



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

August / September 2024 News Making a Difference For Kids

President Peggy Scott



Welcome New Members



Chrissy Thompson



Lynn Wendel



Paige Laiben



Sue Nash



Sandy Barnes



August 1, 2024 Missouri Kids Unplugged



Our speaker for the August 1 noon meeting was Rodney Bickel, Vice President of Missouri Kids Unplugged. His presentation was an enthusiastic display of his belief in and passion for this non-profit organization. We learned that Missouri Kids Unplugged (MKU) has been serving the youth of our community for over 10 years. Through a variety of events, MKU strives to get kids to put down electronics and experience the outdoors (in other words, unplug).

MKU founders Tony and Amy Krieg own and live on 130 acres off Hwy B in Hillsboro. It is there they host outings for approximately 1500-2000 kids each summer. All programs are completely FREE. As an avid fisherman, Tony shares his love for the sport by equipping and teaching participants to fish at the three ponds on the property. The children are gifted with

rods and reels for their future fishing adventures.

The Kriegs also host private events for kids organized by the YMCA, Home Depot and others as well as five or six public events each summer. All events share a single goal to teach youth what the natural world around them has to offer, a respect for nature and to have FUN.

What a treasure for the youth of our community.

Submitted by: Sue Joggerst

August 8, 2024 Board Update

Board Update:

The use of GiveButter for lunches has been going well so we can move forward with allowing use for dues and other club sponsored events.

The JOI Club Twin City Days bowling event is coming up on September 6 at Quonset Lanes.

Annual dues will be increased from \$100 per member to \$125 per member, the first increase since 2017.

A \$1000 grant application for Youth Male Hygiene has been submitted to OI.

Books and supplies have been purchased for the Aunt Rose Project.

August 15, 2024 Developmental Disability Advocates



Donna Pulliam, Service Coordinator for Developmental Disabilities Advocates, spoke to the club about the services they provide for individuals with developmental disabilities which enable them live full and enriched lives. The organization is a local government entity that receives property taxes from the state and federal governments. Clients must receive Medicaid to be eligible for their services.

Donna indicated that one in five people has a developmental disability, 1,200 of which live in Jefferson County. The organization provides equipment, supplies, services and even help to find homes for the disadvantaged. The housing options available to the clients of

Developmental Disabilities Advocates include a group home, assisted living facilities, and residential care facilities.

Volunteers are needed to help with services such as transportation to doctors' appointments, grocery shopping, etc. They recruit volunteers through EZMO. Here is the link to that website if you would care to volunteer to be a driver:

<https://www.jfcac.org/ezmo.html>.

Donna also spoke about the Barb McDowell Memorial Fund which was established in 1999 in recognition of Barb. Barb served from 1981 through 2000 as Executive Assistant of the JCDDR and NextStep for Life, Inc. This fund helps meet needs of the disabled that don't fall under the criteria set up by the governmental bodies that provide the funding for Developmental Disabilities Advocates. The website for the Barb McDowell Memorial Fund is <https://ddadvocates.org/barb-mcdowell-memorial-fund/>.

Contact information for Donna Pulliam is 901 Jeffco Executive Dr. Imperial, MO 63052. Office (636) 282-5500, Direct (636) 548-7307, and Fax (636) 282-5511. Her email address is dipulliam@ddadvocates.org.

Submitted by: Karen Huskey

August 22, 2024 Foster Together



Laura Storm, Executive Director, and Rebecca Kadlez, Outreach and Education Specialist, spoke about the Foster Together organization at the August 22 luncheon meeting.

Foster Together provides clothes, toys, baby items, etc. to children in foster care, free of charge. Their support extends to kinship placements and through the first year of reunification. The children receive a menu of what they are can get, but the facility is set up as a boutique so it is more of a shopping experience.

Most children enter foster care with only the clothes on their back. While the state does provide monthly subsidies to the foster parents, the funds are usually not available when the child is first placed.

In addition to clothes and supplies, new car seats can be obtained in a matter of hours without the child being present. The health department does supply new car seats, but requires the child to be present which is not always possible in a foster situation.

