



# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## June/July 2024 News Making a Difference For Kids

### President Peggy Scott



### Welcome New Members

Welcome to the 7 new  
members inducted in June  
and July!



Lynn Siebert



Tracy Johnson



Becky Capps



Betty Hardin



Emily Moore



Donna Hickman



Marie Stelling

## June 6, 2024 Board Update

### Board Highlights:

The JOI Club will be visiting an Organic Farm Thursday June 6th where the kids will plant things for Father's Day

We had nice exposure in the LEADER newspaper with the Essay, Oratorical and Youth Appreciation being cited in the same week.

Respect For Law: Board approved a budget increase so that we can give out \$50 gift certificates instead of \$25.

Update on the Wine Tasting fundraiser scheduled for Feb 8, 2025: Vendors will be bringing their wines instead of us buying. We saved money by having it in February because that is a quiet month after the holidays. Auction items are needed.

---

## June 13, 2024 Respect for Law



Sitting left to right: Patrolman Jacob Schurman, De Soto Police Department; HSI Task Force Officer Doug Bequette, Homeland Security Investigations; Corporal Chris Gearon, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Patrolman Sam Wiese, Crystal City Police Department.

Standing left to right: Officer Connor Lewis, Pevely Police Department; Corporal Larry Miller, Herculaneum Police Department; Patrolman Andrew Noreen, Festus Police Department; Trooper Mark Benson, Missouri Highway Patrol; Officer Dean Rodgers, Hillsboro Police Department

---

The Twin City Optimist Club held its Respect for Law luncheon on June 13, 2024. This luncheon honors the men and women who put their lives on the line for us day in and day out. The club asks each chief in the area to provide an exceptional nominee each year to be honored for what they do for their community. There were 72 people who attended the lunch to hear what these brave men and women have accomplished. The club is very appreciative of all police staff who attended and were able to celebrate with us. We look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come!

Submitted by Project Chair Cheyenne Pratt.

---

## June 20, 2024 Speaker: Tim Krysl Local Historian



Tim Krysl presented information about how the post-Reconstruction Jim Crow laws still impact people of all races today. Tim has been teaching eighth grade American history at Festus Middle School for 17 years. He is interested in creating an interpretative center focusing on the history of Jim Crow laws and their effect on this (Twin Cities in particular) community. Tim also is a history professor at Maryville University where he is working on developing a course on local (St. Louis) history in addition to his other coursework.

“The Jim Crow laws were state and local laws introduced in the Southern United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that enforced racial segregation. “Jim Crow” being a pejorative term for an African American. Such laws remained in force until 1965.” (Google)

Tim’s interest in the impact of Jim Crow laws spiked after attending a conference in Flagstaff, Arizona in the summer of 2023. The conference focused on the Dine’ (Navajo) and life on the reservation as well as The Green Book. The Green Book was an important tool for African Americans traveling during the early to mid 1900s.

- Reconstruction lasted from the end of the Civil War (1865) to the end of President Ulysses S. Grant’s presidency (1877)
- The Green Book outlined safe places for African Americans to dine, lodge, and visit as they took part in exploring the United States as tourists or performers or for employment. Those traveling Route 66, which of course wound its way through St. Louis, would find this book of great use.

The end of Reconstruction did not truly reunite the United States from the conflicts in beliefs and actions that caused the Civil War. Even though constitutional amendments and federal laws guaranteed freedoms and rights to African Americans, states were left in charge of interpreting and applying those laws. Historically, it is believed that financial, physical, emotional, and political recovery from the Civil War lasted 100 years...but some of that recovery did not involve equality or freedom.

