



# 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

## March 2026 News Making a Difference For Kids

### President Cathy Elliott

Dear Ladies,

#### What Is Your “Why”?

When I attended my first Optimist meeting, I immediately felt something special. The room was filled with energy—conversations were lively, food was being shared, and people were genuinely interested in getting to know me.

Was it a little overwhelming? Absolutely. But even in that moment, I knew—I wanted to be a part of it.

As time goes on, I've learned that understanding our club doesn't happen overnight. It comes in baby steps. What continues to inspire me is seeing how so many individuals come together to make our programs, events, and meetings successful. Each of us plays a role, working toward a shared purpose: bringing out the best in our youth—and in ourselves.

My “why” started simply. I was looking for a way to fill my time by helping others. I wanted to belong to a community that made a difference. What I didn't realize then was just how meaningful those connections would become—and how much I would come to value each and every one of you.

Being part of this club has given me more than I ever expected. It has given me purpose, connection, and a deeper sense of service.

So now I invite you to reflect:

#### What is your “why”?

Why did you join?

What keeps you coming back?

How has this journey shaped you?



Whatever your reason may be, one thing is certain—we are stronger because of it, and we are better together.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Yours in Optimism,  
Cathy Elliott  
President, Twin City Area Optimist Club  
573-883-0424

## NEW MEMBERS



Donna Arnold



Diane Brown



Josalyn Dunlap



Peggy Grieshaber

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**If you are turning in money or a request for a check**, it must be put in an envelope with your name, project and the expense report with any receipts. The treasurers are busy with checking people in and selling raffle tickets at the meetings and will process other requests later.

**Please remember that when you sponsor a new member**, you need to help guide them through **club meetings and information**. Optimist 101 meetings will be held periodically, but it takes all of us to guide new members.

The **EMO 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter District Meeting** will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Airport on **May 1-2**. Contact Jessica Korte if you would like to attend or have questions.

**Golf Raffle Tickets** are on sale by Katie Huck. The raffle will be at the **April 23** meeting.

The **Youth Appreciation** meeting will be at the **April 9** noon meeting.

**Respect for Law** will be at the **April 16** noon meeting.

The next **Bunco** night will be **April 17** at Herrell Distribution in Imperial.

Jean Naeger received a donation of \$426 from the Hillsboro Knights of Columbus.

We've received a grant check for \$1,000 from Optimists International that will be used for Brenden's Backpacks. Thank you, Jean Naeger!

Submitted by Cathy Elliott and Carolyn McKinney



## Member Spotlight Mary Hatfield



Mary Hatfield joined the Twin City Area Optimist Club in March 2008. At the time, she owned Chef's Stop, a kitchen store in Festus and noticed a group of happy women who visited the store regularly on Thursday afternoons. She learned that they were coming from their Optimist club meeting. When Mary learned more about the Optimists, she realized that the mission of helping kids and the upbeat attitudes of the members she'd met, were a great fit for her.

Mary has bachelors' degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education. She taught special education for six years in Illinois before her family relocated to West Virginia for her husband's job. It was after moving back, first to Edwardsville, Illinois and then to Festus, that she opened the kitchen store where she learned about the Twin City Area Optimist Club.

Since joining, Mary has held a number of offices in the Twin City Area club as well as the Jefferson County



Optimists and the East Missouri Optimist (EMO) District. She has been secretary and president of the Twin City Area club. She is currently in her second term as secretary of the Jefferson County club. She has been lieutenant governor and governor of the EMO and is now governor-elect for a second term. In EMO she has been chairperson for district committees such as social media, leadership development, district webmaster, new club building, and marketing technology. She also is certified as a club trainer for Optimist International.

Mary's husband, Joe, is well known to many of our members as the current President of the Jefferson County Optimist Club and the Lieutenant Governor for Zone 4 in the East Missouri Optimist District. His involvement with Optimists started upon his retirement and with Mary's encouragement, to become involved in something. Mary and Joe have two daughters, Kristi, of Roanoke Virginia, and Heather, from the Baltimore, Maryland area. Their granddaughter, Penny, lives with her mother Kristi in Virginia.

