



# The Indiana North District



# PTIMIST

**SPECIAL  
POINTS  
OF INTEREST**

## *District News*

### Activities This Month

2nd Quarter meeting will be held in Berne in February at the Clock Tower Inn. Date Feb, 14th 9am to 1pm

### Upcoming Activities

No upcoming District happenings in the near future.

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

The meeting should begin at 9am and end around 1pm. So, If you have planes for Valentines Day evening, we should be out in plenty of time.

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



**CHOOSE  
OPTIMISM**



## Governor's Corner



I hope everyone is staying inside as much as possible while this snow is still coming down (as of Sunday evening). It seems the meteorologists predicted this one correctly, or at least very close.

As I've mentioned in my emails and the district newsletters, [don't forget Optimist Day on February 5th](#), along with our 2nd quarter district meeting February 14th. The meeting should be a great time with some special remarks by the two Sandy's from West Jay Club - Sandy Doyle & Sandy Rogers. In fact, if you've been attending district meetings the past few years, you might remember its meaning. That's all I'm going to hint about it. You'll have to join us that day to get the effect.

Let me close with a little story. It was written for children, but its message is for everyone: Once upon a time, there was a turtle who dreamed of flying. Despite her fears, her enthusiasm for flying was stronger than her apprehension. One day, she met a bird who encouraged her to follow him to the top of a mountain. The turtle hesitated, but decided to embark on the journey, overcoming her fears step by step.

As she climbed, she encountered new sights and sounds, each step filling her with excitement. When she finally reached the top, she looked up at the bird, who was waiting for her. The turtle realized that her bravery and optimism had led her to achieve something she once thought impossible.

This story teaches us that with courage and a positive mindset, we can overcome our fears and reach new heights.

The calendar finally turned a new page today. I think we all welcome February and the near certainty of nicer weather than we experienced the last couple weeks in January.

This Thursday, February 5th is Optimist Day, a special day for all of us to proclaim we're Optimists! Remember to wear your Optimist clothing and do a random act of kindness, or participate in a club project or fundraiser. Please submit pictures of however you celebrate the day to Julie Robison, as she runs our district Facebook page. Her phone number is (574) 596-2282, and her email is [rbsmurf@aol.com](mailto:rbsmurf@aol.com).

There are some important dates to remember this new month. [Saturday, February 14th is our 2nd quarter district meeting in Berne](#). Please submit your reservations very soon to Shelley Manthey. As of this writing, only 13 people have registered, although I know of several more coming. There is no lunch provided, as you're on your own when the meeting concludes approximately 1:00 PM.

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The 2nd quarter district meeting held on February 14th is only a few weeks away. We'll spend some time looking back at last year, plus continue looking forward to what the rest of this year brings us. Max Soliday is conducting a silent auction, so clubs are encouraged to bring an item to help the OI Foundation. We'll hear updates about the essay and oratorical contests currently underway. As time allows, we'll have a fun activity or two. The highlight of the meeting is likely going to be a topic presented by the Sandy team of Doyle and Rogers, reminding us of why we are Optimists. You won't want to miss it! If you haven't yet, please send your reservations very soon to Shelley Manthey.

Our district status in membership continues to look bleak, at the moment. For the year, we are now -52 in membership. As I mentioned last month, the number is misleading due to the loss of a club, but we all have some work to do to right the ship. I'm as guilty as anyone of not inviting potential members often enough to join us for a club meeting or activity. Please keep this in mind as we encounter people in our walks of life. People can't join a club until they are asked by someone else. That's how you became a member yourself.

I received our \$250 check earlier this week from OI Foundation. This will be given this Saturday, February 7th to Ronald McDonald House Charity (RMHC) in Ft. Wayne. This facility is located inside Parkview Regional Medical Center, and gives families with a hospitalized child a home base. This includes beds, food, drinks, a playhouse for young siblings, and lots of space for families to be together. RMHC staff & volunteers offer support services and encouragement to families during their stay. Besides the OIF check, I asked for donations from individuals & clubs. As of today, nearly \$400 in checks have been received! Thank you very much, and I encourage more of you to help. Please send all donations to Shelley Manthey within the next couple days, so she receives them by Friday. Her address is 1750 Rainbow Bend Blvd. - Elkhart, IN 46514. Shelley will write one check from the district on behalf of our collected contributions.

Also this Saturday, some of the executive committee will join me to volunteer a little time. We're going to provide a meal from a Fazoli's in Ft. Wayne, and serve it to the RMHC families that evening. We'll see first-hand the great work RMHC provides.

So, February is going to be busy, but it will be time well served with each other and helping others going through difficult times. Isn't that what we're all about, to make the world a little brighter as best we can?

Kids Up!

Jim Smith  
District Governor  
[jim.smith06@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.smith06@yahoo.com)

# Club Happenings



The Chesterfield Club an early contest for our Chesterfield Oratorical. Our club held it in Greenfield in order to serve a home school group who like to do debate contests. It was different for them, but they did well.

