



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

June 2025 News Making a Difference For Kids

President Cathy Elliott



Dear Ladies,

Did You Know?

June wasn't always the sixth month of the year as we know it today! Before Julius Caesar reformed the calendar, there were only 10 months, making June the fourth month. In a fun twist of time, since the Optimist year begins in October, June is now the ninth month of our club year—which means we're already wrapping up the third quarter!

Club Highlights – 3rd Quarter Snapshot

- 📌 **Membership Growth:** We've welcomed 16 new members this quarter, bringing us to an amazing 134 members strong!
- 📌 **Events & Projects:** We've successfully completed 13 projects and events and held our 3rd Quarter District Meeting.
- 📌 **Looking Ahead:** We're now setting our sights on the 107th Optimist International Convention at Union Station in St. Louis at the end of June!

Upcoming Fundraising Season

Starting in July, we'll be entering a busy season filled with fundraising events leading up to the end of the Optimist year in September. We will need your support and energy to help make these events a success!

Bring a Guest – July 31st Evening Meeting

Do you know someone interested in what we do? Invite them to join us at our evening meeting on July 31st!

- 📌 **Special Presentation by:** Mary Hatfield and Amy Baum
- 📌 **Bonus:** Guests eat **free**—we just need their name, address and phone number so Mary can send a personal invitation.

Thank you for being an essential member of the **Twin City Area Optimist Club**. Let's finish this quarter strong and carry our momentum through the final stretch of the year! 📌

Optimistically yours,
Cathy Elliott
President – Twin City Area Optimist Club
📌 573-883-0924

Welcome New Members!



Christine Bradshaw



Laura English



Denise Funston



Jessica Korte



Jan Buechting



Michelle Storment



Sarah Hilker

June 5, 2025 Board Update, Bloomsdale Fun Farm, Spotlight Theatre



Carla Fischer
Bloomsdale Fun Farm



Courtney Wiseley
Spotlight Theatre

Board Updates

Eight new optimist members have been approved. Please welcome the following:

- Michelle Storment, sponsored by Jean Naeger
- Jessica Korte, sponsored by Katie Huck
- Denise Funston, sponsored by Nicki Ruess
- Sarah Hilker, sponsored by Becky Francis
- Christine Bradshaw, sponsored by Cathy Elliott
- Laura English, sponsored by Judy Williams
- Sophia Hensly, sponsored by Katie Huck
- Maria Hoepfner, sponsored by Katie Huck

A NOW/WOW meeting (New Optimist Welcome / Welcome Optimist Worldwide) is scheduled for July 31 in the evening.

The board approved to donate an additional \$195 to The Women's Shelter to take 15 children on a field trip to Critter Land and the Butterfly House.

Sponsorship update: we have brought in \$23,403.88 this year which is \$1,100.00 more than last year. These funds are deposited into the Foundation of the Twin City Optimist Club for investment.

Learn to Ride Your Bike Path- Becky Francis, Katie Huck and Carroll Metzger reported that we are now in the designing stage. The Foundation will be applying for grants to help pay for this project. The bike path will be in Sunset Park behind the police station in Festus.

Optimist International Convention

- The service project for the Optimist International Convention will be **Monarch Jewelry**. Monarch creates quality and artistic jewelry in a unique way to engage in the fight against sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation. If you have broken jewelry or something you do not want any longer, please consider donating the items.
- Renee Gerlach and Carroll Metzger will present a workshop at the Optimist International Convention to teach other Optimists about this program, and why there is a huge need for period products.

Bloomsdale Fun Farms

Carla Fischer is a retired High School Teacher who also worked for Eckert's Farm for many years. She and her family opened Bloomsdale Fun Farm in 2021 as an agritourism attraction. It's similar to Eckert's, but with much more!

Bloomsdale Fun Farm is open for pumpkin season only, which is the last weekend in September and all weekends in October. General admission covers most attractions with a few exceptions.

The farm currently includes seven mechanical rides, play equipment, hiking trails, farm animals, and a multitude of other activities! They also include accessibility accommodations including a wheelchair lift for the hayride wagons and special swings and seating.

Twin City Area Optimists will be working the farm Saturday October 4 and Saturday October 25. Six volunteers will be needed each day for low liability tasks. Five volunteers will have assigned positions with the sixth floating to provide breaks. The shifts are eight hours and require a lot of standing. In exchange for the work, a donation will be made to our club.