One of the first activities Mary attended after joining the Twin City Area Optimist Club was the Head Start Christmas party. The joy and enthusiasm of the kids further cemented her belief that the Optimists were the right organization for her. She recalls the excitement of kids learning that the toothbrush and toys they received were just for them. To this day, Head Start parties hold a special place in her heart.

A couple of Mary's favorite hobbies are cooking and travel. She and Joe recently went on vacation to South America where they combined both hobbies by visiting a chef's private restaurant in Argentina, and taking a cooking class in Rio de Janeiro. Mary also has a great collection of cookbooks she enjoys reading, another favorite pastime!

Another hobby Mary started at age 57 is horseback riding. She volunteers with Helping Hands and Horses in Herculaneum, and through them, introduced her granddaughter to the activity. Penny now takes lessons in Virginia while Mary leases a horse locally. She and some friends have traveled to Colorado for a horseback riding adventure and currently are planning another horseback riding vacation to Wyoming.

Mary's favorite line of the Optimist Creed is "To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true". She has a genuine appreciation for people, and she shows it through her thoughtful treatment of everyone she encounters. Whether she's offering a kind compliment or engaging in conversation, Mary focuses her full attention and sincere eye contact on others, making them feel truly seen and valued.

Since joining the Twin City Area Optimist Club, Mary has been an active participant and a steady leader. She is generous with her time and talents, and she pours her ever-present optimism into everything she does, leaving a trail of encouragement and joy wherever she goes.

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney



**Volunteering at community networking events**



**So many activities and fundraisers!**





**Fun at Meetings!**



**March 5, 2026  
Board Updates**

**Board Updates**

Phyllis Neff has agreed to chair the Dinner & Wine Tasting event next year. We need participation from everyone as this is our biggest fundraising event,

A \$1000 matching grant for Sun Safety has been submitted by Jean Naeger to Optimists International. If awarded, we should receive it by summer.

Sponsorship – Katie Huck reported that we have picked up nine new sponsors this year so far! We also received an individual donation of \$1000.

Essay Contest – Mary Kay Scott has three contestants who won at our level and has submitted them to OI. We will hear their essays at the lunch meeting on May 7 along with the Oratorical winners.

JOI Club – The board approved \$450 requested by Debbie Schumaker for a third JOI member to attend the JOI Summit being held in July at Saint Louis University.

### **New Members**

Three new members were inducted today:

- Peggy Grieshaber, sponsored by Christine Bradshaw
- Josalyn Dunlap, sponsored by Barb Schmidt
- Donna Arnold, sponsored by Jan Buechting

Welcome ladies!

### **Optimist Creed**

Ruth Ann Adams focused on the Optimist Creed line “To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own” with an exercise to reinforce applause. During the first part of the exercise members shared a success with another member, with the person listening responding with a blah “That’s nice”. The second part of the exercise repeated the activity, but with a more encouraging and enthusiastic response such as “That’s fantastic...tell me more”. It was a simple activity with a meaningful takeaway: when we respond with true enthusiasm, we strive to create a supportive, optimistic community.

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney

## **March 12, 2026 Renee Gerlach - Aunt Rose Project**

### **Chamber of Commerce Meeting**

The most recent Twin City Chamber of Commerce meeting, attended by Patty Meyer, included a guest speaker from Camp Circle Star. Located in Valle Mines, Missouri, Camp Circle Star is a day camp for children with disabilities that provides 1:1 support for all of their campers. For more information, go to <https://www.campcirclestar.com>

### **New Members**

Diane Brown, sponsored by Carroll Metzger, was inducted today. Welcome, Diane!

### **Aunt Rose Project**

Renee Gerlach, founder of the Aunt Rose Project, joined the meeting to speak about the history of her organization and to highlight the support the Twin City Area Optimist Club has provided over the years.

The Aunt Rose Project started after Renee learned that teenage girls were skipping school because they didn't have access to period products. After looking for and not finding resources for the girls, she and some friends began donating period products to the local schools. The Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund, learning about the donations, contacted Renee asking her to help girls in foster care.



