



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

March 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

Message From President Carroll Metzger



Two steps forward, one step back...that describes my progress since surgery three weeks ago. On the whole, recovery is in the picture, but patience for healing is in order. How does an optimist view this situation? The answer: by making baby hats for our Optimist supported charity project (Nurses for Newborns). I can visualize a beautiful newborn in one of my hats and feel satisfied that the future will be warm and bright.

Looking forward to Spring!

Carroll

February 23, 2023 Together With a Twist Instructor Keran Fears



Together with a Twist!

Meet Keran Fears with Twisted Giggles as we learn how to "twist" some fun together and how she gives back to our community with Balloon Art!

No Experience needed- Fun a Must!



Katie Huck modeling her balloon with Keran Fears, our



EMO Governor Ernie Wren and his wife Danna joined us for our meeting. Little did we know that Ernie has serious balloon skills!



Thanks to Keran's expert guidance everyone did great! Kathy Todd, Beth Watts, Mary Hatfield, and Pat Parsons.



Appears some took this project more seriously than others. Debbie Floyd and Donna Long.

instructor.

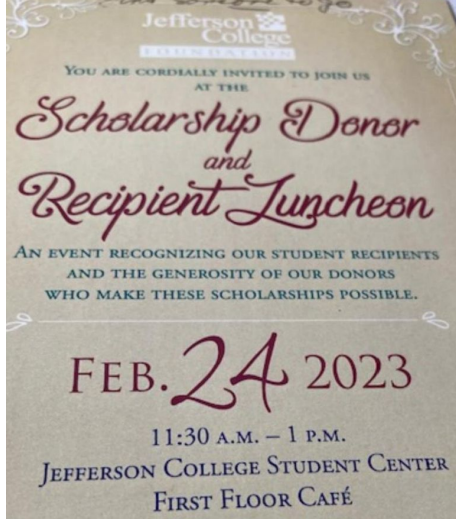
Thanks to Evening Project Chair Jennifer Jones and Guest Presenter Keran Fears for a full balloon art lesson.

Oh, and by the way, Keran submitted her application for membership which was approved at the March 1 board meeting.



Phyllis Neff and Tammy Moran worked their balloon magic.

February 24, 2023
Jefferson College Foundation Luncheon



Optimist members: Kathy Kuhlmann, Beth Watts, Ellen Bridgewater, Jan Naeger, Debbie Hogenmiller, and Katie Huck with scholarship recipient Allyssa Haberberger (center).

Members Attend Jefferson College Foundation luncheon.

The club provides five \$500 scholarships each year. TCA Club was recognized as a Patron Circle donator, contributing a total of \$50,000-\$99,999 to the scholarship fund since the club's inception in 1988.

**February 24-25, 2023
East Missouri (EMO) Optimist District
Second Quarter Conference**





Judy Kuhlman, Kathy Todd, Debbie Hogenmiller, Mary Kay Scott, Phyllis Neff, Mary Hatfield, Barb Schmidt, Peggy Scott, and Jean Naeger (not pictured) attended EMO Second Quarter Conference.



Friday evening's motivational speaker was Aaron Bean. Aaron is a United States Navy veteran experiencing post-traumatic stress. He told his story of an Alaskan sea rescue and how he credits Retrieving Freedom for providing his service dog Ellie. Ellie has helped Aaron deal with anxiety and other stressful issues.



On behalf of the club, President Elect Peggy Scott accepted Honor Club Award 2021-2022 from past Governor Lauren Dell. Congratulations to past President Gerty O'Leary for leading our club to achieve this distinction. Peggy also picked up a club award for monetary donation to the Optimist International Foundation.





Thanks to those who donated items to the Jefferson Barracks food pantry. Over 1000 individual items, including diapers and toiletries, were collected from generous EMO members. In addition, \$180 was donated.

March 2, 2023 Board Meeting Review

Highlights from Board Meeting

- Head Start Easter Collection is underway.
- Ruth Ann Adams is chairing the upcoming tea party.
- Beginning in May, dining out events will be every other month or at the discretion of Chair Kathy Todd.
- Fall fundraiser will again be Mouse Races held at the Festus VFW on Saturday September 16, 2023.
- Sponsorships continue to come in.
- Essay contest had 17 entries and Oratorical Contest had only one applicant. This student will be included with another club in the district to meet the three students minimum to hold contest.

March 9, 2023 No Sew Sock Bunnies Instructor Jean Naeger

Sock Bunnies





Debbie Hogenmiller and Kirstie Zych get creative.



Laura Lohman is all smiles with her cute little bunny.



Members learned how to craft a bunny from a sock. This no-sew bunny was an easy project. Just a sock and some rice, along with a few embellishments was all that was needed. Some members made bunnies using fiber fill. These are kid safe and will be added to Head Start Easter baskets.



Diaper Shower for Baby Siracusa

Best Limerick

Cindy Cherry's table won the best limerick contest.

There once was a lad named O'Malley.
Who decided he would live in an alley.
You would never know where he lay.
Or the time of day.
But it was usually with the Bartender Sally!



