



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

October 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

Message From President Peggy Scott



Welcome to a New Optimist Year

As we welcome the blustery days of fall, we also begin a new Optimist year. The start of the calendar brings a lot of organizational hoopla that must be managed. For me, it seems that forms and training and committees have taken center stage.

While we must document, photograph and report to maintain some continuity for our club, we also have the privilege of being part of projects that make a difference for the children and families in our community. Third-graders are reading their new dictionaries. Young officers in the JOI club are making plans for the year. Walkers gather to support mental health suicide prevention efforts. Students share

their gifts and talents in an annual exhibition of art.

And so, it will continue. The record-keeping must be done, but let's not let those duties obscure the reason Optimists do what we do. The big picture is beautiful.

October 5, 2023 Installation of 2023-2024 Officers



President Carroll Metzger receives her crown from Beth Watts and scrapbook from Ellen Bridgewater.



Party Chair Caryl Harness finds the dirt on outgoing president Carroll to host a fun, good-natured roast.



EMO District Governor Phyllis Neff installed the new Board of Directors.



Outgoing board members thanked for their service.

Carroll Metzger will be moving to the Foundation Representative position, Gerty O'Leary leaves the board after five years of service, Ruth Ann Adams moves to secretary, Peggy Scott moves to president, Debbie Hogenmiller becomes president elect, Janet Mace moves to treasurer, while Judy Williams and Pam Cernick complete their service as board members. (Not pictured Pat Parsons, retiring board member.)



Installation of new Board of Directors

Carroll Metzger, Past President and OIF Representative; Beth Watts, board member, Becky Francis, Treasurer-Elect; Amy Baum, board member; Kirstie Zych, board member, Ruth Ann Adams, Secretary; Peggy Scott, President; Debbie Hogenmiller, President-Elect; Patty Meyer, board member; Kathy Todd, Secretary-Elect; Janet Mace, Treasurer; not pictured Katie Huck and Cathy Elliott, board members.

Flower Power



The installation of new officers and board members took place during the weekly TCA Optimist Club meeting on October 5, 2023.

Approximately 45 club members attended this year's Installation of Officers, where we traveled back to the 1970's to celebrate the hippie lifestyle of our outgoing President Carroll Metzger. A tribute roast of her year included a bit of teasing over her repeated mispronunciation of names and errors when issuing calendars, as well as plenty of praise for her leadership in a productive year that included new projects as well as projects that hold tradition. Stories were told of the years she spent living in Russia and tales of her antics as a hippie raised a few eyebrows and got plenty of laughs. Carroll's life seems as colorful as the psychedelic room décor.

Special thanks to program hostess Caryl Harness and the rest of the party committee members, Judy Lowe (who sent her remarks from a cruise ship), Phyllis Neff, and Beth Watts for a wonderful program, including our club's good natured annual President's Roast.

Incoming officers were sworn in by District Governor Phyllis Neff and encouraging remarks for the year ahead were given by incoming President Peggy Scott.

Outgoing and incoming officers and their positions are listed below. Thanks were extended to outgoing board members Judy Williams, Pat Parsons and Pam Cernik. Continuing board members Patty Meyer, Katie Huck and Cathy Elliott will be joined by new board members Beth Watts, Kirstie Zych and Amy Baum.

OUTGOING OFFICERS

President	Carroll Metzger
President-Elect	Peggy Scott
Secretary	Debbie Hogenmiller
Secretary-Elect	Ruth Ann Adams
Treasurer	Laura Elbl
Treasurer-Elect	Janet Mace
Past President	Gerty O'Leary

INCOMING OFFICERS

President	Peggy Scott
President-Elect	Debbie Hogenmiller
Secretary	Ruth Ann Adams
Secretary-Elect	Kathy Todd
Treasurer	Janet Mace
Treasurer-Elect	Becky Francis
Past President	Carroll Metzger

Submitted by Beth Watts

October 12, 2023

Life on 2 Wheels Chris and Rene Creed



Chris and Rene Creed

Changing the World Two Wheels at a Time

The October 12 guest speakers were Chris and Rene Creed, founders of Living Life on 2 Wheels, Inc. and the owners of Pedal 'n Pi Bike Shop and Pizza in Crystal City. They currently operate an All Kids Bike program with 26 area schools with many more schools on the waiting list. This program provides 24 Strider balance bikes and helmets to kindergartners and first graders so they may learn bicycling skills in PE class. Strider bikes have pedals that can be added to the bike after the participant has learned to balance while keeping their feet on the ground. These bikes are used at camps for Pony Bird residents, with children and adults with Down's syndrome, autism and other developmental and physical limitations. Living Life on 2 Wheels is developing a bike park on Plattin Road. The park will include trails for hikers and bicyclists, bring to fruition their vision to provide safe places for families to participate in the sport of cycling together and develop programs and camps for everyone and all levels of ability. Adults who enjoy bicycling in the Festus area may wish to join the weekly Tuesday night rides. For further information see their website: www.livinglifeon2wheels.com or follow Living Life on 2 Wheels on Facebook.

