



SPECIAL
POINTS

This Month's Activities

Let's think "NEW MEMBERS". Who would you like to join you in our meetings. Now is the time to invite them. OI has several good ideas on having a NOW (New Optimists Welcome) Meeting.

Upcoming Events

Our 3rd quarter meeting will be held in Kokomo on April 20th. Meeting day is Saturday. Social dinner is Friday, the 19th.

The Indiana North District OPTIMIST



District News

Third Quarter Meeting

The Third Quarter Meeting will be held in Kokomo on Saturday, April 19-20th. Location: the Best Western 1717 East Lincoln Road. Friday evening we are planning a social get together for dinner at a downtown Irish Pub, Cook McDoogal's at 6 PM

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

OPTIMIST.ORG



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**

Gov. Chris Connection

3rd Quarter District Meeting – April 19-20, 2024

“Way Down” in Kokomo!! ⚡⚡⚡

- Friday, April 19 Festivities: downtown Irish pub, Cook McDoogal's, 100 N Main St, Kokomo, IN 46901 at 6:00 pm. The Coterie is another downtown establishment that sometimes has music on Friday nights. If people check in early, they can come downtown and there a lot of shops, a water walkway, etc.
- Book your hotel room NOW! Best Western, 1717 E. Lincoln Road, Kokomo, IN 46902. \$115 + tax. CALL NOW for reservations 765-453-8822. Best Western also has a pool and a fitness center. Attendees will need to call the hotel directly and say they are with “Optimist Club” when making reservations to get a room in the hotel block.
- Saturday Meeting location: Creative Financial Centre, 2704 S. Goyer Rd., Kokomo, IN 46902. It's just down the road from the Best Western. Agenda to follow, including the District Oratorical and Essay Finals!

Spring Into Optimism!

- If your Club recruits a new member during the months of March, April, and May – OI's registration fee of \$15 is WAIVED for each new member added. This is a great opportunity for clubs to save money and grow their membership, while also bringing new ideas and perspectives to their projects and activities. All at a time when many of our Clubs are typically full of great events that bring those new members directly into our realm of service to our communities. Register your Club by May 28th. Use the link below to register:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=F9KmLNh40aygRh7G-IrrOqZDL9ZGm5lmo-8dNABQDFUMIFGNlo0NIBOUUp-KNvYxTzRVSzUwREFPSCQIQCN0PWcu>

- Ensure that the new members pay their dues in full by September 30, 2024. This will ensure that they are eligible for all the benefits and opportunities that our organization offers, such as attending District and International Conventions.

Upcoming OI Webinars

- April 8th 8:00pm: Stay Optimistic in Difficult Times
- April 29th 8:00pm: Adding Officers via COER Form in Optimist Leaders
- May 13th 8:00pm: Celebrate Community: Developing Community Partnerships
- May 29th 8:00pm: Updating Club Bylaws in Optimist Leaders
- June 10th 8:00pm: Everything You Need to Know Before Convention 2024



Chris & Missy Whitehead

It is a proven fact that the most relevant and healthiest Optimist Clubs have a few things in common and one of those critical things is a strong leadership pool that is driven by regular elections and a pride in offering opportunities for personal development. Club Bylaws outline each Club's requirement for the structure of the Club Board of Directors. Optimist International requires that next year's Club officers are reported annually no later than May 20th. This is done with the Club Officer Elect Report (COER) through the Optimist Leaders web portal. Important information will be shared with the 2024/2025 officers throughout the 3rd and 4th Quarters and so having an updated list of incoming officers is crucial for proper communication from the District and International levels.

Gov. Chris

Club Happenings



**Warsaw Breakfast Club Check
Presentation** – \$1,000 was presented to Lincoln Elementary for an overnight camping trip to Camp Potawatomi

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

District Events



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Webinar 8pm Stay Optimistic in Difficult Times	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Webinar 8pm Adding officers via COER form in Optimist Leaders	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
31						

Membership Monday



Are you ready to welcome new members to your Club? If so, you will love our new incentive program: [Spring into Optimism!](#)

New members will have their \$15 registration fee waived through the end of May. This is a great opportunity for clubs to save money and grow their membership, while also bringing new ideas and perspectives to their projects and activities.

