

## **Opportunities to Participate Twin City Optimist Club March 2026**

This is a list of our Twin City Area Optimist Club committees for projects and fundraisers with a brief description.

### **Achievements & Accomplishments Project Forms (A&A – all year)**

This is an Optimist International program that recognizes local clubs for their participation in sanctioned programs. Incentives are generally offered for top achievers.

### **Adolescent Boys Health (August, December)**

Conjoined with the Foster Kids Back to School event and Holiday Party, we buy books and hygiene products for the boys.

### **Art Contest (November)**

This contest recognizes the artistic capability of students in southern Jefferson County. The chairperson handles arranging the date and venue. Other duties of the committee include contracting schools in southern Jefferson County, arranging art drop-off dates and location, sorting artwork, arranging artwork at display sites, arranging for judges and prizes and arranging the reception.

### **Aunt Rose Project (once or twice a year)**

Order products online for our youth girls in need and have items shipped directly to Aunt Rose location.

### **Badges (Weekly)**

Make badges for new members, keep the badge box and bring it to the daytime meetings.

### **Banner (Weekly)**

Keeps the club's banners and brings them to meetings.

### **Brenden's Backpack (2 times a year)**

We periodically have in-house sorting/gathering for Brendon's at club meetings. We may also have internal food drives, and organize a food drive with Walmart, stationing members at both doors to pass out flyers and collect donations.

### **C.A.R.E. Program (August)**

This is an Optimist International Program to gauge members feelings about where the club is excelling and where we need to improve.

**Chamber of Commerce Meeting** – As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, members take turns attending Chamber Meetings to promote what the Optimists are doing in the community and bring back to the club any information that we can network with.

**Chaplains (each meeting)**

People that will say prayer before our lunch at meetings and more when prayer is needed.

**Celebration of Women Event (March)**

This is an event sponsored by The Jefferson County Leader that Optimists have been sponsoring and attending. This is a huge marketing opportunity to show the community who the Optimist are and what we do..

**Childhood Health and Wellness (year-round)**

The chairperson handles contacting families of children identified with cancer or any major illness to provide financial support. In the past, we have given gasoline cards to the parents for all of the trips they must make while the child is in treatment.

**Club Fellowship (all year)**

Per our Club Policies, the Fellowship Chairperson will ensure that:

- Cards are sent for members birthdays, illnesses, sympathy and other appropriate occasions
- Upon the death of a member's spouse or child, at \$25 donation is made to the Twin City Area Childhood Health and Wellness in memory of that spouse or child unless the family chooses a different charity.
- An Angel Statuette or guardian angel will be bought at the time of the members death and given to the family at the visitation by an attending member.

The Fellowship Fund is funded by the Clubs part of the 50/50 raffle, monies from brags, pictures in the paper and birthdays.

**Coat Project (Sept – March)**

Optimists provide coats to keep kids warm. The chairperson handles contacting schools to let them know of the program and serves as the contact when a child is identified as needing a coat. There is an inventory on the coats so when the quantity is low, requests to buy more coats. Also asks for volunteers to deliver to the schools. The coats are currently stored at Bloomsdale Bank in Crystal City with Betty Hardin.

**Community Networking (Sept., Dec., May)**

The Chairperson reaches out to local communities' events to arrange for an Optimist booth where we can share information about our club, and have a fun activity for kids to do.

**Dictionary Project (Sept)**

We buy dictionaries for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The chairperson handles ordering the dictionaries based upon an estimate from school officials. Volunteers label, sort, and deliver the dictionaries to the schools.

**Dime-A-Day (Jan)**

This is a committee of one, conventionally the immediate past president. With just one dime a day (36.50 per year), payable to Optimist International Foundation, member donors help the Foundation support the charitable work of Optimist International.

**East MO Youth Golf Tournament (June)**

Coordinate with and support the East MO Optimist District Golf Tournament.

**Essay Contest (Feb)**

Optimist International provides a topic on which youth are invited to write an essay. The chairperson contacts the schools to get participants and sets up a contest with judges and prizes. This usually takes place in January/February.

**Food Baskets (November/Thanksgiving - Mar/Apr Easter)**

We provide food baskets for 5 chosen Head Start families (must have children) for Thanksgiving and Easter. The chairperson sends a list of needed items and asks the club to bring donations to a club meeting 3-4 weeks in advance. The items are then sorted for each family. Also, a committee shops with monetary donations we receive and deliver to one location the same day.

**Foster Together (Spring)**

We have a budgeted amount of money to spend on items needed. Also, the club gets busy during the winter making things to be donated.

**Grant Committee (all year)**

To oversee and coordinate grants that we apply for and make sure the grant is received. Also seeks out new grant opportunities.

**Head Start Holiday Parties (Dec)**

This is one of the oldest projects of our club. We provide a holiday party for children, ranging from 3-5 years old. The chairperson and committee obtain an outfit, socks, mittens/gloves, hats, toys, book, stuffed animal, and toothbrush and toothpaste along with other items. Volunteers visit the classrooms with games and activities. Currently there are 4 parties, 2 at Hematite and 2 at DeSoto.

**Homeless Youth Initiative (Dec)**

The Committee Chair contacts the head of the Homeless Youth Initiative to decide if they need cash or items. If it is items, a list is generated and volunteers go shopping.

**Jefferson College Scholarships (March)**

The Committee Chair meets with Jefferson College to see what the needs are. We issue a check out of our fundraising for this event each year.

**Junior Optimist International JOI Club Twin City Bowling (Sept)**

Quonset Lanes provides a night of free bowling and shoe rental on the Friday of Twin City Days. The Optimist provides a donation for this event the JOI Club works at handing out flyers about their club and a coupon for snacks at the snack bar.

