

June

SPECIAL
POINTS
OF INTEREST

Activities This Month

The National OI Convention starts June 29th and closes on July 3rd.

Upcoming Activities

Save the dates:

- Dist. Convention will be held in Muncie on Aug. 22-23, 2025
- Details will be available closer to the meeting dates.

The Indiana North District



OPTIMIST

District News

SUPER ZONE Optimist 500 Challenge with OI President Jan visit

Co-Governors Kathy & Jennifer leading the SUPER ZONE 'OPTIMIST 500' Day that was hosted by our newest Club, Blackford County.

OI PRESIDENT JAN-OORD GRAVES shared her story that led her to being an Optimist. She challenged IN North to emphasize Spreading Optimism everywhere & 'Bringing Out the Best' in kids & Ourselves. Thank you, Jan. You are an inspiration!

Optimist 500 is 'Right On Track For The Kids' Zone Challenge- Donating most Foundation \$, from Feb.-May 24th, Super Zone Day. ZONE 4 was the Winner!! Congratulations.

IN NORTH total donations=\$4,623.50!!

Track Challenge & room decorations were created by our talented District Sec. Sandy Rogers. Thank you, Sandy!

Foundation Chair- Max Soliday, raised \$211 more for the OI Foundation in our Gift Basket Auction in honor of Pres. Jan's visit.

Speaker: Jay Co. Heath Dept Educator- Courtney Burkey, spoke about the needs of our employed families with regards to food supply & housing costs, and how the lack of food suppresses kids learning & attendance at school. Optimists can help....Connect with your schoolsput the OWLS program into action!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

District News	1
Governors Corner	2
Club Happenings	3
Calendar	11
Our Mission, Vision, Purpose	12

**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

SUPER ZONE Optimist 500 Challenge with OI President Jan visit

Co-Governors Kathy & Jennifer leading the SUPER ZONE 'OPTIMIST 500' Day that was hosted by our newest Club, Blackford County.

OI PRESIDENT JAN-OORD GRAVES shared her story that led her to being an Optimist. She challenged IN North to emphasize Spreading Optimism everywhere & 'Bringing Out the Best' in kids & Ourselves.

Thank you, Jan. You are an inspiration!

Optimist 500 is 'Right On Track For The Kids' Zone Challenge- Donating most Foundation \$, from Feb.-May 24th, Super Zone Day. ZONE 4 was the Winner!! Congratulations.

IN NORTH total donations=\$4,623.50!! Track Challenge & room decorations were created by our talented District Sec. Sandy Rogers. Thank you, Sandy!

Foundation Chair- Max Soliday, raised \$211 more for the OI Foundation in our Gift Basket Auction in honor of Pres. Jan's visit.

Speaker: Jay Co. Heath Dept Educator- Courtney Burkey, spoke about the needs of our employed families with regards to food supply & housing costs, and how the lack of food suppresses kids learning & attendance at school. Optimists can help....Connect with your schoolsput the OWLS program into action!

Club Happenings

Right: Middlebury Club honoring outstanding 8th grade students of the year.

Far Right: Stable Grounds. A school connect that helps student K-12 having disruptive, grief, or mental issues. They walk miniature horses around an arena, talk to the horses & learn to lead a horse through an obstacle course.



West JAY Optimist members Anita Childers, Georgia & (not pictured) Tom Brosher present the Redkey Elementary 6th grade winner of "A is for Airplane" contest with a \$25 gift card. Any 6th grade student who up to 3 A's during their school year gets to build their plane & try to fly it into the target tub.

The 4th Grade Classroom @ Redkey Elementary School received an Ice Cream Party from West Jay Optimist Club, for being the school winner of the Project 'Happiness Is' Contest.

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

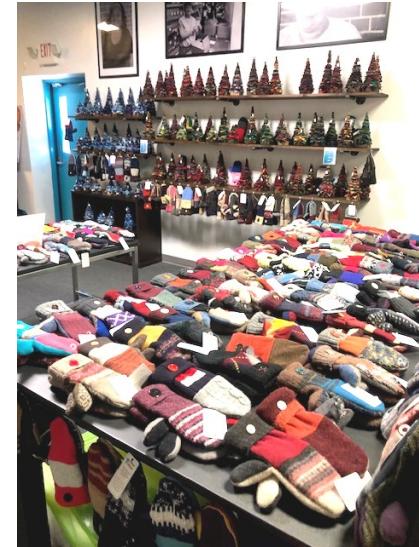


The West Jay Optimist Club sponsors a Recycling Club at West Jay Elementary School made up of 5th & 6th graders. This year the Recycling Club had 24 members. The students would work every Thursday to go to all of classrooms to collect the recycling and take it outside to the recycling receptacle. Since this group was so large this year, the students came up with the great idea of 5th working one week, and 6th grade the next week. The bi- weekly schedule worked out perfectly. It worked for the kids, the club sponsor, and the school. Thanks

kids for the great  idea!



