



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

August 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

Message From President Carroll Metzger



Greetings:

Last week was an eventful one as we strived to serve the Optimist mission “friend of youth.” The JOI Club kids, under the direction of Adult Advisor Debbie Schumaker and Chairman Carol Schanz, shopped and delivered school supplies for kids in foster care. What is better than kids helping kids? On Saturday, August 5, more than 20 Optimist members, under the direction of Katie Huck, showed up at Larry G. Crites Memorial Park for Family Time in the Park, a planned free event for kids. While we did not have a great showing of kids, we did have a successful event. Success is defined as the accomplishment of one’s goals. That we surely did! Being true optimists, members made the best of the morning, playing games, eating snow cones and enjoying the fun balloon characters designed by Keran Fears. Friendship and fellowship at its best. This event helped us learn about various ways in which we can provide and engage kids in healthy activities. It is my hope that we continue this activity again next year.

Thanks.

Carroll

Welcome New Member Katie Haseltine



Katie Haseltine was inducted into the TCA Optimist Club on August 17, 2023. She is sponsored by Carol Schanz.

August 3, 2023 TCA Board of Directors' Meeting Highlights

Club received a thank you note from Atlas Youth Outreach for the club's \$500 donation.

President Carroll Metzger signed up the club for OI membership drive.

DeSoto Head Start will host a ceremony for our members to recognize our recent purchase of picnic tables and other outdoor equipment. Ceremony will be held on September 14 at 2pm in Desoto Head Start facility. All are welcome.

Club members delivered menstrual period products, and puberty educational books to the Aunt Rose Project.

Club will hold its second annual sponsor appreciation lunch on September 21.

Dictionary project will be headed by Allie Kister and Laura Lohman.

A \$500 donation for Second Hand Heros was approved by the board.

Dues will be sent middle of August.

August 10, 2023
Jefferson College Foundation
Speaker Blake Tilley, Executive Director
Development & Strategic Communications



The TCA Optimist Club has been a proud contributor to the Jefferson College Foundation for 25 years, providing annual scholarships to students at Jefferson College. Our club contributes to a term scholarship program which is renewed each year. Currently, we keep this scholarship funded up to \$2500.

Blake shared with our members the expansion of the college's Vet Tech program which started in 1976. The college is hoping to open the 33% expansion project in Fall 2024. Since the beginning of this program, 1800 animals have been saved. The program takes in twelve dogs and 8 cats every eight weeks and animals are available for adoption.

For more information about the Jefferson College please visit: www.jeffco.edu.

August 17, 2023
Old Bags Auction

Old Bags Auction

Date: Thursday August 17, 2023
Auction will take place during our
regular noon meeting at Taytro's



INVITE A FRIEND

To donate a purse/bag
or contents
Please contact:

Barb Schmidt 314-603-1099 or b.schmidt70@yahoo.com

Old Bags Auction earned **\$2035**. Thanks to Project Chair Barb Schmidt and Auctioneer Karen Huskey. We appreciate the volunteers who assisted with the auction, those who donated bags, and members who kept the bids going to achieve record earnings.

Proceeds from this "internal fundraiser" benefits our general account which finances the administration of our club.



All matter of boxes and bags found their way to our annual Old Bags Auction. Ice cream maker, luggage, purses, paper bags, and plain cardboard boxes were included. Gift cards, cash, holiday decor, wine, snacks, and trinkets were among the treasures found in the bags.







**August 18-20, 2023
East Missouri Optimist District
4th Quarter Convention**

Presenting your 2023-24 East Missouri District Governor
Phyllis Neff. Congratulations, you are ready, willing, and able to lead
the district to great things.



I am honored to lead the East Missouri district as your Governor for 2023-2024. My focus this year is retention, engagement, growth and communication. We all want and need new members but the key to real growth is giving them the opportunity to volunteer and become engaged with our club and projects. Seasoned members have wisdom and understand our mission while our new members bring excitement and new ideas to keep our projects fresh and current. Both new and seasoned members working together will help us to grow as members, a club, a district and internationally.

Our communication is so important in our growth, retention, and engagement. First, there are two kinds of communication, one is communicating to the members, and another is communicating to the public. While communicating to the members, we must realize that some of our members prefer email, some prefer a phone call, some prefer a text, or Facebook, so therefore we need to communicate in multiple ways. Marketing is communicating to the public so that we shout to the world what we do and how Optimists do benefit our youth, our community and ourselves. Marketing will attract others to become Optimists or support Optimists' mission.

