



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

March 2024 News Making a Difference For Kids

President Peggy Scott



Welcome New Members



Sponsor Ellen Bridgewater with new member Jessica Christopher.



Sponsor Phyllis Neff with new member Elise Reineck.

Above new members inducted on March 7, 2024.



New members inducted on March 14, 2024

Marian Bozak- Sponsor Mary Hatfield
Sarah Bauman- Sponsor Peggy Scott



February 29, 2024 Wine Tasting and Swap Meet

See a pattern here? Bring out the wine, bring out the treasures, bring out the girls!

During the February 29 evening meeting, members enjoyed a night of wine tasting, charcuterie food, and a swap meet. Some members were more pleased than others with their swaps.

One thing is certain when this group is together there is much laughter (with or without the liquor). Thank you to Paul Albano for a great presentation and selection of wines.







March 7, 2024 Board Highlights



During the March 7, 2024, weekly meeting, EMO Governor Phyllis Neff awarded Mary Hatfield her pin for sponsoring five new members. Peggy Scott and Becky Francis received pins for sponsoring their first new member.

Not pictured, Jean Naeger received her 15-member pin during the second quarter conference.

Congratulations ladies.

Board highlights:

- Board approved \$1000 for new project. Club will provide an age-appropriate book and personal hygiene items for foster boys.
- Board approved sponsoring a new club in Nepal.
- Nine schools contacted for Youth Appreciation Day on April 18, 2024.
- Elk Lodge 1721 has again donated use of their hall for Art Contest on November 24, 2024.

March 14, 2024

NOW MEETING
(New Optimist Welcome)
March 14, 2024

During our regularly scheduled noon meeting

To invite a guest, notify:
Mary Hatfield, mhat123@yahoo.com
or Marsha Greenstreet, mgreenstreet@sbcglobal.net
by February 29, 2024

Provide the following information for each guest:

NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS



NOW Meeting – March 14, 2024

The Twin City Area Optimists Club's NOW meeting was held on March 14 and was a resounding success! The committee sent out invitations and membership materials to 18 prospective members and 10 attended the luncheon. At the conclusion of the meeting, three membership applications were

submitted. Being optimists, it is hoped that more applications will be forthcoming.

Marsha Greenstreet, who is the club's first member, gave a brief history of the club. Marsha and Mary Hatfield presented a brief overview of the many projects along with a slideshow shown by Barb Schmidt.

There were a total of 54 members and invitees in attendance. A delicious lunch was served by Taytro's followed by cake. Thanks to Mary McDowell for doing a great job of cutting the cake into 54 pieces-magic! Thanks to our sponsors for inviting and introducing the NOW prospective members.

Mary closed the meeting with an Irish blessing followed by the Optimist Creed.

A great time was had by all!

Submitted by Co-Chair Marsha Greenstreet

March 21, 2024
Donna Masters, Community Service Innovator
Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation



Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation Presentation-March 21, 2024

A wealth of information on Jefferson Franklin Community Action

Corporation (JFCAC) was shared at our March 21 luncheon meeting in a PowerPoint presentation by Donna Masters, Community Service Innovator with JFCAC.

Donna also shared information about many of the services and programs JFCAC provides to low-income families in both Jefferson and Franklin counties. They include, Cyber Seniors, EZMO Transportation, Greenheart Garden Program, Insurance Navigator Program, MO Property Tax Credit, Poverty Simulations, SkillUp, Behavioral Health, Head Start/Early Head Start, Housing Programs, Utility Assistance, Weatherization, Hero and Healthy Homes programs and others.

The presentation also included the history of JFCAC which opened in Jefferson County in April of 1965, then expanded services into Franklin County in 1969. Currently, JFCAC has offices in Hillsboro and St. Clair to assist those in need.

In speaking on the new EZMO Transportation Program, Donna discussed how this program is focused on getting clients to essential appointments and locations in Jefferson and Franklin counties, such as medical appointments, employment, grocery stores, social security offices and more. In order to register for this program, JFCAC provides the client a ride to the designated office where they will meet with JFCAC staff who will get them signed up. Once that step is completed, clients then need to schedule their rides at least 48 hours prior to the date they need one. To find out more about this program, schedule an appointment to register for the program or volunteer as a driver and earn 67 cents a mile reimbursement, call EZMO Transportation at 877-743-3966.

