



# OPTIMIST CLUB of Chippewa Falls

Oct, Nov & Dec  
2024  
Newsletter

## OCT-DEC 2024

### Weekly Club Meetings

6:45 a.m.-7:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
130 W Central St.  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

### OFFICERS

Marty Tlachac, President  
Dina Brennan, Vice Pres.  
Vicki Wilson, Pres.-Elect  
Deb Braden, Treasurer  
Jack Halbleib, Secretary  
Cathy Greenseth, Past Pres.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Marty, 2nd year  
Lisa Thelen, 2nd year  
Nancy Post, 2nd year  
Tom Eder 1st year  
Laurie Ewings 1st year  
Bob Nelson, 1st year

### Club Foundation Board

Ralph Cushman  
Jack Halbleib  
Joe Niese  
Dave Schaller  
Marty Tlachac, Ex-Officio

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

#### January

Jan 4 - Lisa Thelen  
Jan 5 - Marty Tlachac  
Jan 6 - Paul McDonald  
Jan 8 - Rex Bentley  
Jan 9 - Cathy Greenseth  
Jan 13 - Terri Koca

#### February

Feb 3 - Carleen Sterner  
Feb 5 - Dina Brennan  
Feb 14 - Yvonne Zwiefelhofer  
Feb 22 - Bob Nelson  
Feb 25 - Laurie Ewings

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

## President Marty's Message

Greetings OPTIMISTS and to all our SPONSORS AND our Community of Chippewa Falls,

It is extremely gratifying to share a few thoughts on such a delightful subject of Optimism. The new year started off great with our induction banquet in late September. Cathy did a great job along with her committee introducing the new board members as well as giving us a great program. The entire night was delightful as well a special acknowledgment to our senior members and a bright welcome to me as the club president elect, all the guests and our Lt. governor.

This message is about gratefulness from me to all that are involved in our mission in serving our kids of the community. Not only the special extra sacrifice of time by our board and regular members, but all involved in the special projects from the Youth of the month to the dictionary project and all the other special projects that the optimists are involved. It is evident that we certainly are not a complacent organization that exist as a number in our zone. The entire community recognizes who we stand for when we identify who we are as optimists in our daily service with the people of the area.

Speaking of being grateful, we welcome Jeff Schafer as a new Optimist member. Welcome Jeff!

We are in the middle of a very special SEASON in the calendar year and we have great opportunities to share with everyone what this means to all of us as citizens and active players in Chippewa Falls and beyond. Optimism by itself can't go very well, except by the spirit of each individual. I encourage each and every member to recognize your very special talents and put them to use to make this year exceptional. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE as the spirit works through people like you to change our community by the power you reflect into it every day.

Thank you for your commitment to being Optimistic. Friends like you are making it possible to proclaim the Bright Light of optimism across our community and beyond places unknown.

Sincerely,

Marty Tlachac, President  
[ChippewaFallsOptimistClub1@gmail.com](mailto:ChippewaFallsOptimistClub1@gmail.com)

**HAPPY OPTIMIST NEW YEAR!**  
October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025



*President Marty Tlachac*





## Christmas Party Time on December 18



*Club members ham it up at our Christmas Breakfast Celebration.*



Right: The church guys: Rick, Kevin and Ed, made us blueberry pancakes and sausage for breakfast. They know how to spoil us. We were happy to provide them with a donation with our appreciation from President Marty .



During our meeting we played Christmas games and won prizes. Louise made sure that everyone won at least one prize.

One game involved us finishing word phrases with what Louise had written down. This was not an easy task. The other game required us to match the Christmas phrases to an answer quiz. We had a lot of good laughs with the answers and prizes.

Tom Cushman wrote some great Christmas songs and used Artificial Intelligence for the music. He played one of the songs, called Hometown Christmas for us. It is so good and reminds you of Chippewa Falls. Great job, Tom!

### OCT-DEC 2024

#### THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS!

#### OCT PROGRAMS

**Oct 2** Cathy passing the gavel to Marty  
**Oct 9** Open Mic  
**Oct 16** Open Mic  
**Oct 23** Dictionary Project  
**Oct 30** YOM Andrew Davis

#### NOV PROGRAMS

**Nov 6** Jackie Boos Market on River  
**Nov 13** YOM Grant Smiskey  
**Nov 20** International Students Breakfast  
**Nov 27** Breakfast with Hallie Club

#### DEC PROGRAMS

**Dec 4** Flags 4 the Fallen  
**Dec 11** YOM Zoey Kleinschmidt  
**Dec 18** Christmas Party  
**Dec 25** Christmas-No Meeting

