

# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## September 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

### Message From President Carroll Metzger



Greetings:

Sometimes something you read gets stuck in your head. Recently I read this quote, "individually we make a difference, together we make change." This thought stuck in my head and prompted me to think about how we as a club of diverse women, committed to improving the lives of our citizens, particularly children in our community, make change happen. What are we changing about our community? I have come to this conclusion: by letting adults and children know that there are people who care about their wellbeing, we help change our community to be a better and more attentive one. Although this care is often visible during a natural disaster, it needs to happen more consistently to give hope and support to those in need. We help by giving a coat, a dictionary, through food baskets, hygiene products, by a holiday basket with a bunny and a Christmas party. We do this by encouraging our youth to excel in writing and oratory contests and by honoring our youth and police officers. In so many ways our club works toward and contributes to the wellbeing and change of our community; but the fact remains, there is still so much more to do.

Thanks,  
Carroll

**August 31, 2023**  
**Beth Watts**  
**Chair Yoga, ballet, and tap dancing.**



Thanks to Beth Watts for showing us her moves, but alas we are not all dancers! We did a little stretching and shared a lot of laughs.





## Welcome New Member Rose O'Shaughnessy



New member Rose O'Shaughnessy with her sponsor Jean Naeger. Rose (Rosie) was inducted into the club during the September 14 meeting.

# AWARDS

President Carroll Metzger presented the prestigious President's Citation to Laura Elbl for all she has contributed to our club this year.

Carroll also presented Making a Positive Impact Awards to Cathy Elliott, Karen Huskey, Judy Kuhlman, Kathy Todd, and Lisa Ermer for their willingness to help wherever they can.



Laura Elbl with President Carroll Metzger



Cathy Elliott with President Carroll Metzger



Kathy Todd with President Carroll Metzger



Karen Huskey with President Carroll Metzger



Judy Kuhlman with President Carroll Metzger



Lisa Ermer with President Carroll Metzger



## September 7, 2023 TCA Board of Directors' Meeting Highlight

### Highlights of September board meeting:

Two new members were approved for membership, Carolyn Holland, sponsor Phyllis Neff; Rose O'Shaughnessy, sponsor Jean Naeger.

Thank you letters came from Optimist International Foundation (OIF) for a \$650 contribution to the foundation and from Second Hand Heros for a donation of \$500.

Starting with the October 3 board meeting our meetings will be on Tuesday.

Bylaws changes will be voted on at Thursday meeting on September 7th.

Letters regarding dues went out with new photo opt out option.

Grant for Homeless Youth has been submitted to OIF.

Officer installation will be October 5.

Dictionary project is underway.

Art contest chair Patty Meyer is reaching out to home schooled children, along with local schools. She is expanding categories to six.

Koeze nut catalogs will be out soon.

BB 5K walk time is now at 10:00 a.m. Hoping that the time change will increase attendance.

Gerty O'Leary, Carroll Metzger, and Ellen Bridgewater have started working on creating a club foundation.

635 items were purchased for Homeless Youth Initiative.

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## September 14, 2023 Renee Gerlach - Aunt Rose Project



Renee Gerlach, founder of the Aunt Rose Project returned as our guest speaker on September 14. She updated the club on the impact this project has for teenage girls in Jefferson County. She thanked the club members for their continued support which allowed her to add Hillsboro High School to her distribution list for supplies. Renee supplies period supplies to the Jefferson County Foster Children Fund, Homeless Youth Initiative, and Jefferson County Foster Closet. She has donation locations throughout the county. The club has donated, \$2910.04 in products this year, partly due to the \$1000 matching Optimist International Foundation Grant. With the help of her "Aunties" and local organizations she has collected 21,529 items this year, including

period products and educational books. Please visit her Facebook page to learn more about her mission. [\(20+\) Facebook](#) She also has an Amazon wish list on her Facebook page if anyone is interested in personal donations.

## JACKSON NOON CLUB VISITS TCA CLUB

Current Zone 11 Lt. Governor Emily Collins, with club President Janell Hinkebein, and fellow Jackson Noon Club member Esther Bohnert paid a visit to our club on September 14, 2023. It was a pleasure to welcome our Optimist friends.



