



Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

www.twincityoptimist.org

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

December 2022 News Making a Difference For the Kids

Message From President Carroll Metzger



Greetings! As we approach the end of 2022, my thoughts are about the upcoming holidays and the delicious time spent with family and friends. I look forward to seeing the delight in the eyes of my three grandchildren here and FaceTime sharing with my other family members who are not nearby. Our club has seen two of our active members move from Missouri to be closer to their families. Likewise, some club members have moved here to be near their loved ones. Whether your future holds for you to move closer to your family, remain here with them, or as a club, we welcome new members who have relocated here to enjoy those connection. I wish you the best of the upcoming holiday. Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Carroll

Welcome New Members

New member Carolyn McKinney was inducted into the TCA Optimist Club on December 9, pictured with her sponsor Amy Baum.





New member Debbie Buenniger was inducted on December 15, pictured with sponsor Donna Long.

New member Kathy Jensen with sponsor Carroll Metzger was inducted on December 15.



Farewell Ellie King



During the December 1 meeting, President Carroll Metzger presented Ellie King a certificate for her service to the club.

Ellie is moving to Arizona to be closer to family. We wish her well; she will be missed.

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is proudly awarded to

Ellie King

This Certificate of Appreciation is presented to Ellie King, a member of the Twin City Area Optimist Club. Ellie joined our organization in September 2007, served as Club President in 2014, and subsequently Foundation Representative to Optimist International. Ellie sponsored three members over the years. She has actively supported the club in many leadership roles, most recently by chairing the Holy Moly and the Koeze Nut Fundraisers. We appreciate her for providing meaningful spiritual guidance while serving as club Chaplain for many years. Ellie is known in the club and the community for her positive and optimistic attitude. Knowing she will be a wonderful community member, it is with deep appreciation we wish Ellie well as she moves to her new home,

*Members of Twin City Area Optimist Club
#30165*



December 1, 2022 NOW MEETING

The club welcomed seven guests to our December 1 NOW meeting. We enjoyed meeting these ladies and hope they will consider becoming Optimists.



Guest Sonja Stevenson with Ginny Skaggs



Guest Lisa Ermer with Carol Schanz
(invited by Pat Parsons who was unable to attend)



Guest Kathy Jensen with Carroll Metzger



Guest Kathy Francis with Judy Williams



Ruth Ann Adams invited guests Bobbi Shwarz, Jolene Blecha, and Allie Kister



December 8, 2022 Board Meeting Review

Highlights from Board Meeting

- Three new Optimist members were approved. Welcome Debbie Buenniger, Kathy Jensen. and Carolyn McKinney.
- Coats for Kids has donated around 600 coats so far this year. This is a considerable increase from past years.
- Dining out fundraisers are starting up again. December - Cool Beans, January- Kettlehut's Smokehouse, more to come.
- Received confirmation of a \$1000 grant from Ameren Missouri. The funds will be used to purchase hats and gloves for Coats for Kids program.

December 15, 2022 Christmas Party

Around 60 members gathered for a holiday party on December 15. Of course, there was a room full of ugly, festive sweaters! Members enjoyed a \$5 gift exchange, which surprisingly produce some pretty amazing gifts. Prizes were awarded for funniest sweater, head-to-toe attire, and oldest sweater. Of course, there was a game and a little singing too.



Thanks to our party committee for another great time. Pictured Judy Lowe, Phyllis Neff, Beth Watts, and Caryl Harness.





Who wore it best? Debbie Hogenmiller and Judy Lowe arrived in their sheep sweaters.



Sue Boyer wore the oldest sweater; she thought it was from the 70's. Mary Hatfield came in second. Maybe we are a bit jealous they still fit into their sweaters.