For more information , please reference: <http://Bloomsdalefunfarm.com>

Spotlight Theatre

Courtney Wiseley with Spotlight Theatre joined us to receive a donation from the club. The Spotlight Theatre is in its' fourth year and now has more than 400 members. This year they have performed *High School Musical Jr.* with performances of *Fiddler on the Roof* scheduled for August.

<https://spotlightjeffco.org/>

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney and Cathy Elliott

June 12, 2025 Foster Together



Laura Storm, Foster Together

Announcements

We have a Secretary-Elect for next year! Thank you to new member Jessica Korte for taking on this important position!

Upcoming Blood Drive, July 11 at the Festus YMCA from 11:00-3:00pm. The club can earn \$300 if we have 30 people donate! And for every person over 30 we earn \$10 more for each person. Contact Marian Bozak at 216-509-6810 if you can donate or make a treat for the Blood Drive.

The Old Bag Lunch will be held on July 24. This is an in-house fundraiser that we look forward to every year! Carol Schanz will send a sheet around asking for volunteers to donate purses and bags of any kind.

New member inductions

- Chris Bradshaw, sponsored by Cathy Elliott
- Laura English, sponsored by Judy Williams
- Denise Funston, sponsored by Nicki Ruess
- Jessica Korte, sponsored by Katie Huck

FOSTER TOGETHER

Laura Storm from Foster Together spoke at one of our 2024 meetings about their organization. The club was so impressed with her presentation that Cathy Elliott suggested our club support them and the important work they do in the

community. A new project was approved for \$1000 and Jean Naeger found a matching grant for \$1000.

Karen Huskey and her team purchased \$2,000 worth of toys, diapers, handmade items and other items that Foster Together needs. These items were unloaded and a display was set up in the back room at Taytro's.

Laura Storm provided an update on Foster Together and mentioned that they are looking for a larger building. Afterwards Laura and Optimist members went into the back room to see two walls full of donations!

A big thank you to the Foster Together committee, chair Karen Huskey and members Rosie O'Shaughnessy, Dorothea Kehm, Sue Jokerst, Mary Kay Scott, Peggy McCraith, and Mickie Huskey. Also, thanks to Karen's husband, Don Huskey, and other Optimists who helped unload the purchases and set up the display!

Submitted by: Cathy Elliott and Carolyn McKinney



Rosie O'Shaughnessy, Dorothea Kehm, Laura Storm, May Kay Scott,
Karen Huskey, and Mickie Huskey



Laura Storm with the donations for Foster Together!

June 19, 2025 Tim Krysl



Tim Krysl joined our June 19 meeting to discuss Juneteenth. Tim teaches eighth grade United States History at Festus Middle School and is a history professor at Maryville University. He spoke to our club last year about Jim Crow laws. There was such positive feedback from last year's talk that he was invited to return this year.

To explain Juneteenth, Tim first reviewed the events of the Civil War, starting with the election of November 1860 which resulted in several states seceding from the Union. The states that seceded had threatened this action if Abraham Lincoln was elected President and followed through after the election. While they initially seceded as individual entities, they joined to form the Confederate States of America (CSA) on February 4, 1861.

The Civil War officially started on April 12, 1861 at Fort Sumter. While there were 11 states in the CSA, their flag included two more stars, adding Missouri and Kentucky for 13, although neither state seceded or joined the Confederacy.

Locally, Festus was divided by Main Street, with north of Main primarily supporting the Union and south primarily supporting the Confederacy.

President Lincoln's primary goal early in the Civil War was to preserve the Union. He signed the Emancipation Proclamation by Executive Order on September 22, 1862 which became effective January 1, 1863. A few things to note about the proclamation that many people do not realize:

- The proclamation did not say slavery was illegal unless you were in the 11 states that seceded, i.e. were part of an active rebellion.
- Great Britain and France were close to allying with the Confederacy. Changing the subject of slavery to a moral issue versus an economic issue discouraged that alliance.
- The Proclamation Emancipation resulted in an integrated military.

It was the responsibility of the Union Military to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation as it was a military decree. The last Confederate state after the end of the Civil War was Texas, primarily due to the small number of Union troops available to enforce the proclamation. When Union troops arrived on June 19, 1865 and found slavery still intact, Major General Gordon Granger announced General Order #3 which informed Texans that "all slaves are free". That was the birth of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth has regularly been celebrated in Texas, but more limited elsewhere until the Civil Rights movement in the 1950's – 1970's. Texas declared Juneteenth a state holiday in the 1980's with other states following afterwards. It became a National Holiday on June 17, 2021 through Executive Order by President Biden.

Locally, Juneteenth celebrations circulate between the Quad Cities, with the primary celebration in 2025 being in Herculaneum.

