



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

October 2024 News Making a Difference For Kids

President Cathy Elliott



Welcome Members to the Twin City Area Optimist Club 2024-2025 year!

This year begins the 37th year for our club, and I am excited to have the opportunity to lead you through the year with more new members, sponsors and programs for our youth and education.

Seven years ago, I was a new member of the club, and just like you may feel now – it's a lot to digest and learn! At the moment, I have a few members working with me on a program to provide club information to you in a group setting. You will learn

about the Twin City Optimist operation, what we do, how we do it and how to volunteer in our programs. Hopefully, this program will start very soon!

Being an Optimist has given me the opportunity to serve in a community in which I grew up and still call home (even though I live in the next county). The members of this club work hard, work together and celebrate success together! Our club wants "To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best". With all of you by my side, I look forward to sharing a wonderful year together.

Optimistically yours,
Cathy Elliott
President 2024-2025

October 3, 2024 Installation of Officers and President's Roast



President Peggy Scott

President Peggy, thank you for your leadership.

"Once a Week But Never Weakly". Well, maybe you didn't make it to every weekly meeting, but you always had a smile on your face when you did appear.



One of the most fun things I heard about

Peggy this year was about the Candy Salad that made an appearance at her office. Can you imagine anything more intriguing than a salad made entirely of Tootsie Rolls, Butterfingers, Twix bars, candy kisses, chocolate in any of its delectable forms and the like? I can't, but I heard that's what was going on at Leader World Headquarters one day. Which makes perfect sense, since our girl always seems to be on a sugar high. Well, Peggy, we want to keep you healthy to balance out all that sugar, so here are some vegetables to help with that.



You've managed all year to successfully balance two top jobs -Leader Publisher and Twin City Area Optimist Club President. Simone Biles has nothing on you – You're every inch a goat, too – Greatest of All Time.



One thing she had totally under control, though, was The Leader Senior Expo when she had it all organized for a fun day for local senior citizens. What could go wrong? Well, I'll tell you what – it could, and did, rain all day that day! Our Peggy met this unexpected blip, though, and recruited four teenagers with umbrellas to help by walking people from their cars in the parking lot to the venue. It was a torrential downpour all day, and Peggy's recruits did such a good job on "umbrella duty" that people even stayed late. In case this happens again, maybe you'd better have an extra umbrella on hand, so here's one you can provide.

The narrative under photos was taken from Caryl Harness' roast notes.



Outgoing Officers



Incoming Officers



TCA members serving the East Missouri Optimist District: Current Governor Jean Naeger, Immediate Past Governor Phyllis Neff, and Past Governor Mary Hatfield 2018-2019.

Installation of Officers, October 3, 2024

The annual Installation of Officers was held on October 3. The club members in attendance were honored to have three district governors who are TCA club members in attendance: Mary Hatfield, past district governor, Phyllis Neff, immediate past district governor, and our current district governor, Jean Naeger. Over the past seven years our club is proud to have THREE members serve as district governors!

Peggy Scott, outgoing club president, recognized her board members and officers, and expressed appreciation to the club. Ellen Bridgewater presented Peggy with a scrapbook celebrating the accomplishments and fun that was had throughout the year. District Governor Jean Naeger installed the new officers, as well as new and continuing board members.

Cathy Elliott, incoming president, talked about the busy year ahead, mentioning a few highlights including an online Google calendar for member use, an orientation program for new members, as well as seeking new grant opportunities and sponsoring exciting projects.

Our entertainment, provided by Caryl Harness, included poking a bit of fun at our outgoing president, but reminding her that like the philosophy of the Leader newspaper, she was our leader “once a week, but never weakly.” Peggy was presented a few gifts including a lunch bag for those occasions when she missed her Optimist weekly lunches, a dictionary, for the rare occasion when she finds herself

without words, an umbrella to use during unexpected rain storms, and a can of vegetables to counteract the effects of a candy salad. Peggy was sincerely thanked for her year of service with a GOAT trophy, a bouquet of flowers and some pom poms to express our gratitude for her cheering the club on all year. Here's to concluding a great year and beginning another exciting one!

OUTGOING OFFICERS

President - Peggy Scott

President-Elect - Cathy Elliott

Secretary - Ruth Ann Adams

Secretary-Elect - Kathy Todd

Treasurer - Janet Mace

Treasurer-Elect - Becky Francis

Past President - Carroll Metzger

2022-2024 BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Meyer

Katie Huck

Cathy Elliott

INCOMING OFFICERS

President - Cathy Elliott

President-Elect - Debbie Hogenmiller

Secretary - Kathy Todd

Secretary-Elect - Alicia Cummiskey

Treasurer - Becky Francis

Treasurer-Elect - Becky Capps

Past President - Peggy Scott

2023-2025 CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

Beth Watts

Kirstie Zych

Amy Baum

2024-2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Mary McDowell

Debbie Kettler

Carolyn McKinney

Submitted by: Beth Watts

October 10, 2024
BB 5K
Debbie Schumaker



Upcoming BB 5K at October 10 Meeting

BB 5K started five years ago when my grandson committed suicide at the age of 13. A group of friends got together to help me through the grief of losing my grandson. We decided to have a walk in his honor/memory. We wanted to make sure no one had to go through what our family went through.

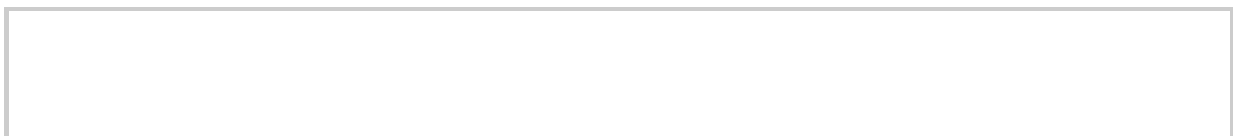
We started by getting donations. The first year we gave the athletic department at Bryan's school all the proceeds. The second year we donated to the Jefferson R-7 athletic department. We donated about \$3000.00 to each school. We never received a thank you or any kind of acknowledgement in memory of Bryan. We found that by going through the schools, kids were not getting the correct information on where to go and what to call the idea of suicide. As a result, we decided to give out scholarships to any child who submitted an essay on the subject matter.

For the last three years we have given out scholarships to about 30 kids, in return we received 30-plus essays. These essays showed that our kids are sad, mentally stressed and need help.

That is where Cyndi Buchheit Courtway came into the picture, she was able to introduce legislation to the Missouri House of Representatives called "Brennan's Law" that will mandate Missouri schools to introduce mental health classes starting at fifth grade and continuing throughout high school. This is why we walk and give out scholarships.

This year BB 5K will be held on October 20, 10 a.m., at Larry Crites Park in Festus.

Submitted by: Debbie Schumaker





Parents as Teachers®



Assemble PAT Activity Boxes

Debbie Hogenmiller and Mary Kay Scott arranged for Optimists to assemble supply boxes for use with the Parents as Teachers program at the October 24, 2024 meeting. The boxes contained assorted items children use to participate in the various activities with their teachers.



Members who helped to assemble the boxes were: Donna Long, Mickie Huskey, Patty Meyer, Kirstie Zych, Barb Schmidt, Janice Boyd, Caryl Harness, Sue Boyer, Peggy Scott, Kathy Todd, Barb Bates, Alicia Cummiskey, Tracy Johnson, Marian Bozak, Carroll Metzger, Amy Baum, Katie Huck and Kathy Jensen.

Submitted by: Debbie Hogenmiller

October 17, 2024 Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Chelsea Wallace

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation, October 17, 2024

Our guest speaker was Chelsea Wallace, Recreation Division Manager of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation. Ms. Wallace told us that there are 14 county parks for a population of approximately 226,000 residents in this county. The department operates on a budget of \$1.2 million that is generated from property taxes.

The parks are found county-wide from Fenton to Kimmswick to High Ridge to Dittmer to Hillsboro. Activities and amenities at the county parks include sports camps, playgrounds, equestrian use, hiking, picnicking, swimming, fishing, boat launch, sport courts and ground, roller sports, sports camps, zumba, taekwondo, yoga, and pavilion rentals.

Ms. Wallace indicated that the department always is in search of help from various organizations and people to help meet their financial needs. With a budget of \$1.2 million for 226,000 residents that breaks down to a per person cost of \$5.31 per year. She indicated there is a great need for expanding their soccer program. Currently, they serve almost 900 children with this program alone. Ms. Wallace indicated that she was reaching out to the Twin City Area Optimist Club for help with this program.

She said that children are required to provide their own shin guards and pay \$65 for an 8-week league schedule. A jersey is included with the fee for the child's participation. They hold soccer league games in the spring and the fall.

For more information on Jefferson County Parks, please visit their website at: <https://www.jeffcomo.org/582/Parks-and-Recreation>.

Submitted by Karen Huskey

October 24, 2024 Halloween Party







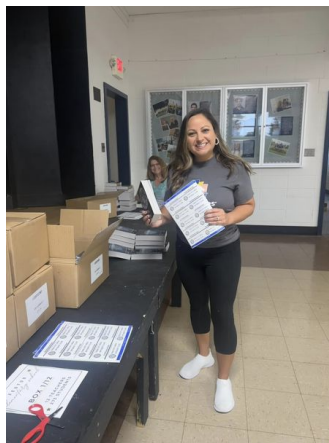


CLUB PROJECTS

Annual Dictionary Project



Lynn Wendel



Laura Lohman



Cathy Elliott



Alicia Cummiskey



Patty Meyer



Dictionaries ready for delivery

Trending Tuesday



A Dictionary of Thanks to the Optimist Club!

We were thrilled to welcome the Twin City Area Optimist Club to our school as they presented each 3rd grade student with their very own dictionary! Their fun and engaging presentation taught the class about their organization and how they contribute to the youth in the community through service projects and events. They also invited students to use their dictionaries to learn about the meaning of the word "optimist," along with showing them the maps in the back, and the longest word in their dictionary!



What a memorable experience for our young learners. Thank you, Optimist Club, for your generosity and dedication to helping our students grow!



Tuesday, 10.8.24



Optimists Jean Naeger, Karen Huskey, and Janice Boyd pictured with Mrs. Fischer's Hillsboro Elementary School's third grade class.



Telegraph Elementary



Delivery to Grandview Elementary School



Optimist Marian Bozak delivers dictionary to her third grade granddaughter at Festus Elementary.



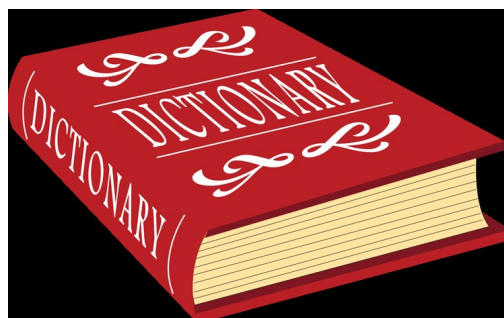
Alicia Cummiskey, Tracy Johnson, and Marian Bozak with Festus Assistant Principal Sandra Benack and Principal Dr. Darin Siefert.



Delivery to Christian Outreach



Festus Elementary third graders checking out their dictionaries.



Twin City Area Optimist Club's Annual Dictionary Project

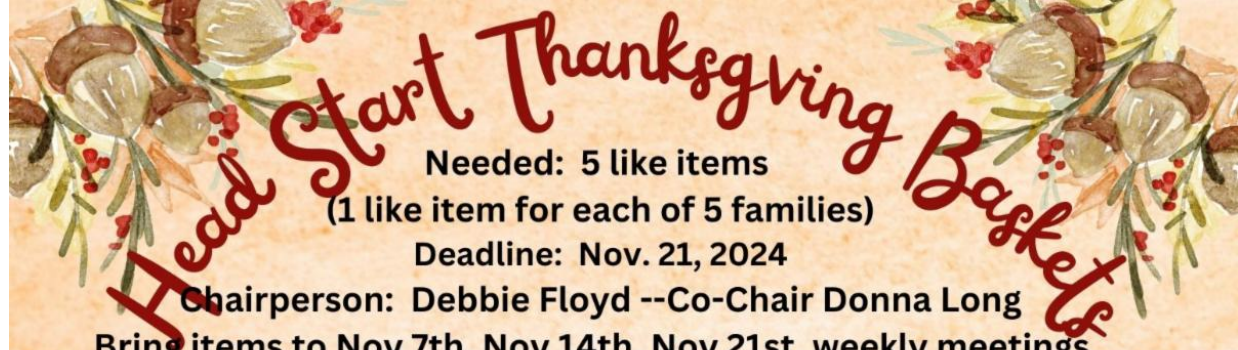
The Twin City Area Optimist Club donates dictionaries each year to every third-grade student in southern Jefferson County schools. In preparation for delivery, Optimist members met at St. Pius High School in September to label, box and take dictionaries for delivery to designated schools.

The Dictionary Project is a commendable initiative that aims to provide third-grade students with an actual copy of a dictionary each year, supported by organizations like our Twin City Area Optimist Club. This tradition not only equips young learners with a valuable resource for improving their language and literacy skills, but also instills in them a love for the written word and a sense of empowerment through knowledge. The tactile experience of flipping through the pages of a physical dictionary not only enhances their vocabulary and comprehension, but also fosters a

sense of curiosity and independence in discovering the meanings of words. Moreover, it introduces them to the joy of exploration and the confidence to articulate their thoughts more effectively. The Dictionary Project thus plays an essential role in shaping the educational foundation of third-grade students, offering them a tool that transcends the classroom, enriching their lives with the gift of language and the potential for lifelong learning.

The dictionary project was chaired by Laura Lohman and Karen Huskey. Optimist members who participated in preparing and delivering dictionaries were Lynn Wendel, Tracy Johnson, Alicia Cummiskey, Barb Schmidt, Cathy Elliott, Debbie Hogenmiller, Janice Boyd, Jean Naeger, Katie Huck, Judy Williams, and Becky Francis. Other members picked up dictionaries, but did not leave their names. A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way, to make this project successful.

Submitted by: Laura Lohman, Project Chair



Needed: 5 like items
(1 like item for each of 5 families)

Deadline: Nov. 21, 2024

Chairperson: Debbie Floyd --Co-Chair Donna Long

Bring items to Nov 7th, Nov 14th, Nov 21st, weekly meetings.

Drop off at Taytro's Parking lot before meetings.

Suggestions for 5 like items:

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Hand soap	No tears baby shampoo	Deodorant
Body soap/wash	Toothbrush & toothpaste	Razors
Shampoo & conditioner (adult)		

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS/PAPER PRODUCTS

Dish soap	Laundry soap	Fabric softener
Sponges	Dish towels	Pot holders
Saran Wrap / Aluminum foil /Zip loc bags		
Cleaning Products		Toilet paper /Paper towels/Napkins

FOOD ITEMS - NONPERISHABLE

Canned vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, sweet potatoes/yams)
Canned fruit (peaches, fruit cocktail, pears, cranberry sauce), apple sauce)

Canned chicken	Chicken broth	Turkey gravy (canned or jar)
Cake mix	Cake icing	Instant potatoes
Stuffing mix	Jiffy Corn Muffin	Noodles
Mac and cheese	Pasta /spaghetti noodles	Pasta sauce
Canned soup/pasta	Rice-a-roni	Salt & Pepper
Cereal	Oatmeal	Crackers
Peanut butter	Grape jelly	



Twin City Area Optimist Art Contest



Annual Art Contest
November 24, 2024
2:00pm-4:00pm
Elks Lodge 1721
4 Elks Acres
Festus, MO



CLUB FUNDRAISERS



Catalog are available
Return order forms with money
by Thursday Nov. 21, 2024
Delivery/Pickup 1st week of December
Questions Contact Pat Parsons

THIRD COAST PARTNERS

PO Box 90117
2555 Burlingame Ave. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49509
800.253.6887
Fax: 866.261.5604

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Third Coast Partners has teamed up with Koeze to offer you the opportunity to support your favorite charitable and community organization by placing an order directly with Koeze using a unique promo code. **Koeze will then pay your group a portion of the merchandise total of your order.**

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*OPTIMIST TWIN CITY AREA

YOUR PROMO CODE:

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Mascot Nuts

Place your order today

Contact Patty Meyer/Pat Parson



Glazed
Pecans
\$10 a bag



Cinnamon Glazed
Pecans
\$12 bag



Milk Chocolate
Covered Pecans
\$12 a bag

Mascot Nuts will arrive before Thanksgiving

Dine Out



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024
6 AM - 4 PM
316 LOCUST ST,
HILLSBORO, MO**

**Cool Beans will donate 10% of
sales all day to TCA Optimists.
Please support this fundraiser.**

Twin City Area Optimist Club **BUNCO**

DATE: Fri. Nov. 22, 2024
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Bunco starts at 7:00 p.m.



Contact: Carol Schanz
314-222-4344

Registration Fee:
\$20

**(In advance/
non-refundable)**

Location:

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

**Bring your
own beverage**

**Bring a
snack/dessert
to share**

**Invite a
friend**

GRANTS

\$2500 Dictionary Project Grant

Thank you to the Optimist Club of St. Louis for their generosity in awarding a \$2500 grant to help fund our dictionary project. Clubs working together for the benefit of our children.



Optimist International Foundation
Matching Health and Wellness Grant

The club recently received a \$1000 matching grant from the Optimist International Foundation. The grant, along with the budgeted \$1000, will provide \$2000 to fund the Adolescent Boys Project.

EMO OPTIMIST DISTRICT



SAVE THE DATE



Nov. 8-9, 2024 EMO First Quarter Conference
K.C. Hall, Jackson, MO

Feb 22, 2025 EMO 2nd Quarter Conference
VIRTUAL/ZOOM

May 2-3, 2025 EMO 3rd Quarter Conference
Hilton St. Louis Airport - St. Louis, MO

June 30-July 3, 2025
St. Louis Union Station - St. Louis, MO

August 15-17, 2025 EMO Fourth Quarter Convention
Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia, MO



A TIME TO SERVE



First Quarter Conference

November 8-9, 2024

Knights of Columbus Hall

3305 North High St.

Jackson, MO 63755

Featuring:

Middle America Vice President Sandra Doyle

- Retention and Growth.
- Step-by-step plan for your successful essay and oratorical contests.
- What can the district do for you?
- Hands on service project - plastic bags recycled into sleeping mats for the homeless.

Friday: 5-7 pm Registration/light meal
7 pm -10 pm Executive meeting, speaker, service project, networking.

Saturday: 8:30 am Registration
9:00 Board of Directors' Meeting, training, & MORE...



aiding those surviving homelessness

First Quarter EMO District Service Project November 8-9-2024

Below is list of items needed

Toiletry Items:

- Deodorant
- Q Tips
- Cotton balls
- Flashlights
- Bug spray
- Hair Brushes
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

Nonperishable Food Items:

- Applesauce cups
- Fruit cups
- Nutri-grain bars
- Snack cakes
- Peanut butter crackers
- Chips
- 12 oz gatorades
- Tuna/ chicken pouches
- Snack pack pudding cups

CASH DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Friday evening speakers from Street Level will also provide instructions for a hands-on service project, making sleep mats for the homeless.



Operation Plann

The first quarter conference Nov 8-9, 2024 will include a hands on district project. Now is the time to begin! Start saving and cutting plastic grocery size bags to make plann (plastic yarn). If you can take the time to flatten the bags and complete first steps that would be great.

As shown in the other slide you will want to cut off the bottom seams and also the top handles. Cutting across to create a rectangle.

Bring these bags to the conference and we will learn the next steps to create sleeping mats for the homeless in the Cape Girardeau area.

Friday Evening
Speakers from
Street Level,
Serving the homeless



EMO District 1st Quarter Service Project

Operation Plann

Please be sure you
get the entire
bottom seam cut
off

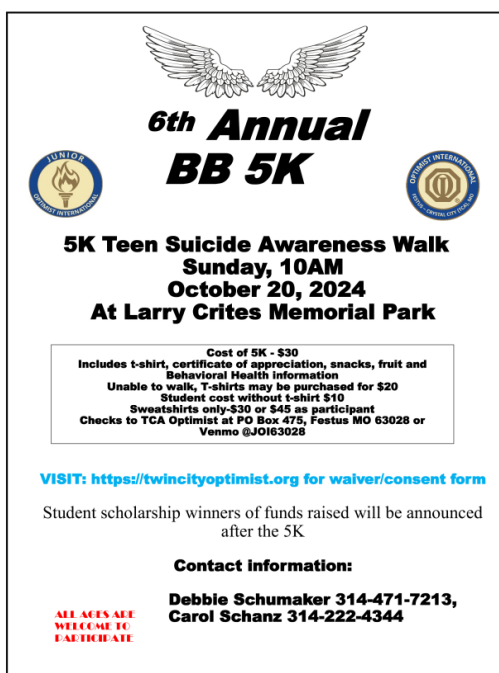
Come learn how to
make sleeping mats
for the homeless

Make sure you cut
the entire strips off
so you have a nice
rect cut

JOI Club

BB-5K Walk for Suicide Awareness, October
20, 2024

The BB 5K walk for suicide awareness on



October 20, 2024 was a successful event. There were approximately 50 students, parents, and friends who walked to help stop suicide in Jefferson County. This was our sixth annual walk to make suicide and mental health an important message to our community.

We awarded 10 \$500.00 scholarships to participants in the essay contest. Due to the generosity of our sponsors, we had enough money to award scholarships to two extra participants for this worthy cause. In early August we sent applications to all the Jefferson County Schools to present this scholarship opportunity to their students. By doing this we were able to establish, through essays, that our children are sad and need

guidance. After giving these essays to our State Rep Cyndi Buchheit–Courtway to read, she knew we had a problem. Cyndi has created a bill called “Brennan’s Law”. Her bill states that it will be a requirement for mental health classes to begin in fifth-grade and continue throughout high school in Missouri. Through a collaboration of work with Missouri State Rep. Aspen, the Superintendent from R-7, and a representative from DESI, this bill is in its final stages. I have been invited to Jefferson City numerous times to testify for this cause/bill. By presenting scholarship opportunities to participating individuals, their essays help promote the mental health cause.

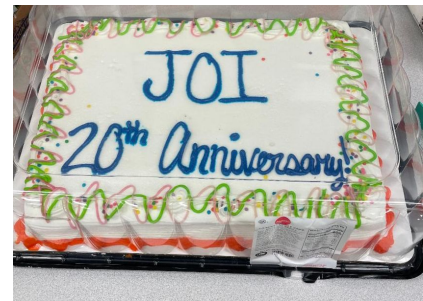
Throughout this essay process we have encountered a couple of students who tried to commit suicide and were able to put their thoughts on paper, reaching out for help. We have witnessed, through essay writing, that we need to stand up for our children and give them their voice. One way this has been achieved is through BB 5K scholarships and our kids writing essays about “Mental Health” issues.

Submitted by: Debbie Schumaker



JOI Club Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary October 3, 2024

President Olivia Blair called the JOI Club to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 3 in the meeting room of the Joachim Ambulance District. Members of the club were in attendance.



Special guest, Twin City Area Optimist Club President Cathy Elliott, installed the JOI Club cabinet for 2024-2025. Members of the cabinet are: Olivia Blair, president, Addisen Eldridge, vice president, Oscar Blair, secretary and Katelyn Blair, treasurer.

This meeting also was very special as the club celebrated its twentieth anniversary. A party was held honoring present and past members of the club. Founding member Megan joined in the celebration as did Twin City Area Optimists Katie Huck, Pat Parsons, Cathy Elliott and Tracy Johnson.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on November 7, 2024.

Submitted Debbie Schumaker

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



SAVE THE DATES

Note upcoming events. To



**assist with projects, please
contact Committee Chair.**

November 5 Board meeting - hostess Patty Meyer

November 8-9 EMO 1st Quarter Conference
November 12 Dine to Donate, Cool Beans
November 14 Head Start gift wrapping
November 19 Pack gifts for Head Start
November 22 BUNCO
November 24 Art Contest
December 3 Head Start Christmas Party - DeSoto
December 3 Board meeting - hostess Barb Schmidt
December 4 Head Start Christmas Party - Hematite
December 7 Winterfest
December 19 Winterfest Party & Quilt Raffle
January 7 Board meeting - hostess Pat Parsons



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.

Board of
Directors
2024-2025

President
Cathy Elliott
573 883 0924

President Elect
Debbie
Hogenmiller

Past President
Peggy Scott

Secretary
Kathy Todd

Secretary Elect
Alicia Cummiskey

Treasurer
Becky Francis

Treasurer Elect
Becky Capps

Board Members

2024-2026
Amy Baum
Beth Watts
Kirstie Zych

2025-2027
Mary McDowell
Debbie Kettler
Carolyn
McKinney



Keep current with club activities,
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visit our website.

Visit our website



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

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