Another program started in May of this year is to provide beds. Since the beginning of this program, 40 beds and mattresses have been provided, primarily to kinship placements. The beds are ordered from Amazon and delivered in a couple of days.

The Foster Together organization started when Laura Storm had a calling to help foster children. Without having any contacts in the foster system, she started collecting items from

her own house as well as church and community. They started a Facebook page and people immediately started reaching out for help. The organization has grown from there. They currently have a 2000 square foot store in Arnold as well as storage units, and they hope to move to a larger facility in the next couple of years.

Rebecca Kadlez and her husband were both in the foster system and knew they wanted to foster children once their bio kids got into their teens. Since 2017 they have fostered 47 children and adopted two. They are currently fostering two sets of twins, around 5 months apart. In addition to raising a family and working with Foster Together, Rebecca mentors families starting to foster and hosts recruitment classes.

The Foster Together website is <https://www.foster-together.org/> or see the QR Code below.

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



August 29, 2024



TCA CARES!

For the evening program meeting on August 29, 2004, the Twin City Area Optimist Club held its first CARE Program. CARE stands for Celebrate, Address, Recognize and Excel. It is a structured program created by Optimist International Leadership. The program was preceded with an anonymous survey sent to membership by Liz Christman, our facilitator for the “address” portion of the program.

A delicious taco salad dinner was available before the beginning of the meeting. The first part of the meeting was a review of the surveys. Liz introduced us to the “word cloud” a method for evaluating the results of the surveys by selecting reoccurring words; the more often they are found, the larger they become on the results. These words reflect the members’ feelings about the questions being asked. A report on the outcome of the survey is available with this newsletter.

After Liz reviewed the four questions and the club’s response, it was Peggy’s turn to review the many outstanding accomplishments of this past year. Of note are new programs in bicycle safety and helmet giveaways, as well as continuing contributions to many individuals through Coats for Kids, Aunt Rose and other projects including direct contributions to community agencies. In fundraising efforts, our first ever Rock and Roll Bingo was a great success.

Peggy then gave out awards to four members of note for their activities: The President’s

award was given to Patty Meyer for dedication to serving the club and the youth in the community. Also receiving awards were Cathy Elliot for being the “I gotcha girl” and helping all members; Katie Huck was recognized for volunteering to spearhead new projects even though she says she’s not going to. An award also was given to Carolyn McKinney (the following meeting) for quietly and competently taking care of so many important roles. Peggy then handed out more lighthearted awards to many members: “How do you say my name” to Kirstie Zych; “Here’s something to consider” to Carroll Metzger; Most birthday’s in one-year to Jean Naeger; “No, I don’t really need the mic” to Karen Husky; “Oh, this? It’s really nothing” to Barb Schmidt. Other awards included: Most likely to be spotted in the wild (or community) to Tracy Johnson and Donna Hickman; Most likely to text Peggy something funny during a meeting to Kathy Todd; Prayer Warriors: Joanne Thompson, Alicia Cumiskey, Carroll Metzger, Ruth Ann Adams, Cheyenne Pratt and Cindy Cherry. And the last award, Promise yourself to be so strong to Debbie Hogenmiller.

The evening concluded with everyone enjoying cake and ice cream!

Submitted by: Carroll Metzger



Peggy Scott presenting the President's Award to Patty Meyer for dedication to serving the club and the youth in the community.



Cathy Elliot receives the “I gotcha girl” award for helping all members.



Carolyn McKinney receives award for quietly and

competently taking care of so many important roles.



Katie Huck was recognized for volunteering to spearhead new projects even though she says she's not going to.



Kathy Todd was recognized as the member most likely to text Peggy something funny during a meeting.



Carroll Metzger with the "Here's something to consider" award.



The "Oh, this? It's really nothing" award was given to Barb Schmidt.



CARE PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

[illegible]

What do you feel the TCA Optimist Club needs to work on?

Members suggested that improved communication and getting everyone involved is something to work on.



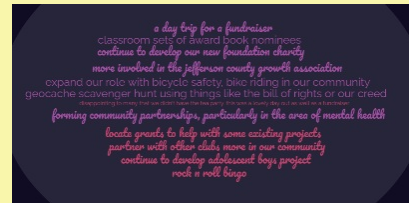
What makes you happy to be a member of the TCA Optimist Club?