Examples of Jim Crow laws that impact all today:

- Hunting license. South Carolina did not want former slaves to have access to guns so they established a law requiring those who wanted to hunt animals to feed their families to buy a license, with money which was not readily available to African Americans.
- Racialized spaces. These are areas that are defined by race, sex, or age, as to who may use or attend them. Examples include the Elks Lodge which was built for white men to congregate. Douglass High School in Festus-the gymnasium is still standing. Star School in Crystal City is only remembered by a plaque. The Miller (currently La Jade) theater had a balcony for African Americans. Gordon’s Stoplight had a “coloreds only” window to place and pick up orders. Cemeteries-Mount Zion Cemetery was for African Americans.

Tim indicated the importance of this year, 2024, in relation to African American rights.

- 70 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954) overruled the concept of separate but equal (established 58 years earlier in Plessy vs. Ferguson 1896) schools was unconstitutional, ending the racial segregation of schools.
- 60 years ago, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- 2025 will mark the 70th anniversary of the brutal murder of teenager Emmett Till from Chicago who was visiting relatives in Mississippi. This horrible action sparked the flame of the Civil Rights movement.

Tim's goal is to show what Jim Crow laws looked like in the Twin Cities by having buildings and locations marked with information about how the races were treated in a separate manner. He'd like the racialized spaces of churches, businesses, schools, government and sports facilities, as well as cemeteries to have historical markers placed upon them.

Tim gave credit to one of his college professors with these words of wisdom, "Education is the cure for the cancer of ignorance."

Submitted by: Karen Huskey

---

**June 27, 2024**

TCA Optimists met at the Russell House Restaurant in Hillsboro for a fun dinner!

---

**Optimist International Convention  
June 23 - 26, 2024**



EMO District current and future governors Phyllis Neff, Jean Naeger, and Jennifer Daw Bagwell






EMO Governor Phyllis Neff announcing next year's convention location along with with EMO Governor Elect Jean Naeger and Lt. Governor Jennifer Daw Bagwell


---



# Childhood Health & Wellness Grants Awarded



- Optimist Club of Madison, WI
- Five Cities Optimist Club of Grover, CA
- Mecosta County Optimist Club, MI
- Optimist Club of Westfield, NJ
- North Perimeter Optimist Club, GA
- Grand Strand Optimist Club of Myrtle Beach, SC
- Optimist Club of Rochester, MN
- Optimist Club of Galveston Noon, TX
- Washington National Capital Optimist Club, MD
- Twin City Area Optimist Club, MO
- Loving-Community Optimist Club, MI
- Optimist Club of St. Joseph, MO
- Optimist Club of Montgomery Central, AL
- Watertown-Brothertown Optimist Club, NY
- Wentzville-Lake Saint Louis Optimist Club, MO
- Share-A-Smile Optimist Club of Narrows Glen, WA
- Royal Oak Optimist Club of MI
- Optimist Club of Festus-Crystal City (TCA), MO
- Optimist Club of Farmington Hills-Breakfast, MI
- Optimist Club of Temple, GA
- Knightdale Area Optimist, NC
- Optimist Club of Washington, MO
- Sunrise Optimist Club of Lockport Inc., NY
- Optimist Club of Caldwell, ID
- Optimist Club of Sun Prairie, WI
- Optimist Club of Roseburg, OR
- Lusaka Central Optimist Club of Zambia
- Glory Optimist Club of Uganda



The Twin City Area Optimist Club received 2 Optimist International Foundation Grants!



TCA Optimists enjoy Niagra Falls



TCA Members attending 2024 Optimist International Convention  
Pat Parsons, Carroll Metzger, (Chuck Naeger) Governor Elect Jean Naeger, Katie Huck, (Joe Hatfield, President of Jefferson County Club), Mary Hatfield, EMO Governor Phyllis Neff and Kathy Todd.

---

## July 4, 2024

No meeting was held July 4.

## July 11, 2024

### Convention Update July 11, 2024

Today's meeting covered a summary of the 106th Annual Optimist International Convention held June 22-26, at Niagara Falls where approximately 670 Optimists attended. Our club was represented by Phyllis Neff, Jean Naeger, Mary Hatfield, Katie Huck, Carroll Metzger, Pat Parsons and Kathy Todd. All attending members spoke of the value of the training on topics such as leadership, membership growth, JOI Clubs, club support and membership engagement. Our own Carroll Metzger was a speaker on the topic of Kindness where she shared her exercise with about 30 convention participants. Thanks were expressed to the club for paying the convention registration fees -it was money well-spent.

