



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

February 2026 News Making a Difference For Kids

President Cathy Elliott

Dear Ladies,

Celebrating Optimism in Every Season

February has certainly been a crazy month for weather — I think we've experienced two seasons in just a few weeks! From an abundance of snow that lingered for weeks, to a touch of Spring, and then right back to the cold again.

But as Optimists, we don't let the weather slow us down! We continue working hard on our sponsorships, fundraising events, and community service projects.

Did you know this was the first time in 38 years that our Optimist Club went out into the community to complete service hours with Brenden's Backpack and Foster Together? What an incredible milestone! We also had the opportunity to work directly with children at Head Start De Soto and Hematite Head Start, along with partnering with the De Soto Public Library. What a wonderful way to celebrate Optimism in action!

There are many exciting projects ahead, celebrations to enjoy, and important community needs we will continue to support. Please stay updated by checking the Google Calendar, reviewing the calendar placed on the tables during the first meeting of each month, reading my weekly emails — or simply giving me a call. I'm always happy to answer any questions you may have.

Every project, every partnership, and every hour served helps give hope and a positive vision for the future to the children in our community.

Optimistically yours,

Cathy Elliott
President



WINTER WEATHER



Reminder to all Optimists

If the **Festus School District** does **NOT** have **buses** running due to inclement weather, the Optimist meetings, day or evening, will be **cancelled**.

NEW MEMBERS



Shannon Carter



Julie Reiter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Women Event March 6 - Twin City Area Optimists are the Title Sponsor for the event. Table numbers 9, 13 and 14 are reserved for Optimists - select a table when you register. Monarch Jewelry will be showcased at the event so please bring your unwanted, even broken, jewelry to a meeting or to the event.

Culver's Dine to Donate will be March 10. We will work there 5-8:00pm. Sign-up sheets will circulate in advance.

Easter Baskets - There are 16 children in the five Head Start families we will be collecting for this year. Collections will continue through March 26. Please see Tracy Johnson or Lynne Wendel for questions.

Sponsorship Drive - As of February 26 we have collected \$18,500 with more promised!

Blood Drive - Last year's Blood Drive with the Red Cross at the YMCA was such a success that we've scheduled one for June 19. Marian Bozak will keep everyone updated.

Summer Party - If anyone would like to plan a summer party for the July 16 meeting, please let Cathy Elliott know.



Member Spotlight Barb Bates



Barb Bates is a 31-year member of the Twin City Area Optimists, working on her 31st year of perfect attendance! Barb was introduced to this club through co-workers in 1994. She attended a meeting with them, was impressed by what she heard, and kept coming back.

Barb was born and raised in South St. Louis and moved to Festus with her husband in 1979. She's had a diverse work career that started right out of high school clerking for the U.S. Coast Guard. While she has primarily worked in office settings, she also spent time doing custom picture framing for a photo center—a role that allowed her to channel her creativity.



Barb and her husband, James, have been married for 63 years and have a daughter, Melanie, and two grandchildren, Abigayle and Cameron. Abigayle graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Business Administration in Marketing, and Cameron is a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

One of Barb's greatest joys throughout her life has been singing. While growing up she sang in any choir she could find. After high school, she joined the St. Louis Cosmopolitan Singers, a civic chorus that sang with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. One specific performance she recalls was their participation in the dedication of the old Busch Stadium.

An interesting fact Barb shared is that she didn't learn to drive until she was 27, relying on her husband or the bus for transportation. Her first car was a brand new 1971 shiny blue VW Karmann Ghia that her then two-year-old daughter called "Ma Ghia" since she couldn't pronounce the name.

As a member of the Twin City Area Optimists, Barb has been involved with many projects. One very special project is the Women's Shelter committee in which she has been involved for around 20 years. The committee has regularly found ways to stretch the budget to provide needed support for the shelter. Barb also enjoys shopping for the holiday baskets our club assembles for needy Head Start families. And while unable to attend the TCA art contest, Barb regularly helps with sorting the student artists' entries ahead of time. Like many of us, she marvels at the talent and artistry of the kids.