Submitted by Beth Watts

October 19, 2023

BB 5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk Debbie Schumaker and Cynthia Buchheit-Courtway

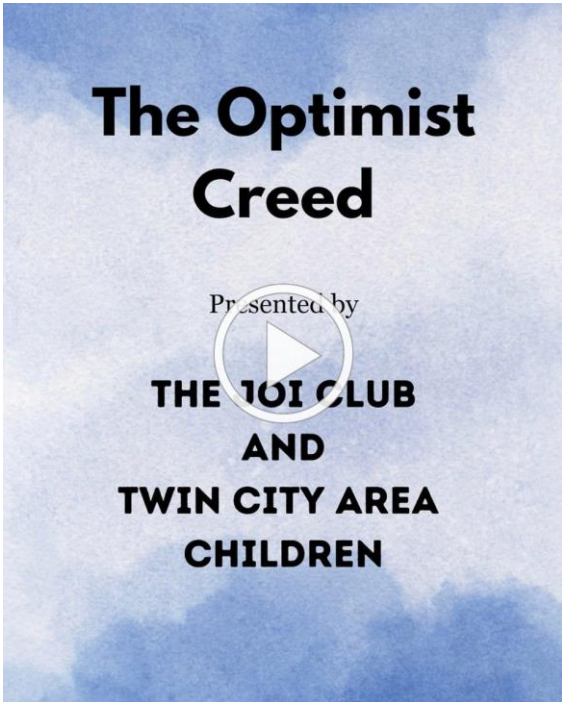


Debbie Schumaker spoke to the group about the upcoming BB 5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk. This is the 5th year for the walk. Debbie spoke of the history of the establishment of this walk being the June 2019 suicide of her grandson, Brian. Her family was encouraged to find a way to reach out to the community about the increase in teenage suicide, this walk is being used for that purpose. The proceeds from the walk have been used to give money to schools for sporting equipment. It is currently being used to award scholarships to students who write an essay on the need for suicide awareness. This year's topic was how teens feel they have changed and/or have seen changes in friends since the COVID-19 pandemic changed their school and family lives. At this year's walk eight \$500 scholarships will be awarded.

Debbie asked Missouri State Representative Cynthia Buchheit-Courtway up to speak about her efforts in Jefferson City to implement additions/changes/extensions to the health curriculum grades 5-12 in schools that include more mental health information and resources. Representative Buchheit-Courtway indicated she was going to be meeting with Aspen, a group that helps with suicide awareness by providing information about where to go to get help and who could be trusted to provide help.

Submitted by Karen Huskey

Click on the arrow to view the Optimist Creed read by youth from our community, including a few JOI members.



CLUB PROJECTS

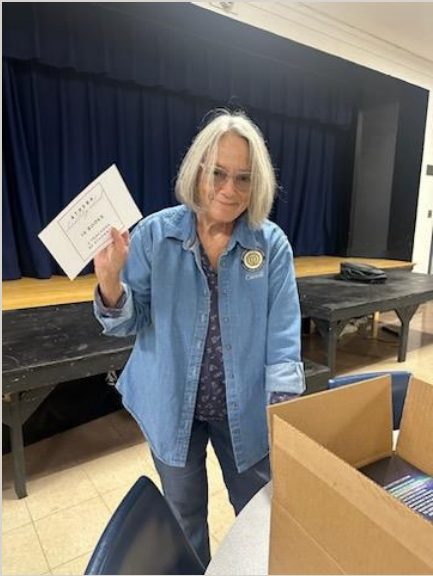
Dictionary Project



The Dictionary Project is a commendable initiative that aims to provide third-grade students with their own copy of a dictionary each year. The project is supported by our Twin City Area Optimist Club through a \$5000 grant issued by the Optimist Club St. Louis Foundation. This tradition not only equips young learners with a valuable resource for improving their language and literacy skills but also instills in them a love for the written word and a sense of empowerment through knowledge. The tactile experience of flipping through the pages of a physical dictionary not only enhances their vocabulary and comprehension but also fosters a sense of curiosity and independence in discovering the meanings of words. Moreover, it introduces them to the joy of exploration and the confidence to articulate their thoughts more effectively. The Dictionary Project thus plays an essential role in shaping the educational foundation of third-grade students, offering them a tool that transcends the classroom, enriching their lives with the gift of language and the potential for lifelong learning.

