



Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

www.twincityoptimist.org

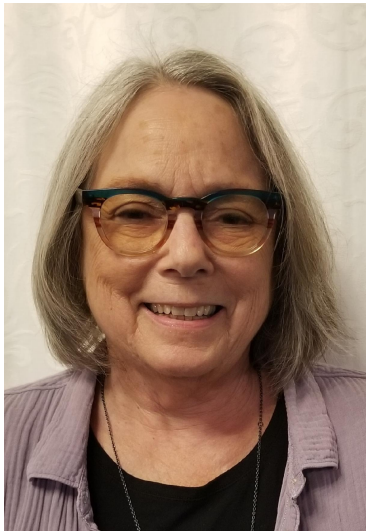
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Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

July 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

Message From President Carroll Metzger



President's Letter

Mid-summer notes: As I reflect on the motivational speakers and their stories that I heard at the Optimist International Convention earlier this month (more about that at our July 27 evening meeting), I am struck by the truly inspirational presentations we hear at our weekly meetings. Thanks to Amy Baum, program chair, we have or will hear before fall, programs from the Jefferson Foundation, Homeland Security Investigations, our club's history of giving to the Jefferson College Foundation and two organizations which support young women (homeless, foster and recovering from sex trafficking) as well as providing access to period supplies and personal items. I am inspired and motivated by these leaders in Jefferson County who work tirelessly to improve the lives of community members who need support and I hope you are as well.

Thank you.

Carroll

July 2-5, 2023 105th Annual Optimist International Convention

Five Twin City Area Optimist members attended the 105th Optimist International Convention held in Arlington, Virginia on July 2-5, 2023. Attendees gathered for a time of motivation, training, business, networking, and sightseeing.

Our very own Phyllis Neff graced the stage as the new Governor Elect for the East Missouri Optimist (EMO) District.

Additional convention photos will be available soon through a separate Zone 10 newsletter. Watch your email inbox after our Zone 10 meeting on Thursday July 27, 2023.



Pictured: Mary Hatfield, Kathy Todd, Club President Carroll Metzger, Jean Naeger, EMO Governor Elect Phyllis Neff

**No board meeting this month.
No July 6, 2023 meeting; taking a break for
4th of July Holiday.**

**July 13, 2023
Jefferson Foundation
Speaker: Missy Endres, Executive Vice President**



Missy Endres, Executive Vice Present of the Jefferson Foundation, was our guest speaker on July 13.

Jefferson Foundation is dedicated to providing support for charitable and educational activities that promote individual and community health and well-being in Jefferson County, Missouri.

Our club was fortunate to be awarded our first grant from the foundation back in May 2018. This past year we were awarded \$5,500, an increase of \$500 from previous years.

The much-needed grant is used to fund our Coats for Kids Program which the club has supported for 25-30 years. This past winter season our club provided over 600 coats to local schools, Head Start, and Homeless Youth Initiative. The program continues to expand as need increases. Schools are now requesting hats and gloves be included with the coats.

Our club is forever grateful for the support of the Jefferson Foundation.

To learn more about Jefferson Foundation visit: [Jefferson Foundation \(jfmo.org\)](http://Jefferson Foundation (jfmo.org))

July 20, 2023
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Investigations
Speaker: Special Agent Mark Kutrip



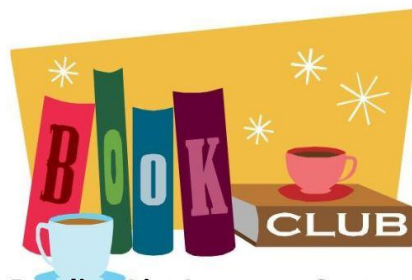
Special Agent Mark Kutrip of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) gave an eye-opening program during the club's July 20, 2023, weekly meeting. HSI is the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, responsible for investigating transnational crime and threats, specifically those criminal organizations that exploit the global infrastructure through which international trade, travel, and finance move.

For more information about HSI visit: [Homeland Security Investigations | ICE](#)

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.

Nurses for Newborns

Thanks to our members for their generous donations to Nurses for Newborns and to Karen Huskey and Donna Long for collecting and delivering donations.



nurses for newborns

Anyone wanting to donate to Nurses for Newborns please bring items to June 22nd or June 29th meetings.

List of needed items:

New or gently used clean items accepted

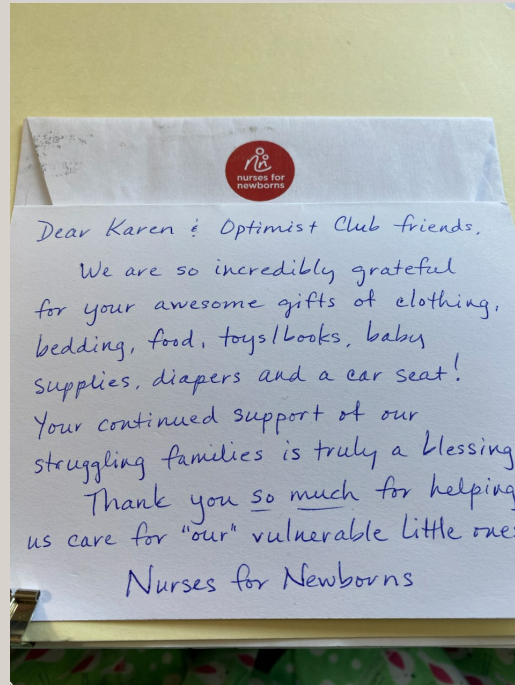
- Tummy Time Quilts
- Baby Care Items (lotion, shampoo wash)
- Baby Formula (preferably Enfamil w/Lipil)
- Canned Food/Fruits
- Diapers (all sizes & Pull-Ups)
- Gift Cards (gas, groceries)
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Mac & Cheese (and other boxed pastas)
- Meals in a can (stew, chili, soup)
- Fruit juice in boxes or cans
- Raisins
- Applesauce
- Fruit cups
- Pack 'n Plays
- Car Seats (5 point car seats only less than 5 years old)
- Infant Sock Caps
- Baby Wipes
- Bottles
- Clothing (preemie-4T)
- Diaper Wipes
- High Chairs
- Granola bars
- Canned pastas
- Cereal
- Fruit rolls
- Graham crackers
- Cheese and crackers
- Pretzels
- Digital thermometers

Cash donations accepted.



**PROJECT CHAIR:
KAREN HUSKEY
1-314-420-2625**

**Thank you so much for the donations in support of the Nurses for Newborns project! Donna Long and I delivered a large collection of items needed for the 60ish families serviced by Nurses for Newborns in southern Jefferson County. Kate Seele, Director of Special Events & Volunteers, was THRILLED and GRATEFUL for the heartfelt donation. THANK YOU!
--Karen Huskey**



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

Please contact Katie Huck to volunteer to assist with this community event. Let's come out in full force to support this first-time TCA family event.



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



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 you 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

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

Team up with fellow Optimists to fill unique bags for an Old Bags Auction fundraiser. Let Barb Schmidt know if you will be donating a bag/or contents. As she noted during July 20 meeting, you do not have to be limited to purses; get creative!



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 Mouse Race fundraiser. Invite your family and friends to join you for this fun event. Please contact Carol to volunteer to work this event.

JOI Club

BB 5K Walk

Please visit TCA website to download registration and waivers forms:

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



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> for waiver/consent form

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

Contact information:

**ALL AGES ARE
WELCOME TO
PARTICIPATE**

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

*Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor*

*Carol Schanz
JOI Chair*



Zone 10

Our club will host the next Zone 10 meeting during our regularly scheduled July evening meeting. Please make every effort to attend to meet other district members in our zone. This will be the time to put all the pieces together on how our club, zone, district, Optimist International work together to provide service to our communities.

ZONE 10 4TH QUARTER MEETING

Thursday July 27, 2023

6:00 p.m. dinner - \$15

6:30 p.m. meeting

POPPY'S PARLOR (INSIDE QUONSET LANES)
2004 N. TRUMAN BLVD, CRYSTAL CITY, MO
636-937-2118

NOTE: Dinner is optional.

MENU: Buffet style pulled pork with bun,
country salad, chips, plus water or ice tea

NO OUTSIDE FOOD

Please RSVP to Cathy Elliott
by Tuesday, July 23

In the final stretch!
Come learn how your
club, zone, district, OI
work together for
success



East Missouri Optimist District

A central graphic with a brown background and white text. At the top is the Optimist International East Missouri District logo. Below it, the text reads: "East Missouri Optimist District 4th Quarter Service Project Convention: August 18-20, 2023". Underneath, it says "Bring 16-18 ounce jars of peanut butter benefiting:". In the center is a framed image of a yellow backpack with various supplies, labeled "Brenden's Friday Backpacks" and "We feed hungry kids over the weekend!". At the bottom is a jar of peanut butter. The graphic is surrounded by illustrations of hands holding hearts and small red dots.

Optimist International
East Missouri District

East Missouri Optimist District
4th Quarter Service Project
Convention: August 18-20, 2023

Bring 16-18 ounce
jars of peanut butter
benefiting:

Brenden's Friday Backpacks
"We feed hungry kids over the weekend"

PEANUT BUTTER

Jean Naeger and Kirstie Zych will collect your peanut butter before the weekly meeting on August 10 at Taytro's parking lot. If you are unable to attend this meeting, you can bring your donation to the evening Zone 10 meeting on Thursday July 27.

All clubs in the East Missouri Optimist District are asked to contribute to this peanut butter drive which benefits kids in our Jefferson County community. Cash donations also accepted.

SAVE THE DATES



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

July 27 Evening meeting/Zone 10 Meeting - Chair Zone 10 Lt. Gov. Jean Naeger
August 2- Board Meeting - Chair Carroll Metzger
August 5 Family Time in the Park Event- Chair Katie Huck
August 10 Peanut Butter collection for East Missouri Optimist District Service Project - benefiting Brenden's Friday Backpacks - Chair Jean Naeger
August 17 Old Bags Auction - Chair Barb Schmidt
August 26 Brenden's Friday Backpacks Community Food Drive - Co-Chairs Debbie Hogenmiller and Kirstie Zych
August 31 Raffle drawing - Chair Beth Watts
September 8 Twin City Days Bowling Event-Chair Debbie Hogenmiller
September 16 Fall Fundraiser- Mouse Races - Chair Carol Schanz



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

**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**

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.

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



Visit our website

**Keep current with club activities,
like us on Facebook, and
visit our website.**



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

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