Barb keeps busy with her church, New Testament Baptist Church, Optimist projects, and hobbies. She is an avid reader, bringing many books to the Optimist book exchange. She also does counted cross-stitch projects and appreciates a good crossword puzzle.

Barb's favorite line in the Optimist Creed is "Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind", recognizing that there are so many things in the world today that can disturb our peace of mind. Her hope is that by being a friend to youth, our club and other Optimists can help kids, as they grow into adults, make positive changes in the world.

For 31 years, Barb has been a steady, smiling force in our Optimist Club. She lives the Creed in joyful ways—like laughing at the line "give every living creature you meet a smile" —and wondering if that includes the squirrels she sees every day. Her longevity is a testament to the heart she brings to our club and the optimism she shares so generously.

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney



Barb's family: Husband James with daughter Melanie, granddaughter Abigayle with her boyfriend, and grandson Cameron.



Barb received her 30 year Perfect Attendance award in 2025.



Helping out at an Old Bag Luncheon fundraiser.



Head Start Basket and Women's Shelter shopping trips.

**February 5, 2026
Optimist Day, Board Updates**

Board Meeting Updates

The Twin City Area Optimist Club was awarded \$750 from the ticket sales of Leader Publication's Wedding Fair Event on February 1.

We currently have 134 members, but expect some additions after the February 19 NOW meeting.

The Community Profile Magazine for 2026 with Leader Publications and the Chamber of Commerce is being readied for publication. We have budgeted for this marketing venture and will be in the magazine again this year. The ad will stay the same as last year.

New Member Inductions

Two new members were inducted today:

- Julie Reiter, sponsored by Mickie Huskey
- Shannon Carter, sponsored by Phyllis Neff

Welcome ladies!

Optimist Day Volunteering

Twin City Area Optimists decided to celebrate Optimist Day by volunteering a few hours during the week with some of our partner organizations. The organizations and volunteers were:

Foster Together: Karen Huskey, Susan DeClue, Dorothea Kehm, Barb Schmidt, Jean Naeger, Mary Kay Scott, Sue Joggerst, Mickie Huskey, Rosie O'Shaughnessy and Peggy McCraith

De Soto Library: Marian Bozak, Jessica Korte & Carolyn McKinney

Head Start De Soto: Marian Bozak, Ruth Ann Adams and Danita Miller

Head Start Hematite: Mary Hatfield, Julie Reiter, Laura English and Katie Huck

Brenden's Backpack: Donna Long, Shelly Storment, Carroll Metzger and Katie Huck

Participants shared their experiences with the rest of the club at the February 5 meeting. The ladies who worked at Foster Together and Brenden's Backpacks described the work they performed and voiced renewed respect for the employees and regular volunteers who support those organizations. The Head Start and Library volunteers described some of the activities they shared with the kids and the fun they had watching and working with the children.

This was a great way to celebrate Optimist Day, increase our bonds with community partners, and share who we are. Thank you to all who volunteered!

Optimist Creed Exercise

Ruth Ann Adams introduced an exercise to explore the Optimist Creed line "To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best". Each table was asked to identify positive changes our club could create, the actions that would move the ideas forward, and the positive outcomes including who would benefit from each. The group came up with some great ideas, including encouraging more connection with newer members, doing periodic service projects, continuing with the sun safety projects, and increasing marketing of our club.

The meeting ended with a new group photo in honor of Optimist Day!

Submitted by Carolyn McKinney

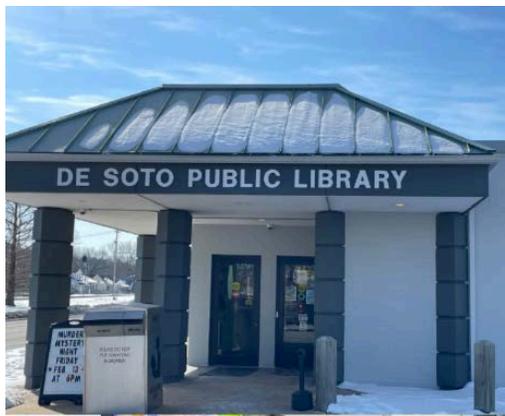


Twin City Area Optimist Club group photo in celebration of Optimist Day 2026!