Pictured: Cindy Cherry, Pat Doenges, Nicki Russell, Ruith Ann Adams, Debbie Hogenmiller, and Kirstie Zych.



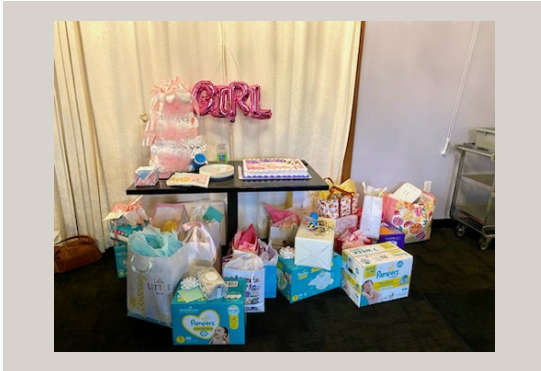
Thanks to St. Patrick's Day Party Chair Beth Watts for the fun games and special touches she added to the festivities.



Time to shower baby-to-be Madelyn Siracusa with diapers and other gifts from her Optimist Besties.



Congratulation to Megan and JR. We are looking forward to meeting Madelyn.



March 23, 2023

Welcome Essay and Oratorical Winners

Congratulations to all our winners. Members were impressed with the talent of these young ladies.



Pictured:

Mary Kay Scott Essay Contest Chair

First place winner Anna Belle Wakeland, a Senior at Grandview High School.

Second place winner Sophia Horn, a Senior at DeSoto High School.

Debbie Hogenmiller Essay Contest Co-Chair

Not pictured, third place winner Makaylee Miller a student at Christian Outreach School was unable to attend award luncheon.



Pictured:

Mary Kay Scott Oratorical Contest Chair

Olivia Blair first place winner, an eighth grader at Senn-Thomas Middle School

Phyllis Neff Oratorical Contest Co-Chair.

Olivia is an active member of our JOI Club.



non-profit
organization,
consisting of both
citizens and business
owners.

Evening Meeting March 30, 2023

Dara Riney, as a representative for Tanglefoot Association, will be our guest speaker. Hear about the exciting changes coming to the main streets of Festus/Crystal City.

Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Meeting 6:00 p.m

Menu: mostaccioli, garlic cheese bread, and salad with ice tea or water for \$15. RSVP to Cathy Elliott by Tuesday evening 5 PM.

You do not have to order food; however,
NO OUTSIDE FOOD PERMITTED!



March Evening Meeting

See flyer for information for upcoming evening meeting because inquiring minds want to know!

Don't forget to RSVP to Cathy Elliott and let her know if you want dinner.

CLUB PROJECTS

Head Start Easter Food Drive

Below is updated list of items needed for Head Start baskets. If you cannot attend next Thursday evening meeting, please contact Pam for drop off.

Head Start - Easter Baskets and Food Supply

Please bring to weekly meetings
March 9-16-23-30. 5 like items
donations are accepted.
Project Chair: Pam Cernik 314-709-0491

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

HAIR CONDITIONER

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

FABRIC SOFTENER
CLEANING PRODUCTS

FOOD ITEMS

CANNED VEGETABLES
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED CHILI
BEANS: CANNED OR DRY
CEREAL
CANNED TUNA
PEANUT BUTTER
APPLESAUCE
MAC AND CHEESE
PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE
STAPLES: FLOUR, SUGAR

Cash donations accepted.

Book Club

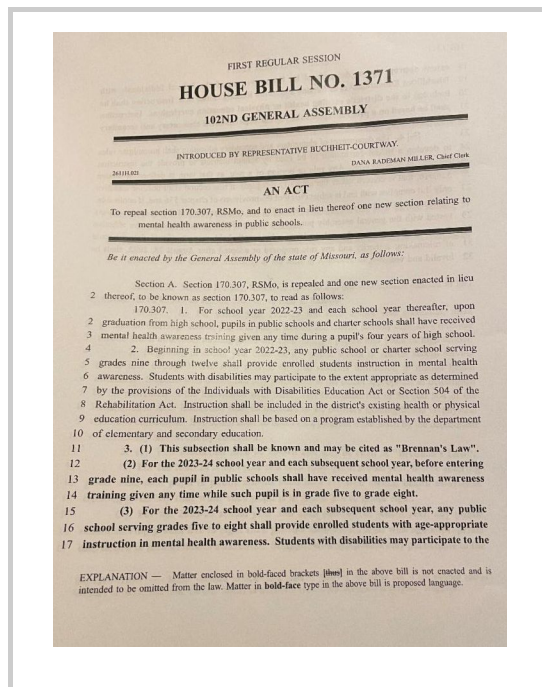
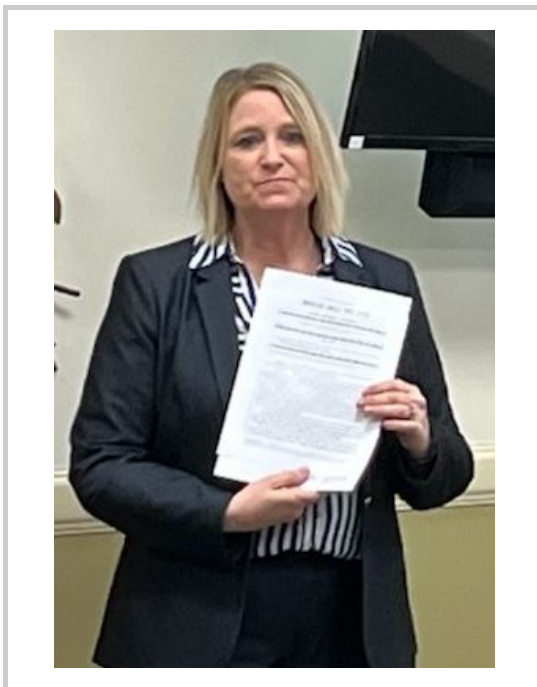
Below is Book Club reading list for the remaining Optimist year. Make note, we will meet the second Thursday of each month immediately following our noon meeting. We will discuss the previous month's book.



