



The Southern Exposure

Indiana South District – Optimist International

Volume 30, Issue 3

March 2025

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

Attention:

Committee Chairs & Lt Governors

The *deadline* for submitting articles for the next District Bulletin is **June 30, 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

Governor's Comments

Our third quarter conference is a little over a month away as I write this column. All of our conferences are fun to attend, but this one has unique events to add to the excitement of getting together as optimists. We will get the opportunity to hear the best speakers from our Indiana schools in the oratorical contest.

In addition, we will get to hear thought provoking ideas from those students who have written essays. All of us benefit from experiencing our youth express themselves verbally and in writing with their ideas.

We also get the opportunity to interact with our fellow optimists from all over Southern Indiana. Our meeting facilities are top notch! We will again meet at the Kimball World Headquarters Facility in Jasper.

To top it off, David Osborne has arranged for delicious, mouthwatering food for us to enjoy. I urge all optimists to make it a priority to attend our third quarter conference.

Membership is the "life-blood" of Optimist International as well as of Indiana South District (ISD). Year to date, ISD is doing fairly well, but we need to push our membership into positive territory for the year. As of March 18, we were down 5 members. Among the 59 districts in 01,

we rank 11th in the membership category. If each club would be net +1 for the year, we would be the top district in 01 for membership. There are over 6 months left in the Optimist Year, there is time to make that happen!

Best wishes to all of our clubs and their members. I look forward to being with you on April 25 and 26.

Walter R. Willms, Governor, Indiana South District, Optimist International



Past Governor Greg Kuhn



Governor Walt Willms

Hello fellow Optimists, I am Monica Wallace, your current Governor Elect for our Indiana South District. I just returned from my training in St. Louis and I will have to say it was very enlightening. I am looking forward to the continual learning and collaborating with our clubs so we can become stronger in our continual support we provide to youth. Having the ability to grow in leadership, confidence, and learn from each of you will only make me a stronger individual, club member, professional, mother, etc. I come into this position with the courage to ask questions, listen with intent to learn, and be the support each of our Lt. Governors and their Zones deserve. Being an Optimist, doesn't mean we don't see or deal with struggles. But, it does mean that when the struggles occur we have the mindset to say, "How can I fix this?" or "How can our club support this need?" Just like the story of throwing a pebble in the water or skipping it across the water we see the ripples. This is the same concept we can put into play within our clubs, working with the children, their families, or our communities. As we continue to throw out our pebbles of Optimism we will be creating ripples of change as we take action by providing hope when our youth feel like there is no hope to have. We will be diving into this concept more as we go into the new year of Optimism. As for now, I look forward to meeting everyone in August at the Terre Haute Convention Center.

Indiana South District
3rd Quarter Conference



Friday and Saturday April 25 - 26

Kimball International Headquarters
1600 Royal Street, Jasper, Indiana

Register online through <https://mp.gg/nsxopsm> or complete form below and mail (Please print neatly)

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: _____

Friday Dinner (on your own) Schnitzelbank 393 Third Ave, Jasper, IN 47546 6:30 pm EST

Will you be attending? Yes _____ No _____ If so, How Many? _____

Conference Functions Require a Reservation Price Number Amount

Lunch (per person) \$17.00 _____

(Pecan Chicken, Smoked Pork Butt, Garlic Red Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roasted Carrots, Fresh vegetable tray, Assorted desserts and drinks, Roll w/Butter)

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

***Deadline for lunch choice is Monday April 18, 2025. After that date lunch may be "on your own".**

**REGISTRATION FORM &
REMITTANCE**
Must be received by: April 18, 2024
Indiana South District Registrar
Attention: Dave Osborne
1189 Pinewood Drive
Plainfield, IN 46168
C (317) 538-4548 indsoptimist@gmail.com

Hotel Accommodation
Hampton Inn \$125 [Click Here](#)
355 3rd Ave
Jasper, IN 47546
812-481-1888
Breakfast Included
BLOCK CODE: Indiana South Dist.
Optimist
Reservation due by April 11, 2025
[Indiana South District Optimist Website link](#)

Message from the Governor ...

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

The third quarter conference for Indiana South District is a fun conference to attend! This is the conference where we hear the finalists of the Oratorical contest speak and where we hear the essays from the Essay contest read. Every time I hear these presentations my faith in the youth of our state and the country is strengthened. If this was the only reason to attend the third conference, it would be worth the trip.

However, there are other important reasons for attending: we get to interact with other optimists: we get information about the upcoming international conference in St. Louis; and the food is great. In addition, our meeting venue is first class. We are fortunate to again meet at Kimball. World Headquarters facility in Jasper, IN, at no cost to us. I strongly encourage each club president, secretary and treasurer to attend.

Walter R. Willms Governor
Indiana South District

Agenda Overview (Saturday, April 26, 2025, 8:00 – 4:00 Eastern time):

8:00–9:00 a.m. — Registration and Past Governor’s Meeting (Arnold F. Habig Board Room)

9:00-10:45 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Order

Recognition of First Timers and Distinguished Guests

Conference Schedule and evaluation remarks

District Board Meeting:

Candidate Qualifications-Lt. Governors Gov-Elect.

2025-26 Lt. Governor Election

Introduce 2025-26 Lt. Governors

OI International Convention and District Convention Update

Spreading Optimism Interactive Presentation

11:00-11:50 a.m.

Oratorical Contest

12:00–1:50 p.m. Luncheon

Essay Awards and Reading of Essays

Oratorical Awards (Intro of judges and contestants)

2023-24 Awards and Recognitions

OIF Awards information, awards, and donations

Happy Dollars

2:05-3:30

Committee Chairs-Tri-Star BB, RFL, CCDHH, Junior Golf

2025-26 District Committee Update

How Can We Put Optimists in Action?