Members responded with being a part of the community or helping in the community and being a member of a working, friendly club with meaningful projects. Members mentioned family, smiles and helping.



Do you have a new idea for a club community service project, youth activity, or fundraiser?

A few of the suggestions: Continue with the foundation, the bicycle helmet and safety program, rock and roll bingo, adolescent boy project, partner with other organizations, a day trip for a fund raiser and classroom sets of books, i.e. the dictionary project.



September 5, 2024 Board Update Introduction to Grouper

Board Update:
Foundation Update—One page of policies has been developed.

Another Rock 'n Roll Bingo is scheduled for Aug 23, 2025. Pat Parsons has the MC and hall arranged.

Art Contest Packets will be sent in September to all the schools. Feedback has been that our applications are easier than other contests so the teachers love it!

Our club is going to apply for the Optimist International Club of the Year! We are already well known in the district for our joy and enthusiasm.

Introduction to Grouper:

During the September 5, 2024, meeting, Jean Naeger and Barb Schmidt attempted to present a video and slides introducing Grouper to our senior members. Unfortunately, AT&T had issues, and we could not establish an internet connection to access the TV. We apologize for a less-than-stellar presentation.

Grouper offers Medicare-eligible seniors the opportunity to receive up to \$100 to pay their annual Optimist dues. Many Medicare Advantage and other Medicare Supplemental

insurance plans recognize this wellness program. To learn more, please click the link below to view a video.

<https://vimeo.com/996316628?share=copy>

To check eligibility, use the online address below.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Naeger 314 495 2822

Submitted by Jean Naeger

 hellogrouper.com/optimist Exclusive benefit for current Optimist International members in the U.S. with an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan.	OVER 185 MEMBERS ENROLLED AND ARE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE THEIR \$100 CHECK SENT FROM GROUPER  Help members of your district get their dues covered, too!
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September 12, 2024 Sponsor Appreciation

The Sponsor Appreciation luncheon was held September 12, 2024 Taytros. After a delicious lunch (and cake!) President Peggy Scott introduced Jean Naeger and Barb Schmidt. With Barb acting as technical support, Jean ran a presentation updating the sponsors on some of our club's activities this past year.

Jean began the program by reviewing some of the grants our club has received and the organizations that provided them.

Carroll Metzger explained the formation of our new foundation, The Foundation of the Twin City Optimist Club, and its benefit to the club. She also shared that the foundation has been granted incorporation by the state of Missouri, and that the IRS granted it a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

Mary Hatfield updated everyone on Twin City Days and the bike helmet project. Twin City Days was quite a success with 163 bike helmets being given away to children of all ages.

Becky Francis talked about a 'Learn to Ride Your Bike' track to be installed at Sunset Park in Festus. This project is in conjunction with the Festus Parks department and currently is in the design phase.

Debbie Hogenmiller provided an update on Brenden's Backpacks, an organization that feeds over 1700 children in 60 Jefferson County schools every week. During the most recent community food drive held by the TCA Optimists at the local Walmart, the community donated 10,019 individual food items, \$727 in cash donations and \$60 in online donations.

Barb Schmidt reviewed some of our past fundraisers from this year as well as upcoming drives which include Koeze Nut sales this fall and a wine tasting event in February, 2025.

After the Optimist Club presentation, the sponsors introduced themselves with many explaining their support of our club and the respect that they have for the work we do in the community.

The sponsors attending the luncheon were: Thomas Industrial Coatings; MN & Associates

LLC; Carol and Harold Hagan; Meyer Contracting and Hauling; The Adams Team; REMAX Best Choice; American Family Insurance Mike Domenick Agency; H.W. Herrell Distributing; Crumps Auto & Trailer Sales; Xi Theta Pi; Hovis & Associates and Cynthia Cherry, CPA. A big thank you to all of our sponsors. We couldn't do it without you!