Next year's International Convention will be held in St. Louis June 30- July 3, 2025, with Phyllis Neff serving as the International Convention Committee Chairperson.

In addition to reporting on the International Convention at the meeting, the following individuals were inducted as new members of the Twin City Area Optimist Club: Betty Hardin (sponsor Sarah Bauman), Donna Hickman (sponsor Donna Masters), Emily Moore (sponsor Sarah Bauman), and Marie Stelling (sponsor Carol Schantz). Welcome ladies.

Submitted by: Beth Watts

---

## July 18, 2024

## Old Bags Auction

Date: Thursday July 18, 2024  
Auction will take place during our  
regular noon meeting at Taytro's



### INVITE A FRIEND

Don't forget to bring  
your checkbook or lots  
of cash for bidding!

Any questions, contact project chair:  
Barb Schmidt 314-603-1099 or b.schmidt70@yahoo.com

July 18, 2024  
Old Bag Luncheon

The Twin City Area Optimist Club's Old Bag Luncheon was a resounding success! We had a full house of ladies ready to bid and have fun! The 19 old bags for sale ranged from designer brands to paper bags and even a trash bag thrown in for good measure. Karen Huskey acted as Mistress of Ceremony. She did a great job of getting the prices up by tempting bidders with the possibility of gold in many of the bags! Barb Bates and Ruth Ann Adams did their best "Vanna's" displaying the heavy

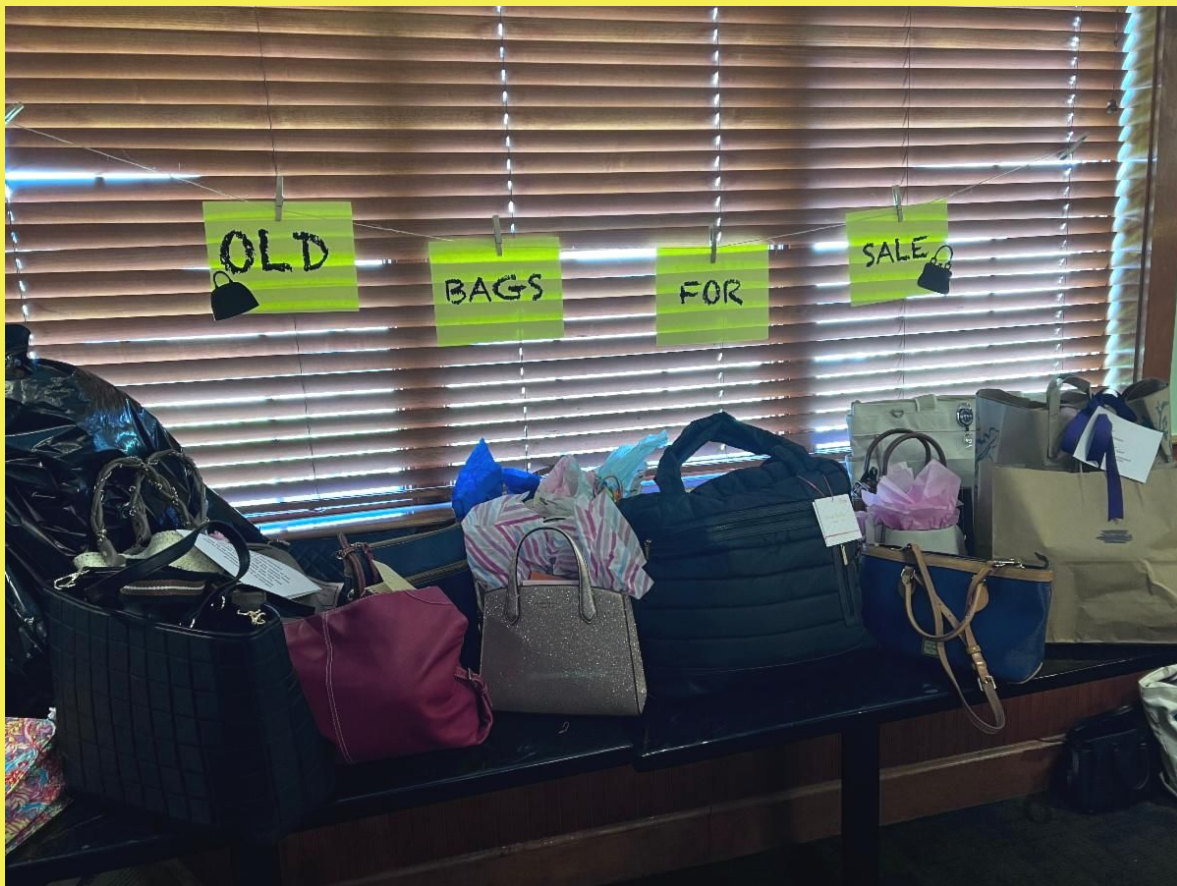
bags.

