



Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

www.twincityoptimist.org

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Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community

since 1919

July 2022 News Making a Difference For the Kids

June 30, 2022

Welcome New Members

Twin City Area Optimist Club is happy to welcome back Jan Donnell and new member Alicia Cummiskey. We look forward to their participation in club projects, programs, and events.



Returning member Janis Donnell
with sponsor Gerty O'Leary



Sponsor Debbie Hogenmiller with
new member Alicia Cummiskey

July 7, 2022
Committee Recognition



And there was cake!
Cake Cutters Elizabeth Check and Pat Parsons



Thank You for Your Service

President Gerty O'Leary took time during the July 7, 2022 meeting to extend a grateful thank you to each committee chair and member who have worked diligently to give so much to so many.

She also designated Barb Schmidt and Jean Naeger as two special members of our club for 2021-2022. They were honored for their contributions, both in front of and behind the scenes. Barb was unable to attend meeting.

July 14, 2022
Respect for Law





Crystal City Police Department

Nominee: Patrolman Jack Montgomery

On March 15, 2022, I presented Patrolman Montgomery with the "Life Saving Award" for his actions on a vehicle accident on which he was assisting.

Chief of Police, Chad Helms

DeSoto Police Department

Nominees: Officers Jake Christiansen and Eric Robinson

Two officers from DeSoto were nominated for the Respect for Law Award. Officers Jake Christiansen and Eric Robinson both were involved in the same domestic violence incident with a violent suspect.

Chief of Police, Jeff McCreary



Left: Officer Jake Christiansen

Right: Officer Eric Robinson

Festus Police Department

Nominee: Officer Boston Greenlee

Officer Greenlee was awarded “Officer of the Year” in April of this year. He has been an all-around outstanding officer, making essential arrests and handling important calls.

Chief of Police, Tim Lewis



Herculaneum Police Department

Nominee: Patrolman Corey Hill

Corey is always willing to do anything to help the department. He volunteers to take on additional tasks, such as becoming the firearms instructor and weapons armorer. He takes those tasks and tries to come up with ideas to make our department better. More than anything, Corey always comes in with a smile and eagerness to learn.

Chief of Police, Sharia Kyle

Hillsboro Police Department

Nominee: Officer Mary Woodard

Officer Woodard is the Hillsboro R-3 School Resource Officer who took on the challenge of managing schools during Covid. With the return to school, crime has tremendously increased with assaults, drugs, child abuse, sex, and other cases on and off the campuses. All of her cases were successfully resolved ensuring a safer campus for Hillsboro students.



Chief of Police, Steve Meinberg



Jefferson County Sheriff's Department

Nominee: Detective Nick Schuenemann

Detective Schuenemann is one of our lead Crime Scene Technicians, and is responsible for the photographs, diagrams, and examinations of our county's most significant criminal events. Detective Schuenemann is also one of two fingerprint experts at the Sheriff's Office and is one of only 14 in the entire state. Nick has utilized

his skills to identify and solve numerous crimes against persons, property, and animals in Jefferson County.

Sheriff Dave Marshak

Pevely Police Department

Nominee: Officer Kayla Boyd

Officer Boyd goes above and beyond the normal police duties to assist community members, especially in times of crisis. Officer Boyd's genuine and empathic Community Policing approach allows her to quickly connect with people as she prioritizes their safety and well-being. Her dedication makes the City of Pevely a stronger and safer community.

Chief of Police, Mark Glen



Missouri State Highway Patrol

Nominee: Trooper Thomas Brewer

Trooper Brewer is new to the force, but he has had outstanding performance with removing intoxicated drivers on the roadways and being proactive with criminal interdiction.

Corporal T.H. Elliston

July 21, 2022

Amy LaBelle

Annie's Hope: The Bereavement Center for Kids



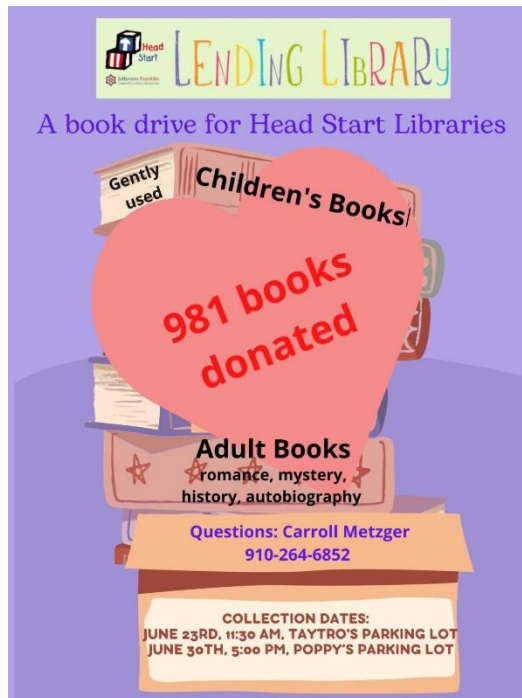
Speaker Amy Benner LaBelle with Kennedy Wiegel of Annie's Hope

Philanthropy Director Amy Benner LaBelle, MSW of Annie's Hope, was our speaker for the July 21, 2022, meeting. She provided information on the services the agency provides for grief counseling. All services are provided free of charge.