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



Sponsor: Meyer Contracting and Hauling
Mark and Zac Meyer



Sponsors Xi Theta Pi, Jean Naeger
Hovis & Associates, David Hovis - Lacey
Robertson



Sponsors: The Adams Team- Ruth Ann
Adams
Remax Best Choice- Rhonda Overberg



Sponsor: H.W. Herrell Distributing
Carol Schanz and Tabitha Brauch



Sponsor: Cynthia Cherry, CPA



Sponsors: Thomas Industrial Coatings - Jon
Lewis
MN & Associates LLC. - Marie Needy-
Kohler, Jim Kohler



September 19, 2024 Missouri Historical Society



Susi Reed, Volunteer Coordinator at the Missouri Historical Society and a previous educator in Jefferson County, spoke at the September 19 meeting. The Missouri Historical Society (MHS) was founded in 1866 "for the purpose of saving from oblivion the early history of the city and state." While it is called the "Missouri" Historical Society, it primarily addresses the history of the St. Louis area.

The MHS is part of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District which is funded by the taxpayers in St. Louis City and County. This district also includes the St. Louis Science Center, the St. Louis Art Museum, the St. Louis Zoo and the Missouri Botanical Gardens. The Missouri Historical Society is comprised of three physical campuses: The Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, the Library and Research Center on Skinker Blvd, and the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in downtown St. Louis.

The History Museum is in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park and was dedicated in 1913. The north entrance reflects the architecture of that time while the south entrance has a more modern look due to expansions over time. Some of the more well-known items are the statues of Thomas Jefferson on the main floor and the replica of Charles Lindberg's plane, the Spirit of St. Louis. Current exhibits include the Eads Bridge and the 1904 World's Fair, which has just been updated as it is every 20 years. A source of pride in the museum is the accessibility Through Open Captioning, Audio Descriptions, Labels, etc.

The Library and Research Center houses many collections in addition to being a resource for research and genealogy.

The Soldiers Memorial Military Museum was dedicated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1936. An exhibit opening soon is on the Ghost Army. This exhibit will tell about a WW II unit that used inflatable tanks and sound effects to fool the Germans on the location of allied troops.

While there are exhibits and collections on display at all three locations, the bulk of the museum's collections actually are housed in a non-descript building in downtown St. Louis.

The MHS offers many programs for children as well as tours and events for adults. Twilight Thursdays, a concert series on the front steps of the museum, is held in May and September. The museum also can be rented for private events such as weddings, birthdays, etc.

The MHS Volunteer Program has approximately 120 active volunteers. Three to five new volunteers are added per month. Volunteers assist at all three MHS locations.

Several Optimists inquired about donating items to the museum. They were directed to the artifact donation form on the society's websites. While all submissions are reviewed, not all donations are accepted as they may already have duplicates of the same item.

For more information about the Missouri Historical Society, reference the websites listed below.

Missouri History Museum: <https://mohistory.org/museum>

Library and Research Center: <https://mohistory.org/library>

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum: <https://mohistory.org/memorial>

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney

September 26, 2024 Ruth Ann Adams



Phyllis Neff and Ruth Ann Adams

RUTH ANN ADAMS GIVES TALK ABOUT HER DAUGHTER, SARAH

Ruth Ann spoke about the trials and challenges of raising a blind and deaf daughter. Her daughter, Sarah, was diagnosed with Ushers Type 2A while a young child. Ushers is a genetic disorder and the gene had only recently been identified at the time of Sarah's diagnosis.

With faith and the support of her family and friends, Ruth Ann navigated the challenges of finding services that would help Sarah live her best life. As a result of her perseverance and Sarah's determination, Sarah is now a teacher and a mother living in Alaska with her family. Sarah is active with the Ushers Syndrome Society and entered and won a Rare Artist award in 2021.

Sarah and Ruth Ann donated a framed print of one of Sarah's paintings. "Windows into the Soul" was raffled off at the September 26 evening meeting and won by Optimist member Cindy Cherry. The raffle proceeds of \$645 was donated to the Optimist International Foundation.