**Oratorical winners for the Chesterfield Optimist Club held at the Greenfield Faithway Baptist**

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

**Activities & Achievements Report** For first quarter- 13 clubs reported A total of 494 members worked 1,582 hours to complete 100 projects that served 10,039 youth. These clubs made \$38723.57 and spent \$75125.60. The winners are:

Zone 2 – Elkhart Luncheon

Zone 3 – Rochester

Zone 4 – Ft. Wayne Downtown

Zone 5 – West Jay

Zone 6 – Hammond

Zone 7 – Chesterfield

Zone 9 – No Reports

## OPTIMIST ORATORICAL CONTEST - 2026-Info

TOPIC: “The Moment I Realized I Belonged - My Definition of Community”

IN North District Scholarship: 1st place \$2500, 2nd place \$1500

& 3rd place \$1000, for College/Technical School.

\*Clubs that intend to participate - Let the DISTRICT CHAIR know as soon as possible. Clubs need to distribute applications to schools, Libraries, churches & home-school groups (December & January).

\*Application & typed Speech copy should be turned into Club Chair by FEB. 15th. Any club contest-Level 1- should take place by the end of February; area contests- Level 2- by March (before spring break),etc.

Clubs should try to hold local & area contests prior to advancing students to the Regional contests. The more practice opportunities you can give students will build their confidence in front of an audience.

\*Regional Contest areas are as follows: (2 students from each area will advance to the District Finals)

REGION 1 : Clubs from Zones 2, 3 + Hammond

REGION 2: Clubs from Zones 4, 5 , (9)? To balance #s

REGION 3: Clubs from Zones 6, 7, (9)

Regional Contests need to take place in early April, or at least 2 wks.

before the IN North District Quarter 3 gathering, which this year is MAY 2nd, 2026, in Monticello, IN. (CONTEST FINALS).

\*We are looking for HOST CLUBS / LOCATIONS for each Regional

Contest. If you have done this in the past, have a location, let me know.

Help spread the word & get more kids involved with IN North contests!!

(attachments: Club Guide, Student Application, Certificates of participation)

Kathy Nelson

IN North District Oratorical Chair

765-744-4092 cell jkccjaj@gmail.com email

**NOTE:** Find Complete applications & information for both Oratorical and Essay contests on line on the OI Website.

# Newsday Tuesday



## Meet the OIF Board candidates

The Optimist International Foundation is proud to announce the candidates for the Board of Directors position. Click the links or watch the videos below to learn more about the candidates

The Election will be held Feb. 1 to Feb. 28, 2026. Votes will be cast online at [www.oifoundation.org](http://www.oifoundation.org). 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. Results of the election will be made available once the OIF Board certifies the election results the first week of March, and the elected individual will begin a four-year term beginning October 1, 2026, serving as President of OIF in their fourth year.

### [Sandi Cox, WMO](#)

<https://youtu.be/Nbs6e4zRmOs?t=8>

### [Les Lowery, Louisiana](#)

<https://youtu.be/mxEa6zzpVbs>

### [Jim Oliver, PSW](#)

<https://youtu.be/PbEf2eDz4aY>

[C.A.R.E. Facilitator Training: Redesigned](#)

The C.A.R.E. Facilitator Training has been thoughtfully redesigned to equip Optimist members with the tools and strategies necessary to guide clubs through the C.A.R.E. process. This training ensures that member feedback is not only collected and analyzed but also communicated in ways that inspire celebration, address challenges, and promote recognition and growth. You will leave with a clear understanding of this vital role, along with practical resources to successfully implement the C.A.R.E. program — and much more.

**When:** Thursday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m. CST

## Leadership Development Webinar

*Age Is Nothing But a Number: Understanding Generational Difference and Making It Work!*

**When:** Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. CST

Have you ever wondered why different generations just work so differently? Join us for an exciting, interactive, and informative session exploring what makes each generation tick and how best to bring them together for great outstanding change! We will also look at the defining diversity, equity, equality, and justice through the giving tree.

Sponsored by the Leadership Development Committee

Registration Link: <https://optimist-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/FyfOubCgSoqJzAJrJAX3jQ>

## First Quarter A & A Report

**Activities & Achievements Report** For first quarter- 13 clubs reported A total of 494 members worked 1,582 hours to complete 100 projects that served 10,039 youth. These clubs made \$38723.57 and spent \$75125.60. The winners are:

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# District Events

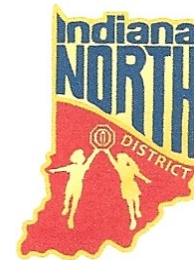


## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 	3	4	5	6	7 District Meeting Clock Tower Inn, Berne 9am
8	9 Leadership Development Committee 7pm	10	11	12	13	14 
15	16 <i>Presidents' Day</i> 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



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



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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