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**January**  
**Jan 1** No meeting  
**Jan 2** Breakfast at Chippewa Family Restaurant  
**Jan 8**  
**Jan 15** YOM  
**Jan 22**  
**Jan 29** Governor Angie on Optimist Day 2/2

**Our club rang the bell for the Salvation Army on December 13 and 14 at the Family Fare store in Chippewa Falls. Thank you to everyone who filled thirteen of the one hour shifts.**



*Jack Halbleib and Carleen Sterner having fun.*



*Louise Bentley our organizer.*





## Youth of the Month Zoey Kleinschmidt on December 11

OCT-DEC 2024

### OPTIMIST MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

#### OCTOBER

Nancy Post, 18 years  
Ali Sullivan, 5 years  
Troy Dostal, 2 years  
Laurie Ewings, 2 years  
Carleen Sterner, 2  
years  
Lisa Thelen, 2 years

#### NOVEMBER

Julia Jilek-Proue, 8  
years  
Keith Hutchinson, 7  
years  
Amanda Blonigen, 6  
years  
Eddie Crise, 3 years  
Katie Crise, 3 years  
Scott Marty, 2 years

#### SECRET

#### HANDSHAK9FG

Oct 2– Mike McGinley  
to Laurie Ewing

Oct 9– No Secret  
Handshaker

Oct 16– Angie Riemer  
to Tom Eder

Oct 23– Jayden Stolp  
to Jack Halbleib

Oct 30– Bob Nelson to  
Nancy Post

Nov 6– Cathy  
Greenseth to Jayden  
Stolp

Nov 13– Louise Bentley  
to Tom Cushman

Nov 20– None

Nov 27– None

Dec 3– Jack Halbleib to  
Dave Schaller

Dec 11– Deb Braden to  
Dave Schaller

Dec 18– Marty Tlachac  
to Cathy Greenseth



*Above: Zoey Kleinschmidt with her dad, Rikki. Congratulations Zoey and good luck with all of your future endeavors!*

Zoey is the daughter of Rikki and Hope Kleinschmidt and has seven siblings. She is a senior and a honor roll student at the Chippewa Falls Senior High School. Zoey has volunteered at the animal shelter and is involved in Art Club and FFA.

She has joined the Army National Guard and will leave July 2 for training. On the completion of her training she will attend the University of River Falls in the fall striving for a biology major with the ultimate goal of a veterinarian. Joining the Army National Guard has already opened opportunities such as addressing state representatives who were guests at the school.

In her free time Zoey works at the Culver's Restaurant in Chippewa Falls, enjoys spending time with friends, playing video games and sketching.



## Flags 4 the Fallen Club Presentation on December 4



*Teacher John Kinville with students Jack Kinville and Josiah Isenberger accept a donation from our Optimist Club President Marty for the Flags 4 the Fallen.*

In June 2024, Chippewa Falls High School's Flags 4 the Fallen Club visited Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Their group of 53 students and parents visited the USS Arizona and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. They visited the gravesites of four Chippewa Falls fallen soldiers who were killed in World War II: Harry Kramer (December 7th at Pearl Harbor; Desmond Kurth (Iwo Jima), Robert Baldeshwiler (Northern Mariana Islands), and Phillip Ryan (Okinawa).

Our club is proud to help sponsor this amazing club. What a great way to learn history and honor our local Wisconsin soldiers.



## Breakfast with Hallie Club at CF Family Restaurant

OCT-DEC 2024

### BOOST WINNERS

**Oct 2** – Dave Schaller

**Oct 9** – Vicki Wilson

**Oct 16** – Tom  
Coushman

**Oct 23** – Bob Nelson

**Oct 30** – Jack Halbleib

**Nov 6** – Jayden Stolp

**Nov 13** – Cathy  
Greenseth

**Nov 20** - None

**Nov 27** - None

**Dec 4** – Cathy  
Greenseth

**Dec 11** - Nadine  
Bresina

**Dec 18** - Bob  
Nelson



### Celebrating Thanksgiving Together

Attending the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club's Wednesday, November 27 morning meeting held at the Chippewa Falls Family Restaurant were left to right: Club member and Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan Optimists, District Governor Angie Riemer, Club President Marty Tlachac, Hallie Club Member and Great Plains Regional Vice President Jodi Arriola and District Lt. Governor Louise Bentley who is also one of our Chippewa Falls Club members.

Also visiting at the meeting were the members of the Hallie Optimist Club. We are always so thankful for the opportunity to get together with fellow Optimist.