**Marketing and Publicity (all year)**

This committee interacts with the community to spread the news that Optimist is constantly working to bring out the best in kids. This committee helps with advertising our fund-raising projects and keeping our social media and Website up to date.

**Mentorship/Retention (as needed)**

The chairperson sets up procedures and mentors for new members to help them become acclimated to the club and members.

**N.O.W. – New Optimist Wanted (Feb & June/July)**

A committee that strives to prepare programs geared to attract new members and give them an understanding about what our club does for the community. Typically, this is presented at a meeting that potential new members are invited to attend.

**Newsletter (all-year)**

1. This committee produces a bulletin for our membership according to guidelines set by the East Missouri District of Optimist. The newsletter is given to our membership and to the East Missouri District monthly. It is part of the Clubs website and the East MO District website.
2. Will publish a photo directory of all members at least twice a year.
3. Will help President with Weekly Updates and other communications all year.

**New Project Committee (all year)**

This committee reviews proposals for new club projects. Members submit a proposal form for the committee to review. If the New Project Committee approves, it is then submitted to the board for a formal review and vote.

**Optimists in Action**

This committee leads ways to bring our organization to the attention of the community by finding a need and then fulfilling it. This may be a one-time event, a one-day event or an annual event, such as picking up trash in a park, reading to children in school, planting a tree, and so forth.

**Optimist Day and Evening Program Chair (all-year)**

This committee provides interesting and informative speakers and programs at our weekly lunch meetings and will plan monthly evening event meetings.

**Optimist Roster**

Maintains a roster of all members with their information. This person is responsible for entering new members accurately, deleting any member who cancels their membership, and periodically distributing the roster to the club members.

**Oratorical Contest (Feb/March)**

Each year we take part in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest. Optimist International provides the topic for a timed speech. The chairperson contacts the schools to get participants and sets up a contest with judges and prizes. This usually takes place in February/March.

**Parents as Teacher Boxes (Oct)**

We buy items needed from a list provided by this organization, the boxes are assembled and given to the non-profit for distribution to the new parents.

**Party Committee**

A group of volunteers who make sure the Optimists celebrate and have a good time. Typically for Halloween, Christmas Holiday, Valentine's Day, A Spring Event. This committee also plans for the President's Roast and the Installation Luncheon in the first week of October.

**Respect for Law (June)**

Local law enforcement agencies are encouraged to nominate an officer for recognition at a luncheon (regular meeting time). This event is appreciated by the officers and well attended. Officers are given a plaque and gift card.

**Sponsorship Luncheon (September)**

This luncheon is given to show our appreciation to the sponsors who donate \$500+

**Bottleneck Bridge Helmet Fitting and Bike Safety Rodeo (Fall)**

We provide kids with a bike helmet and proper fitting along with a course for them to learn bike safely. Runs in conjunction with Bottleneck Bridge Ride.

**Visual Arts (February)**

This art contest is for younger youth, with age groups 0-7 and 8-11. There are monetary prizes from the club, and the first-place winners advance to the Optimist International competition.

**Women's Shelter (Quarterly)**

Women and their children displaced by abusive situations receive items from our club to make their lives a bit easier. We work directly through COMPASS on this project which is year-round.

**Youth Appreciation (April)**

Held in April, this project honors youth nominated by their schools for their well-rounded school participation. The chairperson contacts the schools, schedules the date, and arranges for a celebration luncheon. These students are awarded a certificate and a monetary gift.

## **Fundraisers**

### **Bunco (Quarterly)**

An evening of fellowship and playing a dice game (no skill, just luck, easy to learn), prizes are awarded. Once a quarter on a Friday night.

### **Dine to Donate (4-6 times per year)**

Chairperson organizes an event with a local restaurant that will donate a portion of the proceeds to our club. The percentage of profit varies from restaurants. Set up a date and promote the event!

### **Dinner Event with wine tasting (February)**

This event was started in 2025. A committee plans the event and enlists Optimists to help where needed including selling tickets, finding sponsors, donating auction items, and working the event.

### **Fall Fundraiser (Aug)**

Community Event that is held in August. Most recently we held Rock n Roll Bingo. Earlier events were Trivia, Mouse Races, Las Vegas Nights. There are raffle and silent auction items available. Perfect volunteer activity for an event planner.

### **Holy Moly Cloths (available weekly)**

This is a cleaning cloth that we sell as part of our fundraising. They can be bought each week at our meetings.

### **Koeze Nuts (Sept sales start – Dec arrival for separation and distribution)**

Sell delicious nuts in October/November to community, family and friends. This has been one of our most successful fund raisers for a long time and does require special conditions – A loading dock for the nut delivery is necessary. Upon arrival, we sort the products and separate them into orders for pick up or delivery.

### **Mascot Nuts (Sept sales start – Dec arrival)**

Sell 3 types of delicious nuts in October/November to community, family and friends.

### **Old Bag Luncheon (July)**

This fundraiser is held at one of our noon meetings and generally involves auctioning old or not-so-old handbags which may or may not be filled with surprises.

### **Quilt Raffle (Dec)**

We have an Optimist member who donates a quilt for us to raffle each year. We sell 10.00 donations for a chance to win! Chances are sold in person and on social media.

**Raffles (as needed)**

Tickets sold for gift cards, restaurants, and lottery tickets which can be donated by the members or local businesses. Tickets are sold in person and may also be on social media.

**Sponsorship Committee (mailing end of January– April)**

Letters are sent from our club to all our sponsors at the beginning of January. Each year we try to add more sponsors to help fund our projects. This is a coordinated effort between the Sponsorship committee and the Foundation.