



The Indiana North District PTIMIST

**SPECIAL
POINTS
OF INTEREST**

District News

This Month's Activities

Finish the year strong with new members. See Gov. Max's article for the incentive rewards that are available.

Upcoming Events

The next District Meeting will be on November 4th. This will be a combination meeting with the Indiana South District. This will be a unique opportunity to build new relationships with fellow Optimists.

The Indiana North District held its annual convention in Warsaw on August 18th & 19th. It was a very informative meeting that included a chance to meet and interact with old friends from around the District.

Saturday morning was spent honoring our fellow Optimists who had died this past year. Included in this group was Zone 4 Lt. Governor, Karyn Gilly who was a member of the Bluffton Optimist Club.

Our main speaker was OI Mid-America Vice President Julie Robison, who is from our Elkhart Club. The focus was on getting new members and the retention of current members. One idea was to hold a NOW meeting, but dividing the membership into two groups. The group bringing the least number of members would treat the winning group to something special.

The retention suggestion uses the acronym C.A.R.E.
C: Celebrate, A: Address, R: Recognize, E: Excel

A note of interest: \$60 of our dues goes towards the insurance that Optimist International provides for Club activities.

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**IF
OPPORTUNITY
DOESN'T
KNOCK,
BUILD A DOOR
FOR OPTIMISM**

OPTIMIST.ORG



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**

Gov. Max's Musings

Time has gone fast; the 2022-23 optimist year is about over. It has been an informative and interesting optimist year, with Lots of great things happening in our clubs. Thousands of our youth have been served through the dozens of programs that optimist clubs do. I have seen great clubs, and clubs that are struggling to just stay active. I hope that we can get new programs and interest to rebuild and strengthen these clubs as the communities that they are in need them. The trail of optimism will always be a challenge, but it is one we must all face and conquer. There are some new programs, CARE and the OWL. Both are innovative and fresh ideas that we need as an organiza-



tion. Be looking for more information on both these real soon.

I hope all clubs will sign up for the OI membership incentive. It is a great program that offers a lot of cash payout for membership growth. Also, Indiana north has a program in place. Any club that adds a member after July 1 the sponsoring member will get 20 bucks. Plus, the club with the most growth over their October 1st, 2022, membership number, will receive a 2-sided flag with their club's name on it. Let's get out and grow our clubs and spread Optimism. Let's finish the year strong!

Gov. Max

Club Happenings

From the Warsaw Club

I wish to provide clarity on some recent decisions regarding our Wednesday morning breakfast meeting venues.

Originally, after our time at Creighton's Crazy Egg, our plan was to transition our meetings to the YMCA. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, this move will not be taking place. Instead, I am pleased to announce that starting October 4th, we will be returning to a venue that has served us well in the past: the Shrine Building at the Kosciusko County Fairgrounds.

The Fairgrounds have always offered a great combination of space, accessibility, and facilities, making it a fitting environment for our club's activities. We believe that our return to the Shrine Building will not only evoke fond memories but also foster new and meaningful ones.

We recognize that venue changes can be an adjustment, and we genuinely appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this period. As always, our priority is to ensure our meetings are as beneficial and enjoyable as possible for all members.

Send your Club's photos & happenings to the District News Editor,
Jim Burk at: Jburk63@gmail.com

ROCHESTER OPTIMIST CLUB PUMPKIN STAND FUNDRAISER



OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Opening Day

Friday, September 8th

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday

11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

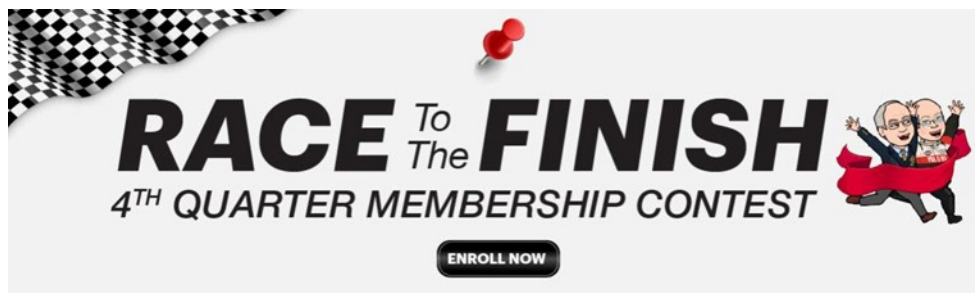
Sunday

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location

803 E. 9th St. Rochester, IN

The Rochester Club's Pumpkin Stand is open for business. If you're in the area, stop and support this worthwhile effort!



Let's Go Racing Update

August 28, 2023

There is little change in the standings as we continue the effort to bring more members into the Optimist family. Just like any race, there are times when the lead doesn't change that much as drivers position themselves for the final push. Teams may be plotting a strategy to come from the back of the pack to get the checkered flag. Others could perhaps be seeking a second or third place finish in either percentage growth since July 1 or the number of new members added. There could also be one club or several that puts the pedal to the medal and blows past the competition in a very short period ... *[just like this](#)*.

The **Lapel Optimist Club** from Indiana North still leads after posting 17 new members earlier this month. **Fredericksburg**, from South Texas, has 15 new members for second place, **Centerville Noon**, of Ohio, is in third at 10 new members, followed by **Clinton Sunrise**, of West Missouri, in fourth at seven new members.

There is a new leader in the percentage growth race as well. **Jonesboro Arkansas** is up nearly 55 percent in membership since the race started. The **Clinton Optimist Club**, of Central Ontario, is now in second place at 45 percent growth, followed by **Las Vegas Northwest** at 33 percent. **Harker's Hall**, of Jamaica, has dropped to 4th at 25 percent.

