



The Indiana North District PTIMIST

**SPECIAL
POINTS
OF INTEREST**

International Foundation News

This Months Activities

Prepare for our Essay and Oratorical Contests. Select Contest chairs and get the information out to the schools.

Upcoming Events

The next District Meeting TBA

Some of the things that the International Foundation does:

- ♦ Fund nearly \$300,000 in Optimist Scholarships.
- ♦ Club Grants Program.
- ♦ Childhood Cancer.
- ♦ \$135,000 for Junior Optimists
- ♦ \$7,500 for Junior Gold
- ♦ Supplies all brochures and hand-outs.

How can we help support the "Foundation?"

- ♦ Dime-A-Day for members (\$36.50)
- ♦ A Dollar-A-Day for Clubs (\$360.00)
- ♦ In Memory of..., In Honor of... Veterans Banner Patch (\$100)
- ♦ Become "A Friend of Today" with a total contribution of \$100
- ♦ Wm. H. Harrison Society-Life time giving of \$10,000 with a continuing yearly contribution of \$1,000.

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

OPTIMIST.ORG



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**



**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

Dime-A-Day

Optimist International and Optimist International Foundation coexist as two separate organizations that support each other. Optimist International Foundation is the fundraising arm of Optimist International, and works to develop funds to support the endeavors of Optimist International and its mission.

When Members and Clubs make a contribution to support Optimist International Foundation, they are, with that gift, supporting Optimist International itself and themselves as a Club as well.

With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children. Would you consider making a gift of just a dime a day to assist the charitable work of Optimist International?

The Dime-A-Day level is reached by a contribution of \$36.50 to the Foundation within one Optimist Year, and is recognized by the presentation of a pin.

Building a future where every kid counts
Can you spare a **dime a day**?

☐ Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. (Enclose check, payable to Optimist International Foundation, referencing "Dime-A-Day" in the memo section.)

☐ Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. Charge my ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Account # _____ Exp. ____/____ Signature: _____ Security Code _____

☐ Sign me up! Please deduct \$3.05 per month from my checking account.

Checking account number: _____ (Please include a copy of a voided check)

Name _____ Email _____

Club Number _____ Member Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please return to: Optimist International Foundation • Dime-A-Day Campaign • P.O. Box 952126 • St. Louis, MO 63195





WHAT WE DO

The Women's Philanthropy Council (WPC) was formed in 2005 to support the work of the Optimist International Foundation. Members reach out to women as donors and assist in shaping their philanthropy.

Research shows that women tend to give where they believe they make a difference with their gift regardless of the amount of the gift.

Beginning October 1, 2021, all donations raised through the giving circle of the WPC will be used to underwrite World Oratorical Championship scholarships for young women that win the Regional Contest from the US and in the Caribbean.

It is important to note that your contribution to OIF designated to support the efforts of the WPC will be counted as a restricted donation and will not be credited to your annual giving or that of your District/Club. It will count towards lifetime giving.

The giving circle of the Women's Philanthropy Council begins with a restricted gift of at least \$100

Name: _____

If an Optimist, Club Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

My Gift of \$ _____ is enclosed

*If paying by check, please make payable to OIF;
note WPC in memo*

If paying by credit card, please complete form below:

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ Amex

Account #: _____ Exp. ____/____

Signature: _____

I have received my pin: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please mail donations and completed forms to:

Optimist International Foundation
PO Box 952126
St. Louis, MO 63195-2126



Gov. Chris Connection

Sacred Cow (Bell)s

Have you heard the term “Sacred Cow?” I’d be surprised, if you hadn’t. Just in case, here’s the Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary definition of a sacred cow: one that is often unreasonably immune from criticism or opposition. Example – The old government program has become a sacred cow. According to Wikipedia’s “Cattle in religion and mythology” article, “In some regions, especially most states of India, the slaughter of cattle is prohibited and their meat may be taboo.”

I completed Governor training earlier this year in St. Louis. The most important piece of equipment I was issued was a cowbell. I will be bringing this cowbell to our meetings. You will be encouraged to come forward to ring the bell, whenever we make a bold step forward, or when we slaughter a sacred cow.

What does slaughtering a sacred cow mean to us as Optimist Club members? Here’s an example: Think about the first time you attended your Club’s meeting, was there a reference to an acronym that you didn’t understand, such as “OI” (Optimist International), “CCC” (Childhood Cancer Campaign – This OI program’s title has since evolved to Childhood Health & Wellness), or “NOW” program (New Optimists Welcome)? Or, what’s the difference between a Zone, a District, and a Region? What’s the difference between an Honor Club, and a Distinguished Club? It’s possible these acronyms and terms themselves have become sacred cows to some members. Should we keep using them? Why do we do some of the programs we do as a Club, or as an organization? These are some



Chris & Missy Whitehead

questions we could ask ourselves.