Bidding was hot and heavy on all of the bags with two going for \$200. One table got off to a big start, winning six of the first 10 bags. And a big shout out to Leroy for his starting bids on the first few bags auctioned.

Winners enjoyed digging into their bags, finding treasures such as Cardinals tickets, cash, gift cards, and in a few cases, more bags!

At the end, the total raised was \$2,425, the best Old Bag Luncheon ever! A big thank you to Barb Schmidt for organizing the fundraiser, the ladies who contributed the bags, the group that ran the event, and, of course, all of the bidders!

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney



Nineteen bags ready for bidding



Karen Huskey as Mistress of Ceremony



Ruth Ann Adams displaying the bag she also bid on and won



Shirley Coile unpacking one of the multiple bags that she won



Donna Masters with cash she found in her bag



Carroll Metzger found Cardinal tickets



Carol Schanz with her Kate Spade bag



All of the winners with their bags!

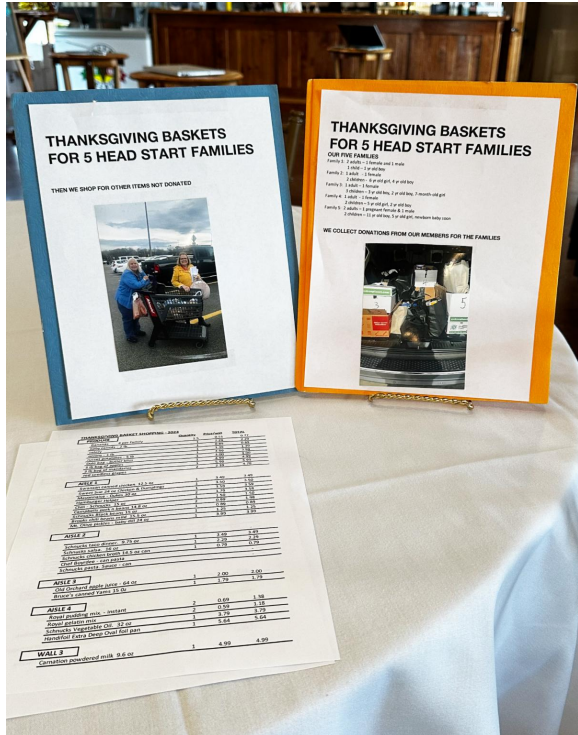
## July 25, 2024 WOW Meeting



Our Welcome Optimists Worldwide cocktail party style gathering was held at Villa Antonio Winery Thursday evening, July 25th! Thirty members and 3 potential new members attended as our guests and the guests received a complimentary glass of wine. As a way to showcase some of our service projects to everyone, stations were set up around the room

where members had different presentations regarding specific programs. The presenters then initialed everyone's whimsical Bingo sheets. Members and guests who scored a Bingo were presented with small prizes. We all enjoyed pasta with meat sauce and 3 delicious pizzas from Villa Antonio's wood fired pizza ovens. Dessert was a cake showcasing our club's logo. Everyone enjoyed the evening. The happy noise level from conversation made the evening enjoyable.