Seated: Emily Collins and Esther Bohnert.  
Standing Jean Naeger (TCA), Janell Hinkebein, and Sherry Armstrong. (TCA)

### September 21, 2023 Sponsorship Appreciation Luncheon

Our club welcomed representatives from seven of our Platinum and Gold Sponsors. They were thanked for their continued financial support. Information about our projects and programs was provided by Sponsorship Chair Jean Naeger. She introduced

our guests to some of our more grass roots projects, including Aunt Rose Project, Homeless Youth Initiative, Brenden's Friday Backpack Program, ATLAS Youth Outreach, and Second Hand Heros. She also shared how the club contributes financially with various fundraisers and grant applications.

Guests sponsors appeared to be interested in learning more about our club and service to the community. We learned after the meeting Claudia Thomas from Thomas Industrial was so impressed with our Coats for Kids Program, she went out and bought/donated twenty coats to add to our inventory.

**Platinum Sponsors:**

Thomas Industrial Coating - represented by Claudia Thomas and daughter Teresa Dunn;  
Main Key Realty- represented by Laura Lohman;  
Xi Theta Pi- represented by Jean Naeger.

**Gold Sponsors:**

Harold and Carol Hagan;  
ReMax Best Choice - represented by Rhonda and Jerry Overberg;  
Hovis & Associates - represented by David Hovis and Lacey Robertson;  
Cynthia R. Cherry, CPA, LLC - represented by Cindy Cherry.







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**September 28, 2023**

# Bowling Night

The image shows two bowling scoreboards. The left scoreboard displays scores for Tamm (107), Debbie (62), Patty (88), and Amy (73). The right scoreboard displays scores for Jean (78), Debbie (126), and Carrol (48). Both scoreboards include a colorful bowling ball graphic and a 'Total' column.

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
TAMM	4	7	9	8	9	9	9	6	7		107
DEBBIE	8	4	8	13	X	7	6	9	8		62
PATTY	9	3	10	10	10	10	10	8			88
AMY	4	1	6	6	2	3	10	X			73
Player	DEBBIE										MAA 12.68

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total				
JEAN	6	1	7	6	6	3	5	9	4	5	3	7	7		78
DEBBIE	7	10	7	10	5	8	6	1	7						126
CARROL	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	48
Player	JEAN										MAA 7.44				

Except for maybe Debbie Hogenmiller, no one is going on the pro-bowling circuit any time soon! Members who opted out of bowling humiliation, played spoons, or cheered on their fellow Optimists.



# CLUB PROJECTS

## Book Club

Below is the Book Club reading list for the remaining Optimist year. At each meeting will we discuss the previous month's book.



### Reading List January - September 2023

January - *One More River to Cross* by Jane Kirkpatrick  
February - *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham  
March - *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult  
April - *Unbroken* by Laura Hildebrand  
May - *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult  
June - *The Cabinet of Curiosities* by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child  
July - *The Whole Town is Talking* by Fannie Flagg  
August - *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett  
September - *Dandelion Summer* by Lisa Wingate  
**Book Club will meet after our club meetings at 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.**

## Community Events/Projects

### Feeding Hungry Kids Over the Weekend

A huge thank you to the community for donating 7,567 individual serve food items, plus \$614 during August 26th food drive benefiting Brenden's Friday Backpack Program. In addition, Optimist's East Missouri District held a peanut butter drive on August 19th, collecting 206 jars of peanut butter and \$155.

Thank you to Project Co-Chairs Debbie Hogenmiller and Kirstie Zych.



TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB

## FOOD DRIVE



**Let's Spread Kindness to Others!**

**Brenden's Friday Backpacks Program uses single serve, non-perishable, kid-friendly foods**

- single-serve cereal
- breakfast or granola bars
- canned soup and pasta
- pudding and fruit cups
- individual snacks such as crackers, cookies, chips, Rice Krispie treats, trail mix, etc.
- 16-18 oz plastic jars of peanut butter for long breaks

**1600 kids served weekly!**

**AUGUST 26, 2023**  
**8 AM - 12 PM**

**Most Needed Items**  
Single serve, kid friendly food. Refer to list on right.

**Drop Off Location**  
**Walmart**  
650 S. Truman Blvd.  
Festus, MO

Optimist members will collect donations outside both store entrances

For more information please contact:  
Optimists Debbie Hogenmiller 314-805-0560 or Kirstie Zych 314-221-3708



