

MAY

SPECIAL
POINTS
OF INTEREST



The Indiana North District

OPTIMIST

District News

Activities This Month

SUPER ZONE

Gathering May 25th

10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Elks Lodge, St.Rd.3- Hartford City, IN. International President Jan Oord-Graves & Ron, visit to celebrate IN North! So come for a day of FOOD, FUN, and FELLOWSHIP, hosted by our newest 'team'...the Blackford Optimist Club.

Upcoming Activities

Save the dates:

- Dist. Convention will be held in Muncie on Aug. 22-23, 2025

We held our District Oratorical finales at our 3rd qtr. District meeting. Also, our Essay finalists we announced.



District Oratorical finalist. Left to right: 3rd- Sam Gibson, Portland Breakfast

2nd - Nora Hamilton, New Castle Breakfast

1st - Londyn Cavanaugh, a 6th grader, from Portland Evening. What an absolutely great group of contestants. We had 6 finalists, and all 6 gave District winner quality speeches!



District Essay Contest Winners: L-R

3rd - Lyla Shue, N Castle Bkft

2nd - Grant Bailey, Rochester (Read by Kathleen Mahoney)

1st - Reagan Britt, Mt Vernon

Judy Lemaster, Portland Breakfast, District chair.

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

OPTIMIST.ORG



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**

Governor's Corner



Co-Governor Kathy Nelson



Co-Governor Jennifer Kelsik

MAY- BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS & SOAR ☺

CALLING ALL OPTIMISTS! If you haven't already, it's time to **START YOUR 'CLUB ENGINE'**.. Be '**RIGHT ON TRACK FOR THE KIDS**' in the '**'OPTIMIST 500' CHALLENGE**'.

- **We** are at the **HALF-WAY POINT** for this Optimist 24-25 year. Most clubs have participated in at least 2 projects by now, EXPECTING ONLY THE BEST.
- **CHECKPOINT**: Did your project MAKE A DIFFERENCE, bring smiles to kids & adult faces, & you hear the project '**TEAM**' still talking about it?

- **A PITSTOP** check-up is essential if you want to WIN THE RACE! Take the time to: **re-fuel**, **CHEER** loudly, give plenty of **HIGH-FIVES**, never stop having **FUN**.

- **N.O.W. - New Optimists Wanted** - It's time to MAKE ALL YOUR FRIENDS FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING IN THEM. We in turn have everything to gain - new ideas, knowledge, experience, and fresh energy to accomplish each 'LAP AROUND THE TRACK'. So...SHARE YOUR STORY. Then...JUST ASK!

- ***SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER**, attend a District event...earn Governor's reward*

- ***Club # attending District gathering= #ticket chances to win \$100.***

- **IMPORTANT**: Your IN North Team is here to help with whatever you need. We would love to hear from you! Together we can **WIN THE RACE & GROW!**

'OPTIMIST 500' RIGHT ON TRACK FOR THE KIDS - ZONE CHALLENGE!
MAY 24TH- 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.- SUPER ZONE Gathering- Elks Lodge, St.Rd.3- Hartford City, IN. International President Jan Oord-Graves & Ron, visit to celebrate IN North! So come for a day of FOOD, FUN, and FELLOWSHIP, hosted by our newest 'team'...the Blackford Optimist Club.

***We are hoping representatives from all IN North Zones will attend. Please join us!**

Zone 2-Lt. Gov. Kris Mueller

Zone 3-Lt. Gov. Bob Walsh

Zone 4-Lt. Gov. Gregg Palmer Be Optimistic - It feels better! ☺

Zone 5-Lt. Gov. Deb Imel

Zone 6-Lt. Gov. Lorie Hofman

Zone 7-Lt. Gov. Sandy Stone

Zone 9-Lt. Gov. Ric Barr

***MAY THOUGHT: Laziness kills Ambition, Anger kills Wisdom, Fear kills Dreams, Ego kills Growth, Jealousy kills Peace, Doubt kills Confidence.**

.. (NOW READ THAT RIGHT TO LEFT)..

Club Happenings



Eleven Optimists from the Lafayette Breakfast Club attended the Purdue-vs-Arizona State baseball game courtesy of Head Coach Greg Goff.



Warsaw Breakfast Essay Contest winners.
Bill Cook, Trish Nichols, Jullian Culp, Emilia Samaranayake, Paul Finleu.



The Bluffton Optimist Club presented \$1000 towards the construction of a new city swimming pool. They also pledged another \$1000 donation next year.



Warsaw Breakfast presents a \$500 check to Science Central.

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



Large crowd of Optimists & Oratorical families for District Q3 at Huntington University -Habegger Dining Hall Conference Room.



OI Leadership Development Chair Linda Thompson, for 2025-26 year, was our keynote speaker for our 3rd quarter conference.