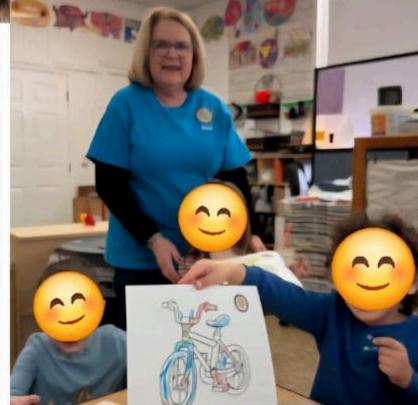
Brenden's Backpacks





DeSoto





February 12, 2026 Happy Valentine's Day!

The backroom of Taytro's was awash in red and pink hearts, heart shaped candies and Mardi Gras beads in celebration of Valentine's Day at the February 12 meeting. The party committee, Donna Long and Lynne Wendel, with help from other members, decorated tables and put out an assortment of delicious desserts!

After lunch and program updates the party took off with several rounds of Valentine's Bingo! When a first round of coverall Bingo resulted in a tie of what looked like half the room the following rounds were standard line and four corners. Winners included Pat Sweet, Judy Williams, Nancy McAnany, Judy Kuhlman, Jean Naeger, and a final award to Pat Doenges for longest marriage! Congratulations to all, and a special thank you to the Valentine's Day Party Committee for a fun afternoon!





Bingo winners Pat Doenges and Pat Sweet



Nancy McAnany and Judy Williams with their prizes.



Judy Kuhlman with her Bingo win.



Donna Long from the Party Committee.



Tracy Johnson played the role of Bingo Caller.



Jean Naeger was excited to yell Bingo.



Mickey Huskey and Patty Meyer displayed a Bingo card.



Kirstie Zych, Jan Buechting, and Janice Boyd waiting for the next call.



Barb Bates, JoAnn Thompson, and Gerty O'Leary searched their Bingo cards for the latest call.



Jackie Hoyt, Paige Laiben, Kim Elbl, Laura Elbl, and Cathy Elliott enjoyed the Bingo games.

February 19, 2026 NOW Meeting

The theme of the Twin City Area Optimist club NOW meeting was "Shake off the Winter Blues with Optimism". Six potential new members attended with their Optimist sponsors. After lunch, while a slideshow documenting many of our projects ran on a loop, Chairperson Amy Baum opened the program with an explanation of the theme and how it's difficult to have a bad day when you come to an Optimist meeting or activity and are greeted with so many smiling, friendly faces!

Jean Naeger spoke next and provided an overview of the club and our history. Several committee chairs then spoke about their projects and how they

positively affect the kids in our community. The speakers were: Debbie Schumaker – JOI Club; Karen Huskey – Aunt Rose and Fostering Together; Kirstie Zych – Brenden's Backpacks; Judy Williams – Coats for Kids; Mary Kay Scott - Oratorical Contest; Katie Huck - Bicycle related projects and Amy Baum – Art Contest.



By the end of the meeting two of the guests had expressed interest in joining the club!

Thanks go to Amy Baum for organizing a great meeting and to all of the speakers for sharing their enthusiasm for the projects they lead!

Submitted by Amy Baum

February 26, 2026 Chili Cookoff, Brenden's Backpacks



TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST
2ND ANNUAL

CHILI COOK-OFF

Our second annual chili cookoff was held during the February 26 evening meeting with 10 ladies bringing in a variety of chilis to sample. The cookoff contestants were Karen Huskey, Julie Reiter, Maria Hopefner, Phyllis Neff, Mary Hatfield, Tabitha Brauch, Barb Schmidt, Kirstie Zych, Marian Bozak, and Alicia Cummiskey.

It was a tough competition with so many great cooks in our club, but after a lot of tasting the results were declared! First place went to Kirstie Zych, second place to Karen Huskey, and third place to Tabitha Brauch. Congratulations to this year's winners!

