



SPECIAL POINTS

This Months 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

The Indiana North District



PTIMIST

District News

Third Quarter Meeting

The third Quarter District Meeting was held in Kokomo at the Creative Financial Center. WOW! What a perfect place to hold our District finals for the Oratorical and Essay Contests. If you missed the meeting, you missed a perfect opportunity to see what our young people are capable of. We had kids participating from the 5th grade through their senior year in High School.

There were two First Place scholarships issued (one for each category) and a 2nd & 3rd place for the Oratorical contest.

Our scholarships were funded by past Governor, Gary Addison in honor of his parents.

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

OPTIMIST.ORG



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**

Gov. Chris Connection

Discovering Your (Club's) Superpower: Unleashing Unique Impact

We had a wonderful 3rd Quarter Conference in Kokomo. This year, we tried something different (but not unique!) when selecting our venue. The District met in Kokomo during Julie Robison's year as Governor. However, it's a city without an existing Optimist Club. It's also the place where I first encountered Optimists, through the local club's Oratorical contest. The Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club, of which I am now a member, built an Optimist Club in Kokomo. Kokomo is geographically in the middle of the District. Once again, we are looking for Optimistic connections in the City of Firsts.

So why Kokomo? Trying something different challenges you to step out of your comfort zone and expand your horizons. It offers opportunities for learning, self-discovery, and personal development. Embracing new experiences fosters resilience, adaptability, and a growth mindset. It allows you to discover untapped strengths and capabilities while gaining valuable insights about yourself. What's the third part of the Optimist mission? Bringing out the best in OURSELVES. The 3rd quarter conference is and always has been my favorite quarterly District conference, with great speeches from youth in our District sharing Optimistic ideas in new and different ways. I believe the adults in our District have much to learn from the youth. This can be a springboard to new ideas. Once again, I was humbled to be a part of a great Oratorical finals. I'm excited to visit the winners in Zionsville later this week.

By the way – Did your club send a representative to the regional or District Oratorical or Essay contest? With \$5,000 in scholarship

money for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, just for the Oratorical District finals – and \$2,500 for the winner of the Essay contest – \$0 of which your club has to raise funds for – This is an opportunity your Optimist Club can't afford not to share with area youth. If not – Make sure your club appoints Oratorical and Essay Contest committee chairpersons for the 2024-2025 year so your area youth don't miss out on the chance to win these prizes.



Chris & Missy Whitehead

Back to the title – and reality: What is your unique impact? Trying something different injects a sense of adventure, excitement, and spontaneity into your life, creating memorable experiences and stories to cherish. Embracing adventure and exploration adds excitement and zest to your daily life, making each day feel like an opportunity for discovery and adventure.

It infuses your life with a sense of vitality and joy. Trying something different minimizes the risk of regrets later in life by seizing the moment and embracing opportunities for growth, adventure, and fulfillment. Regret often stems from missed opportunities and unfulfilled aspirations. By trying something different, you create a life filled with rich experiences, meaningful connections, and cherished memories, minimizing the likelihood of regrets in the future.

Incorporating these reasons into your decision-making process can inspire you to embrace new experiences, seize opportunities for growth, and live a more vibrant and fulfilling life.

Gov. Chris

Club Happenings



Jay County Optimist Clubs promote Respect for Law Week by having City Mayors and County Commissioners sign Proclamation for the week of April 29-May3, 2024. The city and county officers will receive a reusable cup and our thanks for keeping us safe.

Left: county commissioners, Right: is with Portland City Mayor, Jeff Westlake and Dunkirk City Mayor, Jack Robbins.

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

Third Quarter Meeting



Our Keynote speaker Mary Feazell (L), Julie Robison, ?, Nancy Barker Optimist International Foundation Board Director Fatima N. Plater, spoke convincingly recommended "Dream Bigger" and enlisted four Optimists to assist her.



FATIMA PLATER from the OI Foundation.



Good times & good food at the Irish Pub on Friday night.



Mel Jackson, Chesterfield Essay Chair standing in for 1st Place Winner Casey Cole, Susie Delay District Essay Chair, Third Place Winner Sylvie Terrell from New Castle Breakfast, and 2nd Place Winner Caleb Smith from Warsaw Breakfast

We had a great Oratorical Final. Three well qualified contestants presented for the top scholarship.

1st place: Madison Schmidt, Zionsville

2nd place: Luke Kouns, Zionsville

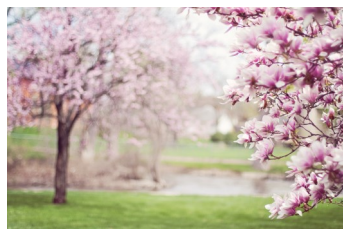
3rd place: Londyn Cavanaugh, Portland Evening

Also 3 Runners-up: Anna Fisher, Portland breakfast, Shashank Upadhyay, Warsaw, & Emilia Samaranayake, Warsaw,.



L-R Past Governor and Past Optimist International Foundation President Gary Addison, Mary Feazell, Lt. Gov. Mich District Metro Riverfront Opt. Club, Fatima N. Plater, Optimist International Foundation Board Director Gary Addison also funded all of the Scholarships in honor of his parents. Thank You Gary

District Events



May 2024

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	

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!



2024 International Convention.

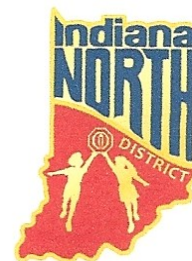
We are thrilled to introduce our third keynote speaker for the International Convention.

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.

VISIT:
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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 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