My dream is that our District Conferences will be attended by many because they are fun and educational so that we all can be better Optimists for our youth, our

community and ourselves. So, save the date for our next conference, October 13 & 14, 2024, in Columbia, Missouri.

Thank you,

Phyllis Neff

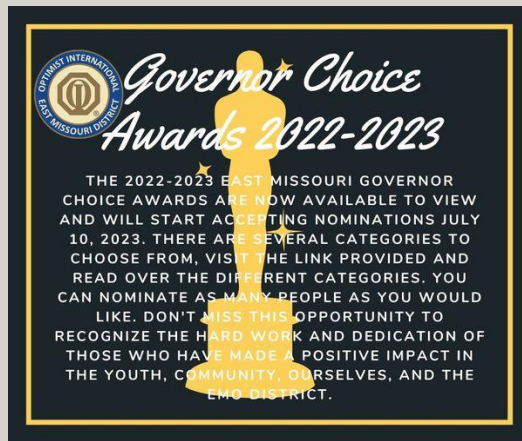
EMO Governor Designate

636-795-3665

call or text



Phyllis will be joined by Secretary/Treasurer Ellen Bridgewater and Governor Elect Jean Naeger. TCA will be well represented in the coming years.



And the winner is...

**Congratulations to
Beth Watts and Jean
Naeger Governor
Choice Award winners.**

Outstanding Rookie Optimist of the Year Award

This award is given to the Rookie who demonstrates exceptional dedication and commitment to their Club from the start. They actively participate in Club events and quickly assume significant roles within their Club and/or District. Their enthusiasm and passion for "Bringing Out the Best in Youth, Our Community & Ourselves" is evident from the beginning. (Nominations may come from any East Missouri Optimist member.)

Beth joined the club in May of 2022. Since that time, she has shown her organizational skills by joining the "party" committee and providing decorations and games for celebratory meetings. She volunteered and individually organized the club's storage facility, providing a list with a description of where and what we have in storage. She volunteered and has taken over our raffle program, a fund-raising program, which has been successful in being over budget in income! She is managing our third and last raffle of this year in August.

Beth is a member who knows her organizational skills and gives generously of her talents to the club.

East Missouri District Governor Ernie Wren pictured with Beth.





Don Sievers Presidential Award

The Don Sievers Presidential Award recognizes individuals who, like Don, embody the spirit of Optimism through kindness, gentleness, and the power of building meaningful relationships. Don's impact extended far beyond his community in Jackson, Missouri, as he inspired others within the East Missouri Optimist District and Optimist International. This award is a testament to the transformative power of nurturing positivity and helping others realize their potential. The recipient of this award serves as a shining example of how simple acts of kindness and optimism can create a ripple effect that changes the world for the better.

(Nominations may come from past or current East Missouri District Governors only.)

Jean has served this last year as Lt. Governor and Convention Chair. But she is also the "caretaker" of the East Missouri Optimist District. Jean ensures that members' needs are met, that communication is kept alive, and that time frames are met. She has been a vital part of budgetary oversight this past year, providing insight and recommendations to me as Governor. I have watched her negotiate hotel rates and services to the benefit of the district and members, ensuring that contract stipulations are met. She truly is a Governor's best advisor in all areas. This district would not be as strong as it is today without Jean, and she is more than deserving of the honor placed with the Don Sievers Award.

East Missouri District Governor Ernie Wren pictured with Jean.



TCA Optimists attend EMO Convention



TCA Optimists attend EMO Banquet

EMO's 4th quarter convention service project brought in 206 jars of peanut butter and \$155 cash donations. Thanks to club members who donated.



August 24, 2023
I Support the Girls
Speaker Deanna Heselbarth





Members donated 139 bras and 9 pairs of new underwear to I Support the Girls.

Thursday Aug. 24
I Support the Girls
 Bring your clean, gently used bras to noon meeting. Our speaker will be collecting bras for girls in foster care and victims of sex trafficking.
 Any question, contact
 Program Chair Amy Baum

*I Support the Girls was founded in 2015 by Dana Marlow in Maryland. She visited a store to buy new bras because of a large weight loss and asked if they knew anywhere she could donate her too big but perfectly good ones. The saleswoman said four words: "Homeless women need bras."

Dana made a request on her personal FB page. In less than two weeks, she had packaged & delivered over 7,000 products to a homeless shelter in D.C.

