

Join Us!

To effectively serve our youth and community, we must have able, dedicated members. We seek men and women with positive energy and a passion for helping others.

Optimist Club members receive as much as they give. The fellowship of people who get things done and move our community forward can be a rewarding experience. And chances are you will develop new, lifelong friendships!

We invite you to attend one of our meetings to see what we're all about! To attend a meeting or to join our Club, contact us:

Laurel Schirmer, President
(920) 946-7246
schirmer.laurel@att.net or email
OptimistClubofSheboygan@gmail.com

Dues

One-time Application Fee	\$30
Quarterly Dues	\$33.50
Optimist Int'l Foundation donation (voluntary)	\$3
Meals (as consumed)	\$11 each

Membership Meetings

The Sheboygan Optimists meet for lunch on the 2nd Wednesday at the Sheboygan Yacht Club from 12:00-1:15 pm. and in the evening during the 4th week of each month (location to be determined). Meetings often include a guest speaker from the community.

www.sheboyganoptimists.com

11/6/19

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

- *To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.*
- *To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.*
- *To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.*
- *To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.*
- *To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.*
- *To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.*
- *To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.*
- *To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.*
- *To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.*
- *To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*



Bringing Out the Best in Youth, Our Communities and Ourselves!



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Club of
Sheboygan Inc.

The Sheboygan Optimist Club is made up of caring men and women interested in serving their community. The Club is dedicated to *Bringing Out the Best in Youth, Our Communities and Ourselves!*

We are members of Optimist International, the organization that supports Optimist Clubs throughout the world. Our mission is to:

- *Develop Optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;*
- *Promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;*
- *Inspire respect for the law;*
- *Promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;*
- *Aid and encourage the development of youth in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of human kind, community life and the world.*

OUR MISSION

The Sheboygan Optimist Club was chartered on February 29, 1924. Our objectives are to:

- *Serve the youth of Sheboygan through a variety of academic and charitable activities;*
- *Promote fellowship, expand our knowledge, and build relationships in our community.*

COMMUNITY & YOUTH PROJECTS

The primary purpose of the Sheboygan Optimist Club is to participate in community service initiatives that serve Sheboygan's youth. We continually seek new opportunities to get involved and make a difference!

Back to School Basics

B2SB is our signature service project, where we distribute school supplies to kids in need. Over \$13,000 is raised to provide supplies to approximately 1,200 K-12 students each year. Over 50 volunteers are needed to run the event which is held at Longfellow School on a Saturday in August.

Mead Public Library Partnership

The Sheboygan Optimists believe that youth literacy is vital in order for our kids to grow and lead successful lives. That's why we partner with Mead Public Library as the sponsor of the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten AND the 500 Books Before Middle School programs. We also read stories and do craft activities at Family Story Time each month. The club also provides (and hides!) over 600 candy and toy-filled eggs for the Children's Room Easter Egg Hunt!!

Optimist Park

Optimist Park, located on Carmen Avenue on Sheboygan's south side, was created in 1985. Sheboygan's Noon and Evening Optimist Clubs played a major role in funding its development. Since then we continue to fund

improvements and also clean up and rejuvenate the grounds each summer.

Longfellow School Partnership

Cards are written monthly to those students recognized by teachers for positive behaviors. We hope this small recognition from someone outside of the kids' school community will have a long-lasting effect!

We're also 'Santa's elves' at Longfellow's holiday party! Members provide and distribute small gifts, do crafts and play games with students. The Club also provides gifts for students to 'purchase' for their family members in the school's Santa shop.



Youth Scholarship Contests

Optimist International and the Optimist International Foundation sponsor several scholarship contests for kids:

- Essay
- Oratorical
- Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Guidelines and themes are determined by Optimist International. Contests are open to students in a specific age bracket. Winners advance through club, zone and district competitions. Scholarships are available at the district level. World Oratorical contestants compete regionally, then internationally and can win as much as \$22,500 in college scholarships!! Our club will support students interested in competing. More information is available at www.Optimist.org.

FUNDRAISING

Our ability to help children is dependent on our ability to raise money through various fundraising activities. New and innovative ways to raise funds are always welcomed!

- *John McGivern Comedy Night at the Stefanie Weill Center*
- *Brat fry at Miesfeld's Market*
- *Direct mail campaigns for our Back to School Basics school supply giveaway*

LEADERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE EVENTS

Optimist membership offers several opportunities for leadership development. Fellowship is what we give back to each other for all our hard work. (You can't be an Optimist without having a little fun!) Service to others is part of our mission. Often, these events provide all three benefits!

- *Noon & evening meetings twice a month with guest speakers*
- *Sheboygan A's game & tailgate party*
- *Optimist Park picnic*
- *Salvation Army Bell Ringing*
- *Zone meetings & District conferences*
- *International convention held annually in cities throughout North America*

It should be noted that we currently do not require a specific amount of work hours to be a member of the club. We ask that all members commit time to the club (attending meetings and working on projects that interest them) as work and family schedules allow.