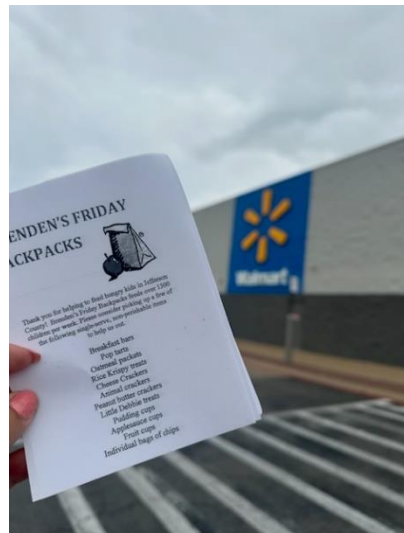
Special thanks to Maggie and Dan Sartore from South Side Optimist Club for dropping off their club's food donation. We love when our Zone 10 fellow Optimists work together to benefit kids -- no matter where they may live.



Laura Lohman with a young donor.



Jean Naeger and Sherry Armstrong





Project Co-Chairs Debbie Hogenmiller and Kirstie Zych



Kirstie Zych, Carroll Metzger, Debbie Buenniger, and Mary Hatfield



Pam Cernik and Dana Hanna



Kirstie Zych loads another cart.

Thanks to our volunteers:

Debbie Hogenmiller, Kirstie Zych, Carroll Metzger, Karen Huskey, Ellen Bridgewater, Debbie Buenniger, Mary Hatfield, Jean Naeger, Sherry Armstrong, Kathy Jensen, Dana Hanna, Laura Lohman, Pat Parsons, and Pam Cernik.



**LET'S STRIKE UP SOME FUN**

**TWIN CITY DAYS CELEBRATION**  
FESTUS CRYSTAL CITY

**FAMILY BOWLING EVENT**

DATE: Friday September 8, 2023  
TIME: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Quonset Lanes  
2004 N. Truman Blvd.  
Crystal City

Per person:  
one FREE Game  
FREE shoe rental

For more information contact:  
Optimist Debbie Hogenmiller 314-805-0560

Sponsored by:



### Twin City Days - Family Bowling

Another successful bowling event during Twin City Days. Thanks to Project Chair Debbie Hogenmiller and her volunteers: Pat Sweet, Kathy Todd, Laura Elbl, Pat Parsons, Katie Huck, Kirstie Zych, Carroll Metzger, Sue Joggerst, Peggy Scott, Jean Naeger, Carolyn McKinney, Sue Boyer, and Ellen Bridgewater.

52 adults and 82 children attended the event. Quonset Lanes provided one free game of bowling and free shoe rental. TCA Club gave out treat bags and snacks.





Laura Lohman and her family.



Kathy Todd with her daughter Kayla and granddaughters.



Annual Art Contest is coming up in November! The contest is open to student artists 12-19 years of age who are attending area middle or high schools or homeschooled students in Jefferson County. Please spread the word. If you can assist with Art Contest, please contact project Chair Patty Meyer.

## Twin City Area Optimist Art Contest



Annual Art Contest  
November 5, 2023  
2:00pm-4:00pm  
Elks Lodge 1721  
4 Elks Acres  
Festus, MO



## Fundraisers



**Dining  
Dilemma**

What's for dinner?

Answer:

Purchase raffle chances for restaurant gift cards. Win over \$500 in gift cards (plus a few surprises)

**Drawing Aug. 31, 2023**

One entry for every \$10 donation:  
Venmo @TC-Optimist 2122 or  
check to TCA Optimist Club,  
P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028  
(include your name and phone number)

Thanks to members who donated gift cards for raffle and purchased chances. Raffle winner was Jon Edmonson, a friend of Lisa Ermer. Our appreciation to raffle chair Beth Watts for another successful raffle, adding **\$1410** to our treasury.





 **MOUSE RACES**  
**Twin City Area**  
**Optimist Club**  
**Fall Fundraiser**

**DATE:** Saturday September 16, 2023

**TIME:** 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm)

**PLACE:** Festus VFW  
900 VFW Dr., Festus, MO

**Non-Refundable Tickets**

**\$25 in advance**

**MUST BE 21 OR OLDER**

**RESERVE A TABLE OF 8 IN  
ADVANCE FOR YOUR GROUP**



**Purchase tickets by phone: 636-222-4344**

**Venmo: @TC-Optimist2122**

**Mail: P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028**

**Tickets include: beer & soda  
snacks are welcome**

*Thank you for  
supporting our kids.*

The Mouse Race Fundraiser earned our club \$5409.23.