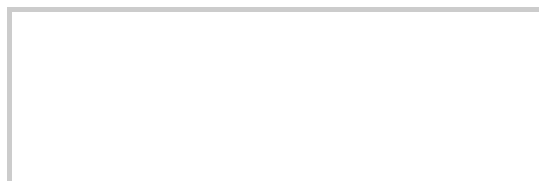
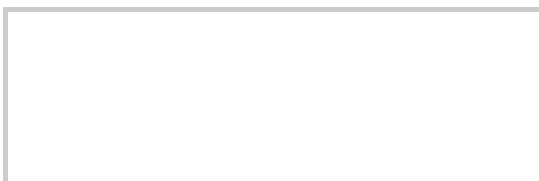
Barb Schmidt and Jean Naeger enjoyed wearing their sweaters-- well maybe!



Carol Schanz took home the funniest sweater prize.



These ladies took wearing ugly sweaters to a whole new level. Barb Schmidt, Ruth Ann Adams, Tabitha Brauch, Laura Lohman, Carroll Metzger, Mickie Huskey, and Beth Winkeler dressed in holiday spirit from head-to-toe.





Members proudly show off their exchange gifts.



December 22 - no meeting
December 29 - Murder Mystery Dinner

IT'S A PARTY TO DIE FOR

Murder at the Manor

Dinner \$15

DECEMBER 29, 2022
DINNER AT 5:30 P.M.
POPPY'S PARLOR

RSVP if you dare to
Cathy Elliott by noon on
Tuesday December 27

Come dressed for a dinner party at the
Manor Mansion set in the 1920's.
Play a part or help solve the mystery.

CLUB PROJECTS

Head Start Christmas Parties December 6-7, 2022



It takes many hands to host Head Start Christmas parties. Thanks to our volunteers and especially project chairs Laura Elbl and Cathy Elliott for their tireless dedication to this project.



Bag assembly volunteers



Hematite party volunteers



De Soto party volunteers



Santa Joe Hatfield (Jefferson County Optimist Club) and Mrs. Claus, our very own Mary Hatfield. They look like a nice couple!



This photo says it all! A visit from Santa can be a combination of awe, excitement, and a bit of fright!



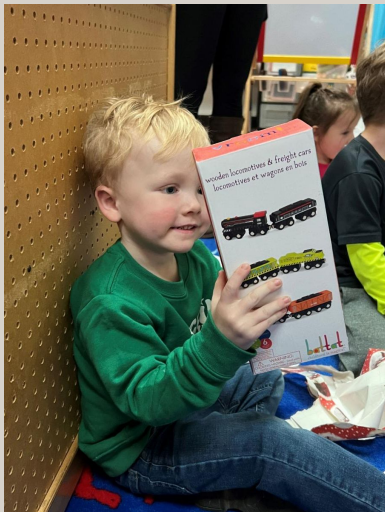


Double the cuteness

Above photos from Hematite parties



De Soto Head Start class



Looks like boys and girls liked their gifts

The Twin City Optimist Club helped 107 local Head Start kids celebrate Christmas with gifts, songs and Santa & Mrs. Claus making an appearance on December 6 at Hematite and the 7 at De Soto. Each child's bag was packed with an outfit, hat, gloves, mittens, toy, book, toothbrush and toothpaste, crayons and coloring book, and a stuffed animal. Mrs. Claus was sitting patiently while the children assembled around her, and then read "The Night Before Christmas" to them. After the story, the kids burst into song singing "Jingle Bells" as Santa made his appearance. Each child's name was called to get a picture taken with Santa and given a gift bag. The children were very well behaved and were so excited during their party.

A few memorable moments:

- Santa- Called a little boy named River a girl.
- Santa- Had a surprise from the kids as they found out a secret from Mrs. Claus, it was his birthday. They belted out Happy Birthday as loud as they could...then proceeded to tell him when it was their birthdays.
- Santa and Mrs. Claus fell in love with the babies and we had to drag Mrs. Claus out of the room for the next party!

Cathy Elliott and Laura Elbl
Head Start Christmas Parties Co-Chairs

Book Club

Below is Book Club reading list for the remaining Optimist year. Make note, we will meet the second Thursday of each month immediately following our noon meeting.




