger Lesofski reported that February 25 will be Steak Night. Heritage Inn. Look for emails from Lane Little for the Steak winners.

CCC FAMILIES: Ev Hall reported that Trayton Johns is still Cancer Free at 14 years old. Stacey Murray reported via Pres. Eric phone via Loralie Schroedel that Jordan Kleinhans and Erin England have had 6 month checks and they are both Cancer Free.

Trayson's liver enzymes are still high so they are delayed coming home but his blood cells are hanging in there so there haven't been any transfusions since August. They are looking into being back mid-February/March but they will need to go back to Denver every month for checkups. The CMR Rustlers and GFHS Bison have chosen Trayson to be the face of their campaign to spread awareness about a seemingly unknown and silent killer, Sickle Cell Disease. The student group formerly called HOSA, Health Occupation Students of America, is now referred to as Future Health Professionals. This group is made up of students who are interested in having a future in some aspect of the medical field. Here's how you can help spread the awareness...Tshirts are on sale now for only \$10, and they come with a SCD fact sheet! Tshirts can be ordered by mail. Send your tshirt order, sizes and questions to the following email: christi_virts@gfps.k12.mt.us The logo is a combination of the Rustlers and the Bison logos. The Bison-Rustler crosstown rivalry lives on, but the message here is quite clear..HERD OUT SICKLE CELL.. Coming together to support Trayson's battle through awareness. The crosstown boys' basketball game is on February 11, and it sounds like the place will packed in red and black to HERD OUT SICKLE CELL.

Kyler Streib's Seahawks lost :(

PGI/BIKES - Jeff Barnhart

WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL: Dallas Lopez announced 35th Annual on February 27 at the Heritage Inn. Will have more info closer to the date. Will need volunteers and sponsors for the auction. Volunteers will be needed for set up, for the doors, in the auction room and check out. Jessica Malek is co-chair. Will need items for auction.

PROGRAM: Benefis Foundation presented by Sara Branson. The Foundation helps several organizations throughout the community. One is the Angel Fund. Families are awarded \$750 towards travel to get the pediatric patient out to Seattle or down to Salt Lake or wherever. Angel Fund is usually helping kids that need to be out on a flight immediately. The Foundation also provides scholarships for students throughout the State for schooling

in any of the medical services. The Foundation also handles the Safety First Rally that helps provide helmets and other safety equipment for bike safety. Helmets are fitted per child. Pediatric head injury has decreased due to program. This has expanded to ski helmets for young skiers.

Sara also helps with the Gift of Life Housing. This housing give families a place that is safe and close to facilities for Cancer patients. Chemo patients are able to stay over night and have their treatments, instead of having to drive several miles out of town while not feeling well. There are two sets of units now, one by West Campus, a new one by East Campus. There are also RV hookups that allow pets. It is a free situation that helps families that are already in financial stress due to the illness. This is available due to great donors.

Drs. Sotioropoulos have helped start a program for reading. When a child is born, they are given a book at every 6 month well child exam that is age appropriate. It has been found to help promote talking and socialization of the children.

Hospice House was the first in Montana. This is a place for people at the end of life disease to have a homey place where nursing care is available. Being close to Benefis and Great Falls Clinic, patients are able to see their doctors when needed. The House has increased in size. All funds are from donations.

Camp Francis is magic. It is for children 10-13 that have had a family loss. This is a no charge camp with various mental health professionals to help the children learn to cope with the death. It has helped many children regain their childhood. There is also a retreat for older children.

The Foundation can also give money to the community thru various local organizations. Quality Life needed CPR dummies that receptive to pressure, Foundation provided the funds necessary. Neighborhood Works has had a need for wheelchair ramps, The Foundation was able to help with the funds. There are many others that have received assistance.

Uptown provided \$25000 for the Children's Corner of Sletten Cancer. Travis Harp's grandfather's passing is immortalized at Hospice with the stained glass Wheat window. (Travis' dad made the window). David and Sara Robbin were just at Hospice for David's mom's passing. David let us know that Respite Care is available. Ev Hall has seen the ski helmets up at Showdown on children's heads.

Benefisfoundation.org for donations. Or contact Sara for information for donations.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Bob Pancich and Brett Howell

OPTIMIST OF THE WEEK:

Next Week:

UPCOMING:

February 4 - Governor Edie will be at tonight's meeting. Goals without plans are just dreams

February 5-6 - 2nd Quarter District Board Meeting, register before January 28 to get discounted rate, Holiday Inn

February 13 - Chocolate Noir

February 25 - Steak Night, Heritage Inn

February 27 - Wine and Food Festival, Heritage Inn

March 5 - Tech rehearsal and dress rehearsal, GFHS

March 6 - Cascade of Talent, 4 pm, one show, GFHS

April 2 - 60th Uptown Birthday, get out of state member info to Shane Neuman

BIRTHDAY CLUB: Eric Schroedel 1/24 Anitra Hall 1/30 Dirk Larsen 1/31

Mary Gregory 02/03 Dottie Sullivan 2/9 Kali Jean Tuckerman 2/14

Arlene Wilson 2/18 George Campanella 2/27

SIDE POT: Scott Radford

Optimist gift:



Officers & Board Members:

PRESIDENT: Eric Christian/ **1ST VP:** Travis Harp / **2ND VP:** Lane Little

SECRETARY: Rachel Huotari / **TREASURER:** Jodi Merry

BOARD MEMBERS: Eric Christian, Travis Harp, Lane Little, John Huotari, Rachel Huotari, Jodi Merry, Stacey Murray, Ike Kaufman, Greg Franczyk, Ev Hall, Denny Hanenburg and Dallas Lopez

Board Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Great Falls Transition Center 6:00 PM

Octagon Club meets Tuesday night at 6 pm at the 1st United Methodist. Teenagers and Uptown are all welcome

All newsletter info approved by President Eric Christian