

The Indiana North District OPTIMIST



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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.

District News

Indiana North District Convention 2025

OI Representative, Michael "Mikey B" Boles presented a very challenging program .



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



Our new Governor Elect: Dr. Pam Galloway and husband, Dr. Christopher Magiera. She will be our



Our Co-Governors presenting the Chesterfield Club a \$100 3rd Qtr. attendance check to Vivian and Mel Jackson.



We held a beautiful memorial service for our District members who had died this past year. A big thankyou to Chuck Kempker for leading the memorial program.

Governor for the 2026-2027 Optimist year.

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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

What a wonderful year of change & growth this has been for me! As I traveled to your club gatherings, installed officers, welcomed your new members, helped with your projects, and read your delightful newsletters, all I can say is WOW! It is wonderful to see so many clubs making sure members stay involved 'active participants' serving the needs of youth, and having FUN together as a bonus. When I said 'Yes' to the challenge of being a Co-Governor almost two years ago, this country girl did so with a BIG leap of Optimism. I have been a Charter member of very active West Jay Optimists for 27 years, and they always made it a priority to be Involved in IN North District gatherings & Conventions. How grateful I am for the club & district leaders who have led by example, living the words of our Creed, and continue to encourage new leaders.

N.O.W., 'New Optimists Wanted'. It's time to MAKE ALL YOUR FRIENDS FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING IN THEM. We have everything to gain with new faces - new project ideas & fresh energy to accomplish them. So ... step out of the shadows & be the leader you were always meant to be. It's simple. Share your story. Someone is waiting for you to JUST ASK!

We have a goal to finish strong, to keep building on the already +62 members we have added to IN North District so far this year. We are working to build new clubs with young leaders, who will find a way to meet the needs of our families. The O. W. L.S. program - Optimists Work For Learning Success. Check with your local school secretary, and fill in the gap to help students succeed.

It has been my honor to serve with all of you & I can't wait to celebrate all your accomplishments this year! You have changed lives with acts of Kindness.

If each one adds one, that also invites one, clubs will 'SOAR' to SUCCESS! Optimists have the POSITIVITY the world needs. So what are you waiting for?

Co-Gov. Kathy

I have had a very eventful year being your co-governor alongside Kathy. We spent many funches, planning our overall goals for the year and each of our district meetings. We were both thrust into this position of governor-elect by others at the district convention two years ago. Little did I know what we were getting ourselves into.

Trying to juggle the duties of co-governor along with being a full time flight attendant, teaching driver education, managing the city pool, and being an active member in my own club was quite challenging to say the least. For all of you that say you are waiting to retire to become governor of this great IN North District, you do not!!! You can make it work, and many people are willing to step up and help. I thank all of the clubs, I have visited up to this point for how welcoming you all were. I was grateful to see how each club ran their meeting because there were many variations from my own club. I still have a few visitations left and can't wait to see the remaining clubs on my list.

Our time is coming to an end, and I hope all of you are still trying to add new members or, as Sandy Doyle and I are doing, get out there and build a new club(s). I thank all of you for your support and especially Chris Whitehead for leaving us with a great foundation for Kathy and I to build upon. I look forward to supporting our next governor and helping him to grow this great IN North District.

Co-Gov. Jennifer

Club Happenings

The Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club began Addressing Club issues.

For the last two weeks, the Wednesday meetings have been devoted to an open forum discussion of issues facing the club and possible solutions. Lots of good suggestions were made. Now we just have to all start!

The Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club presented a check to Warsaw Career Center awarded \$2,500



Elwood Club Fund Raiser.

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

Newsday Tuesday



2026 Visual Arts Contest Competition

Guidelines

1. The contest will be held at the Club or school level and International level. The topic this year is Be Bold - Be The Change.
2. Club or school level judging may be by Club Members, teachers, professional artists/instructors, or by public voting. Clubs and schools should submit their best entries for judging at the international level.
3. The project for the Visual Arts Competition shall be the creation of a set of twelve note cards and envelopes.
4. Artist must be age eleven or lower as of October 1, 2025. There are two age divisions: up to 7 years of age and 8-11 years of age. Art for notecards will be selected from each age division, proportionate to number of entries. Limit one entry per artist.
5. Clubs or schools may provide awards to participants and winners at the local level.
6. Artwork must be created on 11" wide x 8.5" high paper or construction paper. The artist's name should be written lightly on the back of the artwork.
7. Actual, physical artwork of the Club winner(s) must be submitted to OI no later than March 1, 2026. Do not fold the art work, and be sure to protect the artwork by placing it between two pieces of thin cardboard before placing it inside of a large envelope. Mark the outside of the envelope with the words, "DO NOT BEND". Send to Optimist International, c/o Marketing, 4494 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108
8. At the International level, 12 winners will receive a \$150 monetary award; the winner of the cover will receive an additional \$100 monetary award.
9. The notecards will be available for sale as early as June 28, 2026, at the international convention in Jacksonville, Florida, and online.

Make a Difference in Your Local Schools with OWLS

Many of our Clubs are already doing incredible work in partnership with local schools, but what if there was a way to highlight and amplify that impact? That's the goal of OWLS — Optimists Working for Learning Success.

The OWLS program serves as an educational umbrella, helping us track our collective engagement and impact in schools and communities. It provides a focus for Clubs looking for a Signature Program and is a wonderful tool for membership recruitment. By creating an official framework, we can develop stronger partnerships with schools and eventually earn endorsements from national educational associations, becoming the premier service organization supporting local schools.

OWLS projects can include a wide range of activities your Club may already be doing, such as:

- Mentoring and tutoring
- Providing school supplies, hygiene items or weekend food packages
- Chaperoning field trips, judging science fairs or conducting mock interviews

To support these valuable projects, your Club can consider obtaining funding from our foundations—the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF).

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, please visit the links below:

OIF Grants: [Club Grant](#) & [Childhood Health & Wellness Grant](#)

CCOF Grant: [Club Grant](#)

Ready to get started? The path to launching an OWLS program in your community is straightforward:

Research & Prepare: Identify local schools and determine your Club's capacity and focus. Prioritize 3 key areas where your Club can assist.

Build Relationships: Reach out to school leaders to discuss how you can work together. To help with your initial outreach, download our [customizable email template here](#).

Implement: Launch your first activity, monitor its progress, and collect feedback to ensure its success.

By uniting under this initiative, we can create a safe, comfortable, and productive environment for students everywhere. Let's work together to help our students succeed!

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Growth Webinar

The International Growth Committee is holding another webinar to help members with new Membership recruitment and retention and New Club development. Committee Chair Rick Gillespie of Midwest Ontario will present two sessions in early September focused on growth-related strategies as well as innovative ways for finding new Optimists. These sessions will include suggestions in the areas of the elevator speech, using social media and membership orientation.

Registration using these links for the sessions are below:

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, 7 p.m. Central: <https://optimist-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/9nZmwJGkS4OyCWFzfvQYBA>

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 10 a.m. Central: <https://optimist-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/GgXs6zKbTmaWaZaWLWEwEw>

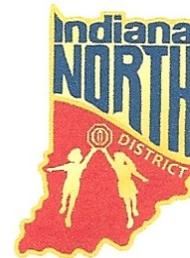
District Events



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6`
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	19	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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

Your Leadership
Team for 2024-
2025

Indiana North District News Letter Editor:
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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