



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: February 4 at the Pit Stop at 6:30 pm

CONDUCTED BY: President Eric Christian

PRAYER & PLEDGE: Jana Rehm

SERGEANT AT ARMS: James Rehm & Stephanie Schnider

SECRET GREETER: Stephanie Schnider

SECRET GREETER REPORT: **Buck Beaudry, Bill Quast, Rob Durazo, Alex Christian and Erick Christian**

GUESTS: Laurie Kessnr/Kathy Goodman/Andrea Meyer - speakers Craig Barnhart (Jeff Barnhart) Emily Durazo (Rob Durazo) Shelby Koenig (Downtown Optimists) Gov. Edie Harris, Heather Osborne, Edna Coulter, Theresa Franco & Kevin Harris (Black Falls)

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 9

NEW MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 6

John Gregory was with John Koslosky this past weekend. Jim Cummings, an instrumental Stripper, is losing his battle with Parkinson's. Hospice is involved at this time. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. Will be a great loss for the Club. He was a great man.

District Board Meeting:

Decorating will start at noon on Friday at the Holiday Inn.

Sara Robbin reminded members that their is a Spouse's program on Saturday.

Companion cost is \$75, includes banquets and Friday Night events.

Loads of fun will be had starting on Friday night, the start of the District Meeting.

Past President John Huotari will be receiving his Honor Club award on Saturday night.

Registration is from 4-8pm on Friday. Social Night, Hawaiian theme at 7 pm on Friday. 8:30 am Saturday for the start of the day.

John Gregory stated that we have several members attending. Will be lots of fun. Be sure to play Bingo against Mary Gregory. Educational opportunities abound.

Governor Edie Harris spoke on great a meeting we have tonight. 54 members attended. Biggest meeting she has ever attended. Edie is here at our meeting because Pres. Eric had promised that the Club would bring in 15 members by the end of October 2015. Edie reported that the Club is now +10, with drops and new members. Pres. Eric has brought in 17 members himself. District 13 is #1 in all of Optimist International in membership. She reminds us that family, work, optimists, in that order. However, it is fabulous that families are joining. Keeps everything in a great priority. Thank you all for

such a great job!!!

Reimbursement form on the website, then give to Jodi Merry. FYI no form required for the District Meeting reimbursement.

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: 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.

\$67.50 for new members, it's 3rd quarter

Pres. Eric is posting on Facebook a FOO report every week. Watch for these very interesting postings. This week was the Holiday Inn.

Optimist Oratorical, reported by Ev Hall, is going quite well. Travis Harp has joined Ev in mentoring the 25 students with their presentations. Plans to get the Deaf and Blind school involved. Ev has been doing the oratorical for 38 years.

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. Jan Mader has tickets for the show. Bring non perishable foods for the food banks on the day of the show. More info coming.

STRIPING: Bob Pancich reported that the weather is warm. Calls are coming in. Get the correct contact, the decision maker, when you are referring lots. What condition is the lot in - clean, broken, dirty, covered in things. We need to get the bids out quickly to be ahead of the game. All of last years lot money is in. Bob Pancich 453-2472 for contact information. Looking at May for a start?? Fairgrounds are being looked at for bidding next week.

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT: Roger Lesofski reported that February 25 will be Steak Night. Heritage Inn at 6 pm. Look for emails from Lane Little for the Steak winners. Denny Hanenburg has had a meeting with leaders for next year, little bit of fine tuning.

CCC FAMILIES: Stacey Murray reported what CCC is about - helping families that have a child with illness with payment of anything and everything but medical bills. Calvin Diekhans is in the maintenance stage of his care. He is home and doing great!! Austyn is 3 years old now, she is Cancer Free!!! Jordan Kleinhans is in 8th grade, a Denver Broncos fan and has survived a brain tumor. His development is right on target and is down to yearly check ups. Kyler Strieb has had 2 relapses, however is now Cancer Free!!! Mykala Denton is 19 and off to college after surviving a brain tumor. Rowen is doing great!!! Wyatt and his family moved to Seattle for treatments. Doing Great, Cancer Free!!!

PGI/BIKES - Jeff Barnhart reported that he has lots of bikes available. Bikes are vetted thru My Neighbor in Need and another reputable non-profit.

Jeff signed up 3 people last week to PGI. Plans to sign up more this weekend. Presentation will be on communication.

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: Laurie Kessner, Kathy Goodman and Andrea Meyer spoke on FCS-GFHS. In a small office in the high school, these ladies help teach children learn home economics and career skills that will move them into the 21st century. Several programs include culinary arts - meal prep, reading recipes, time management, catering... fashion design and construction - sewing, design, production, sales management... child development - budgeting, childcare, household management, education for children ... interior design - works with High School House to design the homes to work with the families that will be living in them... The classes help the students put together all these educational skills - as well as math, science and english - into cohesive, manageable, marketable skills for future employment and success.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Bob Pancich

OPTIMIST OF THE WEEK: Erick Christian, married to Alex, joined the Club a few months ago. Works for IT at the Base and works part time for the School district and is attending college thru Park University. Together they have a 2 year old and another one on the way.

Next Week:

UPCOMING:

February 5-6 - 2nd Quarter District Board Meeting, Holiday Inn

February 13 - Chocolat Noir, 2 tables are available

February 25 - Steak Night, Heritage Inn, 6 pm. There is Red Snapper for non-steak dinners, \$22. Will start a list next meeting for the dinner. Chicken will be available for non-fish eaters, price to be determined

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: Dottie Sullivan 2/9 Kali Jean Tuckerman 2/14
Arlene Wilson 2/18 George Campanella 2/27

SIDE POT: Jana Rehm

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