Of course the success of the evening was due to the help from so many people. Pat Doenges who accidentally came early willingly agreed to do all of the tasks that were "assigned" to her. Patty Meyer, Laura Lohman, Debbie Schumaker, Cathy Elliot, and Carolyn McKinney who created their stations to help share information regarding some of our projects. Pat Parsons and Ruth Ann Adams who circulated to be sure the guests found out about yet another service project and about our officers. Then Donna Long agreed to serve the cake, but Villa Antonio employees took care of that for us. And of course Peggy Scott for being our President!



Headstart baskets display



Art contest display



Mary Hatfield and President Peggy Scott addressed the group



EMO Governor Phyllis Neff welcomed the guests.

---

## CLUB PROJECTS

# KIDS BIKE SAFETY RODEO & HELMET CLINIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH



A bike rodeo is a safe, controlled environment for kids ages 3-14 to practice bike handling skills and build confidence\*



- Sunday, August 11th
- Registration is FREE!
- Ages 3-14
- 12:30 - 2 PM
- Corner of S. Mill and S. Second Street
- All registrants will receive a free bike helmet courtesy of Helmets First and the Twin City Area Optimist Club

Event is part of the children's programming for the 2024 Bottleneck Bridge Ride

The clinic will be followed by Kids Strider Bike Races brought to you by Living Life on Two Wheels - 2 pm Festus Main Street

Visit: [runsignup.com/bottleneckbridgeride](https://runsignup.com/bottleneckbridgeride)



\*Not a learn-to-ride event. Experience riding a bike is recommended and an adult must accompany child at all times to participate.





# TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB FOOD DRIVE

Let's Spread Kindness  
to Others!

**AUGUST 24, 2024**  
**8 AM - 2 PM**

### Most Needed Items

Single serve, kid friendly  
food. Refer to list on right.

### Drop Off Location



650 S. Truman Blvd.  
Festus, MO

Optimist members will collect  
donations outside both store  
entrances



### Brenden's Friday Backpacks Program

uses single serve,

non-perishable, kid-friendly foods

- single-serve cereal
- breakfast or granola bars
- canned soup and pasta
- pudding and fruit cups
- individual snacks such as crackers, cookies, chips, Rice Krispie treats, trail mix, etc.
- 16-18 oz plastic jars of peanut butter for long breaks

**1700 kids served weekly!**

For more information please contact:  
Optimist Kirstie Zych 314-221-3708

# LET'S STRIKE UP SOME FUN



## FAMILY BOWLING EVENT

DATE: Friday September 6, 2024

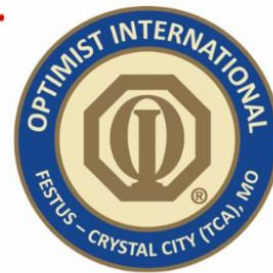
TIME: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Quonset Lanes  
2004 N. Truman Blvd.  
Crystal City

Per person:  
**one FREE Game**  
**FREE shoe rental**

For more information contact:  
Junior Optimist Adult Advisor  
Debbie Schumaker 314-471-7213

### Sponsored by:



## CLUB FUNDRAISERS

The Culvers Dine to Donate event made **\$399** from the sales of the evening and **\$30.32** in tips. It was a great evening! Thanks to those who



FUNDRAISER

DATE: Monday July 8, 2024  
 TIME: 5-8 pm  
 PLACE: 200 S. Truman Blvd,  
 Crystal City

**10% OF SALES BENEFIT**  
 Twin City Area Optimist Club  
 Youth Projects

THANK YOU

Dine in or drive thru

worked!

