

Calendar of Events
Feb. 3 - Groundhog Day Chess Tournament, at Nelson Co. Library, 1pm
Feb. 12 - Board Meeting, Evening Meeting. The 2018 winners of the Frank Schultz Service to Youth will be recognized.
Feb. 26 - Noon Meeting. Guest speaker: Kim Houston, director of Nelson County Economic Development.
March 12 - Essay finalists
March 26 - Kim Lacy
April 9 - Oratorical finalists
April 23 - Leigh Anne Florence and Woody

Start of new year is busy for our club

Greeting from "Not so warm Sunny Florida!" We have enjoyed our stay here even though it has been one of the coldest winters in recent years - still about 30 degrees warmer than there in Bardstown. We have been attending meetings of the Coastal Optimist Club in Panacea, just 6 miles down the road. They are working on many of the same youth projects as our club - Essay and Oratorical Contest. I will tell the club more about the activities of this club when we get back.

Thanks to all the club members that have helped with our January projects. Rita with the Essay contest. Wow! 53 Essays! Way to go, Rita! The First and Second Place winners were from Bethlehem and Third Place winner was from ST. Joseph. Stephanie and Coach

Roe with the Chess Tournament (picture and info. on next page), Richard and Coach Roe with the Tri-star Basketball. Wow! What a full few weeks January into February has been.

Looking ahead to the rest of February - The Schultz Award coming up this coming Monday; District Meeting in Southgate, Ky. Dates are Feb. 16-18, with District Tri-Star on Saturday.

Have a festive week with Madri Gra ending on Fat Tuesday (eat lots of goodies!) and then Valentine's Day on Wednesday (do something nice for your sweetie).

Keep up the great work, Bardstown Optimist Club! Together We Can Do Anything!

In Optimism, President Becky

#OptimistDay - Feb. 1, 2018



Club member Richard Blair poses with his principal Daryl Farmer (left) and his Assi. Principal Paula Boggs publicizing Optimist Day by posting photos of Optimists wearing their Optimist shirts and posting the photos on social media.



Members Ken and Becky Distler pose in front of the club banner of the Coastal Optimist Club of Wakulla, Florida, with club president Joanne Fuller.

Our club in action...



Isaac Crume, one of our two college members, is inducted by Vice President Mike Carney at the Jan. 8 meeting.



The winners of the Optimist Groundhog Day Chess Tournament pose for photos. From left to right are: Juan Quintana (2nd HS), Alyssa Eldridge (2nd Elem), Lexi Coulter 1st HS), Aiden Ballard (1st Elem), Ethan Ballard (3rd MS), Levi Conway (3rd HS), Seth Conway (4th MS), William Surtees (1st MS), Jonah Martin 5th MS), and Gabe Nowaskie (2nd MS). Adult winners (not pictured) are Geoffrey Surtees (1st place), Alan Kwong (2nd), and Joey Blumenberg (3rd).



Laura Sedlatschek, director of Tri-County United Way, was our guest speaker at the Jan. 8 meeting.



Tom Brown, interim superintendent of Nelson County Schools, was the guest speaker at our Jan. 22 meeting.



The boy winners of our Tri-Star Basketball Competition were R.J. Farrell, Jack Farrell, and Emanuel Cheek. They will be joining the girl winners - La'Mya Tonge, Shelbie Gaffney, Kinsey Riley, and Kendal Crawford - on Feb. 17 in Newport, Ky.

Minutes in a Minute

(NOTE: This condensed version of the minutes from the recent Board Meeting is presented for the information of our members. The minutes are not official until approved at the subsequent Board Meeting.

1. The Salvation Army Bell-ringing challenge was very successful. Rotary was the winner by about \$100.
2. Tri-Star Boys Basketball: January 20 at Rec Center at 4:00 PM. Jon, Harold and Mike volunteered to assist.
3. Schultz Award: February 12 at 7:00 PM. Received 1 nomination.
4. Chess tournament: February 3, 1:00 PM at the Nelson Co. Public Library
5. Essay contest: Rita reported that she had received 45 entries from St. Joe
6. New directors: the club will need 3 new Directors for April 1, and a President-Elect for 2019
7. Model Club Lunch: August 2019
8. Project Grad Requests: Received a request from Bardstown high School for a donation to Project Grad. The budgeted amount is \$600. With 4 area high schools, a motion was made by Harold Brussell and seconded by Ronda Taylor to donate \$150 to BHS. Motion carried unanimously, with coach Roe abstaining due to conflict of interest as he works at BHS.