This year's project was chaired by two first timers, Allie Kister and Laura Lohman. Both Optimists have students in the local school districts who have and will benefit from this project. This year 57 boxes totaling 1,368 books were ordered and delivered to the following schools: Athena Elementary, Crystal City Elementary, Christian Outreach, Vineland Elementary, Festus Elementary, Grandview Elementary, Our Ladies in Festus, Hillsboro Elementary, Pevely Primary, Sunrise, Telegraph Intermediate, Twin City Christian Academy and St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in De Soto. In addition to the schools, we have added on local third Homeschoolers and plan to deliver rhyming dictionaries to the local Festus Pre-K building and for the Head Start project. Your 2023 Chairs would like to thank the following volunteers to assisting with the unboxing, labeling, and sorting this year: Thank you to: Jean Naeger, Judith Williams, Patty Meyer, Janice Boyd, Carroll Metzger, Debbie Hogenmiller, Kathy Jensen, and Donna Long.

Submitted by: Committee Chairs: Allie Kister and Laura Lohman



Carroll Metzger



Janice Boyd and Judy Williams



Donna Long



Jean Naeger and Patty Meyer



Debbie Hogenmiller



That's a lot of boxes.



Janice Boyd, Jean Naeger, and Karen Huskey distribute dictionaries to nine classrooms at Hillsboro Elementary, three classes at Grandview, and one class at Christian Outreach.



Mrs. Shade's third grade class at Grandview Elementary School.



Mrs. Ray's third grade class at Hillsboro Elementary School.

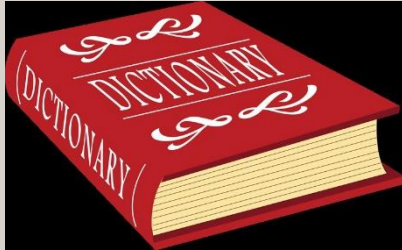


Mrs. Kennedy's class Hillsboro Elementary School.



Mrs. Zysk's class at Grandview Elementary School.

More Hillsboro Elementary classes.



Patty Meyer distributes dictionaries to students at Our Lady's in Festus.

Annual Art Contest

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. To obtain a contest application click this link: [Art Contest \(twincityoptimist.org\)](https://twincityoptimist.org)

Twin City Area Optimist Art Contest



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



Head Start Thanksgiving Baskets



Project Chair Pat Parsons along with Katie Huck will be collecting items and/or cash donations for Head Start Thanksgiving Baskets. They plan to collect prior to meetings on November 2, 9 & 16. Pat will have her van parked in back row of Taytro's parking lot from 11:15-11:45 am with her hatch up.

PLEASE DONATE 5 LIKE ITEMS to fill baskets for five families. Pat will have more information on family size as it becomes available.

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, you can call/text Pat at 314-223-4309 to arrange a pick-up or drop off. Also, you can drop off to Phyllis Neff 636-795-3665 at Quonset Lanes - please call/text her first.

Please refer each week to updated list of needs sent out via our club group email.

Fundraisers

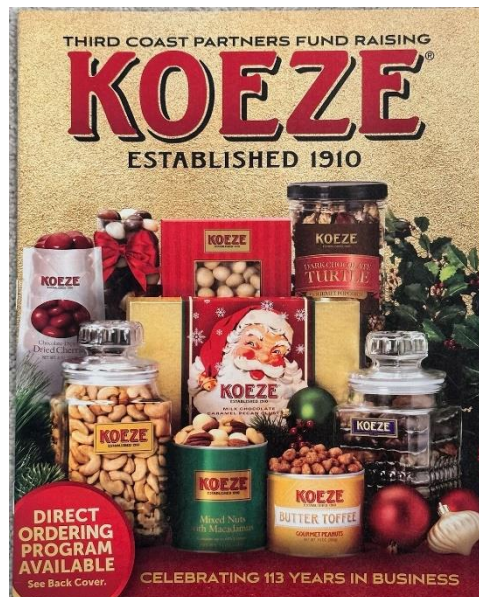


Advanced notice: Karen Huskey's next quilt will be this American Heartland quilt with individual blocks called Rising Sun blocks. It measures 76"x78" and has a professional appraisal of \$17,500. Many hours of labor go into a quilt this intricate. Raffle sale dates TBD.



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

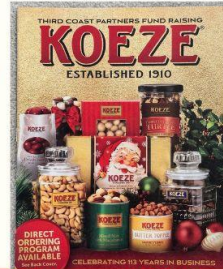
Contact

Patty Meyer to receive
catalog and place order.