Special thanks to Project Chair Carol Schanz and her committee: Debbie Schumaker, Pat Parsons, Beth Watts, Katie Huck, Karleh Brauch, Tabitha Brauch, Lisa Ermer, and Barb Schmidt.

Also, thanks to volunteers who worked the gaming, registration, and raffles tables: Dana Hanna, Debbie Hogenmiller, Janet Mace, Peggy Scott, Sue Boyer, Mary Kay Scott, Donna Masters, Carroll Metzger, Debbie Kettler, Patty Meyer, Kirstie Zych, Marsha Greenstreet, Dorothea Kehm, and Jean Naeger.

NOTE: Apologies if any committee members or volunteers were overlooked. It takes many helping hands to make our events successful.

# Basket Raffle Winners



Jean Naeger won the scratch off raffle:

56 tickets  
Face value \$340  
Won \$250  
Reaction – PRICELESS



Lisa Ermer won the restaurant gift card raffle. She may have sold herself the winning ticket!



Kim Elbl won the meat basket --  
- BBQ at her house.

A Picture is worth a thousand words.  
Appears a good time was had by all.





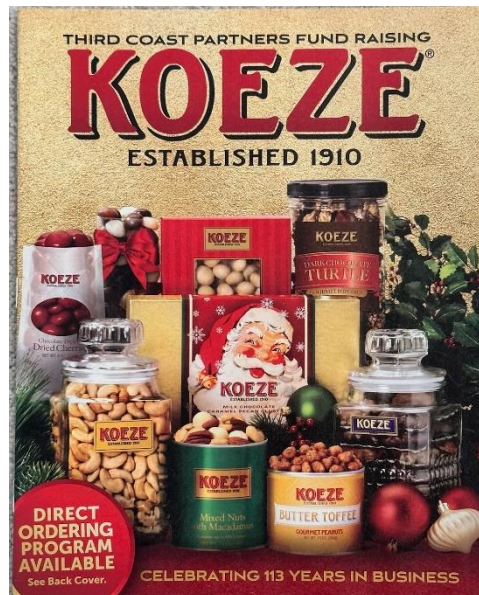
Our bartender for the evening came out and announced that she had been a recipient of one of our scholarships to Jefferson College. You never know how many lives we touch.





**KOEZE Nuts Sale**

Time for KOEZE nuts sales. Pick up a catalog at weekly meetings or contact Project Chair Pat Parsons or Patty Meyer. Check out the online order feature for anyone interested in direct delivery. Please do your part by purchasing products or obtaining orders from family, friends, and business associates.



## In Time for the Holidays KOEZE nuts sales

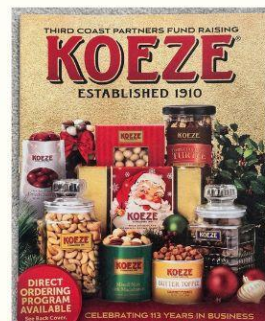
Contact

Patty Meyer to receive  
catalog and place order.

Call/text 314 313 7744 or email:  
[meyerpattyphotos@gmail.com](mailto:meyerpattyphotos@gmail.com)

**Order deadline: Nov. 16th**

**10% discount  
off catalog  
prices**



## Order deadline: Nov. 16th

### Direct Ordering Available

Third Coast Partners has teamed up with Koeze to offer you the opportunity to support your favorite charitable and community organization by placing an order directly with Koeze using a unique promo code. **Koeze will then pay your group a portion of the merchandise total of your order.**

YOUR GROUP IS:

\*OPTIMIST TWIN CITY AREA

YOUR PROMO CODE:

T0006716

(If the promo code above is blank, your group has elected not to participate. Please contact the group directly to place your order.)

### How Direct Ordering Works at Koeze.com

Please go to Koeze.com, shop for your items, and use your promo code at checkout. You can also call 800.253.6887 to place your order by phone. Just have your promo code handy. **Koeze will pay the group a portion of your merchandise total.** Your order will be shipped to you or the people you select by FedEx. You will be responsible for shipping and sales tax.