Renee started a Facebook group with friends who might donate, but the group grew quickly and Renee soon started receiving inquiries and supplies from all over. In addition to period products, Aunt Rose also distributes educational materials for girls who may not have an adult in their life with whom they are comfortable talking about personal matters.

While the group only distributes unopened boxes of feminine products to girls, they do accept donations of opened boxes. The open boxes are then given to Second Hand Hero's in Crystal City to be distributed to adults in need.

Aunt Rose currently serves eight non-profit organizations in the area including All for Family, the Homeless Youth Initiative, the STL Crisis Nursery, and Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund. Through these organizations, Aunt Rose provides supplies for approximately 150 girls each month. In 2025, Aunt Rose collected and distributed more than 23,000 individual items in Jefferson County. Aunt Rose makes sure every organization they work with provides each girl with enough product for the entire length of their period.

The name "Aunt Rose" came from a conversation from Renee's youth, when a friend mentioned "Aunt Flow" and Renee thought she had said "Aunt Rose". When naming the organization, Renee felt that "Aunt Flow" was about holding girls back while "Aunt Rose" encourages them to go everywhere with confidence.

The Twin City Area Optimist Club first connected with the Aunt Rose Project thanks to our dear member, the late Caryl Harness. When Caryl learned about the organization's mission, she recognized the parallel to the Optimists' mission and brought it to the attention of the club. Renee Gerlach first spoke to the group in early 2021 and the club immediately organized a drive-through product collection. The Aunt Rose Project was added to the Twin City Area Optimist Club budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and has remained in the budget since.

Our club has used the budgeted funds to purchase items on the Aunt Rose Amazon Wish list as well as through in-person shopping trips. The shopping trips tend to attract attention from other shoppers, but that attention can lead to educating the shoppers about both organizations. In one instance a woman in line with the Optimists at Walmart bought \$20 worth of chap sticks to donate because she wanted to help!

Renee credits the involvement of the Twin City Area Optimist Club with helping the Aunt Rose Project grow into the thriving program it is today. Her dedication and steadfast commitment to empowering girls earned her the Unsung Hero Award from the Cultural Diversity Committee of Jefferson County in 2026. This recognition

reflects both her heart for service and the impact of the organization she's built. Our club is fortunate to have played a part in the evolution of the Aunt Rose Project and the lives it continues to touch.

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney

**March 19, 2026**

## **Twin City Optimists 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The March 19 meeting was a celebration of the Twin City Area Optimists 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and recognition of the members who were founders and also of those who have 25 years or more with the club!

The recognition started with each attending member who has been with the club for 25 years or more being presented with a sash as they entered the meeting. Phyllis Neff was the emcee and asked each member to stand as she read their years of membership, up to 24 years. Once they sat, the members who have been with the club for 25 to 38 years stood to applause!

After lunch Phyllis asked the four original club members in attendance, Sue Boyer, Elsie Williams, Judy Williams, and Pat Doenges, to say a few words. They shared stories about the club's early years, noting that our association with Head Start has been in place since the beginning, and Coats for Kids started shortly after.

Thank you to Marian Bozak and Phyllis Neff for organizing such a meaningful event and for honoring the incredible Optimist members who have dedicated over 25 years of service to the club.

The guest speaker, Cheryl Brenn, from Optimist International, shared such touching remarks that they're included below as presented. The topic of her talk was Legacy, Impact, & Owning Your Worth.

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney

### **Legacy, Impact & Owning Your Worth**

Good afternoon, it is truly a privilege to be with you today—especially for a celebration like this.

When we talk about 25 years of membership... and for some of you, even longer as charter members who have been here since the start in 1988... we're **not** just talking about years.

We're talking about **impact**.

- We're talking about third graders who received their very own dictionary—many for the first time—because of you.
- We're talking about students who found their voice and their confidence through your art contests, your essay and oratorical contests, the scholarships you provide, your encouragement.
- We're talking about children who were supported, encouraged, and lifted up in ways they may never fully be able to express or even know.

That's what 25 or more years looks like.