After that delicious competition, everyone shifted into service mode to pack snack bags for Brenden's Backpacks. Kirstie Zych and Debbie Hogenmiller brought boxes of snacks that were carried in and unboxed. Over 50 Optimists and guests packed and loaded more than 1,100 snack bags with three snacks each...in 33 minutes! Brenden's was a wonderful way to end the evening service project! Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

This evening could not have been possible without many people contributing their time and effort! Thank you to the Chili Cook-off Contestants and everyone who brought in fixin's and desserts. A big thank you to Alicia Cummiskey and Donna Long for taking care of the Chili Cook-off, and to Kirstie Zych and Debbie Hogenmiller for all of the time they invested in shopping for snacks, transporting them to the meeting, and then taking them back to Brenden's.

The evening was a great reminder that many hands truly do make a meaningful difference. What one person can do is good, but what we can do together is

extraordinary!

Submitted by Cathy Elliott and Carolyn McKinney



Chili cookoff contestants left to right: Karen Huskey, Julie Reiter, Maria Hopefner, Phyllis Neff, Mary Hatfield, Tabitha Brauch, Barb Schmidt, Kirstie Zych, Marian Bozak, Alicia Cummsiskey.



Optimists and guests had a wide variety of chilis to sample.



The Chili Cookoff winners: Karen Huskey (second place), Tabitha Brauch (third place), and Kirstie Zych (first place).

**How Optimists accomplish so much -
Working Together!**





Over 1,100 snack packs were bagged in just 33 minutes!

CLUB FUNDRAISERS

WEDDING FAIR

Leader Publications held their 2026 Wedding Fair on February 1, 2026. This year the Leader chose the Twin City Area Optimist Club as their beneficiary for the event. An Optimist table was set up at the event, staffed by Jean Naeger, Barb Schmidt, and Katie Huck. They spoke to Fair attendees about our club as well as providing informative brochures explaining the purpose of our club.

This was a successful event for the Leader and for the TCA Optimists. We were awarded \$750 from ticket sales, and had two guests express interest in joining or sponsoring our club!

Thank you to the Leader for choosing us as the beneficiary this year!

Submitted by Cathy Elliott and Carolyn McKinney



Wine Tasting, Dinner, and Auction



The second Wine Tasting, Dinner, and Auction fundraiser for the Twin City Area Optimist Club was held February 21, 2026 at Oak Valley Resort & Club. Wineries showcasing their wide variety of wines for tasting were Chateau Sainte Genevieve, LaChance Vinyards, The Terrace at French Village, and Villa Antonio Winery. Approximately 130 people attended and enjoyed bidding on 47 Silent Auction Items and 10 Oral Auction Items. We had such a variety of auction items from a basket full of dog supplies, a Mexican & Italian Basket to create a wonderful meal at home, or a variety of gift cards to go out to dinner. Tickets to the St. Louis Symphony, Stages St. Louis and a Cardinal game were a few items donated for the evening. The 50/50 was won by Carroll Metzger's son for a whopping \$850.

We were guided through the evening by the MC, Russell Kinsaul, from Channel 4 News with seamless transitions. Eric of E&K Auction Services was instrumental in rallying people to bid on a rug, fireworks and a Yeti during our Oral Auction. It is always entertaining just to participate in an auction with an auctioneer. And entertaining us through the entire evening was Monte DeClue with his nostalgic music.

After last year's inaugural event, changes were made at check-in and check-out. It appeared to go much smoother and hassle free especially with our Givebutter platform. Many commented that they were pleasantly surprised and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. What a relief.

So many were a part of this event and if you worked the evening, were on the planning committee, asked for donations or contributed to one of the baskets, I sincerely appreciate your time and money to make this a successful event. What we can do when we all come together is amazing and even more amazing the money we can raise for our projects. The efforts of everyone resulted in a net profit of \$9,000 for our club –wow!

Thank you!

Event Chairperson: Barb Schmidt

Event Committee: Phyllis Neff, Jan Buechting, Mary Kay Scott, Debbie Hogenmiller, Jean Naeger, Peggy Scott, Becky Francis, Becky Capps, Kathy Todd, Patty Meyer, Mickey Huskey, Betty Hardin, Sue Boyer, Kim Elbl, Debbie Schumaker, Jackie Hoyt, and Carol Schanz.

Submitted by Barb Schmidt



Master of Ceremonies Channel 4 Reporter
Russell Kinsaul



Joe and Mary Hatfield



Eric of E&K Auction Services encouraged
the bidding during the oral auction.