Please visit their website [Annie's Hope – The Center For Grieving Kids \(annieshope.org\)](http://annieshope.org) for information about this agency.

CLUB PROJECTS

Head Start Lending Library



A total of 981 books were collected: 710 childrens' books, 236 adult books and 35 kids Christmas books.



Thank you to all our members who donated books for the Head Start Lending Library. One of our sponsors, Hovis and Associates, also donated several boxes of books.

Special thanks to project chair Carroll Metzger for collecting, sorting, and arranging pick-up of books.



Skip and Tyler from Head Start picking up book donations.

Book Club

The book club will meet at **5 p.m.** at Poppy's before the evening meeting on **Thursday, July 28th**, to discuss *Run Rose Run*. As always, please send book suggestions to Mary Kay Scott.



Reading List May-August 2022

May: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger
June: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
July: *Run Rose Run* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson
August: *Yellow Wife* by Sedeqa Johnson

Book Club meetings will start at 5 p.m., prior to the start of the evening meeting on the last Thursday of the month.

**Nurses for Newborns Drive
July 21st and July 28th**



nurses for newborns

Anyone wanting to donate to Nurses for Newborns please bring items to July 21st or 28th meeting.

List of needed items:

- Baby care items (lotion, shampoo, baby wash)
- Baby formula (preferably Enfamil w/Lipil)
- Baby wipes
- Bottles
- Canned food
- Car seats (5 point car seats only, less than 5 years old)
- Clothing (preemie to size 4T)
- Diapers (all sizes & pull ups)
- Gift cards
- Pack-n Plays
- High Chairs

**PROJECT CHAIR:
KAREN HUSKEY
1-314-420-2625**

Handmade items, i.e. tummy time blankets or baby sock hats. Cash donations accepted.



**NOW Meeting
August 4th**

NOW MEETING
(New Optimist Welcome)
August 4, 2022



During our regularly scheduled noon meeting

**To invite a guest, notify Marsha Greenstreet
by July 18, 2022 at mgreenstreet@sbcglobal.net
Provide the following information for each guest:**

**NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS**

Be sure you register with Cathy Elliot to attend meeting and welcome our guests.

Brenden's Friday Backpack Community Drive August 4th

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-- Please contact Debbie Hogenmiller if you can assist. She will start set up at 9:30 a.m. Drive will end before weekly meeting.



Community Food Drive to Support Brenden's Friday Backpack

Date: Thursday August 4, 2022

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Place: Taytro's Bar and Bistro Parking Lot
331 North Creek Dr., Festus, MO

Sponsored by Twin City Area Optimist Club

Items Requested:

Soups, (tomato or chicken noodle)

**Vienna Sausages, ravioli, Ramen Noodles,
mac n cheese, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts.**



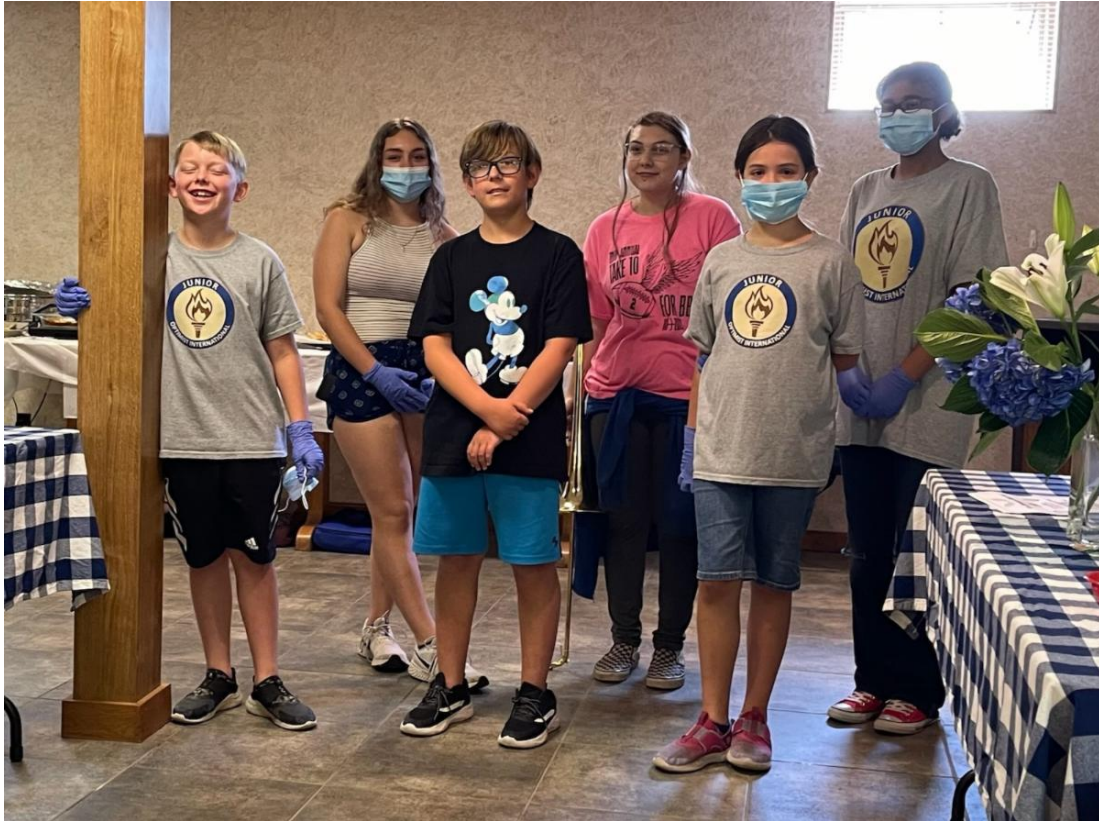
**Snacks: trail mix, Rice Krispies Treats,
beef jerky, peanut butter or
cheese crackers**

(PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES!)

In cooperation with

Taytro's
BAR & BISTRO

JOI CLUB



JOI Brunch Servers

The JOI club had a fundraiser on June 18, 2022 at Herrell's Distributing. Thirteen guests were served a lovely brunch by JOI members. They raised \$400.00 to shop for Ronald McDonald House (RMH).



**Would you like some fruit
Madame President?**



*Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor*

*Carol Schanz
JOI Chair*



FUNDRAISERS

Old Bags Auction

Date: Thursday August 18, 2022
Auction will take place during our
regular noon meeting at Taytro's



INVITE A FRIEND

To donate a purse/bag
or contents
Please contact:

Pat Parsons 314-223-4309 pat.herkygirl@yahoo.com

Carol Schanz 636-222-4344 carol.schanz@yahoo.com



MOUSE RACES

Twin City Area
Optimist Club
Fall Fundraiser

DATE: Saturday September 17, 2022

TIME: 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm)

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

Non-Refundable Tickets

\$20 in advance

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER

ATTENDANCE PRIZE:
TABLET COMPUTER



Purchase tickets by phone: 314 471 7213

Venmo: @TC-Optimist2122

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

Tickets include beer, snacks, & soda

Thank you for
supporting our kids

Katie Huck is also selling Mouse Race
tickets at weekly meetings.

SAVE THE DATES



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

Now Meeting - August 4

Chair: Marsha Greenstreet

Old Bag Lunch - August 18

Chairs: Carol Schanz and Pat Parsons

Gold and Platinum Sponsor Appreciation - September 22

Chairs: Jean Naeger and Barb Schmidt

Installation of Officers- September 29

Chairs: Party Committee

OBITUARY



In 2021 Arlene was named to the Crystal City Schools Hall of Fame

Arlene F. DeGonia

November 25, 1935 - July 17, 2022

Arlene DeGonia was never without a smile; to be in her presence would be the highlight of your day. She was a long-time member, joining our club in November 1996. She served on numerous committees and was a past board member.

When our club sponsored the Junior Optimist Club (JOI) in 2004, she had spoken to her grandson, AJ Kaussler, about joining as a charter member. During his time with the club, he served as president and remained an active member until graduation. Grandmother Arlene had influence!

At a board meeting, Katie Huck brought up that the JOI Club was always looking for new members because there is a large turnaround in membership. Arlene suggested putting the JOI Club application in the dictionaries for the third graders. We have done that about every other year, and it still is done.

You couldn't say no to Arlene or if you did, she wouldn't hold it against you. She used this skill recently to gain our club two new sponsors. "She said I know him, I know her, I can ask for a donation!"

She was a great ambassador for both the TCA Optimist Club and JOI Club; always sharing her love of the organization.

Click on link to view obituary:

[Obituary | Arlene F. DeGonia of Hillsboro, Missouri | Robert D. Brown Funeral Home, Inc. \(brownfuneralhomehillsboro.com\)](#)



2021 Respect for Law presentation



JOI Club "Don't Give Up" sign project.



Coming through the White Castle Drive to support fund raiser.



Arlene sponsored Anita Bierberly in August 2021



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.

**Board of Directors
2021-2022**

**President
Gerty O'Leary
636-208-1395**

**President Elect
Carroll Metzger**

**Past President
Mary Kay Scott**

**Secretary
Cathy Elliott**

**Secretary Elect
Debbie Hogenmiller**

**Treasurer
Laura Elbl**

Treasurer Elect

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.**

Carroll Metzger

Board Members

2020-2022

**Janice Boyd
Judy Kuhlman
Barb Schmidt**

2021-2023

**Elizabeth Check
Pat Parsons
Judy Williams**

**Keep current with club activities,
like us on Facebook, and
visit our website.**



[Visit our website](#)