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney

June 26, 2025

Jeopardy!

The June 26 evening meeting was exciting with member inductions and a fun game. The 3 new members inducted were Jan Buechting , Michelle Storment, and Sarah Hilker. Please welcome these ladies!

After the inductions and announcements, Marian Bozak hosted an exciting game of *Jeopardy!* While questions started out relatively easy, players quickly moved to higher dollar amounts. The categories of "1980's" and "TV Catchphrases" proved to be the most entertaining.

The final round included aggressive wagers by most teams for a tough category of

"What's in a Name". The final *Jeopardy* answer was " This area that includes several countries got its name because the colonists spoke Spanish, French and Portuguese." This was an actual question from a *Jeopardy* show. Did you get it? It proved to be a stumper, "What is Latin America?"

Special thanks to Marian Bozak for leading the *Jeopardy*! game! Also, to Mary Hatfield, Pat Parsons, Becky Francis and Becky Capps for their help displaying the game on the big screen and staying on schedule!

Submitted by: Marian Bozak



New member Sarah Hilker with sponsor Becky Francis, Donna Long (sponsor) with new member Michelle Storment, new member Jan Buechting with sponsor Donna Master, and Club President Cathy Elliott



The board from the Jeopardy game

CLUB PROJECTS

EMO Jr. Golf Tournament

The East Missouri Optimist (EMO) Jr. Golf Tournament was held Friday, June 6 at the Ste. Genevieve Golf Club, in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Twin City Area Optimists volunteered at the event, using golf carts to transport golfers to their designated tee-off holes. This service was much appreciated by the players.

Thank you, ladies.



Twin City Area Optimist volunteers Sarah Hilker, Jessica Korte, Laura English, Jean Naeger, Susan DeClue, and Mary Hatfield.

Foster Together Shopping

The Foster Together committee met at the Gravois Bluffs Target Store on June 10. With four carts, they happily spent \$2000 on items for the Foster Together club project.

Shoppers included Karen Huskey, Mickie Huskey, Mary Kay Scott, and Rosie O'Shaughnessy. Two additional committee members, Dorothea Kehm and Peggy McCraith were unable to participate in the shopping trip.

Submitted by: Karen Huskey



Mickie Huskey, Rosie O'Shaughnessy, Karen Huskey, and Mary Kay Scott



Karen Huskey with a car load of purchases for Foster Together

Summer fun for kids at A Safe Place

The Women's Shelter committee went shopping at Walmart on June 11 for the children staying at the shelter. They purchased craft items for the children to use during the summer as well as little rewards for good behavior. While delivering the purchases, the committee also presented a check for \$195 from the Twin City Area Optimist Club to Holly Porter, Director of the shelter, to pay for 15 children to go on field trips to Critter Corner and The Butterfly House this summer.

Committee: Barb Bates (Chair), Mickie Huskey, Vickie Campbell, and Judy Williams

Submitted by: Barb Bates



Barb Bates and Mickie Huskie shopping at Walmart.

CLUB FUNDRAISERS

Bunco!

Twin City Area Optimist Club members gathered at Herrell's Distributing on June 6 for an evening of fun, fellowship, food, and Bunco! Carol Schanz generously hosted the event and attendees brought a variety of delicious food and dessert items to share.

Three people tied for the most wins. Roll-offs were played to determine the winners of the prizes. Jody Stockwell received First Prize, Jayne Rickard, Second Prize, and Mary Lewis, Third Prize. Sharma Gearhart received the prize for the most Buncos, while Nancy McAnany received the top prize for the most losses. Debbie Bradley was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing!

TCA Optimists cleared \$862.00 to be deposited in the general bank account. Thank you to all who came out for a great evening and to Carol Schanz for hosting at HW Herrell's Distributing.

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



Bunco prize winners: Nancy Mcanany, Mary Lewis, Jody Stockwell, Jayne Rickard, Sharma Gearhart



Debbie Bradley, 50/50 winner



Goodies at Bunco!

If you can give blood, please sign up. Contact Blood Drive Chair Marian Bozak (216) 509- 6810 to volunteer to assist during the blood drive.



Blood Drive
Sponsored by
Twin City Area Optimist Club

Jefferson County Family YMCA - Gym
1303 YMCA Drive
Festus, MO 63028

Friday, July 11, 2025
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: JeffCoYMCA
to schedule an appointment.