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 Flag
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.

JOI Club



The JOI Club conducted their March meeting on Thursday, March 2.

Missouri State Representative Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway was the guest speaker for the meeting. She explained the process that is followed when a bill is introduced in the Legislature from the beginning to the end when the bill becomes law. She recently has been the sponsor of House Bill No. 1371 "Brennan's Law" which will require all schools in Missouri to provide a mental health awareness program for students in grade five to grade eight. The JOI's Club four-year sponsorship of BB 5K may have helped in writing this bill.

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz



FUNDRAISERS

Scratch Off Ticket Raffle

Beth Watts will be chairing this fundraiser. You can purchase chances at March meetings, mail in your payment to our club P.O. Box, or use Venmo as shown on flyer. Flyer is posted to our public Facebook page; from there you may share with friends.

Strike It Rich!
Been looking for your
pot of gold? 
Face value: \$300 

Scratch Off Lottery Tickets Raffle
Drawing Thursday March 30, 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)

Benefits TCA Optimist Youth/Community Projects

Dining Out



Fundraiser for

Twin City Area Optimist Club

20% of event sales will be donated

TCA Optimist Club is a volunteer organization serving the youth of southern Jefferson County.



When

Monday, April 03, 2023

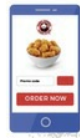
Time: 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM

Where

Panda Express located at:

**612 S. Truman Blvd. Festus MO 63028
(636) 937 - 2777**

How to Order



Online

**PandaExpress.com or the App.
Enter 351768 in the fundraiser code box**

or



In-Person

**Bring paper flyer or show it on
your smartphone**

Order ahead or on the event day Monday, April 03, 2023



Health and Safety

Committed to your health and safety. Panda Express is recognized as **America's safest restaurant brand.**

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within the vicinity of the restaurant including, without limitation, the restaurant parking lot before or during the fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right cancel any and all fundraiser events, if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed. Panda Restaurant Group will donate 20% of all purchases made, pre-tax and before fees, at the designated date, time, and your Panda Express location when purchased with your unique code at check-out or when a copy of this flyer is presented. Purchase(s) of gift cards do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible.

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April Dining Out. Must show above flyer at time of purchase. Panda Express Manager will allow members to pass out flyer onsite. Please contact Kathy Todd to assist.

Dining Out

The February dining out fundraiser earned \$225 from the Hillsboro Dairy Queen. Thanks again to Project Chair Kathy Todd.



10190 Highway 21
Hillsboro, MO



Dining for a Cause
Benefits Twin City Area Optimist Club

Earned \$225

March 6, 2023

4-8 pm --No flyer needed

10% of total receipts donated

Dine in or carry out

Supporting youth of
Southern Jefferson County



Any questions relating to dining out fundraisers should be directed to Kathy.

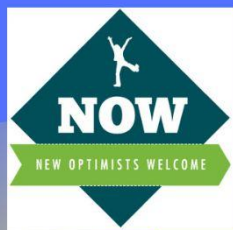
SAVE THE DATES

NOW MEETING
(New Optimist Welcome)
April 13, 2023



During our regularly scheduled noon meeting

To invite a guest, notify Marsha Greenstreet
by **April 5, 2022** at mgreenstreet@sbcglobal.net
Provide the following information for each guest:



NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS



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

- March 30 - Evening meeting/Scratch off tickets raffle drawing
- April 3 - Shopping for Head Start/Dining Out
- April 3 - Board Meeting (note meeting on Monday this month)
- April 6 - Easter/Passover/Spring Party
- April 13- NOW meeting (invite potential new members)
- April 16 - Tea Party- Elks - Committee Chair Ruth Ann Adams
- April 20 - Youth Appreciation Luncheon- Chair Cathy Elliott
- April 27 - TBD - Chair Kathy Todd
- May 5-6 EMO District Third Quarter Conference - STL Airport Hilton



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.

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

**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
Patty Meyer**

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