Did you know the original motto of Optimist International was “Friend of the Delinquent Boy?” Did you know the organization didn’t officially include women as members until 1988? We can look back on those former sacred cows today, and it should be obvious that those weren’t the best choices for the evolution of our clubs and membership. If we were to serve only delinquent boys, or admit only men as members, we wouldn’t have the full capability to carry out our club’s goals for our youth.

Remember, as Optimists and fellow Ohana, each one of you matter. You Belong.

Here are two things your club can do this month: 1) Update your club’s bylaws to the bylaws prescribed by OI at your next business meeting. Please have your club Secretary/Treasurer access the updated version in Optimist Leaders online at optimist.org, if necessary, ask someone in your club who is computer-savvy to help you. Questions? Email membership@optimist.org 2) Have your club Secretary/Treasurer download a copy of the membership roster from Optimist Leaders, review and verify the contact information for your members is correct. Email me with questions: crwl@protonmail.com Make it a great December, Optimists, and many thanks/much Mahalo to each of you for all you do!!

Gov. Chris

Club Happenings



\$1,500 Check presentation to the WCHS Cross Country Team



Warsaw Breakfast Club makes a \$1,000 donation to Science Central.

From the Warsaw Breakfast Club

Teacher Grant Chair Conrad Walters announced Wednesday that the committee reviewing the current grant applications is in the final throes of selecting this year's winners. The Foundation has released \$23,000 to be awarded this year. These winners will be recognized at the Fat Tuesday 2024 event and will share their projects with the club membership at June and July meetings next year.

From the Lafayette Breakfast Club

Send your Club's photos & happenings to the District News Editor,
Jim Burk at: Jtburk63@gmail.com

Note: new email address

Optimist International



The 2024 Optimist Visual Arts Contest Calendar – a yearly calendar of art and optimism!

Do you want to support young artists and spread optimism?

Are you looking for a unique and meaningful gift for the holidays?

Do you want to raise money for your Club?

This special calendar features original artwork from 12 young artists who participated in the 2023 Optimist Visual Arts Contest. Open to children 11 and younger, the contest asked artists to express their positive outlook on life through original drawings or paintings.

The calendars are sold in packs of 10, and we encourage Clubs to buy as many as you can and sell them at a markup to raise money for the community projects you care about.



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

DECEMBER

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 7:00pm - 8:00pm Mastering Social Media for Your Club	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21  1st day of Winter	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 						

Optimist International



Celebrate + Address + Recognize = Excel

The new C.A.R.E. program is a structured plan for clubs to celebrate accomplishments while resolving issues and strengthening membership. The four-step annual program is designed to help keep Optimist Club membership healthy, strong and engaged, while allowing everyone to feel they have a voice in their Club's direction.

Celebrate

Host an annual party for your Club members. Send out invites and ask a fellow Optimist to facilitate the program. Celebrate the Club's accomplishments and discuss the impact you have had in your community over cake.

Send out anonymous member surveys through Survey Monkey or JotForm two weeks before the event. It's important that the survey be anonymous so that members can give honest feedback.

Include these four questions:

- What do you think went well this year?
- What do you feel the Club needs to work on?
- What makes you happy to be a member of your Optimist Club?
- Do you have a new idea for a Club community service project, youth activity or fundraiser?

Address

Have the guest facilitator review the survey responses and have an open, unbiased discussion. Be sure to ask a person who is not a member of your Club to be your facilitator. Some facilitator suggestions include a past or current Governor, Lt. Governor or member of a nearby Club.

Address any reasons why members might leave the Club and make a list of potential improvements.

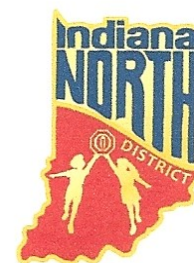
Recognize

Recognize any issues, areas for improvement and ways to strengthen membership, then create an opportunity to recognize members for their accomplishments, exceptional work and efforts throughout the year. Honor members with appreciation awards or a Member of the Year award.

Excel

Plan to move forward together as a stronger Club.

VISIT:
OPTIMIST.ORG
INDIANANORTHDISTRICT.ORG



INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Governor: Chris Whitehead: 574-870-7173

cw1@protonmail.com

Co-Governors Elect: Kathy Nelson and Jennifer Kelsick

Past Governor: Max Soliday: Max.jeep@comcast.net

762-960-5857

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: Kris Mueller

Zone 3: Pam Galloway

Zone 4: Gregg Palmer

Zone 5: Deb Imel

Zone 6: Lorie Hofman

Zone 7: Jessica Jarrett

Zone 9: Robert Upchurch

Indiana North District News Letter Editor:

Jim Burk

1315 Hollendale Dr

Bluffton, IN 46714

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**"Like us" on
Face Book**

**Optimists are:
The Friend of Youth**

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

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

—Winston Churchill

Your Leadership
Team for 2023-
2024

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