* I Support the Girls is a non-profit organization with 58 affiliates throughout the world. Our global affiliates are located in Pakistan, Manila, Germany and Australia.

*Each chapter of I Support the Girls donates their items received to local social service agencies. At the moment, I have three organizations that I am partnering with to provide donations.

THE COVERING HOUSE - provides residential housing for youth who are survivors of sex trafficking as well as providing counseling, education & supportive services.

<https://www.thecoveringhouse.org/>

KATHY J. WEINMAN SHELTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - provides shelter for abused women & their children

<https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/human-services/women-and-children-services1/>

SECOND HAND HEROS - Store in Crystal City. All volunteer-based organization that provides free essentials & resources to those in need

Found on Facebook as Second Hand Heros

I collect new and gently used bras (of any style), new underwear (of any style) and individually sealed tampons and pads and distribute them to girls and women experiencing homelessness, impoverishment or distress. (Please note that I WILL accept opened boxes of feminine products as long as each item is individually wrapped).

I do not currently have my own I Support the Girls FB page set up yet but I will certainly provide that to you as soon as I do. I do, however, have an Amazon wish list created if you would like to share that - https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/VPNJJD3SEMWG?ref=wl_share

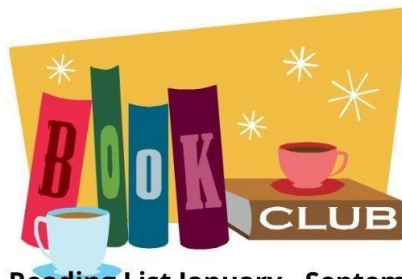
Thank you again for the opportunity to make this presentation to your group today.

Deanna Heselbarth

CLUB PROJECTS

Book Club

Below is Book Club reading list for the remaining Optimist year.
Each meeting will we discuss the previous month's book.



Reading List January - September 2023

January - *One More River to Cross* by Jane Kirkpatrick

February- *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham

March - *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult

April - *Unbroken* by Laura Hildebrand

May - *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

June - *The Cabinet of Curiosities* by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child

July - *The Whole Town is Talking* by Fannie Flagg

August - *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett

September - *Dandelion Summer* by Lisa Wingate

Book Club will meet after our club meetings at 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.

Community Events/Projects

Twin City Area Optimist Club

FAMILY TIME IN THE PARK

FREE

DATE: Saturday August 5, 2023
TIME: 10 am - 12 pm
PLACE: Larry Crites Memorial Park,
Festus, MO
Pavilion by the gazebo



Optimist Creed Scavenger Hunt
10 winners will be part of a video

PARENTS AND/OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WILL
NEED TO BE PRESENT TO SIGN WAIVER AND
PHOTO CONSENT FORM.



- Refreshments provided
- Family friendly activities
- Children's treat bags, while supply lasts

CONTACT: Optimist Katie Huck for more information
314-520-6340

Family Time in the Park

What we may have lacked in attendance we more than made up with member enthusiasm, camaraderie, and learning how well we work together as a team.





TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB

FOOD DRIVE



Let's Spread
Kindness to
Others!

Brenden's Friday Backpacks Program

uses single serve,

non-perishable, kid-friendly foods

- single-serve cereal
- breakfast or granola bars
- canned soup and pasta
- pudding and fruit cups
- individual snacks such as crackers, cookies, chips, Rice Krispie treats, trail mix, etc.
- 16-18 oz plastic jars of peanut butter for long breaks

1600 kids served weekly!

AUGUST 26, 2023
8 AM - 12 PM

Most Needed Items

Single serve, kid friendly food. Refer to list on right.

Drop Off Location



Walmart

650 S. Truman Blvd.
Festus, MO

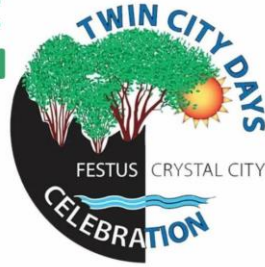
Optimist members will collect
donations outside both store entrances

For more information please contact:

Optimists Debbie Hogenmiller 314-805-0560 or Kirstie Zych 314-221-3708

Please contact Debbie Hogenmiller or Kirstie Zych to volunteer to take a shift. Donations will be accepted at both Walmart doors. Remember to wear your Optimist shirts!

