

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Mike Sanders
msanders1090@gmail.com
 (816) 668-4150

1st Vice President:

Jim Kopetsky
jandelk@comcast.net
 (816) 719-9789

2nd Vice President:

Tom O'Connor
tom@snprealestate.com
 (816) 406-4055

Secretary

Denise Woolf
rpsunriseoptimists@gmail.com
 (816) 728-6750

Treasurer

Renee Kerckhoff
renee@kdomus.com
 (816) 813-5162

Optimist International Foundation Rep
 Joe O'Neal
jonealnbct5@gmail.com
 (816) 914-2061

President:

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

Editor:

Denise Woolf
<https://raypecsunriseoptimists.com>

PROMISE YOURSELF

RP SUNRISE OPTIMIST, OCTOBER 21, 2025

VOL 10 - ISSUE 4

A Morning of Quick Thinking – then Live!

Today's meeting proved that optimism thrives—even when plans shift at sunrise! As members gathered at the original venue at 6:30 a.m., our resourceful team sprang into action, securing an early opening at Big Biscuit in Raymore. Thanks to their fast thinking and the restaurant's generous hospitality, the meeting went on and the food and service were great! We were especially honored to recognize our Students of the Month, whose families joined us despite the last-minute change. The setup worked very well with the seating arrangements.

Candela Cazoria Benitez

Candela is an exchange student from the scenic coast of Spain, bringing curiosity and courage to Ray-Pec. She's diving into challenging courses like Anatomy, Chemistry, and the collaborative English 4 DRIVE project. Recently, she explored Tennessee and Atlanta with her host parent—and yes, she got the full Buc-ee's experience! One of her biggest cultural surprises? The driving. "In Spain, you walk or bike everywhere," she shared. "Here, you drive everywhere!" Despite the shift, Candela is embracing the adventure with grace and grit.



Scott Bacon, Candela Benitez, Mike Sanders

Zach Houston

Zach is a powerhouse of talent and determination. A gifted instrumentalist, he's involved in nearly every band Ray-Pec offers—concert, marching, percussion, wind—you name it, he plays it, and he competes at the state level.

Academically, Zach just earned a perfect ACT score, a feat that has his family, friends, and the entire district beaming with pride. He's also tackling dual-credit speech and debate, and tutors math at the high school. Looking ahead, Zach plans to study bioengineering at KU, Mizzou, or Baylor, with a focus on developing new chemical treatments. His future is as bright as his sound is bold.



Scott Bacon, Zach Houston, Mike Sanders

Ray-Pec Optimists Shine at Eagles Outreach Gala, Deepening Community Impact

At least 25% of Ray-Pec Optimist Club members played an active role in the recent Eagles Outreach Gala, held October 18th at Centerview Event Center. From planning and volunteering to attending and promoting, their presence was felt throughout the evening. The Club also proudly served as a Gold Level Sponsor, underscoring its commitment to uplifting local families through meaningful partnerships.

A few Optimists serve on the Board of Directors for Eagles Outreach (ECO), a nonprofit dedicated to supporting Cass County residents in need. ECO provides essential resources such as clothing, food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and referrals to other agencies. With over 1,400 families in its database and an average of 235 served monthly, ECO is a vital lifeline for many. Live and Silent Auctions generated \$30K+ during the evenings activities promising smiles as the Thanksgiving season is upon us.

As Optimists, we're proud to strengthen impactful relationships with organizations like Eagles. This collaboration reflects our shared mission to foster hope and practical support in our community. The Gala not only celebrated ECO's work but also highlighted the power of collective action. Through sponsorships, service, and leadership, the Ray-Pec Optimists continue to champion causes that make a tangible difference in the lives of others.



Shari Sanders collects the silent auction sheets for tally



Ed Lust is working the sound board



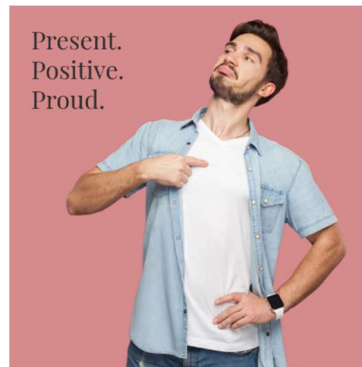
Optimists during Live Auction

High Five Report!

We have a 100% Member Participation Goal for Dime-A-Day Donations of \$36.50. Contact Joe O'Neal at jonealnbct5@gmail.com to make your donation.

64 Members Goal \$2336
1. Aliano, Janet
2. Circo, Connie
3. Circo, Tom
4. Eftink, Gerry
5. Huston, Bob
6. Huston, Jodie
7. Klein, Alan
8. Kopetsky, Eleanor
9. Kopetsky, Jim
10. O'Neal, Joe
11. Rich, Greg
12. Sanders, Mike
13. Sanders, Richard
14. Sanders, Shari
15. Turnbow, Kris
16. Woolf, Denise

These individuals were spotted at today's meeting!



Janet Aliano, Scott Bacon, Connie Circo, Tom Circo, Frank Jiminez, Pete Kerckhoff, Renee Kerckhoff, Alan Klein, Dave McDougal, Brian Mills, Joe O'Neal, Ed Russell, Mike Sanders, Richard Sanders, Denise Woolf

Upcoming Events see <https://raypecsunriseoptimists.com> for details

Sat 10/25 9-4pm Peculiar Harvest Moon Festival, Volunteers needed to man the Optimist Booth

Tue 10/28 – 6:00 pm Raymore Chamber Pumpkin Auction (in lieu of regular Optimist evening meeting)

Tue 11/4 – Lakemary Residential Treatment Center – for dual diagnosed individuals 6yrs – adult

Tue 11/11 – Veterans Day! Recognizing members of our club that have served in the military

Wed 11/12 – SAVE THE DATE! 6:30 pm Graduation Ceremony for Youth Court Trainees at historic courthouse on the square, Harrisonville

Thu 11/13 – SAVE THE DATE! Art Competition at Ray Pec High School, 14 area schools are competing for awards.

Tue 11/18 – Students of the Month and Optimist Member Spotlight – Frank Jiminez and Kathy Lust

Tue 11/25 – Thanksgiving - Breakfast with friends! If you are staying around town for the holidays, join us for a casual breakfast. Bring a friend

Stay tuned to future notifications as we may experiment with breakfast at different locations the month of November.

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

