



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

the
UPTIMIST
AMS & NW DISTRICT



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

MEETING DATE/LOCATION: February 19 at the Pit Stop at 6:30 pm

CONDUCTED BY: President John Huotari

PRAYER & PLEDGE: Ev Hall

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Matt Ott

SECRET GREETER: Bob Pancich

SECRET GREETER REPORT: **Doug Kirby**

President's Toast: FOO Lucero & George PC (Roger Lesofski)

GUESTS: Scott Becka Rutledge Abigal Lichliter Natalie Hofstad Hayden (Matt Ott) Mark Macy

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 8

NEW MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 1

MEETING NOTES:

DUES NEED TO BE IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND MAIL. THANK YOU

Girl Scout cookies are available. See Jennifer or Becka Rutledge.

Soft Ball Reunion was well attended. John Gregory reported that all the members had great memories from those times.

Hank Seeman had an ankle fusion surgery last Thursday. Keep him in your thots and prayers

Octagon Club is doing a food drive at both IGA's. Jennifer Rutledge can also accept donations at the Uptown meetings for convenience

Bob Pancich reminds us that we now have our 501c3 for donations. Great place for "in lieu of flowers" and to make donations before the tax year ends

Great Falls Hockey passes are available. Contact President John

SKI TRIP: March 7, Saturday, Showdown, let Matt or Jodi Merry know if you're going in able to get a group discount (need 15 people without season passes). Deadline is March 5. All monies will be collected at that time. Jodi and Matt will have tickets ready on the day of to hand out. Jodi email jodimerry@benefis.org or 599-1689

WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL: Dallas Lopez announced that it will be on February 28, Saturday at 6 pm. There will be one shift in the afternoon for set up and another shift that evening for running the silent auction and providing security. \$60 before the event, \$65 the day of. Be working on donations - baskets, single items, etc. Call Dallas at 868-1250 or Dallas.a.lopez@outlook.com. **Need things for the auction ASAP, leave at Boys and Girls Club for Sonja or call Dallas for pick up**

P.R.: John Gregory is working with Stacey Murray on thank you's for the cleansing of Kyler Strieb house. John is also working on publicizing the 501c3 status

CASCADE OF TALENT: The venue has been changed to GFHS for the show March 1, starting at 2pm (if you are selling tickets, be there at noon). **The junior high tech rehearsal is February 26 at 4:30pm. The high school tech rehearsal is February 27 at 4:30pm. The dress rehearsal will be February 28, 8-noonish for the junior high - 3:30 for the high school. February 28 at 9am also need to have a crew to help unload equipment at GFHS (upper field house parking lot, door M-5)** There is a huge cost savings attached with this. Besides that the Club will have a much more active role in the event, many volunteers will be needed. One ticket will get the audience in for both shows. Tickets will be sold at Kaufman's and the Credit Union. **If you want to sell tickets, let Paulette or Jan Mader know.** Jan also has lots of posters available for advertising.

CCC FAMILIES: Stacey reported that Jordan is back from Seattle, still cancer free. Will need to go back for a 4 month check up. Had lunch with him and his family. Had a nice time Kyler's fundraiser thru CMR and GFHS went well. Tshirts sales are over \$6000

PGI - Jeff Barnhardt had Doug Magers give his talk on how Optimism can change the world. Nice job, Doug! You are now Level one PGI

PROGRAM: Abigail Lichliter (alichliter@mt.gov 268-7462) and Natalie Hofstad spoke about MT No Kid Hungry. 1 in 5 kids in Cascade County are food insecure. Hunger can start in the womb. School age children see the effect in school work, testing and behavior due to the stress they are under. Americorps and Youth Council have a project to have kids help kids in the school system. April 13-19 is Fight Childhood Hunger week. Last year's drive netted 5000lb of food and \$8000. Some of the events for this year, include a documentary fill on April 10, Wear Orange on April 15 and food can drives at local

businesses. On March 28, a Fresh Food Forum will be held to teach people about growing their own food.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Bob Pancich

OPTIMIST OF THE WEEK: John Gregory was born March 19, 1949. Went to grade school in a one room schoolhouse in Minnesota. He met Mary as a freshman at high school, sitting across the aisle from each other. They'll be married 44 years on June 5. A big year in 1971, he graduated from St John's University and married Mary. He joined Crawford & Co. and worked there for the next 30 years. In 1980, he was offered a mangership for the company in Montana. He and Mary moved here knowing no one. He got involved with High Noon Optimists, made friends and has been President of Uptown. Two daughters - Andrea, 39 in Eagan MN with 2 granddaughters, 10 and 8 - Jacqueline, 36, Missoula, two grandsons, 6 and 3

Upcoming - Joann Gogo

Upcoming - Pat Goodover

UPCOMING:

February 20-21 - 2nd Quarter District Board Meeting, Medicine Hat. All participants, contact Eric Christian beforehand. Friday night is a Sock Hop. Saturday will have another dance after the awards. February 6 is deadline for early registration

Thursday - Saturday, February 26-28 - Cascade of Talent Rehearsals

Saturday, February 28 - Help unload equipment for the Cascade of Talent

Saturday, February 28 - Wine and Food Festival, 6 pm

Sunday, March 1 - Cascade of Talent show

March 6 - State JAAM Competition by the Cascade FFA. Judges are needed and will meet at 3 pm at the Cascade School. Contact Eric Tilleman 799-3969 or Jo Ann Eisenzimer 468-2338

March 7 - Ski Trip, Showdown

March 14 - Charter party for the Octagon Club at the Holiday Inn at 5 pm. \$15 per person for dinner. Club will cover Octagon members and their parents

March 28 - Presidential Roast for Butch Ingebrigtsen

April 9 - Club Oratorical Contest, Holiday Inn

May 15-16 - 3^d Quarter District Convention, Great Falls. Octagon Club will run the Children's activities. Liz Drahos will run the Companion activities. Western theme. Jody Merry is Committee Chair

BIRTHDAY CLUB: *Eric Christian 3/12*

SIDE POT: *Mary Gregory*

Optimist gift: Herb Waltermire



Officers & Board Members:

PRESIDENT: John Huotari/ 1ST VP: Eric Christian / 2ND VP: Travis Harp

SECRETARY: Rachel Huotari / TREASURER: Herb Waltermire

BOARD MEMBERS: Sue Bridgeford, Herb Waltermire, Eric Christian, Travis Harp, John Huotari, Rachel Huotari, Stacey Murray, Shane Neuman, Loralie Schroedel, Ike Kaufman, Matt Ott and Denny Hanenburg

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

FOO Members: Bargas Brigade Randy Bogden James Carpenter Stephen Hagan
Montana Federal Credit Union Smoot Honey Co., Inc State Farm Insurance
Stewart Title True Brew Espresso Eugene Tynes, DDSPC
Sommerfeld & Sons Land & Livestock Advanced Agency Alliance

Loralie – mail newsletters to Hank Seeman, Gary Wallace and Mike Peet

*****We all have burdens we bear. Some of those are by choice even though we may deny having willingly acquired them. For example I recently asked a middle school student if she was exhausted by the end of the day. She asked, "Why?" To which I supplied, "Carrying that attitude must wear you out." Fortunately, she accepted my flippant remark and we moved on to fruitful discussion. We often are like her. We take on burdens and stresses that diminish our ability to see the better parts of our lives. It was Martin Luther King Jr. who said, "*I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.*" He could have added other negative emotions as well. My challenge is to be vigilant as I choose what emotions and outlooks I will possess. We have burdens that we cannot avoid but we need not accept those where we have choices.

Ev Hall ☺

Csabasthoughts.blogspot.com