That's what **legacy** looks like.

There's a line in the musical Hamilton that resonates with me when I think about legacy:

*"Legacy... it's like planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."*

And what strikes me about this gathering today... is how many seeds each of you have planted.

Not just once—but over and over again.

Quietly.

Consistently.

Faithfully.

And here's what I also know—especially in a space like this.

Too often, as women, we minimize what we've done.

You might say:

- "Oh, it was nothing."
- "We just helped where we could."
- "It wasn't just me."

And while humility is a beautiful quality... this is not the time for that.

Because what you have built here is **extraordinary**.

You didn't just run projects, you created opportunity.

You didn't just volunteer your time; you changed the trajectory of young lives.

You didn't just serve your community, you strengthened it—for generations.

And not just for the youth of your community, but for every woman in this room.

And here's the truth... your legacy isn't something that's already behind you.

It's still growing.

- Every dictionary placed in a child's hands...
- Every piece of artwork encouraged...
- Every student who believes in themselves just a little bit more because of you...

**That** is your garden.

And it continues to bloom because of you.

So today, I hope you take a moment—not just to celebrate each other—but to truly own what you've done, collectively.

To stand in it.

To be proud of it.

Because it matters.

The Optimist Creed calls us to:

*Think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.*

And that's exactly what each of you have done—whether you've been part of this movement for 2 years, 5 years, 25 years or even 38 years...

You've brought out the best in your community...

In the youth you serve ...

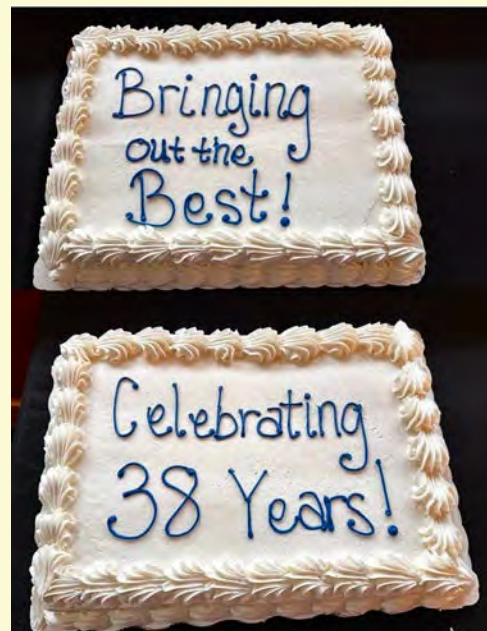
and in each other.

And *that* is a legacy worth celebrating.

So, on behalf of Optimist International—and all those thousands of children whose lives you have touched and impacted for the better—and the generations of women that will follow you and have this opportunity because of you, Thank You.



Cheryl Brenn from Optimist International.





Charter members Elsie Williams, Judy Williams, and Pat Doenges with Phyllis Neff.



Attending members that have been with the club for 25 years or more.

Front row: Barb Bates and Pat Doenges

Back row: Elsie Williams, Peggy Scott, Judy Lowe, Kimber Polette, Pat Parsons, Jan Norrick,  
Sue Boyer, Marie Schuh, Judy Williams, and Ellen Bridgewater



The Twin City Area Optimist club with a check from Leader Publications for the February Wedding Fair.

## March 26, 2026 Game Night!

The evening meeting of March 26, 2026 featured Trivial Pursuit and pie!

The first three rounds of Trivial Pursuit were multiple choice in the categories of Geography, Art & Literature, and Science & Nature. Everyone played individually and at the end of the rounds the total correct answers for all three rounds were tallied. Several people were declared winners with 12-14 correct answers!



For the next three rounds, teams of three to five people were formed to tackle the categories of Entertainment, History, and Sports & Leisure. These rounds required specific answers with no more choices! Due to time, the Sports & Leisure round wasn't started, but one team managed 14 out of 20 correct for the first two categories.

And let's not forget the delicious pies!

Thank you, Marian, for another fun game night!

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney

## CLUB FUNDRAISERS

Leader Publication 3rd Annual Celebrating Women

The Twin City Area Optimist Club was the Title Sponsor for the Third annual *Leader Publication's* Celebrating Women event on March 6, 2026.

