

Prior Lake Optimist Club

“Promise Yourself - To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.” This is the first of ten lines of the Optimist Creed of Optimist International. What is Optimist International? It is a world-wide organization consisting of over 3,400 clubs comprised of over 107,000 members with this vision: “... to be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.”

The Prior Lake (PL) Optimist Club began 32 years ago in 1978. The Club has approximately 60 members comprised of men and women of various ages, careers and backgrounds with one thing in common: a desire to make this a better community for our kids. The PL Optimist Club meets at Fong’s twice a month, September through June, on Wednesday’s at noon. We enjoy lunch and a program each meeting. Upcoming programs include a Youth Appreciation luncheon on Nov. 10 (at St. Michael’s) and Healing Ways with Youth on Nov. 24. There are many special events throughout the year as well. The Club hosts an Oratorical contest and an Essay contest for kids. There are social events too such as the Moonlight Golf (Bingo anyone?) and our fun Mardi Gras recruiting event.

Funds for the Prior Lake Optimist are earned through charitable gambling at Extra Innings, The Cove and O’Malley’s, and some donations. Last year PL Optimists disbursed \$43,875 in grants and scholarships. Recipients include Love Without Boundaries, Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women, several Booster Clubs at the High School, Boy Scout troops, and District 719 Grade 5 ELC to name a few. There are also opportunities to volunteer, such as Feed My Starving Children outings and the EXCEL program for seniors at PLHS.

With the motto “Bringing out the Best in our Kids”, members of the Optimist Club strive to maintain an upbeat attitude and empower young people to be the best that they can be. Being an Optimist is an opportunity to volunteer in our community and really make a difference in someone’s life.

For more information on Optimist International visit their website at <http://optimist.org>.

For information on Prior Lake Optimist visit our website at <http://priorlakeoptimistclub.com/> or contact the President, Mary Nagarajan at marynagarajan@gmail.com . We encourage you to join or attend a meeting to see what we are about. Each month in this slot we will share a bit more of what we do and what we have planned for the year.

Optimists – Bringing out the Best in Kids!