



#### CLUB OFFICERS

##### President:

Mike Sanders  
[msanders1090@gmail.com](mailto:msanders1090@gmail.com)  
 (816) 668-4150

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

Janet Aliano  
[foursnow@aol.com](mailto:foursnow@aol.com)  
 (816) 905-7182

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

Vince Como  
[Vinniec2002@yahoo.com](mailto:Vinniec2002@yahoo.com)  
 (816) 406-4055

##### Secretary

Denise Woolf  
[rpsunriseoptimists@gmail.com](mailto:rpsunriseoptimists@gmail.com)  
 (816) 728-6750

##### Treasurer

Renee Kerckhoff  
[renee@kdomus.com](mailto:renee@kdomus.com)  
 (816) 813-5162

Optimist International Foundation Rep  
 Janet Jones  
[Jljdgi2015@gmail.com](mailto:Jljdgi2015@gmail.com)  
 (816) 719-5504

##### President:

Raymore Peculiar  
 Sunrise Optimists  
 Foundation  
 Gerry Eftink  
[geftink@comcast.net](mailto:geftink@comcast.net)  
 (816) 591-1682

##### Editor:

Denise Woolf

## PROMISE YOURSELF

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### A Bold New Chapter for WEMO:

#### Governor Designate Brian Mills Shares His Vision

This morning, members of the WEMO District gathered to hear from Brian Mills, Governor Designate for 2025–2026, as he unveiled a forward-thinking roadmap for the future of Optimism in our region. With a focus on collaboration, innovation, and accessibility, Mills' vision promises to energize clubs and empower leaders across the district.

#### Zone Realignment for Stronger Connections

One of the most significant changes announced is the reorganization of WEMO's District Zones—from 15 zones down to 8. This strategic shift gives each Lt. Governor a broader territory but also opens the door for richer collaboration. By connecting more clubs within each zone, leaders can now share best practices more effectively, creating a stronger support network and fostering innovation across communities.

#### Farewell to the Achievements & Awards Program

After careful consideration, the Achievements and Awards program has been suspended. Of the 42 clubs in the WEMO District, only 7 were able to consistently participate in the demanding quarterly reporting process. For many smaller clubs, especially those with fewer than 10 members, the administrative burden proved too great. This change reflects a growing commitment to valuing impact over paperwork and making leadership roles more accessible.

#### Zooming Toward Better Communication

To support the new zone structure, Lt. Governors will now connect via Zoom—making it easier to stay in touch, share updates, and coordinate efforts without the need for travel. This digital shift is a win for efficiency and inclusiveness, especially for clubs spread across rural or remote areas.

#### Quarterly Conferences Get a Makeover

Say goodbye to passive presentations and hello to hands-on learning! Quarterly Conferences will now feature interactive breakout sessions focused on best

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

### Promise Yourself

To be **SO STRONG** that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk **health, happiness and prosperity** to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that **THERE IS SOMETHING IN THEM.**

To look at the **sunny side** of everything and make your optimism come true.

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.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the **GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS** of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance **at all times** and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have **NO TIME TO CRITICIZE OTHERS.**

To be too large for worry, to noble for anger, to strong for fear and **too happy** to permit the presence of trouble.

practices and skill-building. These dynamic gatherings will offer members practical tools and fresh ideas to bring back to their clubs, making each conference a catalyst for growth.

### Growing Clubs in New Ways: Introducing "Club in a Club"

Optimist International is piloting a new initiative called *Club in a Club*—a creative approach to building specialty clubs within existing ones. These niche groups, such as Educators or International members, meet monthly via Zoom and engage in activities tailored to their shared interests. With the support of their sponsoring club, members enjoy the best of both worlds: focused collaboration and broader community engagement.

Brian's message was clear: the future of WEMO is about working smarter, connecting deeper, and embracing change. As we move into this exciting new chapter, every club can thrive in a more flexible, supportive, and innovative environment.

Let's build it together—with optimism at the heart of it all 🧡

### WEMO 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Conference

*Hotel is Capitol Plaza and negotiated room rate is \$105. (Book soon, some have already made reservations.) Phone is 573-635-1234*

*First Timer registration is paid for. Registration includes meals and is \$75 a person.*

*Registration cutoff is September 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

### Upcoming Events

**Tues 9/9** – Tentative: Boys & Girls State Students, Board Member Vote Today

**Tues 9/16** – Students of the Month

**Tues 9/23** – Officer Installation, Catered Dinner, Dogwood Gardens, Peculiar 6pm

**Tues 9/30** - CPR Training at Southside Fire District – let Denise Know if you are coming, pizza provided by Tom Circo



Janet Aliano, Rob Arner, Connie Circo, Tom Circo, Frank Jiminez, Pete Kerckhoff, Renee Kerckhoff, Jim Kopetsky, Ed Lust, Brian Mills, Joe O'Neal, Denise Woolf