## International Students Breakfast

On November 20, ten international students, representing nine countries who are attending McDonell Central and Chippewa Falls High, along with their host families were invited to attend our weekly club meeting.

The club gifted the students with a t-shirt that has a graphic of the state of Wisconsin and a star pinning the location of Chippewa Falls. The students who attended addressed the club sharing differences in their cultures and what they like about ours.

All the students who have never experienced snow were looking forward to seeing it but were not enjoying the cold. Before the day was over they all got their wish as it snowed for the first time this season the day of the breakfast.



### 2025 EVENTS

**\* Jan 2: New Years  
Breakfast at  
Chippewa Family  
Restaurant**

**\* Feb 2 Optimist  
Day**

### ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY OUR CLUB:

**Flags 4 the Fallen**

**Agnes Table**

**Salvation Army**



We inducted into our club, new member Paul McDonald on November 13. Paul is sponsored by Cathy Greenseth. Cathy also sponsored Paul's wife, Edie who was not in attendance.

Welcome to the club Paul & Edie! We are so happy to have you! We are so happy to have you!





#### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

**Horan Funeral Home**  
420 Bay St.  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-723-4404  
[Website](#)

**Micon Cinemas**  
Mike Olson  
475 Chippewa Falls Drive  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715.720.2291  
[Website](#)

**On-Site Chiropractic**  
Dr. Amanda Blonigen  
2029 Co. Hwy I Ste 5  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
715.382.6864  
[Website](#)

**Ozark National Life Insurance/  
N.I.S. Financial Services, Inc.**  
Marty Tlachac  
PO Box 361  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715.720.8726/715.404.0720

**Post Glass and Mirror**  
35 E Park Ave  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
715.723.867  
[Website](#)

**Sokup's Market**  
624 N Bridge St  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715.723.4953

## Youth of the Month - Grant Smiskey on Nov 13

Grant is the son of Seth and Tracey Smiskey and has one sister and brother. He is an honor roll student at McDonell Central Catholic High School, president of the Honor Society, member of Kolbe Club, student ambassadors, Youth Rotary Club and Honor Council. Grant participates in athletics and is team captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams.

Andrew's community activities and volunteer work includes: serving Mass and is a lector at St. Charles Borromeo Church, prepares and serves meals at Agnes Table, building beds with Sleep In Heavenly Peace, various community projects with National Honor Society, Kolbe Club, and student ambassadors. He also assists in coaching younger grades in football and basketball at McDonell.

Recent awards and honors he has received include 2023 Conference Offensive player of the year, All Conference football and baseball recognitions. He would like to attend St. Mary's University in Winona majoring in finance and business with hopes of going into the wealth management/financial planning industry.



*Pictured above is Seth, Collin, Grant and Tracey Smiskey. Congratulations Grant!*

In his free time he enjoys playing golf, fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family.



[Follow the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club on Facebook.](#)

## Jackie Boos, WI Farmers Union Facilities Director

Jackie Boos attended our weekly meeting on Nov 6 and updated club members on the Market on River building restoration. The building was purchased by the WI Farmers Union where the second floor is used for their corporate headquarters. The third floor has been converted into leased apartments and one larger area will be a vacation getaway and posted on Airbnb.

The first floor's amazing renovation of wood floors and welcoming atmosphere is well thought through. Restaurants and retail businesses have already opened for business.

Thank you to Jackie Boos and Director of Development Danielle Endvick for their offer of taking the club members for a tour of the Market on River building located on Business 29 across the street from the Riverfront Park.

For more information you can email Jackie at:  
[jboos@WisconsinFarmersUnion.com](mailto:jboos@WisconsinFarmersUnion.com)



*Thanks Jackie for all the great information and also giving a few of our members a wonderful tour!*

**See more pictures of Market on River on page 9.**



## Halloween Trunk or Treat with the Moose

This Halloween our Optimist Club decided to join forces with the Moose Lodge and give out candy to the local kids for the Trunk or Treat event. Due to the rainy weather, the First Presbyterian Church set us all up inside with tables. We were nice and warm and handed out a giant bowl of candy to all the children that attended.

There were some really } ^æ costumes and we had a lot of fun!

It's , æ Å^, æåã \* to be able to work together with the women of the Moose Lodge!



