

The Indiana North District



PTIMIST

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

District News

Our District Leaders for the Optimist Year 2025-2026

Activities This Month

No District activities in September.

Upcoming Activities

The first quarter District Meeting will be held in Plainfield on November 8th. This will be a joint meeting with the Indiana South District.



Governor, Jim Smith, for the 2025-2026 Optimist year.



Our new Governor Elect: Dr. Pam Galloway and husband, Dr. Christopher Magiera. She will be our Governor for the 2026-2027 Optimist year.

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



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**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**



As I begin my year serving you as governor of our wonderful Indiana North District, I'm reminded of the phrase "there's a new sheriff in town". This statement often used in old western movies means there's new leadership, including some changes. However, this year isn't about me. It's about us - ALL of us - working together as a TEAM. It takes not only the lieutenant governors, committee chairs, etc., to accomplish our goals, but it takes each individual member. This service includes not only the current members of our 33 clubs. but those clubs not yet formed, plus people who will become members in an existing or new club later this year. My theme for this year is KidsUp! This theme intends to put the emphasis where it belongs - to serve the youth of our respective communities.

While I don't plan to implement any major changes, there will be a few subtle ones. For instance, my goal is to email all district members weekly. A couple weeks ago, I asked each club president and secretary in our district to verify each member's email address in their respective clubs at optimists.org/leaders website. As of this writing, I haven't gotten a reply from several clubs yet, so I will use the addresses shown online until told otherwise. In order to send over 1,000 emails weekly, I have to use a different domain. My email address used for the weekly emails only is jimsmith@innorthdistrict.com. However, I intend to use my regular email address of jim.smith06@yahoo.com for all other correspondence.

I want to emphasize that the purpose of the weekly emails isn't to replace the monthly newsletter article compiled by Jim Burk, but to supplement it. While some emails will inform you of important upcoming dates and other vital information, others will just be in the hopes of keeping you motivated - KidsUp!

In those old westerns, good guys were portrayed wearing white hats, while bad guys wore black. In our district, we're not distinguished by good and bad. I tend to think of all of us as good guys and gals. The programs each club has in place serve our towns very well. Optimists reach more kids than any other service organization in the world. Let's strive to keep up this great work, serve kids to the best of our ability, and keep wearing those white hats!

I want to thank Kathy and Jennifer for serving as co-governors in 2024-25. They stepped-up to serve us when we really needed them. I thank both of them, along with several other great people in our district who have helped guide me to begin this new year. If you have 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

Club Happenings

Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club

Hands on--Up to our Elbows: When club members signed up to volunteer at the McAllister Center Back to School Bash on the 20th, we were told that we would be helping distribute school supplies and assisting with games and activities. Well, someone (and we won't mention who) told them we had lots of experience with arts and crafts at the Boys and Girls Club. So, we were assigned to the Arts and Crafts Room—which was a paradise for crafty kids. There were eight stations, each featuring a different craft project, almost all involving paint and sticky stuff, everything from tie dye bandanas to sock puppets to play dough and sponge and string painting. The kids had a great time, and we all survived, although some of our clothes didn't.

Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club



Grant – Tracy Furnival,
Baker's Youth Club, 2
cents presented by Jeff
Owens/Paul Finley

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

Newsday Tuesday



Are you ready to shape the future of Optimism? Join Optimist International President Tom Kendo as he unveils his vision for the 2025-2026 Optimist Year! In this can't-miss webinar, you'll learn about powerful new membership incentives and get an inside look at the upcoming growth blitz. This is your chance to **“Be the Change!”**

Sponsored by the OI 2025-2026 Leadership Development Committee.

- **Date:** Monday, October 13
- **Time:** 7pm central
- **Registration Link:** <https://optimist-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/OmhNQbY1R2yzwo7q9D7Enw>

New PDP Guidelines

Last night, a webinar was held to introduce the new Professional Development Program (PDP) for Optimist International. Below are the new program guidelines, as well as the list of the requirements for each level.

Please note that all levels of the new PDP must be completed on the Optimist Institute, and take special note of number 3 below if you have ever worked on levels of the former PDP.

New PDP Guidelines:

1. The new PDP will be available online in the Optimist Institute on September 9, 2025.
2. To participate in the PDP, each member is required to have an active account in the Optimist Institute.
3. Because the new PDP is very different from the former PDP, any member wishing to participate in the PDP will begin at level 1.
4. The levels of the PDP must be completed consecutively. Upon successful completion of a level, the next level will be unlocked, as some of the work builds up to other work.

1. Certificates of completion for each PDP level can be generated through the Optimist Institute once a level is completed. Reward badges for each level will also be awarded through the Optimist Institute.
2. Pins will be sent directly to the District PDP Chair or Governor for presentation to the member, unless the OI office is informed that it should be sent to the member directly.

If you have any questions on this new program, feel free to email institute@optimist.org.

Shop Optimist Gear Online!

Exciting news—Optimist International's online store has officer lapel pins available!

Clubs in the United States and the Caribbean Nations can easily order branded merchandise, apparel, and now officer lapel pins at the [Optimist Merch Store Home](#).

Start shopping today and show your **Optimist pride!**

CORRECTION: *Members with Life Memberships will be charged reduced international dues, equal to half of regular membership dues.*

CLUB END OF YEAR REMINDERS:

1.If you have any new members to submit, TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ENTER THOSE NEW MEMBERS INTO YOUR ROSTER, and count for the 24-25 Optimist Year.

2. LAST DAY TO SUBMIT YOUR CLUB PRIDE REPORT - requirement for Honor Club.

3. CHECK you are NET +3 members - requirement for Honor Club

4. All FEES PAID to OI by Sept. 30th - (online payment available today)

5. 2025-2026 CLUB OFFICERS have been updated on your Club Page.

THANK YOU everyone for all the work you have put into helping IN North District to grow with NEW OPTIMISM this year!

Your Community Projects have been AMAZING, and we need to **keep sharing** the **JOY & POSITIVITY** that Optimists bring to every community.

You truly did BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS & SOAR !!

Optimism Rocks!

Govs. Kathy & Jennifer

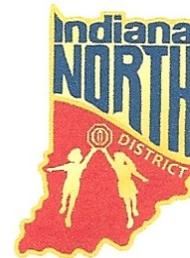
District Events



October 2025

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	

VISIT:
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INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Co-Governor: Kathy Nelson 765-744-4092
Co-Governor: Jennifer Kelsik 795-524-2211
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317-697-2521
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Lt. Governors:
Zone 2: Kris Mueller
Zone 3: Bob Walsh
Zone 4: Josefa Shchaper
Zone 5: Deb Imel
Zone 6: Lorie Hofman
Zone 7: Sandy Stone
Zone 9: Rick Barr

Your Leadership
Team for 2024-
2025

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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