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney

CLUB PROJECTS



BIKE SAFETY RODEO AND HELMET CLINIC August 11, 2024

In January 2024, Katie Huck presented to the Twin City Area Optimist Club New Project committee the need to teach children bike safety rules and the importance of wearing helmets. Gina Otto, the Event Planner Director for Trailnet, asked if we would be interested in doing a Bike Rodeo. Mary Hatfield and Katie went to monthly meetings with Trailnet and Bottleneck Bridge Race to see what the rodeo was all about and to offer what our club would do to help with the event. Chris Creed, from Pedal'N Pi, gave Katie a lead with Helmets First, organized by Dr Cangas. He agreed to supply us with one hundred helmets. We

partnered with Trailnet who provided education and equipment to perform the bike rodeo.

The Bike Rodeo had eight to nine stations. Twenty-nine children were fitted and given a bike helmet. After stopping at the stations, the children moved on to have their bike checked by a club volunteer for the ABC's (Air, Brakes, Chains) to make sure their bike was safe to perform the bike rodeo. Each child used their bike to ride a straight line, weave, figure eights, learn hand signals for turns, and try a short slow race.

The chair, Katie Huck, and co-chair, Mary Hatfield, along with club volunteers accrued 75.5 hours. We also gave out goody bags that included the safety rules of biking, proper helmet fitting, bike light, bike bell, and bike streamers. The children were given a treat after they were finished with the rodeo.

We have another project related to our original project at Twin City Days on Saturday, September 7, 2024, where we will be fitting helmets, distributing the helmets free of charge, and raffling a bike.

Submitted by: Katie Huck



A participant in the Bike Rodeo



Mary Hatfield fitting a helmet



Carroll Metzger and Kathy Todd at the registration table



Bike Rodeo

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE FOR BRENDEN'S FRIDAY BACKPACKS August 24, 2024

On Saturday, August 24, 2024 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm our Twin City Area Optimist Club held a food drive at the Festus Walmart to benefit the non-profit Brenden's Friday Backpack program. Volunteers greeted customers and handed out flyers with a list of items needed and collected donations from our wonderful community at both entrances.

A huge thank you goes to our amazing community



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

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



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 donating 10,019 individual items of single-serve, non-perishable, kid-friendly foods, \$727 in cash donations and \$60 via GiveButter.

It was so heartwarming to see so many people and children filling our carts with food and handing us money to help feed hungry kids in our Jefferson County area.

Debbie and I would like to thank the following amazing volunteers who helped make this food drive a huge success: Beth Winkeler, Katie Huck, Chrissy Thompson, Marian Bozak, Becky Capps, Lynne Wendel, Tracy Johnson, Ruth Ann Adams, Vickie Campbell, Cathy Elliott, Jessica Christopher, Jean Naeger, Carroll Metzger, Dana Hanna, Alicia Cummiskey, Laura Elbl, Pat Parsons, Kathy Moss, Angie Eisenbeis, Janice Boyd, Tabitha Brauch, Judy

Williams, Phyllis Neff and her grandson and Junior Optimist Blake Neff.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Submitted by: Kirstie Zych, Program Chair and Debbie Hogenmiller, Co-chair



Jessica Christopher, Cathy Elliott, Vickie Campbell, and Jean Naeger



Kirstie Zych, Debbie Hogenmiller, and Judy Williams

JOI CLUB BOWLING AT TWIN CITY DAYS

September 6, 2024

The JOI club hosted the Twin City Days bowling event on Friday, September 6, 2024. We gave out 67 tickets to kids between 8 and 18 for food and drinks. The event was held on September 6, 2024 at Quonset Lanes between 4:30 and 6:30.

All kids and their families had a great time!

Debbie Schumaker
Student Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair

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:



Carol Schanz and Debbie Schumaker at the registration table



Bowlers!

TWIN CITY DAYS HELMET GIVEAWAY

September 7, 2024

Katie Huck organized a wonderful bike helmet event at the Twin City Days Main Street Market on September 7, 2024. Of course, it takes a village to make a service project successful and Beth Winkler, Kathy Todd, Carol Schanz, Debbie Schumaker, Barb Schmidt, Alicia Cumiskey, Sandy Barnes, Sue Joggerst, Carroll Metzger, Vickie Campbell, Florence Borman, Debbie Hogenmiller, Donna Hickman, Janice Boyd, and our wonderful president, Peggy Scott, all volunteered their services.