*Moose member and former WINUM Optimist Governor, Sue Carlson with some of her grandchildren.*



*Louise Bentley, Angie Riemer & Vicki Wilson from our club (middle back row) with the ladies of the Moose Lodge enjoy Oct 31 Trunk or Treat.*

## Youth of the Month - Andrew Davis on October 30

Andrew Davis was recognized on Wednesday, October 30 as the club's Youth of the Month. Andrew is the son of Scott and Nicole Davis. He is an honor roll student at Chippewa Falls Senior High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, participates in the Cardinal Leaders Club, the Ski and Snowboard Club and mentors a student at the Chippewa Falls Middle School.

During his sophomore and junior years of high school, he was a member of the Flags 4 the Fallen Club. As a part of this club he researched veterans who grew up in the Chippewa Falls area, who fought in World War II, and who gave up their lives to protect our country. Last summer, the Flags 4 the Fallen group traveled to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to pay their respects and visit the graves at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

In the community, Andrew volunteers at the Veterans Home and is a member of Central Lutheran Youth Group. He has also volunteered at the Feed My People Food Bank and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. His future plans include attending either University of Minnesota-Twin Cities or the University of Wisconsin - Madison to



*Pictured above is Andrew Davis with his mother Nicole. Congratulations Andrew!*

major in biology, with the goal of going to medical school and pursuing a career in medicine.

In his free time, Andrew likes hanging out with friends, attending sporting events, spending time outdoors, skiing, playing with his dog and spending time with his family.





# WINUM District Conference In Manitowoc on November 1st & 2nd

Our WINUM Governor and a Chippewa Falls Optimist Club member, Angie Riemer lead our first WINUM conference of this Optimist year. We received great information from 10 speakers.

Jodi Arriola did a training on growth which included information on retention and growing our clubs. We need to use Grouper and have all members fill out the Grouper form. It is a way to have our OI annual memberships paid.

Four Core Values: Optimism, Respect, Integrity and Global Community were discussed during the conference.

Amber Dawgs from “Grow it Forward” in Manitowoc was our guest speaker and had an incredible personal story of how she started this amazing non-profit organization and how she sustains it today. This is a new way to supply fresh food to people in need. We all need an Amber in our communities.



~~XXXX~~ Governor Angie Riemer æ å Rømev



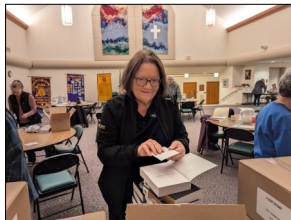
*Jodi Arriola, International Vice President, giving a presentation.*



Ann Sheahan displays how each Zone  
 ā á â ã ä å is doing!

## Our Annual Dictionary Project

(In memory of former club member, Gary Garton)



*Club members work to put the Optimist Creed labels inside all the dictionaries before delivery.*



*Jim Falls Elementary school*



*Halmstad Elementary school*



*Bob Nelson, Nancy Post and Vicki Wilson were a few of our club members that traveled to local schools to deliver dictionaries to the third graders in the Chippewa County.*



## Our Optimist Club Serving at Agnes Table

On Oct 10<sup>th</sup> our Optimist Club served at Agnes Table in their former location at Trinity United Methodist Church. We prepared pork chops, au gratin potatoes and green beans. It is a lot of work but so fun to be together and give back to the families in the community.



*Keith & Mary Hutchison, Vicki Wilson, Laurie Ewings and Dina Brennan prepare the evening meal.*



*Lisa Thelen, Scot Palecek, Mark Brennan, Vicki Wilson, Monica Palecek, Nancy Post & Cathy Greenseth help serve the meal.*



*Carleen Sterner, Diane Meyer and Laurie Ewings entertained the people while they ate dinner.*



### 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, too noble for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

--Optimist International





## Market on River newly renovated building



Owned by the Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) is the newly remodeled Market on River.



Left: WFU corporate headquarters is located on the second floor of their building. Pictured left to right are Danielle Endvick and Jackie Boos.



Club member Nancy Post checks out the kitchen area of the space available for travelers to book through Airbnb.



Rooms adjacent to the WFU corporate headquarters may be rented out for conference meetings and special events.



The living room area of the Airbnb overlooks the Chippewa River and River Front Park.



A convenient elevator takes you to Airbnb on the third floor.



**Chippewa Falls Club**

P.O. Box 64 • Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

### 2024-2025 Essay Contest and Scholarship Opportunity



**Attention:** All principals, guidance counselors and teachers, we would like your students to participate in the **Optimist International Essay Contest to potentially earn a \$2,500 scholarship. Please encourage middle and high school students.**

Any youth under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2024 who has not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent may enter. *There is no minimum age.*

Any student interested should submit an essay on the topic:

#### **"How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success"**

**Deadline:** Essays are due before or on **January 24, 2025**

- *Emailed entries sent no later than midnight on January 24.*
- *Late entries will not be accepted.*
- *Postal mailed entries must be postmarked no later than January 24, 2025.*
- Read all entry details and rules on the application form enclosed.
- Note: Copy of birth certificate required of first place winner at the club level.