- Katie Huck
- Patty Giambelli Meyer
- Peggy McCraith
- Karen Creech Huskey
- Debbie Kettler
- Carol Herrell-Schanz
- Angie Eisenbeis
- Alicia Cummiskey
- Pat Kasten Parsons
- Mary Thurmond Hatfield
- Laura 'Delisle' Lohman
- Carroll Metzger
- Kim Smith
- Ellen Bridgewater

**Twin City Area Optimist Club**  
**BUNCO**

DATE: Fri. July 26, 2023  
 Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
 Bunco starts at 7:00 p.m.



Registration Fee: **\$20**  
 (In advance/  
 non-refundable)

Contact: Carol Schanz  
 314-222-4344

Location:  
 H W Herrell Distributing Company  
 1002 White Street, Imperial, MO

- Bring your own beverage
- Bring a snack/dessert to share
- Invite a friend

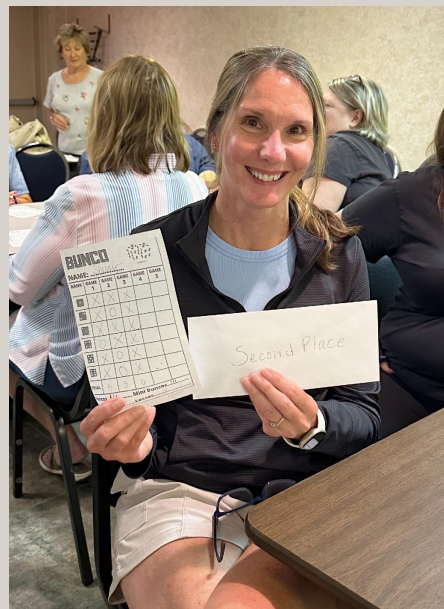
Another great BUNCO night. Thanks to Carol Schanz, Tabitha Brauch, and Karleh Brauch for hosting the evening.

45 members/guests paid admission to attend this fun event. Attendees enjoyed sharing lots of delicious food and many laughs.

The fundraiser netted a profit of **\$1030.**



Most wins:  
 #1 Peggy Scott



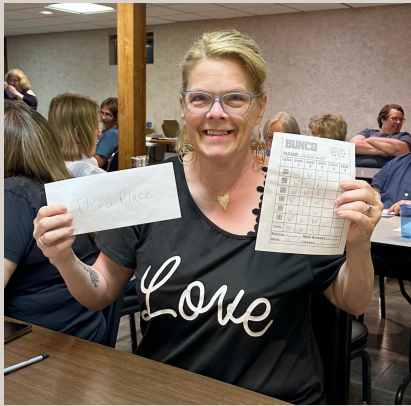
Most wins:  
 #2 Guest Sherry Thrasher



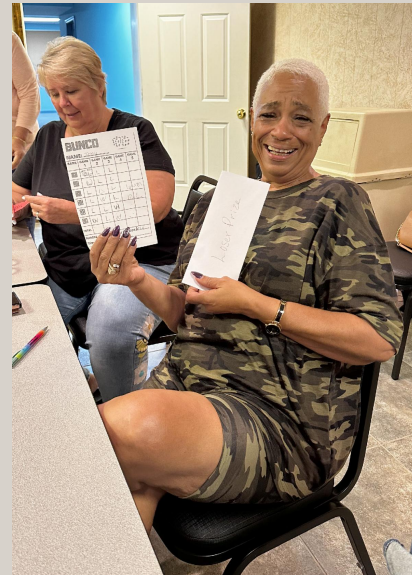
Roll off for third place between Joe Neff and Danelle Winters



Most BUNCOS:  
Phyllis Neff



Most wins:  
#3 Danelle Winters



Most losses:  
Tracy Johnson



50/50 winner:  
Guest Lisa Geisz took home \$260



Gather friends and family to join us for this fun

event. Do your part by purchasing/selling tickets!!!