## EMO District



**GAME DAY**



**EMO DISTRICT KICK-OFF**

FRI- SAT, OCTOBER 13-14, 2023  
Courtyard by Marriott  
3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd.  
Columbia, MO 65201  
+1 573-443-8000



Join your winning EMO team as we start the season.



**Optimist INTERNATIONAL**  
East Missouri District

*Service Project at Our Kick Off Conference*

**Please bring books, snacks, toys, etc. to benefit**

**40 years**  
1983 - 2023



**Ronald McDonald House**  
Mid-Missouri

Our EMO District service project for first quarter will benefit the Columbia Ronald McDonald House. Please bring your donations to weekly meetings.

## Optimist International Presidential Flag Ceremony

Phyllis Neff and Carroll Metzger had the opportunity to attend the Annual Presidential Flag Ceremony on Friday, September 29, 2023. This is an annual celebration of the accomplishments and commitment of our outgoing International President along with celebration and welcome our new International President. President Bob McFadyen passed the reigns to incoming President Tracy Huxley as the flag from the outgoing president is replaced by the flag of the incoming president. Since both President Bob and President Tracy reside in Canada, a new Canadian flag was raised. The Canadian flag will fly again this year next to the United States Flag and the Optimist International flag in the front of the Optimist International Headquarters in downtown St. Louis. We were treated to short speeches by these two dynamic and compassionate individuals as well as remarks of praise by Executive Director, Cheryl Brenn.

President Carroll Metzger



President Bob McFadyen with wife Penny and President Tracy Huxley with her partner Nigel Small.



President Tracy Huxley and EMO Governor Phyllis Neff.



Flags flying outside the Optimist International (OI) Headquarters in St. Louis. OI flag, Canadian Flag, and US flag.

## JOI Club



President Maddie Blair



Vice President Olivia Blair





Secretary Addisen Eldridge



Treasurer Abby Gianladis



# Clay Project



## JOI Club News

The JOI Club of the Twin City Area Optimist Club met at the Joachim Ambulance District building on September 7, 2023. Six members attended the meeting. Members welcomed guests TCA President Carroll Metzger and one of the member's brother.

In preparation for the new club year, members elected the following officers: President-Maddy Blair; Vice President-Olivia Blair; Secretary-Addisen Eldridge and Treasurer-Abby Gianladis. Installation for these officers will be held on October 5, 2023. Congratulations to the new officers.

After the election of officers, members engaged in a craft activity using air drying clay. They made an assortment of magnets such as snakes, hearts, frogs, jewelry boxes and more with the clay. A fun time was had by all.

Members were reminded of the upcoming suicide awareness event BB-5K on October 21, 2023, at Larry Crites Memorial Park at 10 a.m. They were encouraged to participate in the walk and also to write an essay titled, "What is life post-covid?" Scholarships will be awarded to the winning essays.

Refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 5.



The flyer features a central graphic of a pair of wings above the text "5th Annual BB 5K". On either side of the wings are circular logos: the left one says "JUSTICE" and "COURAGE", and the right one says "UNITED INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST CLUB". Below the main title, it states "5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk Saturday, 10AM October 21, 2023 At Larry Crites Memorial Park". A box contains details: "Cost of 5K - \$30 Includes t-shirt, certificate of appreciation, snacks, fruit and Behavioral Health information. Unable to walk, T-shirts may be purchased for \$20. Student cost without t-shirt \$10. Sweatshirts only-\$30 or \$45 as participant. Checks to TCA Optimist at PO Box 475, Festus MO 63028 or Venmo @JOI63028". A blue link is provided: "VISIT: <https://twincityoptimist.org> for waiver/consent form". It also notes "Student scholarship winners of funds raised will be announced after the 5K" and provides contact information for Debbie Schumaker, Carol Schanz, and Katie Huck. At the bottom left, it says "ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE".