We gave away over 163 bike helmets and ran out of most sizes, with only 8 toddler-sized helmets left.

It was such a busy day. We could not have served so many children without the help of all of the volunteers -THANK YOU EVERYONE! We very much appreciate your help!

Submitted by Mary Hatfield



Sue Joggerst, Alicia Cummiskey, Vicky Campbell, Mary Hatfield (in the back), Carroll Metzger, and Katie Huck



Beth Winkeler & Debbie Shumaker



Some of the helmet recipients

WOMEN'S SHELTER

On Wednesday, September 11, the Women's Shelter Committee went shopping at Walmart for two Pack & Plays, an adjustable play yard, training pants (4,5,6T) and wipes.

The committee members who shopped were Kathy Todd, Vickie Campbell, Judy Williams, and Barb Bates.

Submitted by: Barb Bates



DE SOTO FALL FESTIVAL September 21, 2024

Mary Hatfield and Nicki Russell were a dynamic duo at the De Soto Fall Festival on September 21! They fitted and gave away the remaining 18 bike helmets, all of which were toddler size. Fortunately, the kind people at the booths on either side of them assisted with the set-up and take-down of the pop-up canopy.

They also fielded many questions about what our club does. Teachers, school superintendents, Head Start teachers, parents, and members of the public stopped by to chat

and express appreciation for what we do and to garner more details about our club. These booths at area festivals are a great way to engage with the community. There is also the bike safety element and the smiles on the faces of the parents knowing their children are protected.

Submitted by: Mary Hatfield

CLUB FUNDRAISERS

Saturday, August 10
Doors open at 6 pm
Bingo starts at 7 pm



ROCK N ROLL BINGO

Raffles/50-50
Tables of 8
\$25/person or \$200/table after July 15
\$30/person or \$240/table
beer & soda provided



Use QR code to reserve online

Fundraiser Hosted by
Twin City Area Optimist Club

Place: Amvets
555 Joachim, Herculaneum, MO

Bingo Rocked'N Rolled on August 10, 2024

Rock N Roll Bingo was an exciting evening that raised \$5600 for the club! Approximately 150 people attended and most tables were loaded with a variety of snacks brought by the attendees. Each round had a theme and everyone sang along to the musical hits they knew.

In addition to bingo, everyone had the chance to try their luck at winning raffle baskets, booze and beer raffles, and 50/50, as well as joining in a rousing game of Dead or Alive.

Highlights from the evening were one woman winning three rounds of bingo, our own Carroll Metzger, Katie

Huck, and Pat Parsons each winning a round, and raffle wins by Debbie Hogenmiller, Kathy Jensen, and Jean Naeger.

Thank you to all of the Optimists who made this night a success! The committee did a great job of organizing the event and more members were hands-on the day of the event. Also, thanks to all the raffle item donors and a special thanks to Carol Schanz for the donation of the beer for the evening.

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney

Committee:

Chair: Pat Parsons
Co-Chair: Phyllis Neff
Members:
Alicia Cummiskey
Angie Eisenbeis
Dana Hanna
Lisa Ermer
Barb Schmidt

Cookies were provide by:

Alicia Cummiskey
Katie Huck
Becky Capps
Judy Kuhlman
Cindy Cherry

Numerous other people helped that day/night:

Tracy Johnson
Katie Huck
Kathy Todd
Becky Francis
Karen Huskey
Cindy Cherry
Jean Naeger
Debbie Kettler
Carroll Metzger
Carolyn McKinney
Sue Joggerst
Laura Elbl
Cathy Elliott



Debbie Hogenmiller with her 2 raffle wins!



Kathy Jensen with her wine basket win.



Keith Kettler won the beer cooler raffle.



Susan Ford and the booze basket she won.



The winner of 50/50 took home over \$700.



Kimberly Dolan was the winner of the very popular lottery tree.



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

EARNED \$215

Supporting youth of
Southern Jefferson County

Thanks to all who dined out

Dine Out



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024
6 AM - 4 PM
316 LOCUST ST,
HILLSBORO, MO**

**Cool Beans will donate 10% of
sales all day to TCA Optimists.
Please support this fundraiser.**

GRANTS



On August 20, 2024 Twin City Area (TCA) Optimist members accepted \$2500 grant from President Adam Bagwell of the St. Louis Optimist Club. The grant will be used for the club's annual dictionary project.