**LET'S STRIKE
UP SOME FUN**



FAMILY BOWLING EVENT

DATE: Friday September 8, 2023
TIME: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Quonset Lanes
2004 N. Truman Blvd.
Crystal City

**Per person:
one FREE Game
FREE shoe rental**

For more information contact:
Optimist Debbie Hogenmiller 314-805-0560

Sponsored by:



This is the second year our club has sponsored a Twin City Days bowling event. Debbie Hogenmiller will need assistance with this project.

Fundraisers



Dining Dilemma

What's for dinner?

Answer:

Purchase raffle chances for restaurant gift cards. Win over \$500 in gift cards (plus a few surprises)

Drawing Aug. 31, 2023

One entry for every \$10 donation:
Venmo @TC-Optimist 2122 or
check to TCA Optimist Club,
P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028
(include your name and phone number)

Beth Watts is chairing this fundraiser and will be selling chances at meetings starting July 27, 2023.



MOUSE RACES

**Twin City Area
Optimist Club
Fall Fundraiser**

DATE: Saturday September 16, 2023

TIME: 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm)

PLACE: Festus VFW
900 VFW Dr., Festus, MO

Non-Refundable Tickets

\$25 in advance

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER

**RESERVE A TABLE OF 8 IN
ADVANCE FOR YOUR GROUP**



Purchase tickets by phone: 636-222-4344

Venmo: @TC-Optimist2122

Mail: P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028

**Tickets include: beer & soda
snacks are welcome**

*Thank you for
supporting our kids.*

Carol Schanz is chairing the Mouse Race fundraiser. Invite your family and friends to join you for this fun event. Please contact Carol or Barb Schmidt to volunteer to work this event.

JOI Club

On August 3, 2023, the JOI Club shopped for foster kids in Jefferson County. Dorean Dow, Assistant Superintendent of Northwest R-1 asked the JOI Club to shop for school supplies. \$342.00 was spent on school supplies to be given to foster children.

The JOI club will be voting for cabinet members during their September meeting.



5th Annual BB 5K



**5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk
Saturday, 10AM
October 21, 2023
At Larry Crites Memorial Park**

Cost of 5K - \$30
Includes t-shirt, certificate of appreciation, snacks, fruit and Behavioral Health information
Unable to walk, T-shirts may be purchased for \$20
Student cost without t-shirt \$10
Sweatshirts only-\$30 or \$45 as participant
Checks to TCA Optimist at PO Box 475, Festus MO 63028 or Venmo @JOI63028

VISIT: <https://twincityoptimist.org/annual-bb-5k-walk-1> for waiver/consent form

Student scholarship winners of funds raised will be announced after the 5K

Contact information:

**Debbie Schumaker 314-471-7213,
Carol Schanz 314-222-4344, or
Katie Huck 314-520-6340**

**ALL AGES ARE
WELCOME TO
PARTICIPATE**

BB 5K Walk

Please visit TCA website to download registration and waivers forms:

<https://twincityoptimist.org/annual-bb-5k-walk-1>

*Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor*

*Carol Schanz
JOI Chair*



SAVE THE DATES



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

August 26 Brenden's Friday Backpacks Community Food Drive - Co-Chairs Debbie Hogenmiller and Kirstie Zych
 August 31 Raffle drawing - Chair Beth Watts
 September 5 (Tuesday) Board Meeting - home of Marsha Greenstreet
 September 8 Twin City Days Bowling Event-Chair Debbie Hogenmiller
 September 14 Ceremony for the club's equipment donation at DeSoto HeadStart 2 pm
 September 16 Fall Fundraiser- Mouse Races - Chair Carol Schanz
 September 28 Installation of Officers



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

The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at Poppy's Parlor. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to order food, please contact Phyllis Neff on Monday prior to meeting.

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

Our VENMO account, **@TC-Optimist 2122**, can be used to make donations to our projects or fundraisers.

Please make sure to include your phone number and a memo indicating what the donation is for.

**Board of Directors
2022-2023**

**President
Carroll Metzger
910-264-6852**

**President Elect
Peggy Scott**

**Past President
Gerty O'Leary**

**Secretary
Debbie Hogenmiller**

**Secretary Elect
Ruth Ann Adams**

**Treasurer
Laura Elbl**

**Treasurer Elect
Janet Mace**

Board Members

**2021-2023
Pam Cernik
Pat Parsons
Judy Williams**

**2022-2024
Cathy Elliott
Katie Huck
Patty Meyer**



[Visit our website](#)

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

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