Donna also invited all Optimist members to register and participate in the upcoming JFCAC Poverty Simulation event on Friday, April 12, 8:30 am - 12:00 at Sacred Heart Gym in Festus. This is an interactive event in which participants will take on the role of a family member in one of the many families participating. All of whom will be facing a variety of challenging, but typical circumstances of families living in poverty in Jefferson and Franklin counties. Families are tasked with providing food, shelter, and other basic necessities by accessing various community resources during the course of four 15 minute "weeks". To register for this event by April 3 email Tasha Skouby at tskouby@jfcac.org or call 636-789-2686 x 1501.

Anyone wanting additional information on JFCAC or the programs discussed can go to [JEFFERSON FRANKLIN COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION - Home \(jfcac.org\)](http://JEFFERSON FRANKLIN COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION - Home (jfcac.org)) or call 636-789-2686 x 4.

Submitted by Donna Masters

Dime-A-Day

Optimist International and Optimist International Foundation coexist as two separate organizations that support each other. Optimist International Foundation is the fundraising arm of Optimist International, and works to develop funds to support the endeavors of Optimist International and its mission.

When Members and Clubs make a contribution to support Optimist International Foundation, they are, with that gift, supporting Optimist International itself and themselves as a Club as well.

With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children. Would you consider making a gift of just a dime a day to assist the charitable work of Optimist International?

The Dime-A-Day level is reached by a contribution of \$36.50 to the Foundation within one Optimist Year, and is recognized by the presentation of a pin.

Building a future where every kid counts
Can you spare a **dime a day**?

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. (Enclose check, payable to Optimist International Foundation, referencing "Dime-A-Day" in the memo section.)

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. Charge my MC Visa Discover American Express

Account # _____ Exp. ____/____/____ Signature: _____ Security Code _____

Sign me up! Please deduct \$3.00 per month from my checking account.

Checking account number: _____ (Please include a copy of a validated check)


Name _____ Email _____

Club Number _____ Member Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please return to: Optimist International Foundation • Dime-A-Day Campaign • P.O. Box 952126 • St. Louis, MO 63115



Dime-A-Day Campaign is underway!

Each year members of the Twin City Area Optimist Club may choose to participate in the fundraising program for Optimist International Foundation called Dime-A-Day. The contribution of a dime-a-day, or \$36.50 for the year, supports endeavors of both the Optimist Foundation and Optimist International. Our club has received grants from the Foundation over the past few years to support our own

community projects. Your donation is tax deductible as a charitable gift. Last year approximately 36% of our members contributed. I am hoping for 50% participation this year!

There are other programs of giving to the Foundation which include the Women's Philanthropy Council (\$100 donation) which provides scholarships for young women who are the winners of the Regional Oratorical Contest, and the President's Club (nothing to do with being president of our club) which is an unrestricted \$250 donation.

If you choose to participate, please bring your donation to a club meeting anytime in the next month and give it to me. If you would like to mail it to the club or OI Foundation you may do so. Our club number is 30165 and your member number is on our roster, or you may contact me with any questions.

Link to view/print Dime-A-Day form: [dime-a-day-form.pdf](https://oifoundation.org/dime-a-day-form.pdf)
(oifoundation.org)

Please let me know that you have participated! Thank you for all you do!

Carroll Metzger, Club Foundation Representative

CLUB PROJECTS

Car Seats

On Friday, February 23, 2024,
Barb Bates, Mickie Huskey,
and Kathy Todd, members of



the Women's Shelter Committee, went shopping at Walmart for three toddler car seats. It is such a pleasure to help families who are trying to escape abusive situations.

Submitted by Barb Bates,
Chairperson



Childhood Health and Wellness



Childhood Cancer – Health and Wellness March 2024

In January 2024, the club started supporting Nolan Joggerst, a young cancer patient from Ste. Genevieve. Nolan was diagnosed with a form of leukemia called ALL or Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in August 2023.

To date Nolan is doing well with his treatments. As of March 10, Nolan had a week off chemo and steroids. He used this time to rest, catch up on some school work and visit with friends. He also took time to coach some gym hockey in support of his friend Lane. On March 11,

he underwent some lab work before travelling on March 12 for chemo and a night's stay at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Hopefully, Nolan's tests showed good counts as he finished up Phase Four of his treatment plan.

