



Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

www.twincityoptimist.org

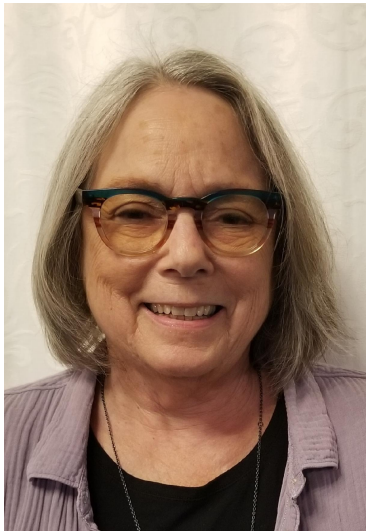
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Serving Youth and Community since 1919

June 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

Message From President Carroll Metzger



Greetings!

A bit of history: As I write this letter it is June 14, Flag Day, a day to celebrate the American flag, the symbol of the unity of our country. We celebrate the flag by flying it in front of our homes and businesses. Although not a national holiday, it is a day to note. This got me thinking about the pledge we say to the flag at the beginning of our meetings. The pledge, a promise of loyalty to our country, was first written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy. It was revised several times, but the version we say today was signed into law in 1954 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on Flag Day of that year. At that time, the words "under God" were added to "one Nation" in the pledge. This addition reaffirmed the transcendence of religious faith (all religious faiths) as promised in the Constitution. So, on this day I celebrate our flag, the pledge we make to our flag, to our country and to the promise for freedom for all.

Thank you.

Carroll

Welcome New Members

Keran Fears was officially inducted into the TCA Optimist Club on June 1, 2023. Ruth Ann Adams stood in for Keran's sponsor Jennifer Jones.



Double your pleasure, triple your fun!



Jennifer Gyngard and Nancy Doering rejoined our club and were inducted on June 22, 2023. Jennifer is the granddaughter of long-time member Elsie Williams. Nancy is her daughter. Welcome back ladies.

Three Generations

My name is Elsie Williams. thirty-five years ago, a young lady by the name of Jan Williams, no relation to my husband's family, called me and said, "We are forming an Optimist Club in this area, and I think you would be an excellent member." "Now", I thought, "Someone realized that I am really trying to look on the brighter side of life." What I didn't know was that she was just naturally optimistic and thought everyone else in the whole world was optimistic too. I discussed this opportunity with Bob, my husband, another of the world's natural optimists who looks on the sunny side of everything, and he, too, encouraged me.

I have never regretted my decision to join the Twin City Area Optimist Club and begin my journey to becoming a true optimist. It is a great honor to welcome my daughter, Nancey Doering and granddaughter, Jennifer Gyngard to the club as members. We are not sure if the club is getting the Three Musketeers or the Three Stooges, but we plan to contribute our gifts and talents as best we can. It is our honor to belong to a group of optimists who are known for their dedication to the community and especially to the needs of children.

Of course, we can't forget our other three generation members, Carol Schanz, her daughter Tabitha Brauch, and granddaughter Karleh Brauch.



May 25, 2023 Picnic in the Park

Members spent a beautiful evening enjoying good company and a fun corn-hole tournament at our May 25 evening meeting.



Barb Schmidt gets excited over win!



Barb's teammate Jean Naeger is serious about the game. Well not that serious, but determined.

Cornhole Tournament Champions Jean Naeger and Barb Schmidt are all about the prize. Each won a garden ornament, a frog for Jean and a gnome for Barb.



Amy Baum and Debbie Hogenmiller give it a go!



Newer member Lisa Ermer plays alongside long time member Betty Aders. A good time to get to know each other better.



Peggy Scott watches Mary Hatfield as she awaits her turn.



Debbie Schumaker isn't so sure about this game but she gave her all along side Carroll Metzger.



Katie Huck and Phyllis Neff enjoy the game.

June 1, 2023
Atlas Youth Outreach
Speakers: Annie Caputa and Jeff Eleen



Atlas Youth Outreach is a non-profit organization that provides mental health services to teens ages 11-18.

Atlas founders Executive Director of Clinical Programs Annie Caputa, MSW, LLSW, CCTP and Executive Director of Operations Jeff Eleen, MA, LPC were speakers at the club's June 1, 2023, meeting.

They discussed their free mental health support youth groups and services they provide through their organization. For information about this program please visit: [Atlas Youth Outreach](#)

Please note: During the June 8, 2023 board meeting, a donation of \$500 was approved for Atlas Youth Outreach.

Recipe

Thank you to all our members who sweeten our meetings with their desserts.

Recipe from Carroll Metzger
Pecan Squares

For the Crust:

2 sticks cold unsalted butter cut into pieces, more at room temp for the pan
2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/2 tsp kosher salt
1 large egg yolk slightly beaten
1 to 2 tablespoons ice water if needed



For the topping:

2 sticks unsalted butter
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup honey
1 1/2 tsp kosher salt
1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tsp vanilla extract
4 cups (1 lb) pecans coarsely chopped

Step 1

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 3 x 9 inch pan and line with parchment, leaving a two inch overhang on the long sides. Butter the parchment. In a food processor, combine the flour, sugar, salt and pulse to continue. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture resembles coarse sand. Add the egg yolk and pulse. It should just hold together when you squeeze it in your hand. Add up to 2 tablespoons of ice water if needed, but don't let it get too wet, it should still be somewhat sandy.

Step 2

Tip the crumbs into the pan and use your fingers or the flat bottom of a measuring cup to press into the side to create a 1/4 inch border. Press the remaining crumbs evenly into the pan. Bake until light brown and set about 40 minutes. Transfer to a rack while assembling the topping. Reduce the oven temp to 325 degrees.

Step 3

In a medium, heavy bottom saucepan, combine the butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, honey and salt and bring to a stone simmer over medium heat, whisking together once the butter has melted. Cook, stirring frequently for 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the heavy cream and vanilla. Stir in the nuts and combine well. Transfer to the prepared pan and spread evenly, staying within the border if possible.

Step 4

Bake until the caramel is thickened and just set, about 20 to 25 minutes (the caramel will continue firm up when cooled). Transfer to a rack to cool completely. Using the parchment paper transfer to a cutting board and cut into equal pieces. Yield is 24 squares.

June 8, 2023
Board Meeting Review

\$3500 was used to purchase picnic tables, easels, balls and parachutes to celebrate our 35 years as a Club. There will be an opportunity in the future to see the equipment at the Hematite and DeSoto Head Start centers.

Club will receive NOW patch for banner.

Club will again sponsor Twin City Days family bowling event at Quonset on September 8, 4:30-6:30.

A new community project proposed by Katie Huck was approved by the board. A Family Time in the Park event will take place on August 5, 2023, at Larry Crite's Park. Details to be presented soon.

July 27 we will be hosting the Zone 10 meeting at Poppy's with discussion of how District and OI affect our club.

Our Club is responsible for hospitality refreshments for August EMO District Convention August 18-20, 2023.

Brenden's Friday Backpack will have a community drive on Saturday, August 26 from 8-12 at Festus/Crystal City Walmart.

Friends of Festus Library will once again donate unsold, age-appropriate books during Twin City Days to our club to give to Head Start and Parents as Teachers.

June 15, 2023 Respect for Law



On June 15 our club honored law enforcement men and women from nine agencies in Jefferson County. These honorees showed exceptional service to the citizens of our community.

Below is information about the honorees from their respective supervisors.



Sergeant Craig Newberry

DeSoto Police Department

Sergeant Craig Newberry

Sgt. Newberry has shown exemplary performance and has exhibited his leadership by continually taking on additional tasks, all the while performing his regular duties in a professional manner. In the last year he has taken the following roles in the department:

- Promotion to Sergeant;
- Lead evidence officer including a complete re-organizing of our evidence room as well as performing a complete audit of all evidence;
- Field training officer;

Weapons and armory custodian;
Taser instructor and
earned a Life Saver Award.
To say the least, Sgt. Newberry is a high performing
officer.

Hillsboro Police Department

This past year, Officer Cornett was named Hillsboro's "Officer of the Year" as voted on by her peers. Officer Cornett is always willing to help others and always with a cheerful smile. This past year she has taken on additional duties as reviewing and approving all police reports. She has also taken on Field Training duties (FTO) and has trained a new officer. Officer Cornett recently was a recipient of the CIT award (Crisis Intervention) for the work she had done on a case. For these reasons, and many more, we submit this nomination.



Officer Shelby Cornett



Trooper Seth Kmetz

Missouri State Patrol

Trooper Seth Kmetz

During his career with the Highway Patrol, Trooper Kmetz has proven himself to be an outstanding asset to his community. He is a very hard worker, and is compassionate and fair. Trooper Kmetz places great value on helping members of his community who are in need. He is a member of the Troop C SWAT Team, a Drug Recognition Expert, and a trusted leader among his peers. As a US Army veteran, Trooper Kmetz serves his community on the AMVETS Riders, assisting with fundraisers and funeral escorts. As a lifelong resident of Jefferson County, Trooper Kmetz takes great pride in protecting and serving his community.

Trooper Kmetz' professionalism and commitment to his career in law enforcement is a reminder that he is a police officer who sincerely wants to make a difference in the lives of those he encounters every day. His dedication and meticulous attention to duty give witness to his character and personify the expectations of a Missouri State Trooper. It is because of Trooper Kmetz' exemplary performance, and his passion for serving the citizens and visitors of the State of Missouri, that I recommend him for this honor.

Festus Police Department

We selected Ptn. Davis for the role he played in saving the life of an accident victim on Interstate 55. He was a responding officer to an accident in which the subject had severe injury to one of his arms. Ptn. Davis was able to place a tourniquet on the injured arm to prevent any further blood loss. Ambulance personnel later stated that had Ptn. Davis not acted as he did the subject most likely would have died from his injuries.





Detective Corporal Mark Nardoni

Jefferson County Sheriff Department

Cpl. Nardoni was an integral part of the Detective Bureau’s success for several years. Beyond his own successes in clearing criminal cases, Cpl. Nardoni supported external investigators that lacked the technical knowledge needed to solve crimes. Prosecutors have complimented his work and testimony, which has led to victims getting justice. Today, Cpl. Nardoni is assigned to the Office of Professional Standards team. Mark is responsible for confidential internal affairs investigations, Use of Force analysis, jail death investigations reviews, background reviews of potential employees, and more. More importantly, Cpl. Nardoni is a professional whom Jefferson County can rely upon. We are proud to nominate Detective Corporal Mark Nardoni for the Optimist Club Award.

Crystal City Police Department

Detective Eddie Robinson was chosen for his overall work ethic. His knowledge of all aspects of the community and his willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done and done right. He is a leader and always willing to help those around him. He shares his knowledge and skills with other officers to make them better.



Detective Eddie Robinson



Honoree Special Agent Mark Kutrip was unable to attend the luncheon, his wife Kasey and daughter Ellie accepted award on his behalf. Also pictured, Jeffrey Othic – Supervisory Special Agent from Homeland Security Investigations

Homeland Security Investigations

Mark has worked for HSI St. Louis for 3 ½ years after transferring from the U.S. Border Patrol. Mark hit the ground running, despite the issues with Covid-19, he quickly established himself within the office and the St. Louis Metropolitan area combatting Financial Fraud and Organized Retail Theft. Mark has also been involved in multiple Child Exploitation and human trafficking investigations. Not only is he an extremely dedicated agent and law enforcement officer, but he is also equally dedicated to his family and home life. Mark is very active in his church, as well as the scouts. Mark and his wife are also foster parents and help countless children when they need it most. I honestly don’t know when Mark has time to sleep. He is one of the most dedicated, determined people I have had the opportunity to work with.

Herculaneum and Pevly Officers honored.

Detective Corporal Jacquelyn Olsen was nominated by the

Herculaneum Police Department. During the past year Cpl. Olsen has worked two separate cases involving a sex crime. During this time, she helped in securing one conviction of the one offender, and charges being sought on a second subject, who is awaiting trial at this time. Cpl. Olsen's hard work and dedication to the victims are a great asset to the Herculaneum Police department and the citizens of Herculaneum and Jefferson County.



Pevely Police Department nominated Captain Joe St. Clair. On the afternoon of November 18, 2022, multiple officers responded to a residence in Pevely to follow up on a report of an assault.

Upon arriving at the home, Captain St. Clair coordinated a search of the residence with two officers, as they attempted to find the person who committed the assault. Upon finding the front door ajar, the officers entered the home and began to search the interior of the home, During the search, Captain St. Clair heard a male's voice coming from the basement area and immediately coordinated a plan to locate the person.

Knowing that the suspected offender had access to firearms, Captain St. Clair directed one officer to cover the rear of the home and then coordinated a tactical approach with an officer to move toward the basement stairwell. Upon their arrival at the doorway leading to the basement, they were met by the suspected offender at the bottom of the stairwell holding a shotgun.

After instructing the person to drop the shotgun, the person eventually dropped the shotgun to the stairs. The person then refused to follow any further instructions. Captain St. Clair then utilized pepper spray to disorient and temporarily incapacitate the person. The pepper spray was ineffective, and the person immediately turned and grabbed the shotgun off the stairwell, turned around and pointed the shotgun up the stairs towards the officers. Captain St Clair fired his handgun one time to protect himself and the other officers as the person fired his shotgun at the officers.

Captain St. Clair and the officers tactically repositioned themselves out of the stairwell as the person continued firing his weapon. Captain St. Clair then directed officers to points around the exterior of the residence that provided them cover, while offering the officers a clear view of the residence.

Captain St. Clair the coordinated the response of officers from multiple agencies, to include members of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Missouri Highway Patrol, and the Herculaneum Police Department

After an extended standoff, the person eventually surrendered and exited the home.

Captain St. Clair's calm demeanor, tactical approach and prompt decisions led to a peaceful conclusion to this situation.

June 22, 2023
CHAMP Assistance Dogs
Speaker: Jacqui Zancanta, Director of Education



Our June 22, 2023 speaker was Jacquie Zancanata from CHAMP Assistance Dogs.

CHAMP trains and places Assistance Dogs. The dogs help their handler live more independent lives. In addition, some dogs may be trained as facility dogs or home companion dogs. You may see assistance dogs in courthouses or advocacy centers helping children during difficult meetings.

CHAMP maintains ownership of their dogs but does have a program where you can have your dog trained to assist with reading programs or assisting patients in hospitals, etc.

For more information about CHAMP Assistance Dogs please refer to their website: CHAMP Assistance Dogs | champdogs.org

June 29

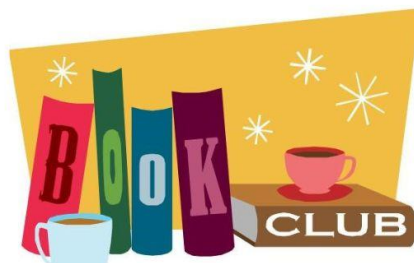
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

It's time for our evening meeting!
June 29, 2023
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.
Meeting: 6:00 p.m.
(Please watch your email and Facebook to learn dinner option and RSVP to Cathy Elliott.)

CLUB PROJECTS

Book Club

Below is Book Club reading list for the remaining Optimist year. Make note, we will meet the second Thursday of each month immediately following our noon meeting. We will 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

Time to knit, crochet, loom those newborn baby hats or fire up the sewing machine to create tummy-time quilts. Bring your donations to the June 22 and June 29 club meetings where Karen Huskey and Donna Long will happily accept them. Refer to wish list below.



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**

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**



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

JOI Club



Annual JOI Pool Party

The third annual JOI pool party took place on June 13 at the home of JOI Advisor Debbie Schumaker with JOI Co-Chair Carol Schanz. It was a family day for kids and parents to relax, eat, and visit. Hot dogs, treats, and sun were enjoyed by all.



Bingo Fundraiser

On Saturday June 17, 2023 Twin City Area Junior Optimists and Autumn Ridge residents teamed up to raise money to help the Homeless Youth Initiative and Jefferson County Foster Children. It was a wonderful opportunity for our Junior Optimists to interact and help the residents. They assisted residents needing help playing bingo, getting drinks, carrying plates, and even calling bingo. Great bingo and attendance prizes were given out as well as a lucky 50/50 winner!

The fundraiser earned \$540 which will be divided between the two groups noted above. Thank you to all who made this fundraiser a wonderful success.



TCA members get a chance to visit with former member Gloria Barnes, a resident of Autumn Ridge.

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

Please RSVP to Jean Naeger,
Zone 10 Lt. Governor
by Monday, July 24
Phone or text 314 495 2822

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



SAVE THE DATES



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

- June 29 Evening Meeting, Keran Fears Program Chair (see flyer above)
- June 29 Collection for Nurses for Newborns - Chair Karen Huskey (see flyer above)
- July 5 NO BOARD MEETING
- July 6 NO MEETING THIS WEEK
- July 13 Missey Endres, Exec. VP - Jefferson Foundation
- July 20 Jeffrey Othic - Homeland Security Investigations
- July 27 Evening meeting/Zone 10 Meeting
- Aug. 5 Family Time in the Park Event- Chair Katie Huck (see flyer above)

Many more events coming up! Watch July newsletter, emails, and Group Facebook page for more information. Volunteers needed for summer events/projects. Time to step up ladies.

**Board of
Directors
2022-2023**



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.

**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**



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like us on Facebook, and
visit our website.



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