The event highlighted four local women for their dedication to the community and their personal achievements. Alexis (Lowery) Counts, Jannah Oppermann-Budt, Karin Kostich, and Taylor Miller were honored with the Women of Impact Award.

Dedicated to community service, the club hosted a 50/50 raffle to benefit Monarch Jewelry. We are pleased to announce that \$860 was raised to support their vital work in the fight against human trafficking.

Monarch Jewelry is a local organization which creates and sells jewelry and accessories to raise awareness and funds for victims of sex trafficking. The organization takes donations of new, old and broken jewelry to help in its mission. All jewelry, from costume to fine jewelry, is welcome. For more information about Monarch Jewelry, visit [monarchjewelry.org](http://monarchjewelry.org).

Submitted by Jean Naeger



Cathy Elliott, Jean Naeger, and Barb Schmidt take their turn at manning the TCA Optimist booth. Raffles were offered during the evening, a 50/50 raffle benefiting Monarch Jewelry, and several items raffled to benefit our club.



Women of Impact winners Karin Kostich, Taylor Miller, Jannah Oppermann-Budt, and Alexis (Lowery) Counts



Pat Parsons was the BIG 50/50 winner of \$860

Mary Kay Scott won the raffle basket



Phyllis Neff, Kathy Todd, Pat Parsons, and Sue Boyer take advantage of a photo opportunity.



Carol Schanz found a friend.



## Dine to Donate

Culver's in Festus participated in a Dine-to-Donate fundraiser with the Twin City Area Optimist Club on March 10. From 5am-8pm Optimists delivered drive-thru orders and wiped tables while the Optimist Bunny circulated and posed for pictures. Everyone smiled at the sight of the bunny visiting with diners! After the event, Culver's donated 10% of all sales during the event, \$501, to the TCA Optimists club. An additional \$36.55 was raised from our donation jar.

Thank you to the Optimists who worked to make this event successful: Kathy Todd, Carol Schanz, Judy Kuhlman, Debbie Schumaker, Karen Huskey, Debbie Kettler, Katie Huck, Judy Williams, Tracy Johnson, Lynne Wendel, Becky Francis, Debbie Hogenmiller, DaNelle Winters, and Karen Francis. Special thanks to Julie Reiter, aka the Optimist Bunny!

Submitted by Kathy Todd and Carolyn McKinney

**The Optimist Bunny kept busy!**



Posing with Madelyn and Logan Siracusa.



Greeting drivers!



A photo op with Kathy Todd and her grandchildren, Ruby, Pearl, Opal, and Emmett Hicks.



Volunteers from the event: Kathy Todd, Carol Schanz, Debbie Schumaker, Tracy Johnson, Debbie Kettler, Karen Huskey, and Katie Huck.

## Golf Raffle

The weather will warm up soon and you will want to get in a game of golf. Please support our fundraiser by donating today. Use QR code or click link to pay:

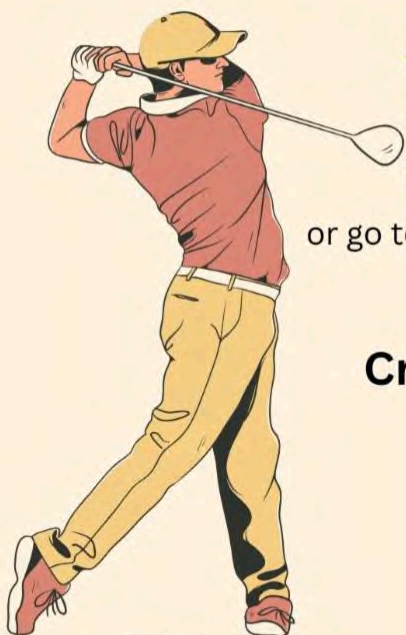
<https://givebutter.com/OptimistsGolfRaffle> Share this flyer with friends/family to increase sales. The flyer is also available to share from our public Facebook page.