Accepting the grant are TCA members: EMO Governor Phyllis Neff, TCA President-Elect Cathy Elliott, and Jean Naeger TCA Grant Chair and EMO Governor Designate.

EMO OPTIMIST DISTRICT



Club members attending 2024 EMO Convention: Mary Hatfield, Cathy Elliott, Ruth Ann Adams, Katie Huck, Judy Kuhlman, Phyllis Neff, Jean Naeger, Barb Schmidt, Beth Watts, and Kathy Todd.



Past, present, and future East Missouri District Governors. Mary Hatfield 2018-2019, Phyllis 2024-2024, and Jean Naeger 2024-2025





EMO Governor Phyllis Neff giving her farewell speech.



EMO Governor Designate giving her acceptance speech.

Everyone enjoyed a fun-filled luau themed weekend.



Ruth Ann Adams was guest speaker Friday evening, telling her story "Raising a deaf-blind artist".



Katie Huck, Mary Hatfield won Governor's Choice Awards. Also winning an award, not present Debbie Schumaker.



Special thanks to Beth Watts and Barb Schmidt for all the fabulous luau themed decorations and food. Thanks to all the TCA ladies who helped set everything up.



Thanks to Becky Capps for the beautiful cookies.



Beth Watts, Barb Schmidt, and Jean Naeger



Deb Swanegan of Columbia Downtown Club and Beth Watts were coordinating outfits!



SAVE THE DATE



Nov. 8-9, 2024 EMO First Quarter Conference
K.C. Hall, Jackson, MO

Feb 22, 2025 EMO 2nd Quarter Conference
VIRTUAL/ZOOM

May 2-3, 2025 EMO 3rd Quarter Conference
Hilton St. Louis Airport - St. Louis, MO

June 30-July 3, 2025
St. Louis Union Station - St. Louis, MO

August 15-17, 2025 EMO Fourth Quarter Convention
Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia, MO



A TIME TO SERVE



First Quarter Conference

November 8-9, 2024

Knights of Columbus Hall

3305 North High St.

Jackson, MO 63755

Featuring:

Middle America Vice President Sandra Doyle

- Retention and Growth.
- Step-by-step plan for your successful essay and oratorical contests.
- What can the district do for you?
- Hands on service project - plastic bags recycled into sleeping mats for the homeless.

Friday: 5-7 pm Registration/light meal

7 pm -10 pm Executive meeting, speaker, service project, networking.

Saturday: 8:30 am Registration

9:00 Board of Directors' Meeting, training, & MORE...



aiding those surviving homelessness

First Quarter EMO District Service Project November 8-9-2024

Below is list of items needed

Toiletry Items:

- Deodorant
- Q Tips
- Cotton balls
- Flashlights
- Bug spray
- Hair Brushes
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

Nonperishable Food Items:

- Applesauce cups
- Fruit cups
- Nutri-grain bars
- Snack cakes
- Peanut butter crackers
- Chips
- 12 oz gatorades
- Tuna/ chicken pouches
- Snack pack pudding cups

CASH DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Friday evening speakers from Street Level will also provide instructions for a hands-on service project, making sleep mats for the homeless.



Operation Plann

The first quarter conference Nov 8-9, 2024 will include a hands on district project. Now is the time to begin! Start saving and cutting plastic grocery size bags to make plann (plastic yarn). If you can take the time to flatten the bags and complete first steps that would be great.

As shown in the other slide you will want to cut off the bottom seams and also the top handles. Cutting across to create a rectangle.

Bring these bags to the conference and we will learn the next steps to create sleeping mats for the homeless in the Cape Girardeau area.

Friday Evening Speakers from Street Level, Serving the homeless



EMO District 1st Quarter Service Project

Operation Plann

Please be sure you get the entire bottom seam cut off

Come learn how to make sleeping mats for the homeless

Make sure you cut the entire seam off so you have a nice flat cut

JOI Club

JOI Club Bingo at Autumn Ridge on August 17

The JOI club held its annual "Bingo" fundraiser on August 17, 2024 at Autumn Ridge Residences - Independent Living & Residential Care. The event drew in many visitors as well as residents.