Please pray for Nolan and his family. Not only is Nolan fighting cancer, his uncle was diagnosed with a brain tumor right before Nolan's diagnosis was confirmed last summer.

The Twin City Area Optimist Club provided Nolan's family with \$300.00 in

gift cards to Walmart and DoorDash as well as for gas while Nolan was in the hospital.

Nolan's progress can be followed on his Facebook page: [\(20+\) Facebook Nolan's Striking Out Cancer](#).

Submitted by Cathy Elliott

East Missouri Optimist Third Quarter Conference May 3-4, 2024

**3rd
Quarter
Conference
May 3 - 4, 2024**

**Oratorical
Contest**

**Early Bird Registration
begins NOW!**

**BEST WESTERN PLUS
2621 EAST 5TH STREET
WASHINGTON, MO
636-390-8877**

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL PRICE
BOOK BEFORE...
April 3, 2024**

**Friday Fun
& Movie Night**

**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
ORATORICAL
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
EAST MISSOURI DISTRICT**

EMO District Third quarter conference is coming up. This is the conference where the oratorical contestants will compete at the district level for the opportunity to earn scholarships. The district essay winner will also be invited to share his/her essay. The conference will include a fun evening Friday night with networking and get to know you activities, along with movie and popcorn!

The Washington Club will host a light supper at 6:00 p.m.

Don't delay, register before April 3, 2024, with club Secretary Elect Kathy Todd. If you are staying over Friday night, please book your room before deadline.

Best Western Plus Hotel

Deadline April 3 (Early bird registration and hotel discount)

2621 EAST 5TH ST., WASHINGTON, MO 63090

Phone: 636-390-8877

[Best Western Plus Washington Hotel | Hotel Rooms](#)

NOTE: The third quarter EMO service project will support the upcoming JOI Summit to be held in St. Louis in July. The JOI Summit highlights will include peer focus groups, professional skill development sessions, an off-site community project, team building activities and several field trips.

Our district members are asked to donate single serve snacks, breakfast bars, and bottled water. Since the attendees will be staying in dorms travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap/body wash are also appreciated.



2024

July 18-21, 2024

JOI SUMMIT

Saint Louis University, Center for Global Citizenship

Saint Louis, Missouri

CLUB FUNDRAISERS

DRUM ROLL PLEASE....Bunco night on March 15, 2024 earned our club fundraising account **\$1270.00**. Thanks to Carol Schanz, Tabitha Brauch, and Karleh Brauch for being fabulous

Twin City Area Optimist Club
BUNCO

DATE: Fri. March 15, 2024
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Bunco starts at 7:00 p.m.



Registration Fee:
\$20
 (In advance/
 non-refundable)

Contact: Carol Schanz
 314-222-4344

Location:
 H W Herrell Distributing Company
 1002 White Street, Imperial, MO

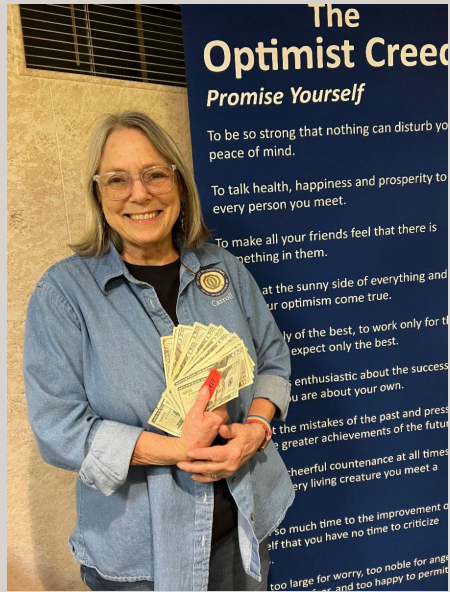
Bring your own beverage

Bring a snack/dessert to share

50/50 Drawing

Invite a friend

hostesses for the evening.



Carroll Metzger won \$330 with her 50/50 win.



Guest Ronda Monroe won most BUNCOS



Optimist Rosie O'Shaughnessy **Need to fill in what she won**



BUNCO winners with most games won.
Third place winner guest Karen Beuhler
Second place Caryl Harness
First place guest Ronda Monroe



Members and guests had a great time.

Carrot Cake Dip (Many of you who attended BUNCO wanted this recipe from Carol's friend Jody.)

Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/3 cup carrots finely shredded
- Optional: chopped walnuts or almonds

Instructions

- In a medium bowl, add the cream cheese and sugar. Mix them well until fluffy

in texture.

- Add in the cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg and mix to combine,
- Separately, wash and peel the carrots. Grate them finely, then add them to the cream cheese mixture.
- Top with more shredded carrots or chopped walnuts and serve with cookies or fruit.



**Mark your
calendar for
August 10, 2024.
Rock n Roll Bingo
fundraiser. Details
coming soon.**

JOI Club

JOI Club March 2024

The JOI Club meeting was called to order by President Maddie Blair on March 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. There were 15 members in attendance. Galyn Bratcher, a dog trainer from Pawjamas in Pevely, was the guest speaker for the evening. Galyn brought her dog Rea and demonstrated with Rea how to teach a dog the come command. Rea performed perfectly to the delight of the members. Everyone was very attentive and happy to give Rea lots of love and hugs.

The members decided to begin collecting aluminum cans as a new fundraiser. While they haven't identified a recipient to receive the funds, it is thought that a younger person or group with needs may be a good choice.

A spring bingo at Autumn Ridge, hopefully in May, is being planned. Everyone was reminded of the annual BB-5K event for suicide awareness which will be held on October 19, 2024 at Larry Crites Park in Festus.

Meeting adjourned and refreshments served. The next meeting will be held at the Joachim Ambulance District on April 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m



*Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor*

*Carol Schanz
JOI Chair*



Leader Publications Event



SPORTS Catch up with football coverage 22

INSIDE Candidates file for April election 6-7



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Leader has long history of award-winning news

For the Leader

The *Leader's* mission is the same today as it was when we opened the doors in 1994.

We are determined to provide our readers with a free, direct-mail newspaper held to a standard of excellence.

Proof of that dedication came in 2018, when the *Leader* won the Missouri Press Association's Gold Cup Award as the best large weekly newspaper in the

Peggy Scott, the *Leader* publisher, said she is proud of the awards.

"The *Leader* prides itself on doing quality work every day," Scott said. "Awards are a nice compliment and a reminder about the importance of local journalism in our community."

"We monitor how your tax dollars are spent by local government. We cover your sports teams, publish your milestone events, report on your

newspaper of record, the *Leader* also makes sure every issue includes human interest stories about our county's exceptional people.

The first edition of the *Jefferson County Leader* came off the presses on Aug. 25, 1994.

It was distributed free by direct mail to every home in Barnhart, Pevely, Herculaneum, Crystal City, Festus, Hills-

Leader possible by purchasing advertising.

We are grateful for their ongoing support and their demonstrated belief in the *Leader* as an effective way to communicate with the public.

The *Leader* also publishes *Grand Times*, a magazine for senior readers inserted in the *Leader* newspapers in conjunction with very popular Senior





A great time was had by all! TCA Club sponsored the Leader Publications Celebrate Women event held on March 8, 2024, with a "Hippie Chicks" theme.

Part of the focus for the evening was a charity called I Support the Girls, an international organization that collects new and gently used bras, new underwear and feminine hygiene products for distribution to homeless or needy girls and women in the community. Since its inception in 2015, the nonprofit organization has grown to include 4,279 partner agencies such as Coco-Cola, Nike, Kimberly-Clark and more, with 53 local affiliates in the US and worldwide. More than 21 million items have been distributed.

SAVE THE DATES



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

April 2 Board meeting
April 9 Zone meeting
May 3-4 EMO District Conference
May 6 Board Meeting



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

Board of
Directors
2023-2024

President
Peggy Scott
314 420 0897

President Elect
Debbie
Hogenmiller

Past President
Carroll
Metzger

Secretary
Ruth Ann
Adams

Secretary Elect
Kathy Todd

Treasurer
Janet Mace

Treasurer Elect
Becky Francis

Board

everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.

Members

2022-2024
Cathy Elliott
Katie Huck
Patty Meyer

2023-2025
Amy Baum
Beth Watts
Kirstie Zych



Visit our website

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visit our website.



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

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