### BB 5K Walk

Please visit TCA website to download registration and waivers forms:

<https://twincityoptimist.org/annual-bb-5k-walk-1>

**REMINDER:**  
**October 1st is deadline to purchase shirt.**

Debbie Schumaker  
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz  
JOI Chair



## Sweet Treats

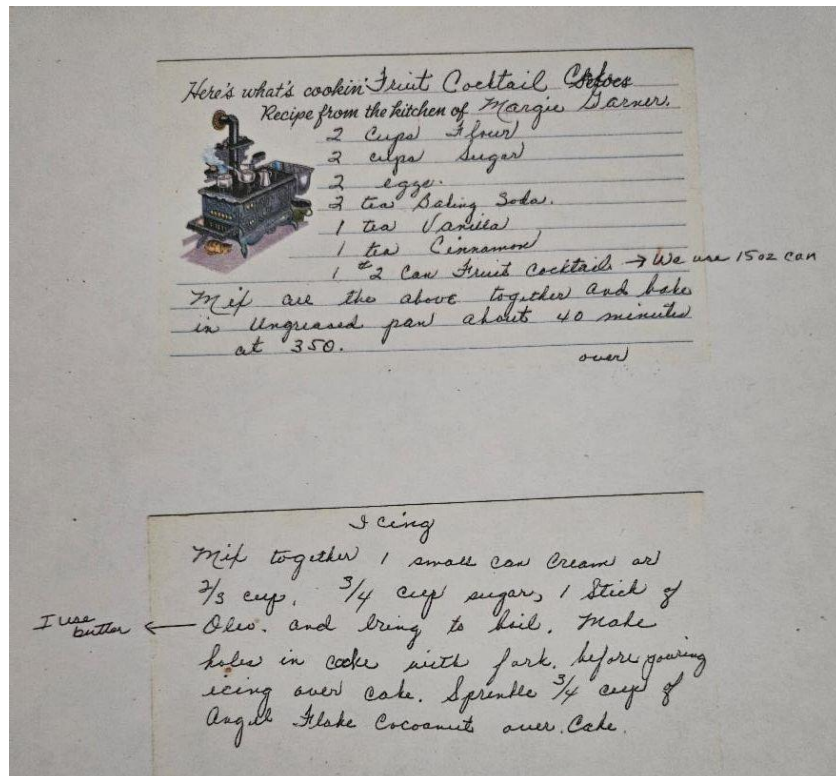
The first Thursday meeting of each month we get to enjoy the wonderful desserts baked by our members. Here are a few recipes:

### Self-Filled Cupcakes

1 pkg. 2 layer chocolate cake mix  
1 (8 oz.) cream cheese  
1 cup chocolate chips

1 egg  
1/3 cup sugar

Mix cake mix according to package directions. Fill baking cups half full. Mix cream cheese with sugar. Beat in egg. Stir in chips. Drop one teaspoon of cream cheese mixture into each cupcake. Bake as directed on cake mix. Cupcakes may be decorated with frosting of choice and garnished with walnuts or pecans; coconut is good too. Makes 24 cupcakes. Janet Mace



Fruit Cocktail cake recipe courtesy of Kathy Todd. NOTE: cream refers to evaporated canned milk.

## SAVE THE DATES



**Note upcoming events. To assist with projects, please contact Committee Chair.**

- Oct. 3: Board meeting - Poppy's Parlor
- Oct. 5: Installation of officers
- Oct. 13-14: EMO District Kick-Off - Columbia, MO
- Oct. 19: Program TBD
- Oct. 21: BB 5K - Chair Debbie Schumaker
- Oct. 26: Evening meeting – a spooky surprise- location TBD
- Nov. 5: Annual Art Contest



**Members meet every Thursday from Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. Please RSVP by 8:00 a.m. on Monday by contacting Cathy Elliott.**

**The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at Poppy's Parlor. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to order food, please contact Phyllis Neff on Monday prior to meeting.**

**Board of  
Directors  
2022-2023**

**President  
Carroll Metzger  
910-264-6852**

**President Elect  
Peggy Scott**

**Past President  
Gerty O'Leary**

**Secretary  
Debbie  
Hogenmiller**

**Secretary Elect  
Ruth Ann  
Adams**

**Treasurer  
Laura Elbl**

**Our Club will continue looking at the sunny side of everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.**

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Our VENMO account, **@TC-Optimist 2122**, can be used to make donations to our projects or fundraisers.

**Please make sure to include your phone number and a memo indicating what the donation is for.**

**Treasurer Elect  
Janet Mace**

**Board  
Members**

**2021-2023  
Pam Cernik  
Pat Parsons  
Judy Williams**

**2022-2024  
Cathy Elliott  
Katie Huck  
Patty Meyer**



[Visit our website](#)

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like us on Facebook, and  
visit our website.**



Twin City Area Optimist Club | P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028

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