



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

the OPTIMIST

AMS & NW DISTRICT



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

MEETING DATE/LOCATION: January 14 at the Pit Stop at 6:30 pm

CONDUCTED BY: President Eric Christian

PRAYER & PLEDGE: John Gregory

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Rachel Huotari

SECRET GREETER: Matt Merry

SECRET GREETER REPORT: **Denny Hanenburg, Greg Franczyk, Bob Pancich & Pat Goodover**

GUESTS: Ben (John Huotari) Sharon Odin & Peggy Decelles (program) Tyler (Dallas Lopez)

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 8

NEW MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 2

District Board Meeting: John Gregory spoke on attendance. Mary Gregory and Sara Robbin will be doing the companions meeting. They will make bracelets, have a presentation on the underground railroad, lunch, shopping and the Country Club for a little libation.

Brett Howell supports Governor Edie and how much fun she is going to have for all. There will be a gift bag for attendance full of little things. Brett needs donations, 100 of any such item is required. Our Club reimburses for registration, have to pay by 5 pm 1/15.

Jeff Barnhart on attendance and the PGI program to inspire further growth of each individual.

President Eric reminds us that Gov. Edie will be here for the Thursday meeting before the Board Meeting. Let's show her our support.

President Eric presented Rachel Huotari and Jody Merry with thank you's for all the work they have been doing to prepare for the Board meeting and everything else.

Lt. Governor John Gregory installed John Gregory Tilton as a new member.

President Eric presented Dave Robbin, Jessica & Steve Malek with Uptown pins

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 needs all dues by 1/20/16. If not paid by then, you will be dropped from the membership. 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.

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

CASCADE OF TALENT: Shane Neuman - Rehearsals will be March 5, with one show on March 6 at 4 pm at GFHS. Will need lots of help to keep the kids flowing smoothly. As for the auditions, 67 out of 68 acts showed up. A lot of dance troupes.

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

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT:

CCC FAMILIES: Stacey Murray reported via Loralie Schroedel...Jordan had a great appointment, no new cell growth, although he has grown, now 5'8"!!! All labs were within normal limits for his age.....Austyn turned 4 yesterday, Stacey showed me pictures on Facebook, she is super cute and grown so big!!!

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: Family Promise with Sharon Odin and Peggy Decelles. Started in New Jersey with a humble beginning of a woman giving a homeless woman a sandwich, many churches have joined to create Family Promise. There are almost 300 homeless children in Great Falls alone. Family Promise offers assistance in meals, health care, support, help with school work. 11 congregations in Great Falls take turns taking a week to make 4 family bedrooms for homeless families. Including lunches and a warm place to stay. Families are vetted for background checks to avoid potential criminal activities. Volunteers stay overnight with the families, preparing meals and communing with the families. During the day, the families can go to the Hub to get information and support to get help them get past their rough patch. The families are assisted in getting a rental place, training, getting a job for more permanent situation. They are worked with after they are placed to learn to make goals to stay on track and be stable and maintain a healthy situation. They are helped with setting a budget with money management. The goal of Family Promise is to foster independence not to enable. Family Promise is in need of funds for the Aftercare portion of the program.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Bob Pancich

OPTIMIST OF THE WEEK: Greg Franczyk born on southside of Chicago. Moved to Montana 25 years ago, after college. Spent some time in Big Sky. Drove truck for about 10 years, freight and car hauling, lived in Red Lodge. Met a girl, Kay, married. Decided to get more involved with financial planning with Thrivent. Started with State Farm after a while. Had options on where to live in Montana, moved to Great Falls. Kay was raised in Power, got them closer to family. Joined Uptown about 4 years ago thru Shane Neuman and Jesse O'Hara. Loves coming to the meetings and what Uptown and Optimism stands for.

Next Week:

UPCOMING:

January 21 - Sara Branson - Benefis Foundation

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 15 to get discounted rate, Holiday Inn

February 13 - Chocolate Noir

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: Lee Scott 1/14 Kayla Thomas 1/17 James Rehm 1/19
Eric Schroedel 1/24 Anitra Hall 1/30 Dirk Larsen 1/31

SIDE POT: Matt Merry

Optimist gift: Mary Gregory



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