



SPECIAL POINTS

Upcoming Activities

The IN North District Convention will start in Middlebury on Thursday evening, Sept. 5th.

- 4PM Car Show
- 6 PM Group Dinner

Friday:

- Middlebury Fall Festival
- Ted Bryan Mini Golf Outing
- Box dinner
- Outdoor Movie

Saturday:

- 8:30am-Memorial Service
- Meeting
- Hawaiian Luau Lunch & Silent auction.

The Indiana North District



PTIMIST

District News

Our Indiana North annual District meeting plans include plenty of activities scheduled for both Optimists and guests on Thursday evening and on Friday. Our OI speaker will be upcoming President Elect, Tom Kendo.

Saturday will begin with a memorial service at 8:30 AM for members who have died this past year. There will also be a silent auction of baskets provided by Clubs plus an "Amish" Luau lunch! Lunch attire is Hawaiian.

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

OPTIMIST.ORG



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**

Gov. Chris Connection

A Final Aloha Message...

As Missy and I wish you a final Aloha, I want to highlight our Optimist Ohana (“family”). Congratulations to clubs that have celebrated important milestones, raised funds to help youth in our communities, and completed many, many projects to serve those youth and bring out the best in our youth, communities and ourselves.



Chris & Missy Whitehead



My theme this year was You Belong. It's up to us Optimists who know we belong, to help our newer Optimists feel a sense of belonging, and to encourage them to become Optimists with a Capital O. Make your club a welcoming place for others, listen to their stories, and learn how the new folks can help you out. Here are 10 steps to accomplish these goals, summarized from previous newsletters:

1. Focus on nurturing current members to address declining membership trends.
2. "Slaughtering sacred cows" means challenging outdated practices or beliefs. Don't hesitate to challenge

these practices or beliefs.

3. The CARE program boosts member engagement and retention in Optimist Clubs.

4. Reflect on how your club and you embody and improve Optimist International's mission.

5. Complete required officer training by March 31st to maintain club standing.

6. Strong leadership and timely reporting are crucial for healthy Optimist Clubs.

7. Embrace new experiences for personal growth, adventure, and fulfillment.

8. Rotating leadership roles fosters creativity, resilience, and future leadership development.

9. Emphasize unity and perspective in overcoming challenges.

10. Honor and thank club members who help your club succeed.

As we welcome new co-Governors Kathy Nelson and Jennifer Kelsik, let's use the power of our own stories (or as Hawaiians would say, “talking story”) to create pathways for others who may just be learning about Optimists, and in so doing, create our own Ohana. As we listen and learn from our Optimist friends, we can say – You matter. You Belong. Aloha,

Club Happenings

SALES ARE OPEN FOR FALL DISPLAYS

Welcome to the [Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club's](#) Fall Display Fundraiser! Transform your entryway into a breathtaking autumnal haven with our stunning fall displays! Our displays feature the finest fall foliage, including hay bales, assorted gourds, Indian corn, and corn stalks, all meticulously arranged to create a captivating seasonal vignette. Not only will you bring the beauty of autumn to your doorstep, but you'll also be supporting a great cause! Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club, whose mission is to provide positive programs for youth in our community. Don't miss this opportunity to add a touch of fall magic to your home while making a difference in the lives of young people. Offered two ways Delivery Only or Let us clean up afterwards with Delivery and Pickup for a few dollars more.



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

Remembering Ed Finn

(1936-2024): Former LBOC (Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club) Distinguished Honor Club President (1999-2000) Ed Finn passed away at the age of 87. He also served as District Governor and was President of the Optimist International Foundation. He became a certified instructor and director of leadership development. He was a pilot and built custom golf clubs, one of which he presented to a delighted Gene Keady.



District Convention

September 5-7, 2024

*Hawaiian Attire Welcome
and Encouraged**

**(You never know when that Grass Skirt or
Coconut bra will come in handy and win you a
prize...)*

*Accommodations - Essenhaus Inn and Conference Center
280 US Hwy 20, Middleburg, IN 46540
(574) 825-9471, \$159 + Tax
Saturday Breakfast Included*

*Thursday - Classic Car Cruise In
5:30 Dinner @ Wedgewood Brewing Co.*

*Friday Fun - Middleburg Fall Festival w/ Local Artisans
and Crafters, Homemade Food*

Ted Bryan Mini-Golf Outing

6:30 Outdoor Dinner and a Movie - Fireworks to Follow

Saturday - Gov. Chris' Luau Roast

Register: jim.smith06@yahoo.com



Don't forget to bring a Club Gift Basket to be entered into our silent auction to raise money for the Optimist International Foundation. This is a fun event with lots of creative choices to bid on.

Get Paid for Having Fun



**MEMBERSHIP
DUES? GROUPER
HELPS COVER 'EM!**



Last quarter, we let our members know about a new partnership we have launched with Grouper. This partnership allows members over 65 the opportunity to receive a check to help cover their Optimist International membership dues. Out of the members that signed up, over a third were eligible and will be receiving a check from Grouper to help reimburse their membership dues.

Will your current health plan be eligible as well?

This isn't too good to be true, it's an amazing opportunity to show appreciation to our members. If you have a qualifying Medicare Advantage or Supplement plan, you may be eligible to have your Optimist membership dues covered by your health plan through the Grouper Social Benefit.

The only way to check your eligibility is to sign up at www.hellogrouper.com/Optimist and enter your health plan ID.

Once your plan's eligibility is confirmed, Grouper will send you a reimbursement check to help cover your yearly Optimist membership. Plus, as long as you let us know you are active throughout the year, you'll receive yearly reimbursements.

For any inquiries or assistance, feel free to reach out to the dedicated Grouper team at 833-519-1072 or via email at optimist@hellogrouper.com.

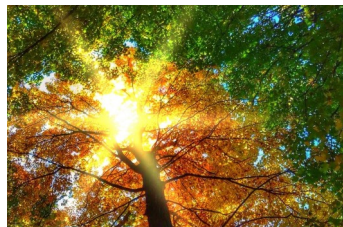
Stay healthy and active with Optimist and Grouper!

The question has come up: "is this a scam?"

The answer: NO! This is for real. So, take advantage of it if you can.

District Events

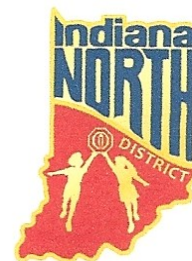
September 2024



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					

The Indiana North District Meeting will kick-off with a casual dinner on Thursday evening, local tours and golf on Friday, and end Saturday starting with a memorial service for our members who passed away this past year.

VISIT:
OPTIMIST.ORG
INDIANANORTHDISTRICT.ORG



INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Governor: Chris Whitehead: 574-870-7173

crw1@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

Phone: 260-223-0926

E-mail: jburk63@gmail.com

**"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 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