

The Indiana North District



PTIMIST



**SPECIAL
POINTS
OF INTEREST**

District News

Activities This Month

Is your Club planning a Christmas Party? You need to get your reservations in ASAP

Upcoming Activities

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

First Quarter Meeting

Highlights of the Indiana North 1st Qtr. Meeting:

The meeting was a co-meeting with Indiana South.

Our Governor, Jim Smith and Indiana South Governor, Monical Wallace, presented a great meeting with many good ideas and speakers.

Upcoming events:

- The 2nd Qtr. Meeting will be in Berne on February 14th.
- Optimist International Essay Contest deadline for submission to the District Chair is February 28, 2026.
- Optimist International Oratorical Contest entry is March
- The 3rd Qtr. Meeting will be in Monticello at the Brandywine Convention center on May 2nd. Oratorical finals.
- State Convention will be at the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park near Angola on Sept. 11-12th.

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**



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**



Governor's Corner



The joint district meeting held November 8th with Indiana South was very successful. We had a decent turnout, although our southern cousins had more attendees. It was great seeing and listening to Phyllis Neff. She organized the OI convention this summer in St. Louis.

It was also very nice hearing about police youth camps held across our area. Danielle Henderson and her young son spoke about Pioneer Camps (for ages 11-14), Law Camps (for 6th, 7th, & 8th graders), and Career Camps (for high school students). This talk tied in very well as one of my points of emphasis as governor, which is Respect for Law. Pam Galloway chairs this committee, and although she was not able to be present at the district meeting, I read some notes she prepared. The schedule for youth camps is released in January, and she will pass this on to club presidents when available. The best way to help one of these camps is for our Optimist clubs to sponsor a pizza night, where the club would provide pizza for the troopers and participants. More information on the camps is available at trooper.org.

Another great way to participate in Respect for Law program is to award a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) of the Year. Forms for the certificate are available on optimist.org. To select the LEO of the year, it is best to contact the local chief of police, county sheriff, or Fraternal Order of Police. Generally, the LEO of the year is someone who has gone above and beyond the ordinary. If no one in your club has a relationship with local law enforcement, please contact Pam and she can help with a connection. Pam's email address is drpamgalloway@yahoo.com.

My other point of emphasis as your governor is teen mental health. I hope we all find it very disturbing that suicide among teenagers has seen a sharp increase the last several years. In fact, suicide is the third leading cause of death for teenagers, trailing only unintentional injuries and homicide. Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and cutting are also on the rise among kids - our most precious resource. We'll hear from speakers regarding teen mental health at upcoming district meetings.

Speaking of upcoming district meetings, our 2nd quarter (in person) meeting is planned to be held at Clock Tower Inn in Berne on February 14th. Likely as soon as you read that date, you realized that's Valentine's Day. Well, I plan to end the meeting very early afternoon, so everyone will have time to get home and be with your sweetie for this most romantic holiday. Details and reservation forms will follow after New Year's.

One item our district needs to improve is our giving to Optimist International Foundation (OIF). Indiana North has given \$158.20 in unrestricted donations through 10/31/25. For our 1,152 members, this equates to \$0.14 per member. This ranks our district 29th out of 39 total districts. The leader is Alabama-Mississippi District, which has given a whopping \$4,811.00 in the same period, equating to \$6.10 per member. That's fantastic for them, and we may not be able to catch them, but I know we can do better. Since the Optimist year is still very young, we can make great strides, and I know we will. If you haven't yet, remember to donate to Dime-A-Day for individuals and a Dollar-A-Day for Clubs.

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

Club Happenings



Membership is growing in Lafayette

The **Lafayette Breakfast club** was formally introduced to four of our six new members as they were officially inducted into the club at the business meeting this past week. Karen Iten from Madelyn Schurman, Connie Harper and Tom Bryja stood with their sponsors as President Jeff Oliver went through the formalities. Two additional members, Margo Bradshaw and Kay Walton, will be inducted at a later date. All six of these "newbies" are already actively involved in club activities.

West Jay Optimists served a Veteran's Day Meal at the Dunkirk American Legion Post. on Monday eve. Nov. 10th to approx. 25 veterans & family



At the annual Career Expo involving nearly 1,200 students, and 76 exhibits, 125 pork burger lunches served to the exhibitors by the **Bluffton Optimist Club**.



Several Optimist Members of the **Warsaw Breakfast Club** participated in the Spooktacular Event in Downtown Warsaw

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



Some of the Indiana North District members who attended the first Quarter meeting with Indiana South;

Activities & Achievements Report For fourth quarter- 10 clubs reported A total of 606 members worked 2,527 hours to complete 70 projects that served 5,709 youth. These clubs made \$26,026.55 and spent \$29,424.61. The winners are:

Zone 2 – NO REPORTS

Zone 3 – Rochester

Zone 4 – Decatur Zone

Zone 5 – West Jay

Zone 6 – Hammond

Zone 7 – Chesterfield

Zone 9 – New Castle Breakfast

Newsday
Tuesday



Caribbean Hurricane Update

Following Hurricane Melissa, our thoughts are with the communities impacted across the Caribbean District. We have heard from leadership in Jamaica that many of our fellow Optimists are now facing significant challenges, including damage to their homes and disruption to their livelihoods.

While the cleanup and rebuilding will take time, the Caribbean District has organized a relief drive to support their members directly during this recovery phase.

For those who feel moved to support our Optimist family in the region, the District has established a [Go Fund Me](#) page. Thank you for keeping our Caribbean members in your thoughts.

Don't Miss the Announcement!

Something big is on the horizon for our clubs and districts! Join us on Dec. 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. for a special webinar where we will unveil a brand-new initiative designed to support and celebrate your hard work. This is a game-changer for membership and retention that you will want to hear about firsthand. Be there for the exclusive reveal! Register on line.

Dime a Day

As the new Optimist year begins, all members are invited to become supporters of the Optimist International Foundation. The Dime A Day program is the easiest way to do so and is the OIF's backbone of support.

If you are already a Dime A Day Member, thank you. If not, please consider becoming one today to support the Optimist Mission.

You can do so at www.oifoundation.org. Just click on Donate Now and then select the US/Canada box. The form is quick and easy, and you can select Dime a Day under the donation section.

Like it says on the pin, your donation will be "Helping a Child, One Dime at a Time."

District Events



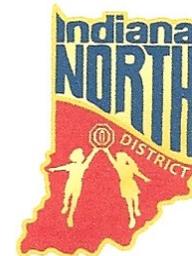
December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7  	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pearl Harbor day 14	15	16	147	18	19	20
21  Winter Begins	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Join us on Dec. 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. for a special webinar where we will unveil a brand-new initiative designed to support celebrate your hard work.



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: Josefa Schaper
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

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