The top prize in the race is \$1,000 for the Club adding the most members. The Club with the highest percentage of membership growth during the period will also collect \$1,000. There will be cash prizes for second and third place in each category as well.

The racing rules require that all new members added during the race be paid members through the start of the 2023-2024 second quarter (January-March 2024). Any club not falling into the top three positions of either category will be placed in a random draw for one of two cash prizes.

Questions about the 4th Quarter Incentive program can be sent to membership@optimist.org.

Editors note: Due to the upcoming Labor Day Holiday in the United States, the next update for Let's Go Racing/Race to the Finish may be delayed next week.

IN North Convention 2023



The choir from the Warsaw breakfast Club. WOW!! What a performance.



OI Mid-America VP, Julie Robinson, gave us many good pointers on Keeping our Clubs healthy.



Chuck Kemper leads in saying good-bye to too many Optimist members. The district lost 19 members this past year.



Gov. Max pinning the Governor's pin on Governor Designate, Chris Whitehead.



Our new Governor for the Optimist year 2023-2024, Chris Whitehead. Chris is a member of the Lafayette Breakfast Club



Next year (2023-2024) we will have Co-Governors Elect. They will become Co-Governors in the Optimist year 2024-2025. They are, L-R, Kathy Nelson and Jennifer Kelsick. The entire District thanks these ladies for stepping up to assume this challenge.

INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT DISTINGUISHED OPTIMIST AWARD

**Jane Crouch was honored as the
Distinguished Optimist of the 2022-2023
year from the West Jay Club.**

INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

**The Humanitarian of the 2022-2023
Optimist year is Georgia Brosher from the
West Jay Club**

Happy September Optimists,

As we approach the end of my tenure as Optimist International President, I want to thank you for being an Optimist. Thank you for empowering children to be all they can be. Thank you for making your communities better places to live. Thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and in all of us.

First Lady Penny and I also want to thank all the Optimists that welcomed us into their homes, their Clubs and their district meetings this past year. We visited 21 Districts, approximately 40 Clubs and 14 district meetings, and, including those we met at the International Convention, we spoke with more than 2,300 Optimists face to face. We saw firsthand the commitment of our members and the importance of the work they do.

When First Lady Penny and I attended a meeting at the Brookville Optimist Club in Ohio, we met a young man who told us the story of how he went to prison at age 18, before turning his life around behind bars. This young man told us that he had started selling drugs just to be able to afford the basics of life.

He was raised by his grandmother, and one year, she had to choose between buying him a coat or a pair of shoes. He got the shoes.

He said being cold wasn't the worst part about not having a coat. The worst part was the embarrassment and humiliation of being bullied because of it.

This young man told me I had no idea how hopeless he felt.

It is my dream to build a future where every child has hope – because every adult in their life is an Optimist.

That dream starts with a new signature program where Optimist Clubs partner with their local elementary schools (or classrooms) to support safe, comfortable and productive learning environments for every elementary school student around the world.

I introduced this program at the International Convention in July. It's called O.W.L.S. – Optimists Working for Learning Success.

Through O.W.L.S., we will provide children with nutrition, clothing, school supplies, hygiene products, tutoring and mentoring to help them thrive. Many of our Clubs are already doing some of this. By participating in this program, Optimists will help create an environment where all elementary students can develop confidence, self-esteem, and **HOPE** for their future.

As President, I've spoken a lot about the challenges we face as an organization. As daunting as those challenges might seem, as we move forward into a new Optimist year, we have every reason to be hopeful, because **OPTIMISM IS HOPE**. And who wouldn't want to be part of an organization that creates an environment of hope for the most vulnerable in our communities. What better purpose to engage others in our organization?

I love this organization and all the people committed to its mission, so I ask all of you to join me in my dream.

Let's show the world that **HOPE LIVES HERE!**

Bob McFadyen

2022-2023 President

Scholarship Contest Info. for 2023-2024

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2023-2024



ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the World Championships level

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live.

The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

One District Scholarship of \$2,500



COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

One District Scholarship of \$2,500

KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on www.optimist.org

District Events

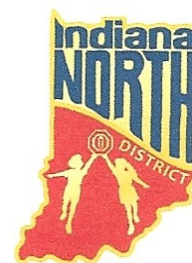


September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



VISIT:
OPTIMIST.ORG
INDIANANORTHDISTRICT.ORG



INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Governor-Max Soliday: Max.jeep@comcast.net
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Governor Elect- Chris Whitehead:
crw1@protonmail.com

Past Governor: Sandy Rodgers:
skbpuzzler@yahoo.com

District Sec: Shelley Manthey: Smanthey42@gmail.com
574-596-7072

District Treasurer: Jim Smith: Jim.smith06@yahoo.com
317-697-2521

Lt. Governors:

Zone 2: None

Zone 3: Yvonne

Southall

Zone 4:

Zone 5: Kathy Nelson

Zone 6: Rob Upchurch

Your Leadership Team for
Optimist Year 2022-2023

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**"Like us" on
Face Book**

**Optimists are:
The Friend of Youth**

*"I am an optimist.
It does not seem to
much use being
anything else"*

—Winston Churchill

**Every Day is an Optimist Day
Supporting the Youth of Our Community**

Optimist Mission

By providing hope and positive vision,
Optimists bring out the best in kids.

Optimist Vision

Optimist International will be recognized
worldwide as the premier volunteer
organization that values all
children and helps them develop to their
full potential.

Purposes of an Optimist Club

- To Develop optimism as a philosophy of life, utilizing the tenets of the of the Optimist Creed;
- To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
- To inspire respect for the law;
- To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;
- To 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.

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.



**Optimism is positive thinking lighted up.
Norman Vincent Peale**