**Come give blood 7/1 to 7/14 for an exclusive pair
of Red Cross x goodr sunglasses, while they last!**



Scan to schedule
your appointment.

goodr

x



American
Red Cross

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Offer applicable to presenting donors 07/1/2025-07/14/2025, while supplies last. One size fits most. Subject to availability of donation opportunities in presenting donor's area.
No substitutions and not transferable by presenting donor. Not redeemable for cash. © 2025 The American National Red Cross. Image and GOODR trademark used under license
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You must present a flyer or show from your phone. Visit our public Facebook page or our private club group. The flyer below will be posted on both pages. Please take the time to share the post from our public page.

QDOBA IS BRINGING FLAVOR TO OUR COMMUNITY



FUNDRAISER FOR

TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 4PM-8PM

**1300 VETERANS BLVD
FESTUS, MO 63028**

25% of sales donated

Order online with the digital coupon on this flyer, or show this flyer in restaurant. Also valid on Catering orders.

**SCAN THIS QR CODE
IN RESTAURANT**



**OR ENTER THIS
COUPON CODE ONLINE
QDOBAGIVES**



QDOBA commits to donating 25% of product sales (excluding any tax, delivery, gift card purchases and alcohol purchases) made lawfully and in accordance with this agreement to your organization. In order to receive a donation, your organization must reach the minimum sales amount of \$150. If this amount is not reached, your organization will not receive a check for the fundraiser. QDOBA reserves the right to withhold donations if QDOBA's fundraiser guidelines are violated or if your fundraiser website is abused and/or used in a manner not in accordance with this agreement. QDOBA Mexican Eats is a registered trademark of QDOBA Restaurant Corporation. ©QDOBA Restaurant Corporation 2025.

New Marketing Brochure

The revised tri-fold marketing brochure is now available. This document provides basic information about the projects and services we provide to the community. It will be used for new member packets, sponsorship campaigns, and available at club public events. This is a great way to spread the word about our club. Members can request copies from Marketing Chair Jean Naeger.

SERVICE



BICYCLE SAFETY

Optimists gave away and properly fitted hundreds of bicycle helmets as part of the club's new and growing bicycle safety project.

Optimists partner with community organizations to serve children

- Jefferson College: Scholarships
- Aunt Rose Project: Serving period poverty
- Second Hand Heroes: Providing items and support
- Atlas Youth Outreach: Therapy for local teens
- Foster Together: Supporting foster families
- Spotlight Community Theatre: Encouraging the arts
- Helping Hands and Horses: Equestrian therapy

SPONSORSHIPS | 2025

Help us help the kids

We rely on the generosity of our community to support the Twin City Area Optimist Club's work in the community. Help us help the kids by sponsoring our club. For more information, please contact Jean Naeger, marketing chair, at 314-495-2822.

Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000 or more

- Greater visibility at club events
- Includes photo/logo of you or your business
- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

Gold Sponsor: \$500-\$999

- Includes photo/logo of you or your business
- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

Silver Sponsor: \$250-\$499

- Includes business logo
- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

Bronze Sponsor: \$100-\$249

- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

New for 2025: Donations are tax deductible

Make tax-deductible checks payable to: The Foundation of the Twin City Optimist Club, separately incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please mail to P.O. Box 13, Festus, MO 63028.



Twin City Area Optimist Club

Bringing out the best in youth

Choose Optimism

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. Join the Twin City Area Optimist Club, a service club supporting southern Jefferson County, and make a difference today.



COATS FOR KIDS

Coats for Kids is the club's largest project and has been operating for more than 30 years. Each year, up to 500 coats are given away. The project committee works with local school counselors to identify local children in need.

www.twincityoptimist.org
@twincityoptimistclub
P.O. Box 475
Festus, MO 63028



CELEBRATE



JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

Children ages 11-18 are encouraged to join the Twin City Optimist's Junior Optimist Club. Above, members learn about careers while enjoying a craft project. The club elects officers, plans its own projects and gives members a chance to develop leadership skills, meet new people and have fun.



DICTIONARIES FOR THIRD GRADERS

Each year, every third grader in southern Jefferson County receives their very own dictionary. In an age of electronics, the children love getting the books and learning new skills.

JUNIOR GOLF

One of junior golf's most prestigious events, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, starts with a local qualifying tournament supported by the Twin City Area club.



COLLECTING FOR OTHERS

Club members organize food drives and other collections throughout the year to serve members of the community. Above, a truckload of food was gathered for Brenden's Friday Backpacks, a community organization providing food to children in need.

OPTIMIST CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE AS MUCH AS THEY GIVE

- The fellowship of proactive people with optimistic mindsets
- New social and working relationships with individuals from a cross section of our communities
- The opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- The satisfaction of making a difference in our communities

Whether you are searching for an outlet to help your community, personal development, or rewarding camaraderie, you'll find what you're looking for in your local Optimist Club.