The event was sold out!



Carroll Metzger's son with his 50/50

winnings.



Ruth Ann Adams, Donna Long and Shelley Storment, and Cathy Elliott.

Past East Missouri Optimist District Governors in attendance. Bottom row: Phyllis Neff and Liz Christman. Top row: Jean Naeger and Mary Hatfield.



Phyllis Neff, Jean Naeger, Shirley Coile, Katie Huck, and Judy Williams.



Mary Kay Scott, Jean Naeger, Dorothea Kehm, and Rosie O'Shaughnessy



Attendees reviewing the silent auction items.



Some of the silent auction items.



MAKE YOUR Meal Matter



Tuesday March 10th • 5-8PM

Culver's of Crystal City is proud to be partnering with TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB for a special Share-Night!

10% of all sales on Tuesday, March 10th between 5-8 PM will be donated to
TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB!

There's no limit to how much heart you can put into a community and we are always looking for ways to serve our local charities and schools!

So, spread the word- bring your family and friends on March 10th!

Come hungry and ready for a great night! Thank you for your support!



Valid only at Culver's of Crystal City

200 S Truman Blvd
Crystal City, MO 63019
(636) 638-1031

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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.



Registration Fee:
\$20

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

Contact: Carol Schanz
636-222-4344

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

**Bring your
own beverage**

**Bring a
snack/dessert
to share**

**Invite a
friend**

CLUB PROJECTS

Childhood Health & Wellness Committee

Maia Rottler, age 14 and a student at Ste. Genevieve High School, was referred to the Twin City Area Optimists Childhood Health and Wellness committee by member Sarah Bauman. Maia is battling B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Danita Miller, committee chair, met with Maia's parents, Maria and Wade Rottler, on January 31 to provide a \$200 gas card from our club to help with their travel from Ste. Genevieve to Children's Hospital for Maia's treatments. Maria and Wade were appreciative of our gift as they are currently traveling almost daily.



Please keep Maia and her family close in prayer and thought as they continue their journey through Maia's treatments. We send them strength, hope, and heartfelt encouragement during this challenging time.

Please reference Maia's Leukemia Journey
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585367163178>

Submitted by Danita Miller

Visual Arts Competition

The Visual Arts Competition is an Optimist International competition designed to encourage and celebrate youth visual art skills and to give the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity. The theme for this year's competition was "Be Bold - Be the Change!"

There was a great response to the call for entries in the Twin City area. Chairperson Patty Meyer reported that she received 30 pieces of art for the 8-11 age group and 11 pieces of art for the 0-7 age group. Three places were awarded to each age group, with certificates and cash prizes presented by members of the Twin City Area Optimist Club.

The first-place winner in the 0-7 age group was Madison Rose, age 4. Second place went to Bailey Kitners, age 7, and third place to Ruby Hicks, age 7.

In the 8-11 age group, first place was awarded to fifth grader Leo Duncan, age 10, second place to fourth grader Rose Crowell, age 10, and third place to fourth grader Hailey Mills, age 10. All three winners attend Festus Middle School.

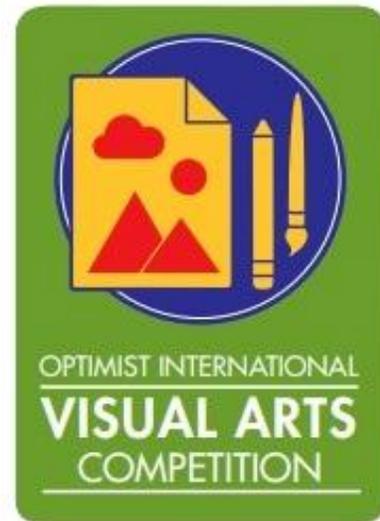
The entries from the two first place winners, Madison Rose and Leo Duncan, have been submitted to Optimists International. The twelve winners at the International level will receive additional cash prizes and their art will be featured on a set of notecards and envelopes that will be available for purchase at the Optimist International Convention in June and online.

Congratulations to all the artists for their outstanding entries, and good luck to Madison and Leo entering the OI judging level.