Soup of Success tour- Elkhart Club
 Sewing & cutting room....
 Women are employed at \$11 hour.
 Mittens & trees, made from repurposed wool sweaters, are displayed in their store.
 Group with Director, Rebecca photo.



Co-Governor, Kathy Nelson, visiting Zionsville for lunch at Friendly's

Co-Gov. Kathy, OI Pres. Jan & Ron Graves, Max Soliday, Greg Palmer & wife Mary, VP Mid-Amer. Sandy Doyle enjoying food & fellowship @ Friendly's.

Lafayette Breakfast Club gave out Teachers Grants. Here are some of the results from those grants.

Sharing Teacher Grants-Round 1: When Dave and Janie Norman arrived outside the Downtowner Wednesday, they observed a lady unloading a number of plastic buckets and assorted other items from her car into a child's wagon. When it became obvious that she was bringing the wagon into the restaurant, they assisted with the doors and helped her navigate her "wagon train" to the meeting room, where she joined fellow grant winners ready to share their grant results. Beth Hassenplug had come well-prepared with visual aids for her interactive presentation. And the club members loved the involvement as they drummed on the buckets, attempting to follow, some more successfully than others, Beth's musical instruction as she explained how the buckets and drumsticks she purchased with her grant enabled her to teach basic music skills and work on brain-hand coordination with her fifth graders. Abigail Rascoe's grant purchased Gelli Plate printing materials for her K-5 art classes. The examples she showed of the final products and the methods used to achieve them in just 30 minutes a week with each class were amazing.

Laura Dearing and Samantha Snowberger used their grant to tackle the math skills deficiencies in their 6-8 grade students due to Covid delays and other factors. They purchased and worked with a program called Reflex, in which assessment, coaching, and practice are delivered via a fun, game-based approach. And because it is fully adaptive, students get the individualized instruction they need to be successful. Their students improved their proficiency from 38% to over 70%.

Jeff High School Math Teacher Wendy Towle's project, entitled "Navigating Warehouse Management in the World of Math" allowed her students to apply mathematical concepts in a real-world scenario through simulation.

One common thread throughout all these presentations is that all of them can be used over and over, extending the number of students impacted.

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 Convention Service Projects

Get ready for an inspiring and engaging 107th Optimist International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, from June 29 to July 3, 2025! This year, we're excited to offer some unique service projects that will allow you to make a positive impact alongside your fellow Optimists.

Build-A-Bear for Ronald McDonald House

Here's a wonderful chance to bring comfort to children and families facing challenging times. You will soon have the opportunity to purchase a special bear, complete with the Optimist International brand. These cuddly creations will be donated to the local Ronald McDonald House, bringing smiles and warmth to those who need it most. Stay tuned – details and a sign-up form will be coming soon!.

Monarch Jewelry

Do you have used or broken jewelry that's ready for a new life? Bring it with you to the convention!

We're partnering with [**Monarch Jewelry**](#), who will transform your donated pieces into something new and beautiful. Even more importantly, the proceeds from this initiative will go towards the crucial fight to end sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation. This is a meaningful way to repurpose old treasures and contribute to a good cause.

We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis for a convention filled with fellowship, learning, and service! If you're as excited as we are, you won't want to miss our Know-Before-You-Go webinar where we will be talking about what to expect during this exciting weekend in St. Louis!

The webinar will be held Monday, **June 9**, at **7 p.m. CDT**.



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



hello, **JUNE** June 2025

*it's been a while since
i've seen you last*

The Governance Committee will be hosting two in-depth webinars to discuss the upcoming proposed Bylaw amendments that will be voted on at the upcoming Convention. The first will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 7 p.m. CDT, and the second will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 7 p.m. CDT.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Webinar	13	14  Happy Flag Day!
15 	16	17 Webinar	18	19	20  First day of sum-	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Optimist International Convention in St. Louis				

VISIT:
OPTIMIST.ORG
INDIANANORTHDISTRICT.ORG

**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



Indiana North District News Letter Editor:
 Jim Burk
 1315 Hollendale Dr
 Bluffton, IN 46714
 Phone: 260-223-0926
 E-mail: jburk63@gmail.com

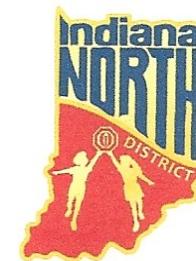
**“Like us” on
Face Book**

**Optimists are:
The Friend of Youth**

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

—Winston Churchill

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



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