Call/text 314 313 7744 or email:
meyerpattyphotos@gmail.com

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



Members attending conference were Judy Kuhlman, Debbie Hogenmiller Beth Watts, EMO Secretary Ellen Bridgewater, EMO Governor Elect Jean Naeger, Mary Hatfield, Peggy Scott, A&A Chair Jennifer Bagwell, EMO Governor Phyllis Neff, Kathy Todd, Katie Huck



Twin City Area Optimist Club earns second place in EMO 2022-2023 District Awards and Achievements program.

Ten TCA Optimists attended the first quarter 2023-2024 EMO District Conference. Motivation, training, and Optimist updates were presented. Members were able to hear more about the Optimist International Foundation and meet

with some of the district's committee chairs. This was an opportunity for members to learn more about various programs and sign up to join committees. Oh, and there was lots of fun with the Kickoff theme for Friday evening.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, 364 single items were donated to EMO First Quarter Service Project benefitting the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia, Missouri. Items included single serve food items, toys and activity books, along with personal hygiene items for children and adults.



JOI Club



JOI Officers installed October 5, 2023

Pictured: Debbie Schumaker, JOI Adult Advisor; Olivia Blair, Vice President; Addisen Eldridge, Secretary; Abby Gianladis' Treasurer, Peggy Scott, TCA Optimist Club President. (Not present President Maddy Blair)

JOI Club October News

The October 5, 2023, meeting of the JOI Club was called to order by Vice President Olivia Blair. Eight members were in attendance and together they said the Pledge of Allegiance. Peggy Scott, Twin City Area Optimist Club president, was welcomed as the guest for the evening.

Brags and prayers were shared by various members. A round of Happy Birthday was sung to October birthday celebrants.

Old business on the meeting agenda was the upcoming BB 5K on October 21 at Larry Crites Memorial Park at 10 a.m. Applications were completed and collected for the event. All members were encouraged to attend this event which focuses on suicide awareness.

New business included plans for the club's Halloween party on Saturday, October 29 at Larry Crites Memorial Park from 12:00 noon to 2 p.m. Costumes, games and fun were planned for the event.

In addition to the Halloween party plans, the Autumn Ridge car show on Saturday, October 14, 2 to 6 p.m. was discussed. All proceeds from the car show will be donated to Kade's playground in Herculaneum. The club voted to donate \$100 to the event.

In conclusion, newly elected officers were installed. Members recited the Optimists' Pledge and the meeting was adjourned.

BB 5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk



BB 5K essay scholarship winners.



JOI Members lead attendees in Pledge of Allegiance.


**5th Annual
BB 5K**

**5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk
Saturday, 10AM
October 21, 2023
At Larry Crites Memorial Park**

Cost of 5K - \$30
Includes t-shirt, certificate of appreciation, snacks, fruit and
Biological Health Information
Unable to walk, T-shirts may be purchased for \$20
Student need without t-shirt \$10
Sweatshirts only \$30 or \$45 no participant
Checks to TCA Optimist at PO Box 475, Festus MO 63028 or
Venmo @JOI63028

VISIT: <https://twincityoptimist.org> for waiver/consent form

Student scholarship winners of funds raised will be announced
after the 5K

Contact information:
**Debbie Schumaker 314-471-7213,
Carol Schanz 314-222-4344, or
Katie Huck 314-520-6340**

ALL MEN ARE
WELCOME TO
FESTUS MO



Walkers

Eight area students won \$500 scholarships for their essays with the topic **“After the last three years, how would you describe the mental health status of you and your family?”**

Here are the winners of the BB 5K Scholarships.

- Kennedy Hale
- Maddy Blair
- Katelyn Blair
- Natalie Yates
- Adriana Doria
- Hannah Theis
- Ava Beers
- Mason Burris

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



SAVE THE DATES



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

Oct. 26: Evening meeting – a spooky surprise- Poppy's Parlor

Nov. 5: Annual Art Contest- Chair Patty Meyer

Nov. 16: Wrap Head Start gifts during weekly meeting. Co-Chairs Cathy Elliott and Laura Elbl

Nov. 16: Koeze nuts sales deadline - Chair Pat Parsons

Dec. 6&8: Hematite and DeSoto Head Start Christmas Parties contact Co-Chairs Cathy Elliott and Laura Elbl if you would like to assist with this project.



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
2023-2024

President
Peggy Scott
314 420 0897

President Elect
Debbie Hogenmiller

Past President
Carroll Metzger

Secretary
Ruth Ann Adams

Secretary Elect
Kathy Todd

Treasurer
Janet Mace

Treasurer Elect
Becky Francis

Board Members

2022-2024
Cathy Elliott
Katie Huck
Patty Meyer

2023-2025

Amy Baum
Beth Watts
Kirstie Zych



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