YOUTH APPRECIATION

Bringing out the best in youth includes honoring local students for their achievements at the annual Youth Appreciation luncheon.



RESPECT FOR LAW

As part of the Optimist International organization, the Twin City Optimists take part in a project held around the world to honor law enforcement officers each year.

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU JOIN US

The Twin City Area Optimist Club includes people who want to help youth and the community. Members join to serve others and to promote Optimism as a way of life. Visit a meeting as a guest to see if Optimism is for you. Join and you will be invited to participate in projects you care about alongside people who want to make a difference.

facebook.com/twincityoptimistclub
www.twincityoptimist.org

EAST MISSOURI (EMO) OPTIMIST DISTRICT



**BRING
BACK
THE**

80's

**EMO DISTRICT CONVENTION
AUGUST 15-17, 2025
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
3301 LEMONE BLVD., COLUMBIA, MO 65201**

Club Officer Training
General Sessions -- MORE
Awards Banquet-Governors' Choice Awards
Optimist Memorial

**Get ready for the EMO Convention August 15-17,
2025 Reservation Information Coming Soon**

SAVE THE DATE



June 6, 2025 - EMO Jr. Golf Tournament

Ste. Genevieve Golf Course - Ste. Genevieve, MO

June 29-July 3, 2025 - OI Convention

St. Louis Union Station - St. Louis, MO



July 17-18, 2025- Oratorical Championships

St. Louis University, Center for Global Citizenship, St. Louis, MO

August 15-17, 2025 - EMO Fourth Quarter Convention

Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia, MO

JOI Club June 7, 2025

A joint meeting was held with Autumn Ridge residents and the JOI Club on June 7 at 6:00 p.m. The joint meeting enabled residents and JOI club members to take part in a demonstration presented by Party Paws Mobile Zoo. The program provided an interactive experience with a variety of animals aimed at stimulating a child's curiosity.

Jenna Heckethorn of Party Paws Mobile Zoo brought five animals for the kids to hold and take care of. JOI members in turn took the animals to the Autumn Ridge residents to pet. Animals shared by Party Paws included a baby kangaroo, a baby lemur, a five-year-old tortoise, an iguana, and a beautiful owl. Everybody in attendance loved the demonstration and the personal animal experience it provided.

Members learned a lot about each animal, including the fact that Missouri does not have many regulations governing the acquisition of exotic animals. Companies like Party Paws rescues them as people are unable how to care for them as they grow larger, thus putting the animals at risk.

The evening ended with everybody wanting to do it again!

Submitted by: Debbie Schumaker, Student Advisor
Carol Schanz, JOI Chair



Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor



SAVE THE DATES



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

July 1 NO BOARD MEETING
July 3 NO GENERAL MEETING
July 10 Meeting - Hawaiian Luau, International Convention Updates
July 11 Red Cross Blood Drive, Jefferson County YMCA
July 16 Dine to Donate at Qdoba
July 17 Meeting - All for Family
July 24 Meeting - Old Bag Lunch
July 31 Evening Meeting - NOW/WOW
August 5 Board Meeting - hostess Sue Joggerst
August 7 Meeting - Helmets First, Board Update
August 9 Rock 'n Roll Bingo
August 14 Meeting - Back to Play
August 15-17 EMO District Convention
August 17 Bottleneck Bridge Bike Ride & Bike Rodeo
August 21 General Meeting
August 28 Evening Meeting - CARE
September 2 Combined Board Meeting
September 4 Meeting - Board Update
September 11 Sponsorship Lunch
September 13 Brenden's Backpack Collection
September 18 General Meeting
September 25 Dine to Donate at Panera
September 25 General Meeting



Members meet every Thursday from Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. Please RSVP by 8:00 a.m. on Monday by contacting Kathy Todd.

The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at the United Methodist Church in Festus. Members are invited to bring their own dinner at 5:30 to socialize. The meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.

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

President
Cathy Elliott
573 883 0924

President Elect
Debbie
Hogenmiller

Past President
Peggy Scott

Secretary
Kathy Todd

Secretary Elect
Marian Bozak

Treasurer
Becky Francis

Treasurer Elect
Becky Capps

Board Members

2024-2026
Amy Baum
Beth Watts
Kirstie Zych

2025-2027
Mary McDowell
Debbie Kettler
Carolyn
McKinney

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like us on Facebook, and
visit our website.**



Visit our website





Try email marketing for free today!