A great way to recruit new members is by talking to them at events you already have planned, such as oratorical competitions.

Think about having a dedicated membership volunteer at these events to talk to prospective members. [Click here to download a handy flyer](#) that you can hand out to attendees to encourage them to get involved.

It's also a great time for your Club to hold N.O.W. and W.O.W events!



IN North District Q3 4/20/24

Conference Abbreviated Agenda:

9:00 am Registration / Continental Breakfast / Fellowship - Lobby Area
10:00 Call to Order / Prayer / Pledge / Optimist Creed
10:05 Welcome - Sherry Matlock, Kokomo Chamber of Commerce
10:15 Keynote Speaker: Fatima Plater, OI Foundation
10:45 Break (test mics for Oratorical)
10:50 Oratorical Contest
11:30 Judges leave
11:30-11:35 Essays read - 20 minutes
12:00 pm Awards presentation
12:30 Lunch, Zone meetings
1:15 Richmond charter
1:30 Policy review
2:00 Board Meeting
Committee reports – OI Foundation, Auction items?? Raffle
CARE Updates (and maybe a celebration Cake???)
3:00 Adjourn

Proposed Policy Changes:

Language re: New Club Building
2. Updates to include new committee names

Yours in Optimism,
IN N District Secretary
Shelley M

2024 International Convention.

We are thrilled to introduce our third keynote speaker for the International Convention.

Joining former professional football player **Orlando Bowen** and entrepreneur **Sunjay Nath** is motivational speaker **Rhonda Scharf!**

Rhonda Scharf is not just a speaker; she is a catalyst for change, infusing her sessions with energy, humor and actionable insights. With a career spanning more than three decades, Scharf's speeches foster a participatory environment where every attendee is an active learner, with humor and real-world examples playing a pivotal role. You will visualize yourself in various scenarios and apply her insights with immediate effect.

Described as insightful, humorous, and educational, Scharf has a unique ability to observe the ordinary and perceive the extraordinary. Based in Ottawa, Ontario, and Fort Myers, Florida, Scharf's engaging style ensures that her message of innovation and self-improvement is not only heard but also embraced and applied.

Indiana North District Optimist Second Quarter District Meeting via Zoom 2/3/2024

9:31am, Governor Chris brought the meeting to order welcoming all Aloha

Invocation: Jim Burk US/Canadian Pledge of Allegiances led by Gov Chris Creed: Lt. Gov Pam

Keynote Speaker: Gov Chris introduced Optimist International President Tracy Huxley. Tracy asked is your club ready for new members. Be an Optimist with a capital "O". Follow a few rules like building relationships, remembering our efforts do affect how others act, a hopeful culture provides positiveness, every member has a purpose, and communication feedback from meetings to events and staying in touch with each other keeps club members connected.

Q&A: Sandy D commented that members need to have some skin in the game to be connected. How can we get more recognition for Optimist Clubs. Tracy noted we need to use the proper logo and use it everywhere for unification while serving the youth and the community.

Gov Chris welcomed all then introduced the JOI club advisors & members to share their clubs' activities. Dawn G, of the Middlebury Optimist Club is club advisor to the Northridge High School JOI club.

Kennedy T shared that they have 55 members who meet at 8am before school. Fundraising includes selling cotton candy at events and helping with Trivia Night (MOC). The students are very involved in their community.

Susan Delay, of the New Castle Optimist Club is club advisor to the New Castle High School JOI club. Lilly F and Ishmine H chatted about their JOI club status. This club has 30 members that started as a community service of kids helping others. Projects include trash pickup, tree planting, & babysitting while parents Christmas shop. The group fundraised by selling lemonade and desserts at the school cookout and sold Christmas grams.