Nine New Castle HS Junior Optimists and two members of the New Castle Breakfast Optimists volunteered for a service day April 25 at I Support the Girls, the nonprofit group represented at our winter district conference that provides bras, hygiene products, and other necessities for homeless women, women in shelters, students in schools across the state, and others in need



Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Essay Winners – Intro – Shari Benyousky, Julian Culp, Emilia Samaranayake and Teagan Alley

Lafayette Breakfast held a Respect for law Awards Ceremony The April rain that was falling Wednesday morning did not dampen the spirit of the club as they awaited their special guests. The three winners of the Respect for Law Essay Contest from Miami Elementary were joining us with their parents to share their winning essays with us and our other special guests, Mayor Tony Roswarski, Police Chief Scott Galloway, who is also a club member, and School Resource Officer Mark Roberts, who selected the final winners. While things didn't go quite as planned, the winners were lauded, applauded and awarded for their accomplishments. Third place winner Kayson Jones (right) had to leave early as his father had to go to work so his moment in the sun was brief. A very shy second place winner Brooklynne Lanum(left), despite the look of pride and encouragement on her father's face, was hesitant to read her essay and was rescued by President Ron Summers, who had some trouble reading her handwriting. First place winner Gracelynn Lemen(above) also was quite shy, and the Prez had to step in once again. However, the shyness seemed to dissipate when the Mayor presented them with a package of passes for Tropicanae Cove and Columbian Park and Zoo.



Thank you Media Guys: Greg & Brian

Newsday Tuesday



The excitement is building for our [**International Convention**](#), June 29 to July 3, 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri. Optimists worldwide will gather for inspiration, training, networking, and just to have fun! This convention promises to be a member experience that you won't want to miss!

But we need your help to do this right!

Optimist International sets a break-even budget for each convention that keeps registration and meal fees to a minimum, ensuring that this event is as affordable as possible for our members. The registration fee covers the essentials of the convention, including the cost of meeting rooms, general session production, trainings and workshops, audio/visual equipment and more.

To make this year's convention extra special, the Convention Committee needs your help to add several special features that go above and beyond the basics. Do you have any connections or know of a potential sponsor or donor for the following?

Opening Ceremony — Sunday, June 29. We plan to feature non-profit groups as flag carriers, National Anthem singer, and entertainers. Additional funding will allow us to express our gratitude by making a donation to these organizations in recognition of their participation.

Coffee Breaks — Monday, June 30 to Wednesday, July 2.

Youth Program — Monday, June 30 to Wednesday, July 2. Additional funds will help offset the cost of the transportation and meals needed to host the children attending with their families.

If your club or district would like to make a donation toward these additional aspects of the convention, [click here](#) for the linked form to choose a giving level and how you would like to give.

All donors and sponsors will be recognized at the annual convention!

Also, if you're planning to attend the convention, [click here](#) and be sure to take advantage of the discounted early-bird pricing by registering on or before May 1. The registration rate increases by \$50 US / \$68 CAD per member on **May 2**.



2025 Optimist International Convention Workshops

Technology

Artificial Intelligence-When Did it Start and Where is it Going?

Canva 101: Unleash Your Creativity

Using Artificial Intelligence to Benefit Your Club

Meeting, Conference, and Convention Planning

From Yawns to Yes! Creating Dynamic & Engaging Meetings

How to Plan District Conferences and Conventions

Retention and Growth

C.A.R.E. Facilitator Training: Redesigned

Navigating MemberSHIP Engagement

Removing the Barriers to the Ask

Leadership Skills

Choosing the Best of the Best: De-Mystifying How the Candidate Qualification Committee Works

Leadership Is a Relationship: Putting People First

Leadership for Women: Unlocking Your Full Potential

Optimist DREAM: District Resources for the Engagement and Achievement of Members

Stronger Together: Strategies for Effective Teambuilding

Fundraising

Let's put the FUN in FUNdraising

Responding to Community Needs and Natural Disasters

Beyond Borders: Effective Disaster Response for Service Clubs

Crisis Aid presents Monarch 4 Freedom: Purchase with a Purpose and Keeping Kids Safe Online: Internet Safety and the US Safe Program

A New Club Project: Working to End Period Poverty

Optimist International Scholarship Programs

OWLS: Collaborating with Your Community's Schools

Working with your local Ronald McDonald House Charities

Marketing

Marketing Committee Presents: Newsletter Best Practices, Marketing Tools, and External Marketing

Positivity in Leadership

The Power of Wonder

Leaving a Legacy: The Power of Planned Giving

Navigating Change with Confidence

The Value of Giving: Everyone Benefits from Generosity

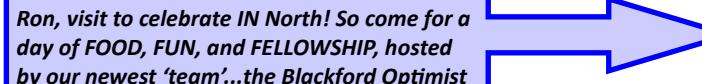


District Events

May 2025



Happening this month.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International day of Families. Optimist in action month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimist Jr. Golf Leadership Development Webinar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Bird deadline for convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Club Grand winners 	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11  Happy Mother's Day!	12	13	14	15	16	17  Armed Forces Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 SUPER ZONE Gathering 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Elks Lodge, St.Rd.3-Hartford City, IN. 
25	26  Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

VISIT:
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INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Co-Governor; Kathy Nelson 765-744-4092
 Co-Governor: Jennifer Kelsik 795-524-2211
 Governor Elect: Jim Smith Jim.Smith06@yahoo.com
 317-697-2521
 Past Governor: Chris Whitehead 574-870-7173
 District Sec: Sandy Rogers: skbpuzzles@yahoo.com
 District Treasurer: Shelley Manthey:
Smanthey42@gmail.com
 574-596-7072
 Lt. Governors:
 Zone 2: Kris Mueller
 Zone 3: Bob Walsh
 Zone 4: Gregg Palmer
 Zone 5: Deb Imel
 Zone 6: Lorie Hofman
 Zone 7: Sandy Stone
 Zone 9: Rick Barr

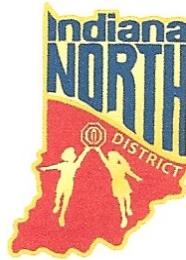


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**“Like us” on
Face Book**

**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

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