

The Indiana North District



OPTIMIST

MARCH

**SPECIAL
POINTS
OF INTEREST**

District News

Activities This Month

No activities this month

Upcoming Activities

No upcoming District happenings in the near future.

If you weren't with us in Berne this weekend, you missed a really good district meeting experience! Friday evening, we dined at Berne Dining restaurant. The food was good, our service was great, & the prices were very reasonable.

February 14th was the district meeting at Clock Tower Inn. We had 34 reservations confirmed earlier in the week, but a few others also showed up at the door, so it was a great turnout. The mayor of Berne and his administrative assistant went out of their way to do their part to ensure we started the day off well. They provided not only the table centerpieces, but also nice travel bags with a huge assortment of goodies. These were by far the most diverse collection of freebies I've seen. Mayor Gregg Sprunger talked about how the town was founded, and its claim to fame through the decades. The most memorable item about the town is the huge clock tower downtown, which is very similar in size & design to the original in Switzerland.

During the meeting, Immediate Past Co-Governors Kathy Nelson & Jennifer Kelsik not only recognized their district team from last year, but also honored others for last year's achievements. Tonya McClain received her District Humanitarian award.

Portland Evening & New Castle Breakfast Clubs received honor club status, while West Jay Club received distinguished status! Accordingly, Indiana North earned honor district status. Congratulations to all for a job very well done!

Julie Robison directed a hockey match between several people, as this was in honor of the ongoing Winter Olympics.

The West Jay Sandys (Doyle and Rogers) led a fun, yet meaningful balloon activity to emphasize the importance of serving our youth.

Several silent auction items were donated for Max Soliday to explain the bidding process. Nearly \$400 was collected for Optimist International Foundation.

There was a very important vote taken both during the executive meeting Friday & the business session yesterday. Pam Galloway & her husband are moving full-time to Wisconsin, so she is regrettably unable to continue serving as governor-elect. So, I volunteered to serve a 2nd consecutive term as your governor. This was formally approved.

We also heard from several others during the day yesterday. We even had 3 first-timers, so that's always great to see. All in all, a lot of good information was distributed, along with a lot of fun. I owe a debt of gratitude to so many people who helped with the planning & coordination. In whatever way you contributed, thank you very much for a memorable experience! If I've piqued your interest at all, I really hope you plan to join us at the next district meeting, so you can experience first-hand the good time we have. The 3rd quarter meeting will be held May 2nd in Monticello. **Gov. Jim**

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



**CHOOSE
OPTIMISM**



Governor's Corner



If you missed last weekend's second quarter district meeting, you missed a really good one. There was good information shared, we recognized 3 first-timers, there was a lot of fun (including a hockey match in honor of the Olympics), and a balloon activity presented by Sandy Doyle and Sandy Rogers helped remind us why optimism is so important in the lives of the kids we serve. Also, Immediate Co-Past Governors Kathy Nelson & Jennifer Kelsik recognized last year's district team. A highlight of the day was the recognition of New Castle Breakfast & Portland Evening as honor clubs for last year, and especially West Jay club as a distinguished club! It takes a lot of work to make that happen, so congratulations to those 3 clubs. Speaking of West Jay club, member Tonja McClain received an award for being named District Humanitarian last year. Max Soliday organized a silent auction which netted nearly \$400 for OI Foundation. And, I have to mention the tremendous welcome from Berne Mayor Gregg Sprunger and his administrative assistant. Gregg not only spoke at the beginning of the meeting about the town's history and attractions, but he and his assistant provided table centerpieces & gift bags that were filled more than I'd ever experienced before. It was a great day! Maybe you'd like to join us on May 2nd & be recognized as a first-timer, too?

I hope everyone remembered to do something special on February 5th for Optimist Day, even if it seemed nearly insignificant at the time. I wore an OI t-shirt to work that I bought at last year's OI convention, then put quarters into shopping carts at Aldi's on my way home at locations in both Dayton (Ohio) and Richmond. On February 7th, Josefa Schaper, Jennifer Kelsik, Kathy Nelson, Rob & Shelley Manthey joined me to serve a variety of Fazoli's food to guests at Ronald McDonald House Charities in Ft. Wayne.

The guests appreciated a good meal, and I know it warmed the hearts of all 6 of us to be able to help them a little during their stay with their children. We presented not only a \$250 check from OIF, but another check for nearly \$1,000 from our clubs & individuals. Thank you very much for your kindness! The staff at RMHC was very appreciative of our help.

It's time to start making plans for the 3rd quarter district meeting in Monticello. It will include the district finals of the oratorical contest, along with the top 3 essay winners presenting their thoughts on "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me". Seeing and listening to these young people always makes for a fantastic meeting. Please see Sandy Rogers' email this weekend about reserving a hotel room now at Best Western Plus Brandywine Inn & Suites. The actual meeting reservation form will follow in April.

If you haven't already, I hope each club takes the time to honor a police officer in your community very soon. This is part of the Respect for Law campaign we focused on in November. Also, remember to join the Dime-A-Day campaign. It's only \$36.50 annually, and supports OIF.

Jim Smith
District Governor
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(317) 697-2521



New members Jonathan Hollar, Peyton Oldham and Alison Weeks were inducted into the Warsaw Breakfast Club .



Ava Stafford, an Adams Central Senior, won the Decatur's Club Essay Contest. Shown with Ava, is Club President, Ken Kensler.

Club Happenings



The Fort Wayne Club paid the cost for the Harrison Hill Elementary School students admission to the Ft. Wayne Zool. There were 76 kids with a total cost of \$920. This took place in the fall.



Mark Andrews, Lilly Center for Lake & Streams, was granted \$950 by the Warsaw breakfast Club

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

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



Convention Registration Opens March 1

Don't miss our premier networking event of the year—the Optimist International Convention—where you'll connect with fellow Optimists, be inspired by powerful speakers, grow through hands-on workshops, and help shape the future of our organization at the business meeting.

Registration opens March 1.

Visit optimist.org/member/convention.cfm for details and save the date!

District Events

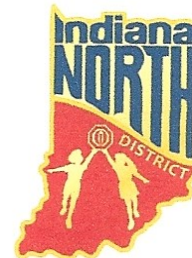


March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8  Day Light Savings Time Returns	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20  Spring Begins	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



VISIT:
OPTIMIST.ORG
INDIANANORTHDISTRICT.ORG



INDIANA NORTH DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

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“Like us” on
Face Book

Optimists are:
The Friend of Youth

*“I am an optimist.
It does not seem to
much use being
anything else”*

—Winston Churchill

Your Leadership
Team for 2024-
2025

Every Day is an Optimist Day
Supporting the Youth of Our Community

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