# **Golf Raffle**



CRYSTAL HIGHLANDS  
GOLF COURSE & BISTRO

**One entry for  
every \$10 donation**



**Drawing  
April 23, 2026**



view qr code to pay  
or go to : <https://givebutter.com/OptimistsGolfRaffle>

**4 rounds of golf at  
Crystal Highlands Golf Course  
(includes cart rental)**

**TOTAL VALUE \$280**



**Benefits TCA Optimist  
Youth/Community Projects**

# Twin City Area Optimist Club **BUNCO**

**DATE: Fri. April 17, 2026**  
**Doors open at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Bunco starts at 7:00 p.m.**



**Contact: Carol Schanz**  
**636-222-4344**

**Registration Fee:**  
**\$20**

**(In advance/  
non-refundable)**

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

**Bring your  
own beverage**

**Bring a  
snack/dessert  
to share**

**Invite a  
friend**



# SAVE THE DATE

## Saturday, August 8



# ROCK N ROLL BINGO

**Fundraiser details  
coming soon**

## CLUB PROJECTS

### Women's Shelter Shopping

On March 12, the Women's Shelter committee visited Walmart to shop for spring supplies for the residents. The shelter's wish list included outdoor toys for the kids and materials for a special Mother's Day project which the committee delivered with enthusiasm. For outdoor fun, they added sidewalk chalk, bubbles, balls, and sunscreen—simple items that promise big smiles as the weather warms. For the Mother's Day activity, they selected small pots, paint supplies, and flower seeds, giving the moms a sweet, hands-on project to enjoy with their children.

Shoppers: Mickie Huskey, Vickie Campbell, Kathy Todd, Jessica Korte, and Barb Bates

Submitted by Jessica Korte

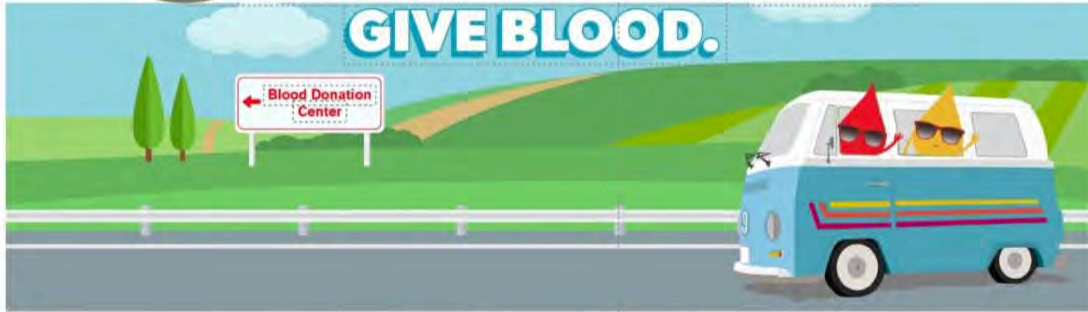


Mickie Huskey, Vickie Campbell, Kathy Todd, Jessica Korte, and Barb Bates with some of the items they purchased for the shelter.

## Blood Drive



# American Red Cross



## Blood Drive

Sponsored by

Twin City Area Optimist Club

Jefferson County Family YMCA-Gym

1303 YMCA Dr.

Festus, MO 63028

Friday June 19, 2026

11:00 am- 3:00 pm

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: JeffCoYMCA  
to schedule an appointment or use QR Code



Select the June 19th date for  
TCA Optimist donation day

Join us in making a difference by signing up to donate blood! If you are a frequent donor, please keep this timeline in mind to ensure you are eligible and ready to give.

When registering, please double-check that you have selected the **June 19th** drive. While the YMCA lists several upcoming donation dates, we are aiming for a strong club turnout on this specific day.

Contact Project Chair Marian Bozak if you have questions.

Submitted by Jean Naeger

# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2025-2026



Topic  
"The Moment I Realized I Belonged  
— My Definition of Community"

## ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:  
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000  
**with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the  
World Championships level**

## ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**



Topic  
"How My Acts of Service Help Me  
Understand What My Community  
Means to Me"



Topic  
"The Moment I Realized I Belonged  
— My Definition of Community"

## COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience.

Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**

## KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)

The **Optimist International Essay and Oratorical Contests** are annual scholarship competitions sponsored by Optimist International to provide young people with the opportunity to express their views and win college scholarships.