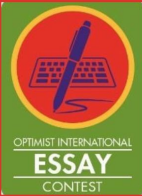
Reading List January - September 2023

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.

Essay Contest

**Twin City Area
Optimist
Essay Contest**

Essays must be postmarked
by January 31, 2023



Visit our website to learn more about
2023 Essay Contest [Essay Contest](https://twincityoptimist.org)
(twincityoptimist.org)

Essay Chair: Mary Kay Scott and Co-Chair
Debbie Hogenmiller

JOI Club





JOI members assemble goodie bags for area Homeless Youth Initiative



Members show the gifts they received during their gift exchange.

The JOI Club has been very busy this holiday season. In November, JOI Club members shopped for Christmas presents to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House as well as adding aluminum tabs to their mini house. The gifts were delivered on December 6 at which time JOI Club members, parents, and club sponsors Debbie Schumaker and Carol Schanz were given a tour of the facility. During the tour, everyone learned that the Ronald McDonald House had broken ground for a new facility in downtown St. Louis that will house 96 families. The members also learned about the amazing doctors who treat seriously ill children from around the world. After the visit, everyone went out for pizza and a time to reflect on the evening.

In addition to the Ronald McDonald House donation and aluminum tabs, members contributed 50-like food items for the Homeless Youth Initiative bags. The bags were assembled during the Christmas party on November 29 and members enjoyed bowling as part of their party.



Seven JOI members presented donated gifts during their visit to Ronald McDonald House.



The JOI Club members shopped for the Martin Vet rescue mission in November. They spent \$200.00 on towels, blankets, dog/cat toys. On



Dec 14 Debbie and Carol with three JOI members were given a tour of the facility and donated all the collected items. These donations will help in their surgeries and clean rescued animals. The staff was thankful for the generosity of the children. Children loved seeing the dogs and cats!

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



FUNDRAISERS

NUTS



Thanks to KOEZE nut Project Chair Ellie King and Barb Schmidt who stepped up to organize delivery in Ellie's absence.

Profit from this fundraiser with early payment: **\$3836.29**



Thanks to Patty Meyer for ordering and distributing Mascot Pecans.

Profit: **\$543.60**

Dining Out

Dine Out



MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022
8 AM - 4 PM
316 LOCKER # 3
HILL # 189, MO

Cool Beans will donate 10% of sales all day to the Optimists. Please support this fundraiser.

Thanks to Kathy Todd for arranging Dining Out fundraising opportunities.

In December the club earned \$150 from Cool Beans.

In January enjoy BBQ at Kettelhut's Smokehouse.



1267 N. Truman Blvd, Crystal City
636-543-3296

**Dining Out for a Cause
Benefits Twin City Area Optimist Club**



Supporting youth of
Southern Jefferson County

10TH JANUARY

5-8 PM NO FLYER NEEDED
10% OF TOTAL RECEIPTS DONATED

Dine in only

Donation Box will be available

BUNCO

Twin City Area Optimist Club

BUNCO

DATE: Fri. Jan 20, 2023
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Bunco starts at 7:00 p.m.



Registration Fee:
\$20
(In advance/
non-refundable)

Contact: Carol Schanz
314-222-4344

Location:
H W Herrell Distributing Company
1002 White Street, Imperial, MO

Bring your own beverage

Bring a snack/dessert to share

Invite a friend

Everything remains the same except the date! Contact Carol Schanz to reserve your spot.

SAVE THE DATES



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

December 22- NO MEETING - Happy Holidays!

December 29 - Girl's Night Out Murder Mystery -Chair Jennifer Jones

January 4 - Board Meeting

January 10 - Dining Out- Kettelhut's Smokehouse - Chair Kathy Todd

January 20 - BUNCO -Chair Carol Schanz



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.

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

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

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

Treasurer Elect
Janet Mace

Board Members

2021-2023
Pam Cernik
Pat Parsons
Judy Williams

2022-2024
Cathy Elliott
Katie Huck

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

Patty Meyer

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visit our website.



Visit our website

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

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