Purchase online using QR code or click this link:

<https://givebutter.com/rockandrollbingo>

Tickets also available from Pat Parsons

**Saturday, August 10**

**Doors open at 6 pm**

**Bingo starts at 7 pm**



**Raffles/50-50**

**beer & soda provided**

**Tables of 8**

# ROCK N ROLL BINGO

\$25/person or \$200/table  
after July 15

\$30/person or \$240/table



Use QR code to reserve online

**Fundraiser Hosted by  
Twin City Area Optimist Club**

**Place: Amvets  
555 Joachim, Herculaneum, MO**



10190 Highway 21  
Hillsboro, MO

**Dining for a Cause**  
**Benefits Twin City Area Optimist Club**

---



**Tues. Aug. 20, 2024**

**4-8 pm --No flyer needed**

**10% of total receipts donated**

**Dine in or carry out**

---



**Supporting youth of  
Southern Jefferson County**

**EMO**

**EMO  
District  
Convention  
Aug 16 - 18, 2024  
Courtyard by Marriott  
3301 Lemone Industrial Ct  
Columbia, MO**



**FRIDAY NIGHT**

Attire: Hawaiian /Luau

**ALOHA!**

5 - 7 pm Registration

& Hospitality Room open

7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting

8 pm Speaker Ruth Ann Adams

8:30 Hospitality Room re-opens for

Food, Drink (B.Y.O.B.) and FUN!!!

**SATURDAY**

Attire: Biz Casual/ Optimist shirts

8 - 8:30 am Registration, coffee, pastries

8:30 am Board of Directors Meeting,

General Session with

Optimist International

Vice President Michael Boles

12:00 Noon Lunch

1 pm - 4:30 pm Officer Training,  
Convention Business Session

**SATURDAY EVENING**

Attire: After 5, shirt and tie

6:00 pm Cash Bar

6:30 pm Dinner

Executive Committee Members Installation

Governor's Choice Awards

Music/ Dancing

*Sunday - 9:00 am  
EMO Annual Memorial  
A time to reflect on  
Optimist members who have  
passed away this year.*

**Optimist International Oratorical Contest  
July 18-19, 2024**



EMO Governor Phyllis Neff and Governor Elect Jean Naeger were volunteers working the registration table and greeting oratorical contestants and guests during the Regional Contests on July 18. They are pictured with our EMO Oratorical winner Mattie Wolf along with EMO Lt. Governor Jennifer Bagwell, and STL Club President Adam Bagwell.

Not pictured, working the morning shift, Mary Hatfield



JOI Members attending the Oratorical Finals: Olivia and Katlyn Blair

You may recall they were winners of our club oratorical contest, won zone contest, and competed at the EMO Zone Contest.

Can't wait to hear about their experience.



Mary Kay Scott and Katie Huck along with Geniece (Jayla) Medsker from Rolla Optimist Club volunteered for the Oratorical Finals on Friday July 19.





## JOI Club

*Debbie Schumaker*  
*JOI Adult Advisor*

*Carol Schanz*  
*JOI Chair*



## SAVE THE DATES



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

NO JULY BOARD MEETING  
July 8 Dine to Donate Festus Culver's  
July 18 Old Bag Luncheon  
July 18-19 OI World Oratorical Championship  
July 25 WOW meeting  
July 26 Bunco  
August 6 Board meeting - hostess Sue Joggerst  
August 10 Rock n Roll Bingo fundraiser  
August 11 Trailnet Helmet Fitting Event  
August 16-18 EMO Convention  
August 20 - Dine to Donate Hillsboro Dairy Queen  
August 24 Brenden's Backpacks Collection Project  
September 3 Board Meeting - hostess Marsha Greenstreet  
September 6 Family Bowling Event  
September 12 Sponsor Appreciation



**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**



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

**Visit our website**





Try email marketing for free today!