The Essay Contest gives students a chance to write about their opinions on a pre-assigned topic related to the world they live in. **Prizes:** Winners at the club level advance to the District contest to compete for a scholarship, typically **\$2,500** at the District level, funded by the Optimist International Foundation.

The Oratorical Contest is a public speaking competition where youngsters prepare and deliver a speech on a pre-assigned topic. It's one of the longest-

running programs of Optimist International. **Prizes:** More than **\$150,000** in college scholarships is awarded annually. District winners can receive **\$2,500** for first place, with a chance to win up to **\$22,500** at the World Championships level.

The Twin City Area Optimists Club hosts both the Essay and Oratorical Contests. For more information and contest application forms visit our website. <https://twincityoptimist.org/>.

Essay Contest: <https://twincityoptimist.org/essay-contest>

Oratorical Contest: <https://twincityoptimist.org/oratorical-contest>

Submitted by: Jean Naeger

## Dime -A- Day Optimist International Foundation

### The Dime-A-Day Program

**What is Dime a Day?** An annual contribution level to the Optimist International Foundation, (OIF) which is the charitable fundraising arm of Optimist International. The amount represents a donation of **one dime (\$0.10) per day** for one Optimist year (365 days) = **\$36.50**. Individual members who contribute at this level are recognized with a special "**Dime-A-Day**" lapel pin.

### What the Funds Support

The unrestricted funds raised through the Dime-A-Day campaign are critical because they enable the OIF to support the core programs that reach millions of children each year.

- **Scholarship Contests**
- **Youth Programs**
- **Club Grants**
- **Administrative Support**

Peggy Scott is the club's OIF Representative and can provide you with a copy of the Dime-A-Day donation form or you can download a copy: [dime-a-day-form.pdf](#)

Submitted by Jean Naeger

## EAST MISSOURI (EMO) OPTIMIST DISTRICT



## CONFERENCE / CONVENTION DATES

May 1-2, 2026:

EMO 3rd Quarter Conference

Hilton St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, MO

## EMO District Convention

August 21, 22, 23, 2026

Installation of Officers

Governors' Choice Awards

Comfort Suites

Rolla, Missouri

## 108th

## Optimist International Convention

June 28 - July 1, 2026

Hyatt Regency

Jacksonville, Florida

## JOI CLUB

**There is no March update for the 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.**

April 2 Meeting - Baked Goods Auction

April 7 Board Meeting

April 9 Meeting - Youth Appreciation

April 11 Early Childhood Event, Jefferson College  
April 16 Meeting - Respect for Law  
April 17 Bunco  
April 23 Meeting - True North Music Therapy, Golf Raffle  
April 30 Evening Meeting - James II Project  
May 1-2 EMO 3rd Quarter Conference  
May 5 Board Meeting  
May 7 Meeting - Oratorical & Essay winners  
May 14 Meeting - Atlas  
May 16 Hillsboro Homecoming  
May 21 Meeting - Veterans Helping Veterans  
May 28 Evening Meeting  
June 2 Board Meeting  
June 4 Board Updates  
June 5 Jr. Golf Tournament  
June 11 Meeting - Flag Day  
June 18 Meeting - Foster Together, Quilt Raffle  
June 19 Red Cross Blood Drive  
June 25 Evening Meeting

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**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.**

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Board of  
Directors  
2025-2026

President  
Cathy Elliott  
573 883 0924

President Elect  
Donna Masters

Past President  
Peggy Scott

Secretary  
Marian Bozak

Secretary Elect  
Jessica Korte

Treasurer  
Becky Capps

Treasurer Elect  
Ellen  
Bridgewater

Board Members

2024-2026  
Mary McDowell  
Debbie Kettler  
Carolyn  
McKinney

2025-2027

Becky Francis  
Megan Siracusa  
Donna Long



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

**Visit our website**



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

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