



The Indiana North District



OPTIMIST

District News

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Activities This Month

There are no District functions this month.

Upcoming Activities

2nd Quarter meeting will be held in Berne in February at the Clock Tower Inn.
Date Feb, 14th.

Our 2nd Quarter District meeting will be held in Berne in February at the Clock Tower Inn.
Date Feb, 14th
The meeting should end around 1pm.

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



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**



Governor's Corner



I sincerely hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! The importance of being with family and friends at any time, but especially during the holidays, can't be overstated as we celebrate the birth of our savior.

Did last month's emphasis about Respect for Law plant some seeds for your clubs? I hope every club formally recognizes at least one law enforcement officer this Optimist year. Remember that forms for a certificate to award a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) of the Year is available on optimist.org.

If you haven't already, please mark your calendar now to attend the 2nd quarter district meeting. It will be held in person at Clock Tower Inn in Berne on February 14th. I'm aiming for the meeting to end around 1:00, to give you the rest of this romantic day to spend for Valentine's Day. Details and reservation forms will follow soon.

Growth Committee chairperson Sandy Doyle and her team are resuming work to start some new clubs in our district. In fact, seeds have been planted in Fishers, Noblesville, Greenfield, Middlebury, and Hammond. After New Year's, work will resume in earnest for two or more of these communities to soon have the best service club in the world - an Optimist club. We wish Sandy and her team all the best!

In the meantime, the district is currently -1 for the year in clubs, & -41 for members. Those numbers are skewed since we lost a special needs club, but we have some work to do. Although we'll add new members with the addition of a club (or 2 or more), it is really important we retain our current members. Please make a strong effort to keep your members committed by conducting interesting programs with engaging speakers, along with fundraisers that include as many club members as possible.

On the above note, there is a club incentive again this year. If your club reaches honor club status (grow club by net + 3 members, make minimum \$100 contribution to OIF, be current on Ol/district dues), plus send a club representative to minimum 2 remaining district meetings, the club will reach the district incentive of \$200. This will be distributed after the Optimist year ends on September 30, 2026.

My last issue is addressing my goal of emailing each club member weekly. I have greatly failed in this endeavor so far. I used Network Solutions to send the emails in October. A few of you received them for a few weeks, but I think many of you never received them at all. I learned after I started this goal that Network Solutions limited me to 100 contacts per email, and no more than 5 emails daily (500 contacts). With nearly 1,000 members district-wide, these restrictions were difficult to incorporate. Many emails were returned to me. I tried scheduling them to send hours apart, but that didn't work, either. I then took a break for awhile, especially with my other commitments. However, I anticipate trying this again, but likely using Mailchimp this time. Apparently, this platform doesn't have those restrictions.

That's all for now. I hope everyone rings in 2026 with enthusiasm for a great new calendar year! If you have any questions and/or comments, feel free to call or text me at (317) 697-2521, or email at jim.smith06@yahoo.com.

Jim Smith
Governor - 2025-26
KidsUp!

Club Happenings



Here is the lighted display that the Decatur Club and Bluffton Club went together at the Ouabache State Park lighted displays. It is a fund raiser sponsored by the "Friends of The Park". The annual display draws hundreds of visitors each year to view the beautiful and unique lighted displays



The Warsaw Breakfast Club donated \$750 to KYLA

pictured are Brooke Hamstra, Cindy Klusman and Chad Goon

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

From Optimist International

Dear Optimist,

We're excited to share a sneak peek of something new coming to the Optimist community. Before our full launch in January, we're offering members early access to Hello by Grouper* — a national healthy-living platform designed to help you stay active, engaged, and inspired.

This early-access period gives you a first look at our new Optimist online clubhouse inside Hello by Grouper. We'll be using this space to stay connected between events, share updates, motivate and support one another, and continue building a strong, healthy, thriving Optimist community.

And because Hello by Grouper brings many associations together, you'll also be able to explore new interests and connect with a wider world of supportive peers — all included with your Optimist membership at no additional cost.**

By joining Hello by Grouper, you're investing in your own wellness and the overall well-being of our Optimist community, with access to:

Your Optimist space: Connect with fellow members, share what makes our organization shine, and stay up-to-date with club-related discussions and news.

Hundreds of live and on-demand classes and experiences: From fitness and strength & balance to arts & crafts and daily puzzles, Hello by Grouper offers endless opportunities to stay healthy and engaged.

Communities that inspire and uplift: Connect with like-minded people — from walkers and gardeners to crafters, music lovers, and lifelong learners — who'll motivate you to build healthy habits.

Inspiring content and events: Book clubs, webinars, monthly challenges, and talks on healthy aging — all designed to spark joy and boost well-being.

Strong communities grow when we stay connected — and we're thrilled to give you a first look at this new resource.

Join us! Getting started is simple — just follow the steps to sign up and explore.

[Click here to Join Hello by Grouper!](#)

We're excited to share this preview with you and can't wait to see you inside the new community!

Newsday Tuesday



New Medallions for Optimist International Scholarship Contests Essay, Oratorical, and CCDHH

Dear Optimist Leaders,

Optimist International is pleased to introduce **new medallions** for use in the Essay, Oratorical, and Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) programs. These refreshed recognition pieces are designed to bring consistency, sustainability, and a polished look to all scholarship events.

Here are the key updates:

- The new medallions are available in **Gold, Silver, and Bronze**, each featuring the **Optimist International logo** at the center.
- **Specific contest names are *not listed on the medallions*. This intentional design choice allows Clubs and Districts to use one versatile medallion style for all three scholarship contests, ensuring long-term sustainability, easier inventory management, and a more consistent recognition experience for students.**

The medallions will be available for purchase through the [Optimist International Merchandise Store](#) beginning in January.

We encourage you to **check back at the [OI Merch Store](#)** at that time for availability, ordering information, and projected shipping timelines.



Newsday Tuesday is distributed weekly to Optimist leaders, including club presidents. Please be sure to share all relevant information with your club members.

OIF Board Candidates

The Optimist International Foundation is proud to announce the candidates for the Board of Directors position:

Sandi Cox, WMO
Les Lowery, Louisiana
Jim Oliver, PSW

The Election will be held in February 2026. Eligible voters are all 2024-25 Dime A Day donors to OIF. Plus, the CFRs of Clubs that reached the 365 level during the 2024-25 year. The elected individual will begin a four-year term beginning October 1, 2026, and will serve as President of OIF in their fourth year.

We will be sharing biographies and a video of each candidate in mid-January, as well as voting information for eligible voters in late January. So stay tuned.

We look forward to a good election and are pleased to see three amazing Optimist that are very involved with OIF run for this one Board slot.

Craig Boring
Executive Director
Optimist International Foundation

District Events

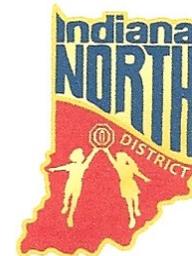


January 2026

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	26	30	31



VISIT:
OPTIMIST.ORG
INDIANANORTHDISTRICT.ORG



INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Co-Governor: Kathy Nelson 765-744-4092
Co-Governor: Jennifer Kelsik 795-524-2211
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Smanthey42@gmail.com
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Lt. Governors:
Zone 2: Kris Mueller
Zone 3: Bob Walsh
Zone 4: Josefa Schaper
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 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