The afternoon started out with entertainment by Just Joshin' Around. A group from St. Louis who performs "original music instilled with the nostalgic sound of yesteryear".

The JOI Club members were kept busy as they helped hand out Bingo cards, collected ticket money, served snacks provided by Autumn Ridge's kitchen staff, as well as selling 50/50 tickets. They did a great job!

The fundraiser netted \$1500.00. The money will be spent equally between the Homeless Youth Initiative and Foster Kids Christmas. We will be shopping for the items when these groups submit lists of needs. We will reach out to the Twin City Area Optimist Club if we need help.

The JOI Club hosted bowling at Quonset from 4:30p.m. to 6:30 p.m. during Twin City Days, September 6, 2024.

Submitted by: Debbie Schumaker



Bingo Caller Marie Stelling



JOI Club member Addison Eldridge



Tracy Johnson, Marie Stelling, Carol Schanz, Addylin, Debbie Schumaker, Carroll Metzger, and Sara Plew



Residents at play

Please plan to participate in the 6th annual BB 5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk on Oct. 20. Visit Twin City Area Optimist Club website for further details and registration form. Thank you for your support. [Events/Fundraisers \(twincityoptimist.org\)](https://twincityoptimist.org)


**6th Annual
BB 5K**



**5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk
Sunday, 10AM
October 20, 2024
At Larry Crites Memorial Park**

Cost of 5K - \$30
Includes t-shirt, certificate of appreciation, snacks, fruit and Behavioral Health information
Unable to walk, T-shirts may be purchased for \$20
Student cost without t-shirt \$10
Sweatshirts only-\$30 or \$45 as 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**

**ALL AGES ARE
WELCOME TO
PARTICIPATE**

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair

JOI Club Activities

The September 5, 2024 meeting of the Twin City JOI Club was called to order by Olivia Blair,

the 2023-2024 vice president. There were 10 members in attendance.

On August 17, 2024 the club hosted Bingo at Autumn Ridge. The club made \$1,500 which will be used to Christmas shop for the Homeless Youth Initiative and Foster Kids for Christmas programs.

The club contributed to Twin City Days on September 6 by sponsoring bowling at Quonset Lanes. A fun time was had by all as they welcomed 66 kids to eat and bowl for two hours. Meal tickets were handed out to all who came in with their families. Lots of laughter could be heard from the lanes.

Election night also was held on September 5 and officers for the 2024-2025 year are as follows:

President: Olivia Blair
Vice President: Addisen Eldridge
Secretary: Oscar Blair
Treasurer: Kaitlyn Blair

Installation of the newly elected cabinet will be held at the October 3 meeting. On that night, the club also will celebrate its 20 th anniversary with a small party. The Twin City Area Optimist Club will be invited to join in the celebration.

The club is planning a visit to Missouri Unplugged sometime in September or October. The club will be notified of visit availability and fit in a pool party.

A reminder was given of the upcoming BB 5K in October. Members were encouraged to write and enter this year's essay contest.

Meeting adjourned.

Debbie Schumaker
Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair

SAVE THE DATES



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

October 1 Board meeting - hostess Ruth Ann Adams
October 3 Officer Installation & Roast
October 3 JOI Club Installation
October 10 Parents as Teacher boxes
October 20 BB 5K
October 24 Halloween Party
November 1 Board meeting - hostess Patty Meyer

November 8-9 EMO 1st Quarter Conference
November 12 Dine to Donate, Cool Beans
November 14 Head Start gift wrapping
November 19 Pack gifts for Head Start
November 22 BUNCO
November 24 Art Contest
December 3 Head Start Christmas Party - De Soto
December 3 Board meeting - hostess Barb Schmidt
December 4 Head Start Christmas Party - Hematite
December 19 Winterfest Party & Quilt Raffle



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,

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Visit our website



Twin City Area Optimist Club | P.O. Box 475 | Festus, MO 63028 US

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