To view a video of all of the entries, use this link:
[Visual Arts Competition Video](#)

Committee: Patty Meyer (Chair), Donna Long, Katie Huck

Submitted by Patty Meyer

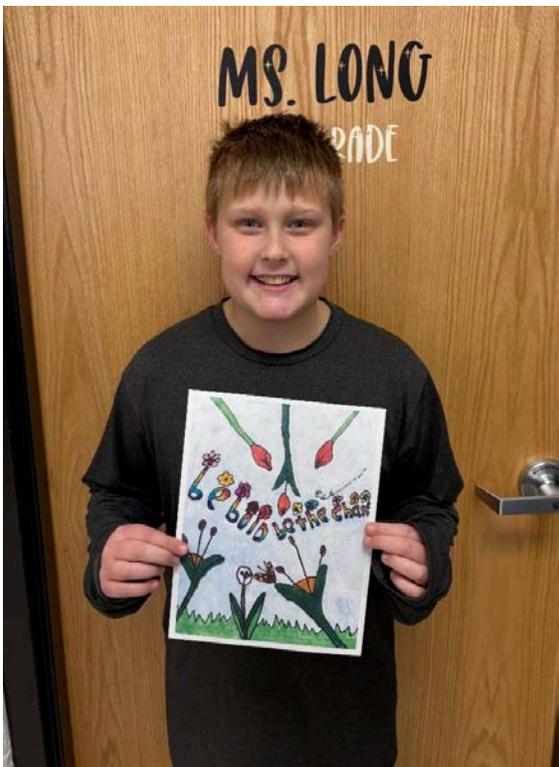




Madison Rose, first place winner, 0-7 age group.



Ruby Hicks, third place winner, 0-7 age group with grandmother, Optimist Kathy Todd.



Leo Duncan, first place winner, 8-11 age group.



Rose Crowell, second place winner, 8-11 age group.



Optimists Patty Meyer, Donna Long, and Debbie Kettler presented awards to Leo Duncan (top picture), Rose Crowell and Hailey Mills at Festus Middle School.

Hailey Mills, third place winner, 8-11 age group.

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

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

A promotional poster for the Optimist International Visual Arts Competition. The background features watercolor palettes and brushes on a wooden surface. At the top center is the Optimist International logo, a stylized 'O' with a 'T' inside a circle. Below it, the text reads "Optimist INTERNATIONAL". The main title is "Optimist International Presents: THE OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION" in blue. The topic is "Topic: Be Bold - Be the Change". On the left is a green square logo with a yellow paper, red clouds, and a pencil, with the text "OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION". In the center is a circular logo with the text "OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FESTUS - CRYSTAL CITY (TCA), MD" around a central emblem. On the right, green text states: "There are two age divisions: up to 7 years of age and 8-11 years of age." At the bottom, blue text says: "For details and registration form visit our website: https://twincityoptimist.org/".

Optimist INTERNATIONAL

Optimist International Presents:
THE OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

Topic: Be Bold - Be the Change

There are two age divisions:
up to 7 years of age
and 8-11 years of age.

For details and registration form visit our website:
<https://twincityoptimist.org/>

Visual Arts Contest Deadline February 9, 2026. Please visit our website, <https://twincityoptimist.org/visual-arts-competition> to access the rules/entry form. Cash prizes will be awarded at the local level for first, second, and third place winners. For further information, please contact project chair Patty Meyer.

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

Feb 6-7, 2026

EMO 2nd Quarter Conference

Virtual

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

JOI Club Members visited Autumn Ridge residents on February 15. Kids and residents enjoyed playing board games and getting to know each other.

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



SAVE THE DATES

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



March 3 Board Meeting
March 5 Meeting - Board Update
March 6 Celebration of Women
March 10 Dine to Donate - Culver's
March 12 Meeting - Aunt Rose Project

March 16 Nomination meeting
March 19 Meeting - TCA Optimist Anniversary
March 26 Evening Meeting
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 - Atlas
April 30 Evening Meeting
May 1-2 EMO 3rd Quarter Conference
May 5 Board Meeting
May 7 Meeting - Oratorical & Essay winners
May 14 Meeting
May 21 Meeting
May 28 Evening Meeting



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

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

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

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

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



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