



September 27, 2016

Welcome to the Lapeer Optimist Club!

Please read over this document so that you will have an overview of what the Lapeer Optimist Club does throughout the year and what is expected of all members. Any questions you might have please do not hesitate to ask your sponsor or any fellow members.

1. Dues are \$100.00 per year and are due October 1st. Dues money pays our National fees to Optimist International and other miscellaneous club expenses.
2. Lunch meetings are every Thursday at noon at our designated meeting place. Lunches are currently \$8.00 and you are expected to pay at each lunch you attend. You are welcome and encouraged to bring a guest. If your guest is not a prospective member then you are expected to pay for their lunch. Every lunch is supposed to have a guest speaker, either from a group requesting a donation or someone from the community that may have something interesting to talk about. Lunch is typically 1/2 hour and speaker 1/2 hour. Every member is expected to invite a speaker when their turn comes up, rotated alphabetically, and whether they will be attending lunch or not. Lunch is provided by the club for the speaker. A bulletin is written weekly by a member designated by the president and delivered to each member to their e-mail.
3. Board meetings are the first Thursday of every month, at our club house behind the Lapeer Center Building, designated "The Higley Hotel". Every member is welcome and encouraged to come. Everyone has a say, and sometimes all at once. Board meetings are really the most important meetings we endure. This is when we discuss opportunities to support the community and spend all the money everyone has worked so hard for. Please find the time to attend these meetings and put in your two cents. You earned it.
4. Lapeer Optimists raises the most money of any charitable group in Lapeer County. This doesn't happen by accident. All members are expected to help out in some way at all fundraising events. We don't do a lot of events but when we do we go all out. Please commit the time required. Any time you don't help means all other members have to work that much harder and longer.

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- a. **Lapeer Optimist Vegas Night:** Usually held around the 3rd week of March on a Saturday. We sell 1000 raffle tickets for a drawing at the end of the night. All members are required to sell raffle tickets. Event runs from 7:00 PM to 12:00 AM. Members are expected to be there working. It is a fun evening and a great way to interact with the community.
- b. **Henley Open:** The golf outing is held every year, all day Saturday, of Mother's Day weekend in May. Set up is Friday evening. Members are welcome to put a team together and golf. If you are not golfing you are expected to help with the outing. If you are golfing you are expected to help Friday night. All members are expected to sell sponsorships for this event. This is how we make money on this event.
- c. **Optimist Junior Golf Outing:** Outing is held at Metamora Golf and Country Club around the middle of June. This project doesn't take all members to work, but it is an easy, fun day if you're available. It is a golf tournament for students to play. If they win they go on to the regional tournament and if they win that they go on to the international tournament.
- d. **Lapeer Days - Beer Tent, Vegas Tent, Chicken Dinner, Cornhole Tournament:** Third weekend of August. This is our biggest most involved event and takes all members to pull off. Unless you have a funeral, specifically your own, expect to work this 5 day event. If you do have a funeral, on the days you are not laid out, attend and help when you can! Set up starts Wednesday evening all equipment and materials are brought downtown. Set-up begins Thursday after lunch at 1:00 PM and usually takes 4-5 hours. Friday is the start of Lapeer Days Festival, beer tent opens at 12:00 PM and Vegas starts at 7:00 PM. Beer tent is open until 12:30 AM. Plan on staying unless you are getting up early for the chicken dinner. Saturday morning chicken dinner starts at 5:00 AM for some members and goes until 5:00 PM. Beer tent opens at 10:00 AM, Vegas tent starts at 7:00 PM and everything closes again at 12:30 AM. Sunday, beer tent opens at 12:00 PM and runs until 5:00 PM. Cornhole tournament is run at the beer tent Sunday afternoon. Teardown starts at 2:00 PM and usually last until 6:30 or 7:00 PM. "After Party", pizza and beer, is after everything has been put away. All members and their spouses are invited to attend. All members are required to sell chicken dinner tickets. Many members' spouses help out during the Lapeer Days weekend and are very appreciated, we could not do it without them.

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5. We have several social events that all members are encouraged to attend.
 - a. **Installation Dinner:** Last Saturday of September a casual dinner party to install the new president and officers. Currently \$15.00 each person with all members and their spouses encouraged to attend. Steak dinner with beer and mix provided, bring a dish to pass. A great time and a good chance to get to know everyone and their spouses.
 - b. **Christmas Party:** Around the first week of December on Friday. Casual Christmas party currently \$15.00 each person with all members and their spouses encouraged to attend. Beer and mix provided, bring an hors d' oeuvres to pass. A great time and a good chance to get to know everyone and their spouses.
 - c. **Skunk Hunt:** Third weekend in February, trip up north to Higgins Lake Amvets lodge. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Trip is from Thursday afternoon until Sunday. Cost depends on how many days you attend. Dart tournament and steak dinner on Saturday night, a little drinking, smoking, gambling, movie watching, relaxing, and whatever happens at Higgins Lake, stays at Higgins Lake!

I, _____, have read and understand the commitments to being in the Lapeer Optimist Club.