Gov Chris thanked all who are involved with the Junior clubs for the opportunity to talk about their clubs. Fun Break hosted by Julie R and Sandy R coordinated a Hawaiian Scavenger Hunt.

At 11:18a, Gov Chris called the Business Session to order.

Q1 Meeting Minutes: Shelley M emailed the minutes prior to the meeting for all to review. Ann H made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with a second from Sandy R, all approved, motion passed.

Financial Report: Jim S prepared the financials which were emailed prior for review. PG Gregg gave the overview with Jim out at a club event. All is in good order, will file these reports for audit.

Old Business

Special Needs Club: OI has ended this pilot program. Various sponsor clubs are assisting the SN clubs with membership options such as joining sponsor clubs or dissolving or club within a club.

Convention Bids: Sandy R proposed August 22 & 23, 2025 at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Muncie hosted by the Muncie club at \$134/night. No other options came forward.

New Business N/A. With no other new business, at 11:54a Gov Chris moved to adjourn the Business Session with a motion from Pam G and a second from Ann H, all approved, motion passed.

Chair Reports

A&A: Sandy R noted 8 clubs of 34 reported in the district. Updated forms were sent out. During the 1st Quarter, 648 members worked 1,068 hours serving 8,313 youth spending \$46,467.01 and income of \$43,258.54. Winning clubs in Zone 2: no reports Zone 3: Rochester Zone 4: Decatur Zone 5: West Jay Zone 6: Hammond Zone 7: Chesterfield and Zone 9: New Castle Breakfast Sandy will send updates with changes, mail out buttons and will resend the A&A forms.

Childhood Cancer: Ann H shared this year's theme is "space". Always accepting donations to make 80-100 goody bags for the campers in June. Will have a list of needs by the Q3 meeting.

District Foundation Rep: Nancy B had technology issues unable to report. Hopeful to be at the Q3 meeting to talk about OI Foundation. Jim B commented how easy it is to do Dime A Day or 365 to raise money for the foundation.

Essay: Susan D noted the submission deadline is February 28th

- ◊ All submissions in google or word format will be run through AI which is a new requirement this year.

Oratorical: Jim B said the finals will be on 4/20 at the Q3 meeting in Kokomo. A hard copy of the speech submission will be run through AI which is a new requirement this year, too. Regional sites are not set up yet (north, south and central sites needed).

Respect for Law: Pam G recently emailed ideas and suggestions for projects to recognize law officials or activities. If your club does a project, please share with Pam so we can share it with the district.

International Convention:

Gary A commented the event will be in Canada (Niagara Falls) this year and hotel rooms are filling up. Be sure you have your passport in order. Registration is going live this week.

Misc: Gov Chris reviewed various upcoming webinars and training available from OI. Remember to do your club officer trainings and electives by 3/31 through the Optimist Institute. Chris also noted upcoming activities like International Day of Happiness is March 18th

- ◊ More information is coming on

CCDHH and Tri Star finals along with the IN South will be announced soon.

MAR VP Mike Boles chatted about the CARE Club Member Retention program focusing on "why" do people leave? Is it on an emotional level (not being heard or unappreciated or going nowhere)? Try to have evening meetings where others can attend to feel connected. Recognize members and reassess your club activities.

Closing Remarks: Gov Chris thanked Mike B for his comments and appreciation for all who joined the meeting today.

@12:58p Ann H made a motion to adjourn with a second from Pam G, all approved, motion passed.

VISIT:
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**INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

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 Zone 3: Pam Galloway
 Zone 4: Gregg Palmer
 Zone 5: Deb Imel
 Zone 6: Lorie Hofman
 Zone 7: Jessica Jarrett
 Zone 9: Robert Upchurch

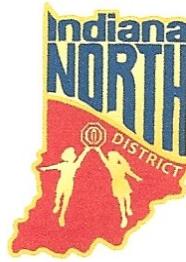


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Face Book**

**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

Optimist Mission

By providing hope and positive vision,
 Optimists bring out the best in youth, our
 communities, and ourselves.

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 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