#### **Chippewa Fall Club Level Prizes:**

- First place winner – medallion and \$200
- Second place winner – medallion and \$100
- Third place winner – medallion and \$50

Club levels prizes will be awarded at the **Wednesday, February 19, 2025** Chippewa Falls Optimist **6:45AM** club meeting held in the First Presbyterian Church gathering space. The three winners will read their essays to club members at that time.

**WINUM District Level Prizes:** The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club first place winner's essay will advance to the WINUM District level competition to be judged along with winners from other optimist clubs in the district. The district first place winner will be awarded a \$2,500 college scholarship, second place \$1000 and third place \$500 on April 26, 2025 in Stevens Point, WI.

#### **How to enter:**

- **Read and follow all the contest rules carefully.**
- Complete application form and essay before the deadline.
- Send by email to: [cgreenseth@gmail.com](mailto:cgreenseth@gmail.com)
- OR by postal mail **BEFORE** deadline:  
ATTN: Cathy Greenseth  
Chippewa Falls Optimist Club  
3201 Cottage Ln  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**If you need more information, contact Chippewa Falls Optimist member:**  
Mrs. Cathy Greenseth at [cgreenseth@gmail.com](mailto:cgreenseth@gmail.com)



# Revised 2024-2025 Optimist International Essay Scholarship Competition Application

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age on Oct 1, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enter any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Contestant Agreement:** I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all the requirements. I understand entries will be run through plagiarism and AI detection software.

Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian Permission:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture or video of my son/daughter, for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo or video in any publication they see fit.

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this scholarship contest.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number \_\_\_\_\_

Language: ☐ English, or if District language is different: ☐ French or ☐ Spanish

## Official Topic: "How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success"

Each contestant must be given this copy of the rules and complete the entry form, above.

### Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay Contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club (preliminary contest) and District (scholarship competition). The winner of a local club contest advances to the District Scholarship Competition.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's Dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. All District-level contests must have a minimum of three (3) contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

### Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of **19** as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) **and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada.** There is no minimum age. Contestants must enter in the District in which they reside. United States contestants attending school on a military installation outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record. Contestants residing in non-Districted areas where there are no Optimist Clubs are not eligible for competition.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's essay contest during any given year. (October 1st - September 30th)
3. No individual having previously won a District Essay scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must provide proof of age and identification in the form of a copy of either their birth certificate or passport before participating. A copy of the Club winner's document will be submitted to the District contest.

### Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official contest topic for the current year.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. The official topic should be at the top of title page and at the top of page 1. (penalty of 3 points)
4. The word count must also be listed at the top of page 1 (penalty of 5 points)
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography, or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word. (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit – French essays will allow 50 words over/under before deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.

7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly, using a recognized citation format. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA, APA, Chicago style). Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No reference can be made in the essay that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)
9. An essay should be written in English, or it may be written in either French or Spanish if the language used is accepted by the District of entry.
10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

#### **Section IV – Judging**

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists. (Friends of Optimists are excluded and can be used as judges).
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be anonymized and assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essays bearing only the assigned numbers.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare the essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

#### **Section V – Scoring of Contest**

1. Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
2. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 30 points
3. Creativity: 15 points
4. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points

5. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
6. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in a proper format): 5 points

#### **Section VI – Penalties**

1. Failure to list official topic on the title page and at the top of page 1 of the essay: 3 points
2. Failure to identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay, doubled-spaced and single-sided: 5 pts. per infraction (15 pt. max)
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 words: 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit. French Essays will allow 50 words over/under for the deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction based on degree.

#### **Section VII - Awards**

1. Club level – official medallion and/or certificate
2. Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay contest in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.
3. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner.
  - A. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundations in the United States and Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada.
  - B. Scholarships awarded are for use only at a college, university, or trade school.
  - C. All scholarships will be payable only to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
  - D. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
  - E. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

The contest chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The District Chair is the final authority, and no appeals will be recognized.



#### **HOW TO ENTER:**

Students are to enter through a local Optimist Club in their area. Most local clubs run their Essay contest from October to the end of January. Judging at the local level is completed in February. Late entries are not accepted.

Once submitted, essays may not be returned. Standings are not reported to applicants. The sponsoring club will contact the winners.

Name of local Club:

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

How to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In-person to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions, if any: