



The Southern Exposure

Indiana South District – Optimist International

Volume 30, Issue 2

December 2024

2024-2025

Walt Willms, Governor

Greg Kuhn, Immediate Past Governor

Kent Reyling, Past Governor

Monica Wallace, Governor Elect

Kent Reyling, Secretary-Treasurer

Lt. Governors

Zone 1- **Glen Shay**, Indy Bft

Zone 2- **Dennis Fogle**, Greensburg

Zone 3- **Kevin Kessinger**, Plainfield

Zone 4- **John R. Evans**, TH Bft

Zone 5- **Patricia Scott**, Jeff-Falls City

Zone 6- **Bob Scott**, Santa Claus

Zone 7- **Bill Cherolis**, Santa Claus

Attention:

Committee Chairs & Lt Governors

The **deadline** for submitting articles for the next District Bulletin is **March 26, 2025**. Send your articles to p_grant@fastmail.fm if you have e-mail. If you prefer, send it snail-mail: 770 N County Road 625 E, Avon, IN 46123.

DON'T FORGET!

Greetings all Indiana South District Optimists

First, I want to wish my fellow optimists in Indiana South District a very HAPPY NEW YEAR! We had our Optimist New Year's Day on October 1. That was a new beginning and the first quarter of our Optimist year. Let's continue the good work we began on October 1 as we move into the new calendar year. Also, let this bulletin be a reminder for you to register for one of our conferences, either in Plainfield or in Georgetown or maybe both. These are "fun" events that give us an opportunity to renew friendships and to make new friends with really great people. The registration forms are a part of this bulletin.

Some of the key events of our year occur in this (2nd) quarter: Essay Contest, Tri-Star Basketball, the Oratorical Contest and Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDH). These are exciting and good events both for our clubs and for the communities we support. If your club has never been involved in these events, please contact the respective committee chairs: Essay – Betsy Burke, Tri-Star- Jack Nichols & Alex Overway, and Oratorical and CCDH – Greg Kuhn.

One of OI President Jan Oord-Graves' goals for the year is to increase membership by 5%. As of December 29, our district membership has decreased by 5 members. So, we have some work to do in this area. If you'd like some help in retaining and growing the membership in your clubs, please contact our Membership/New Club Building Chair, Jim Tribble. He has great ideas and has a passion for growing clubs as well as building new clubs. I would like to encourage our clubs to get into their local schools and to generate an interest in Junior Optimist International or JOI Clubs. These are optimist clubs of youth in our high schools. It's a way to get our youth involved in optimism at an early age and then there's a good chance they will continue

as adults. Mike Novak is the JOI Chair for our district. He would be happy to give assistance on how to organize a JOI club.

This year would be a good year for as many members as possible to go to the Optimist International Convention. It will be held in St. Louis Missouri from June 29 to July 3, 2025. These are great events that are well organized and very motivational. The drive is less than 4 hours with a distance of about 242 miles.

I hope to see you at one of our conferences!

Walter Wilms, Governor, Indiana South District, Optimist International



Past Governor Greg Kuhn



Governor Walt Wilms

From Greg Kuhn, past Governor & District Oratorical Chair

Here is an update on the 2025 Oratorical contest:

My survey of the spring break calendars for Avon, Cathedral and Terre Haute indicates we should avoid the last week in March and first week in April for any semifinals. Secondly, the state high school competition is scheduled for March 8th. Therefore, Saturday and Sunday, March 15th and 16th are the open dates for our semifinal competitions. Winners and runners-up will have plenty of time to plan for the finals in Jasper Saturday, April 26th.

Clubs should conduct their contests by Tuesday March 2nd.

Indiana South District
2nd Quarter Conference-South Regional
Saturday, January 25, Georgetown, 2025
 8260 State Road 64, Georgetown, IN 47122



Register online through North Registration Link: South Registration
 Link: <https://mp.gg/fvzq4dswlw>

Member name #1 _____ Name for badge: _____
 Club name: _____ Zone _____
 Club office held? _____ District office? _____
 Member name #2 _____ Name for badge: _____
 Club name: _____ Zone _____
 Club office held? _____ District office? _____
 Non-Member Name _____ Name for badge: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION *(person submitting registration)*

email address: _____ Phone: _____
 Street _____ City: _____ State: _____

Conference Functions Require a Reservation	Price	Number	Amount
Registration Fee per Household (living in the same house)	\$5.00	_____	<u>\$5.00</u>
Lunch (per person)	\$15.00	_____	_____

Mini breakfast bar, pulled smoked pork, sausage with sauerkraut and sides. and desserts.

**Deadline for lunch choice is Monday, January 20, 2025. After that date lunch may be "on your own".*

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (Must Accompany This Form) \$ _____

**REGISTRATION FORM &
 REMITTANCE**

Indiana South District Registrar
 Attention: Dave Osborne
 1189 Pinewood Drive
 Plainfield, IN 46168
 C (317) 538-4548
 indsoptimist@gmail.com

Indiana South District
2nd Quarter Conference-North Regional
Saturday, January 18, Plainfield, 2025
 Richard A. Carlucci Recreation and Aquatic Center
 651 Vestal Rd. Plainfield, IN 46168



Register online through North Registration Link: <https://mp.gg/s75hzuow>

Member name #1 _____ Name for badge: _____
 Club name: _____ Zone _____
 Club office held? _____ District office? _____
Member name #2 _____ Name for badge: _____
 Club name: _____ Zone _____
 Club office held? _____ District office? _____
Non-Member Name _____ Name for badge: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION *(person submitting registration)*

email address: _____ Phone: _____
 Street _____ City: _____ State: _____

Conference Functions Require a Reservation	Price	Number	Amount
Registration Fee per Household (living in the same house)	\$5.00	_____	<u>\$5.00</u>
Lunch (per person) Catered by What's Cooking Tonight?	\$20.00	_____	_____

(Beef Lasagna Linguine Alfredo Grilled Chicken-chopped side salad Dinner Rolls Oreo Parfait Strawberry Shortcake parfait 8 oz pedestal clear Iced Tea-sweet Iced Tea-unsweet Spring Water-Individual)

**Deadline for lunch choice is Monday, January 13, 2025. After that date lunch may be "on your own".*

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (Must Accompany This Form) \$ _____

REGISTRATION FORM & REMITTANCE

Indiana South District Registrar
 Attention: Dave Osborne
 1189 Pinewood Drive
 Plainfield, IN 46168
 C (317) 538-4548
 indsoptimist@gmail.com

Message from Governor Walt...

Fellow Optimists of Indiana South District, I'm looking forward to our 2nd Quarter District Meetings. The Conference will be conducted in two locations on two different dates. The first Super Regional conference will be conducted in Plainfield, Indiana on January 18, 2025 and the second Super Regional conference will be conducted at Georgetown, Indiana on January 25, 2025. There are several reasons to have super regional conferences at both northern and southern locations of the district. The first is because occasionally there is icy weather in January. Two locations at both ends of the district make it easier for our members to attend. The second reason is that with closer conferences, more of our members will attend.

I strongly encourage every Lt. Governor, club president and secretary/treasurer to attend one or both meetings. It is also beneficial for any of our optimist members to attend as well. Our District Leadership Development Committee of Mike Novac, Bill Cherolis, and Andy Tice are preparing important training to be presented at the conferences. Another important benefit from attending the District Conference is we get to meet other optimists from clubs all over the district and we are able to learn new ideas about how these clubs support their communities.

Walter R. Willms, Governor Indiana South District Optimist

Agenda Overview (Eastern time):

8:00–9:00 a.m. — Registration

9:00 a.m.

Welcome & Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

First Timers & Distinguished Guests

Conference Schedule and evaluation remarks

OI Convention

Optimist International Website Opportunities & Activities

Day of Optimism-1st Thursday in February

District Board Meeting:

Approval of District Board Minutes

Finance/Budget Report

Policy & Zoning

Candidate Qualifications

Committee Updates: Oratorical, Essay, Tri-Star, CCDHH, RFL, Junior Golf

Break [15 minutes]

Catch a Rising Star

Club Showcase

Luncheon 12:00–1:26 p.m.

Welcome

Invocation

Introductions of anyone missed

Lunch-buffet

Growth Recognition, Membership, & NCB Update

2023-24 Awards or Recognition

OIF Awards information, awards, & donations

Happy Dollars

Optimist Creed

Break [15 minutes]

Activity

LDC Wrap-up

"Bring out the Best" Message

Darrel's Digital Diary

Adjourn

2024 Terre Haute Noon Optimist Clothe A Child Drive

In early December of 2024, the Terre Haute Noon Optimist Club's Clothe A Child Drive reached a crescendo of activity as members and community volunteers worked together to finalize clothing purchases and then created personalized bundles of clothing for 960 children living in Vigo County.

Dr. Katelyn Liberman, an administrator with the Vigo County School Corporation, handled the purchasing of clothing and organizing the effort to sort the clothing for the children to receive at their own school.

Noon Optimist members united with ISU's Pi Kappa Alpha (Pikes) fraternity members plus volunteers from Terre Haute South's Key Club and Terre Haute North's Interact Team to complete the multi-day job of assembling customized packets of clothing and organizing them by school site for delivery. It took about SEVEN days of work for many volunteers to finish this important phase. Vigo County School Corporation employees then picked up the packages for each school and delivered them.

2024-25 Club President Lisa Jones coordinated the many months long efforts leading up to procuring clothing at low prices and to raising the \$90,000 annual fundraising goal. After the conclusion of the auction, 2023-24 President Don Wilson expressed the sentiment of many volunteers, "It was a success, but thank God it is over."

Current President Lisa Jones commented, "I am truly proud of our members and our community for helping us make this happen."

The months long fundraising drive organized by Jeff Bishop yielded wide spread and varied sources of funding including grants from foundations and local fellowship organizations such as the Wabash Valley Rodders plus a plethora of individual donations. Jeff commented "I am happy to lead the fundraising because of the pleasure I get providing young children with new clothing for Christmas."

Many businesses from Vigo County and Terre Haute generously supported this important Christmas Season activity which brings joy and safety to so many children in the community.

The final fundraising activity of the year is the annual Live Auction which is held at the downtown VFW Post.

Members bring desserts and the club provides sub sandwiches and salads for a free will donation before the auction begins. Hundreds of local supporters flood the VFW Hall and enjoy the meal and the event.

Local auctioneers donate their time and each voluntarily makes a \$100 donation to sponsor one child in the drive. Members of Rose-Hulman's Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity continued the fraternity's long tradition of helping at the auction and Clothe A Child Drive by displaying the items up for bid and then delivering them to the successful bidder in the audience.

Over a hundred local businesses, club members and community supporters donated a wide variety of items ranging in value from \$25 to over \$1,000.

When the evening was concluded, the Noon Optimists had raised over \$25,000 in new donations and sales during the live auction. Almost \$17,000 came from the auctioning of donated items with the balance coming from direct donations made that evening and the free will offerings for food and drinks.

Current President Lisa Jones is already looking forward to the 2025 Live Auction as she spent the club's next meeting seeking opinions on what went well and what could be improved for the 2025 auction.

Clay County Optimist Club Sponsors Breakfast with Santa with Sheriffs' Association

On December 14th, the Clay County Optimist Club again joined with the Indiana Sheriffs' Association to sponsor the 4th Annual Breakfast with Santa at the Indiana Sheriffs' Youth Ranch located south of Brazil.

For the third straight year, the Clay County Optimist Club provided funding and volunteers to help the sheriffs and deputies from several Indiana counties host a free breakfast at the lodge located on the Youth Ranch.

This year around 300 children and their families gathered to enjoy the event. Decked out in their finest Christmas sweaters or their PJ's, the children first entered the craft room where they created their own personal ornament and wrote a letter to present to Santa detailing the gifts each had in mind.

They then joined their parents and grandparents for a breakfast of pancakes, sausage and drinks. The crush was so overwhelming that Youth Ranch Executive Director Scott Minier had to twice order more food supplies.

After breakfast, the children then had a chance to visit with Santa and explain why they just had to have the gift ideas on their lists.

In addition to the financial contribution to help fund the free breakfast, Optimist members were present at various stages such as greeting families as they entered the lodge, helping with food service, keeping the dining area neat and orderly and entertaining families with conversation and membership brochures while they awaited their turn with Santa.

Seeing the enjoyment, the children got making decorations, creating their letters, eating at their own kid sized picnic tables and finally visiting with Santa brightens the Christmas season for volunteers and families. Brylee Wallace, left before we could get Santa free for a picture. She is our Club media specialist. She took some photos, helped with greeting families, and worked in the dining room a bit. Jon and Sandy Hendrich kept the dining room clean and organized. Big, busy job. Veterans John Tribble and Mary Ann Froderman visited with parents and children awaiting time with Santa. Plus, they made sure each family got an Optimist brochure with a membership application form.



Optimist Volunteers: Jon Hendrich, Sandy Hendrich, John Tribble, Mary Ann Froderman, Jim Tribble, & Brylee Wallace

Zone 3 Optimists deliver wooden Toys to seven charities in Hendricks County

In cooperation with the Central Indiana Wood Workers (CIWW), Hendrick County Optimist Clubs delivered wooden toys to seven different charities in Hendricks. Members of CIWW make toys all year long and store them until the 1st Saturday in December. Their goal each year is more than **10,000 toys**. Members gather and “Pick & Pack” toys for delivery to more than 40 agencies in central Indiana.

Charities receiving toys in Hendricks County included: Family Promise, Firefly, Project Angel, Sheltering Wings, Plainfield Youth Assistance, Plainfield Optimist Club, and Hoosier Christmas Hope.

Optimist members who participated in the delivery included Larry Clark, Kevin Kessinger, and Darrel Paul. Larry & Kevin were delivery drivers and Darrel did an excellent job of directing the whole operation.



Sheltering Wings



Toy Grater

Get Paid for Having Fun



**MEMBERSHIP
DUES? GROUPER
HELPS COVER 'EM!**

Grouper +  **Optimist
INTERNATIONAL**

We're thrilled to share some exciting news — if you're 65 or older and live in the United States, Optimist International has teamed up with Grouper to help cover your membership dues!

What Does This Mean for You?

Grouper will assist in covering Optimist members' membership dues by providing a yearly check for those with qualifying Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plans, up to \$100. This partnership ensures that both long-time members and newcomers can enjoy a break on their yearly dues just for being active and socially connected.

Signing Up with Grouper:

Ready to check if your plan includes Grouper? Simply sign up online at www.hellogrouper.com/Optimist with your health plan info. Grouper will contact you within 5 business days to inform you if you are eligible - then they will send a check regardless of when you last paid your dues.

We are excited to tell you more about how our partnership with Grouper can improve your social health and well-being. If you have any questions, please reach out to Grouper's welcoming member engagement team at 833-519-1072 or visit www.hellogrouper.com/Optimist for further information.



Optimist Day is Coming

Optimist Day 2025 is Thursday, Feb. 6. This is a great chance to celebrate your Club's impact in your community and to showcase the power of optimism to a broad audience.

We encourage you to wear Optimist T-shirts and hats on Optimist Day. Wearing optimist apparel will help you stand out and invite questions from potential new members.

But our Optimist Day efforts should go well beyond merchandise! We also urge you to plan a high-profile public service project for Optimist Day and let people know about it. Whether planting trees, cleaning parks, tutoring children, or donating blood, your actions will make a difference and inspire others to join our cause. And by sending a news release to your local media outlets and posting photos of your project to social media with the hashtags *#OptimistDay* and *#OptimistDay2025*, you will generate good publicity for your Club and attract new members and supporters.

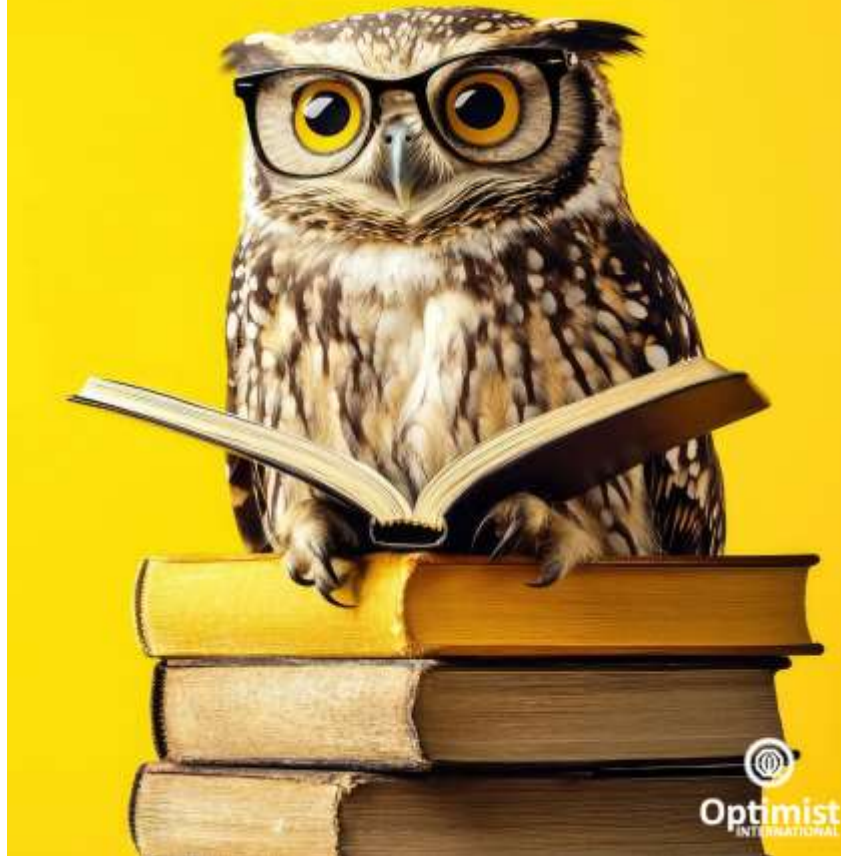
Remember: The bigger the project, the more likely it is the media will come.

Finally, reach out to your local officials and ask them to issue a proclamation declaring the first Thursday in February Optimist Day. This will raise awareness and recognition of our organization and our mission. You can download a [sample proclamation here](#).

We hope you are as excited as we are for Optimist Day 2025. Let's make it a memorable and meaningful one for ourselves and our communities!

Optimist

November 2024



To better serve our members and provide more timely and relevant content, Optimist magazine is undergoing a transformation. This year, instead of four quarterly issues, we will be publishing several shorter special editions throughout the year focused on key topics like the President's initiatives and the Optimist International Convention, plus an expanded yearly print edition. In addition, we're launching a monthly newsletter packed with Club stories, signature program updates, and inspiring member spotlights, and Club Presidents and district leaders will continue to receive the timely "Newsday Tuesday" emails with essential administrative updates.

This enhanced communication strategy will allow us to share more news and information with you while keeping you better connected to the Optimist community.



June 29-July 3 2025

107th Optimist International Convention



St. Louis Union Station Hotel,
Curio Collection by Hilton,
1820 Market Street,
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

**START PLANNING
YOUR TRIP NOW!
CLICK HERE FOR
HOTEL RESERVATION**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

- Vice President-Elect and Governor-Elect Training
- Vice President and Governor Training
- Registration
- House of Optimism (Expo)
- First Timers Program
- Taste of St. Louis Reception
- Opening Ceremony

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Bringing Out the Best in Youth

- House of Optimism (EXPO)
- General Session
- Heritage of Optimism Brunch
- Organization and Life Skills Training
- Trivia Night

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Bringing Out the Best in Community

- House of Optimism (EXPO)
- General Session
- Organization and Life Skills Training

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Bringing Out the Best in Ourselves

- House of Optimism (EXPO)
- General Session
- Annual Business Meeting & Closing
- Presidents Gala & Dance

THURSDAY, JULY 3

- Club President-Elect & Lt. Governor-Elect Breakfast
- Local Attraction Tour

Dear Club Presidents & Club Secretaries,

We are excited to tell you about how New Members will be handled going forward.

We are aware that there has been disappointment over the fact that the paper New Member Kits stopped being mailed out around the 2020-21 year, and it has been difficult to find the best way to distribute New Member pins to Clubs, so we decided to try something different.

When a New Member is added, they are automatically emailed a "Welcome New Member Magazine". The Optimist International Presidential New Member Letter is in this magazine along with information about opportunities that a new member might be interested in.

An email will be generated that will be sent to the Club President and the Club Secretary that will have the following attachments with it: A Creed, the Purposes, our Core Value Statement and Member Certificate. These have all been sized to be printed on an 8.5 x 11 piece of certificate paper and the Member Certificate will have the New Members Name on it.

Each Club will be able to order New Member pins from Optimist International. An order form is available at this link.

The number of pins you receive will be based on the number of new members that your Club has brought in over the past two years. You can order more as you need them at no cost to the Club.

The New Member pins have been slow to come in, so while you are welcome to place your order, please be advised that it may be a few weeks before we can get those to you

Sponsor recognition pins will continue to be mailed from Optimist International.

As with all new processes, there will be "kinks" to work out so please have patience, but we are looking forward to this new process and hope that you are too!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at membership@optimist.org.

Master Schedule of Dues and Fees for the 2024-2025 Year *US Funds*

The US dollar is the official currency of Optimist International. All Dues and Fees are in US dollars unless specifically noted otherwise. Canadian Clubs/Members are invoiced using the published CAD currency exchange rate. The Canadian Currency exchange rate cap for 2024-2025 is 1.36.

Effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025

Regular Adult Members

Optimist International's dues structure for Clubs is based on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and categorized into either Developed or Developing Countries.

	Developed	Developing
Annual	\$88.80	\$46.19
Semiannual	\$44.40	\$23.10
Quarterly	\$22.20	\$11.55

College Members

Any Optimist Member who is enrolled as a full-time college student (minimum of 12 credit hours) is eligible to have their annual dues reduced. College Members in Regular Clubs pay:

	Developed	Developing
Annual	\$30.84	\$18.85
Semiannual	\$15.42	\$9.43
Quarterly	\$7.71	\$4.71

Life Members

Life Membership Enrollment Fee: \$888.00 Developed Country, \$444.00 Developing Country.

	Developed	Developing
Annual	\$44.40	\$23.10
Semiannual	\$22.20	\$11.55
Quarterly	\$11.10	\$5.78

Friend of Optimist

Annual \$140.00 USD/CAD (\$84.00 to Optimist International, \$56.00 to Club/District that sponsors the Member)

New Club Charter Fee

Developed Countries	\$325.00
Developing Countries	\$225.00

Processing Fees for New Members

Regular Members	\$15.00
College Members	\$5.00
Transfer Members	\$5.00



New Personal Growth and Involvement Plan (PGI) Guidelines

Last night, a webinar was held to introduce the new Personal Growth and Involvement Plan (PGI) for Optimist International. Below are the new program guidelines, as well as the [list of the requirements](#) for each level.

Please note that all levels of the new PGI must be completed on the Optimist Institute. If you have been working on PGI levels in the last 5 years, take special note of #3 below.

New PGI Guidelines:

1. The new PGI program will be available online in the Optimist Institute on September 10, 2024.
2. To participate in the PGI program, each member is required to have an active account in the Optimist Institute.
3. Any current member that has completed PGI Level 3 or higher within the last 5 years will be able to start at the next level they need to complete. For those members, previous levels will be unlocked, and members have the option to complete earlier levels in part or in their entirety as desired. All other members will begin work at Level 1. Members receiving manual credit must be sure their account has been created in the Optimist Institute on or before **October 31, 2024**, and credit will be granted by November 30, 2024. If an account has not been created, credit for the completed levels cannot be granted. Those who fail to have an account by October 31, 2024, will start over at Level 1 in the program (if you have created an account in the past, you are all set – just be sure it's been renewed for this year!).
4. The levels of PGI must be completed consecutively. Upon successful completion of a level, the next level will be unlocked, as some of the work builds up to other work.
5. When completing components within each level, members must be sure to follow the verification deadlines as required for each submission, which will always be within 60 days. However,

members can take as long as they want/need to complete an entire level.

6. Certificates of completion for each PGI level can be generated through the Optimist Institute once a level is completed. Reward badges for each level will also be awarded through the Optimist Institute.
7. The Level 10 gold pinback will be sent directly to the District PGI Chair or Governor for presentation to the member, unless the OI office is informed that it should be sent to the member directly.
8. The PGI Passport, along with other forms of written documentation and verification, will no longer be accepted.

As a note, please know that the PDP will be receiving a rewrite by the Optimist International Leadership Development Committee during the 2024-2025 year, as they have been charged with this task. Because of this, the current PDP was taken offline on Sept. 10, 2024.

When it is finished, it will be relaunched on the Optimist Institute, and a webinar will be held to explain the differences between the old and new programs – just as is being done with the PGI.

If you have any questions on this new program, feel free to email institute@optimist.org.

Optimist International sponsors three scholarship contests for students to earn money to pursue opportunities in higher education: The Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), the Essay Contest and the Oratorical Contest. The contests are conducted at the Club level, then Zone and Regional (if necessary) and at the District level. District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations and awarded by Optimist International.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2024-2025



ORATORICAL
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Topic
"How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times"

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1926, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the World Championships level

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

One District Scholarship of \$2,500



Topic
"How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success"



ESSAY
CONTEST



COMMUNICATION CONTEST



Topic
"How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times"

COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

One District Scholarship of \$2,500

KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.





KIDS SPEAK OUT!

Follow complete Official Rules posted on www.optimist.org

NOW is the time to continue your planning for these contests.

2024-2025 District Meetings

2nd Quarter North Super Conference – Saturday January 18, 2025
Richard A. Carlucci Recreation and Aquatic Center, 651 Vestal Rd,
Plainfield, IN 46168. 9:00 EST. \$20 for registration/lunch. More
information to come.

2nd Quarter South Super Conference – Saturday January 25, 2025
Georgetown, IN 8260 IN-64, Georgetown, IN 47122. 9:00 EST. More
information to come.

3rd Quarter Conference –Friday night and Saturday April 25 and 26 –
Oratorical finals – Jasper Kimball Headquarters; 1600 Royal Street,
Jasper, IN 47546. More information to come.

4th Quarter Convention— August 22, 23, 2025 Terre Haute
Convention Center 800 Wabash Ave. Terre Haute IN. 47807. More
information to come.

Hello there, this is a simple reminder that you may begin preparing your annual Form 990 series notice or return.

Contact an OI Department:

Optimist International is committed to providing professional and prompt service to Optimist volunteers and other interested parties. If you know which department you wish to contact, please check the e-mail list below.

You may also speak to a staff member in that department by calling (314) 371-6000 or (800) 500-8130 and requesting the extension listed next to each department. To speak to someone in the Optimist International Canada office, please call (514) 593-4401 or (800) 363-7151.

Awards	261	awards@optimist.org
LMS/Optimist Institute	210	
Communications/Social Media	236	communications@optimist.org
Executive Director	200	executiveoffice@optimist.org
Finance & Administration	202	finance@optimist.org
International Convention	205	convention@optimist.org
International Office	300	headquarters@optimist.org
International Programs	218	programs@optimist.org
Junior Optimist	218	youthclubs@optimist.org
Leadership / Personal Development	261	leadership@optimist.org
Marketing & Graphics	236	marketing@optimist.org
Member Services	247	clubservices@optimist.org
Membership	227	membership@optimist.org
New Club Building	227	newclub@optimist.org
Optimist Junior Golf	218	golf@optimist.org
Webmaster	209	webmaster@optimist.org
Canadian Service Centre	(800) 363.7151	CanadianService@optimist.org
Canadian Supplies	(800) 565.7062; www.optimistsupply.ca	info@optipromo.ca
Optimist Supply (US)	(800) 223.2203; www.shumsky.com	

Contacting Optimist Leaders:

To contact an International leader by e-mail, use their firstname.lastname followed by @optimistmail.org. For example - Cheryl Brenn: cheryl.brenn@optimist.org

OI Foundation

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.

The Diamond Level requires a minimum donation to the Foundation of \$100 annually and the donor receives a specially designed postcard and thank you message from the Foundation President.



Women’s Philanthropy Council (WPC) was formed in 2005 to support the work of the Optimist International Foundation. Members reach out to women as donors and assist in shaping their philanthropy. All donations raised through the giving circle of the WPC will be used to underwrite World Oratorical Championship scholarships for young women that win the Regional Contest from the US and in the Caribbean. It is important to note that your contribution to OIF designated to support the efforts of the WPC will be counted as a restricted donation and will not be credited to your annual giving or that of your District/Club. It will count towards lifetime giving.

Join the Presidents Club by making an initial unrestricted gift of \$250, and renew your membership each year by making an annual \$250 contribution. When you join, you will receive a prestigious Presidents Club lapel pin. Each year at the International Convention, you will be recognized with a ribbon for your badge and will be invited to attend a function exclusively for members.



Friends of Today make a minimum unrestricted donation of \$500 annually to the Foundation. Donors will receive a special plaque designed by a local St. Louis artist.

The Christian D. Larson Partners was adopted to recognize donors who contribute a one-time \$1,000 unrestricted gift. *Donors may combine multiple unrestricted gifts in one Optimist fiscal year to achieve the \$1,000 level. Partners will receive a plaque presented by the DFR.

To become a member of the William H. Harrison Society, donors must have a life-to-date of \$10,000 and contribute \$1,000 annually to the Foundation. Members will be invited to attend a recognition dinner with the Foundations' Boards of Directors at the International Convention. Members also receive a ribbon noting their Membership in Society to be worn with Convention badge.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Optimist International Foundation was established on February 28, 1971.

The creators envisioned a Foundation that could provide significant funding for OI's youth and service programs and which would be proudly supported by individual Optimists, their Clubs, and the community at large.

WHAT OIF DOES FOR CLUBS AND DISTRICTS

- \$5,000 TO EACH DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST
- \$2,500 TO EACH DISTRICT FOR THE CCDHH CONTEST
- \$2,500 TO EACH DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST
- \$5,000 FOR THE REGIONAL WORLD ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS FOR NON-CANADIAN WINNERS

WHAT OIF DOES FOR CLUBS

- \$15,000 FOR THE WORLD ORATORICAL CHAMPION, \$10,000 FOR 2ND PLACE AND \$5,000 FOR 3RD PLACE FOR NON-CANADIAN WINNERS
- \$2,500 TO EACH DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST
- Club Pass Through:

- If your Optimist Club is seeking grant funds or contributions for funding of your charitable community service projects or other charitable, literary or educational programs, you may request the assistance of Optimist International Foundation (OIF) as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This program is only available in the United States. Please find the Club Pass Through Grant Program guidelines document on the Foundation website at: oifoundation.org.

WHAT OIF DOES FOR OTHER OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

- CONTRIBUTES \$85,000 TO SUPPORT THE JOI PROGRAM
- CONTRIBUTES TO THE JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
F O U N D A T I O N

Presidents Club

The Presidents Club is a giving level that recognizes Optimists who are truly committed to the mission of the Foundation and its work to support Optimist International. By becoming a member of the Presidents Club, you are doing much more than giving a gift to change a child's life; you are making a statement that you are dedicated to the future of Optimism.

Become a member of the Presidents Club today and show your support as a steadfast Optimist and devoted friend to the Foundation. Optimist International Foundation works to raise funds to support the endeavors of Optimist International, its Clubs and its Members. The Foundation needs donors like you to continue 'Helping Optimists Help Kids'.

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Become part of an exclusive group that is
committed to making a difference.

I want to join the Presidents Club!

Name (one person only) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Enclosed is my check made out to the Optimist International Foundation.

_____ Please deduct \$ _____ from my account monthly for _____ years. (Enclosed is my voided check)

Bank Name _____

Account # _____ Routing # _____

_____ Please charge my credit card \$ _____ per month for _____ years.

MC Visa Discover American Express

Account # _____ Exp. _____ / _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____



Please return to: Optimist International Foundation • Presidents Club • PO Box 952126 • St. Louis, MO 63195-2126

Update Member Information

To ensure each Optimist Member is receiving valuable information from Optimist International, encourage each Member to update their contact information with a leader in your Club. This includes addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. Each leader (Club President, Secretary, and/or Treasurer) has a log-in for Optimist Leaders to update the Members' information.

The Optimist Club of the Year

The Optimist Club of the Year is the highest achievement an Optimist Club can attain in the Optimist organization. The recipient of this prestigious award will be chosen regardless of number of members, or region and will be known as the “Best Overall Club” in Optimist International.



The Optimist Club of the year award is presented annually to the most outstanding Club in the organization based on the following criteria:

	Maximum Points
Service projects sponsored by the Club	30 points
Member Development Programs a year (<i>i.e. PGI Program, Optimist International Conventions and Summit, etc.</i>)	25 points
Club Growth and Increased Community Awareness Campaigns (<i>i.e. NOW Program, Marketing Campaign, etc.</i>)	25 points
Increased Volunteer Member Base	10 points
New Community Efforts	10 points

Points in each category will be awarded by independent judges based upon community outreach, impact on children and Members, new and innovative ideas; and benefits to the individual Club Members.

Interested Clubs are invited to submit information as outlined on the [judging form](#). Clubs can submit any materials they chose as the items relate to the specified criteria.

The Club named Overall Optimist Club of the Year will receive one round-trip airline ticket to the Optimist Convention, a banner patch, an award, and a special article in The Optimist magazine and on the Optimist website.

Submissions: Submit the judging form and back up documentation to Leadership@optimist.org .
In the email subject line include: Club of the Year Judging Form, Club's full name, and Club Number.



We understand the importance of protecting your Optimist Club and the children you serve. IntelliCorp has partnered with Optimist International to ensure Optimist Clubs receive comprehensive and validated screening services at the lowest possible cost.

Optimist Background Check Package

The following cost-effective screening package has been created to simplify your background check process. The package uses a combination of multiple sources of criminal record information. In addition, we validate database records by returning to the source to ensure that we have the latest updates regarding your applicant's history.

Package Pricing: \$13.86

Includes:

- Validated Criminal Database
 - Validated Nationwide Sex Offender
 - Validated Department of Corrections
- Unlimited Single County Searches (7 year address history)*
- SSN Verification w/Address History
- Government Sanctions (Terrorist Search)

Notes:

*Some courts charge a mandatory fee. These are treated as pass-through fees to our clients and are clearly highlighted before processing the search.

Package Add-Ons

- Motor Vehicle Reports
- Employment Verifications
- Education Verifications
- Drug Testing
- Federal Criminal Searches
- Civil Searches
- I9/E-Verify
- Credit Reports



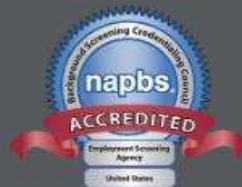
Program Benefits:

- Preferred pricing
- Criminal product validation
- Compliance information/online sample forms
- Personalized customer support
- System & product training sessions
- Secure online report ordering & retrieval

Please Note: Information and preferential pricing provided for U.S. Clubs only. Canadian Clubs should contact IntelliCorp for more information.

Sign-Up Today:

Click [here](#) and complete the first page of the registration process.



Contact:

Mike Terrell
800-539-3717 x157
mterrell@intellincorp.net
www.intellincorp.net

Club Presidents: Please make copies of this Bulletin and distribute to the members of your club.

Useful Web Links

Optimist International Structure & Services:

http://www.optimistleaders.org/LeadershipInfo/ClubInfo/ClubAnswerBook/OI_Structure_&_Services.pdf

Club Organizational Model:

http://www.optimistleaders.org/TeachingMaterials/OfficerTraining/Club_Organization_Model.pdf

Optimist International Foundation:

The Optimist International Foundation is a 501C3 organization whose purpose is to receive and manage funds exclusively for the charitable, literary, or educational purposes of OI and its member clubs. See website link: <http://oifoundation.org/about-us/>

Official Optimist International Supplier: Shumsky www.OptimistStuff.com



Attention ALL Club Presidents

Presidents of all Clubs in the District serve as members of the District Board of Directors. Make sure to attend your Board meeting at every District Conference and at the Convention.

The Southern Exposure is published for all Optimists located in the Indiana South District, Optimist International. The editor is Paul R. Grant, 770 N County Road 625 E, Avon, IN 46123. Submissions may be sent to p_grant@fastmail.fm and are subject to extreme editing.