LDC Wrap-up “Bring out the Best” Message

Darrel’s Digital Diary

Adjourn-Optimist Creed



2025 Indiana South District Optimist Junior Golf Tournament
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Indiana South District Qualifying Tournament for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships (OIJGC) will be held at Oak Tree Golf Course, Plainfield, Indiana on Friday, June 20, 2025. Winners (and other participants who qualify) in each age group will be eligible to advance to the International tournament at Trump National Doral Resort & Spa, Miami, Florida on July 15 –30, 2025.

Sponsorship opportunities for businesses, individuals, and organizations are listed on the attached form. If you, your business, or your club would like to participate as a sponsor in this year's District Qualifying Tournament, please complete the form and return it as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2025. Prior year sponsors will have the first opportunity to renew the same sponsorship if received by April 30, 2025. The Indiana South District of Optimist International and the many junior golf participants thank you in advance for your support!

David Osborne, District Tournament Chair
dwomedic@gmail.com (317) 538-4548

Alex Overway, Sponsorship Contact
alexoverway@gmail.com (574) 702-2182





2025 Indiana South District Optimist Junior Golf Tournament SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Title Sponsor – \$1,000 (Priority renewal if received by April 30, 2025)

Promoted as "Title" Sponsor on all signage on the course, in the Tournament Program, event mailings to potential participants and sponsors, Optimist Clubs in District, and Regional and District promotional material.

Friend of Youth - \$500 or above

Signage at the Clubhouse, Registration Table, and website.

Double Eagle Sponsor – \$235 (Priority renewal if received by April 30, 2025)

Sponsor the Scoreboard, Driving Range, Putting Green, 1st Hole, 10th Hole, 17th Hole or 18th Hole. (All of these are near the Clubhouse.) Includes Sponsors Sign and Listing in Tournament Program.

Eagle Sponsor – \$185 (Priority renewal if received by April 30, 2025)

Sponsor the Check-in Table, Beverage locations, 2nd Hole, 9th Hole, or 16th Hole, (Not far from the Clubhouse.) Includes Sponsors Sign on course and Listing in Tournament Program.

Birdie Sponsor – \$135

Sponsor a Hole. (Holes 3-8 and 11-15.) Includes Sponsors Sign on course and Listing in Tournament Program.

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Sponsor(s): _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) E-Mail: _____

Sponsorship Type

RETURN INFORMATION: Please

Friend of Youth (\$500+) _____ complete this form, enclose a check for the

Double Eagle (\$235) _____ proper amount (Make check payable to Indiana

Eagle Sponsor (\$185) _____ South District OI), and return to:

Birdie Sponsor (\$135) _____ **Indiana South District Jr. Golf**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ **C/O Kent Reyling**

656 Poplar Lane

Jasper, IN 47546

Clay County Optimist Club Update

. We are currently holding a Pancake Breakfast at a local restaurant named The Mixed Plate where all proceeds will go towards our Clothe A Child program. We finished up our Essay Contest and we will be awarding the top 3 winners at our April meeting. Lastly, we are working on a partnership with our local DCS office to support them with emergency clothing for children that are removed from their homes when it is determined unsafe. We have given out quarterly donations to our local CASA program and local YMCA to help support their youth programming.



CASA Check Presentation



YMCA Check Presentation

Santa Claus Oratorical Contest

The Santa Claus Optimist Club held their local Oratorical Contest. They had 8 contestants. The 1st and 2nd place winners will proceed to the Regional Contest. The first 3 place winners at Regional will then compete at the District level where the winner will receive a \$2500 scholarship (2nd and 3rd receive \$1500 and \$1000). The District winner will then compete at the International level for a chance to win an additional \$22,500.



Below is a picture from last year's CCDHH contest held in May. It's time for every club in our District to find entrants for this year's contest. The winner receives a \$2500 Scholarship.



Terre Haute Breakfast Optimist Club

Indiana South District Zone Four Lt. Governor John Evans presented Breakfast Optimist **Mike Butts** with a certificate of appreciation in recognition for 65 years as an Optimist at February 20th meeting. **Mike** was 22 years old when he first became an Optimist. Love and Kudos to **Mike** for all he's done in the name of Optimism.



Jasper High School Octagon Club Visits Jasper Optimist Club

We had a GREAT time yesterday, with fellow Optimist Club of Jasper, IN members celebrating #OptimistDay at Ohana's with the leaders of our JHS Octagon Club (and sponsor Jessica Mehringer) as our featured speaker(s). They shared the service projects that they conduct for the elementary schools. They handed out candy and Optimist Creed cards to the students at JHS and recited the Optimist Creed on the public announcement in honor of #OptimistDay25.

Melissa Eckert filled in for President Paul Eckert who was unable to attend and presented a special award (Optimist watch) to Kent Reyling for his continued service to the club. 🕒 Thank you to ALL the members who attended and to Melissa for her continued leadership. 🏆



Santa Claus Tri-Star Awards

At halftime at the HHHS basketball game, our Santa Claus Optimist Club members awarded the medals for the winners in our Tri-Star Basketball event. Thanks Nick Paulin and your helpers for making this happen!



Mill Creek Optimist Club

Cascade Youth League would like to thank Jack Nichols for his many years of service and dedication to our community. Thank you to the MCCSC School Board for joining us at our awards ceremony and dedicating the CMS gymnasium to Jack!



**Optimists Turn
Obstacles into
Opportunities!**

Avon Optimist Club Conducts Oratorical Contest

Mercy Olaniyan, a student at Avon High School, recently won the Optimist Club of Avon's Oratorical contest based on a theme of "How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times".

Mercy was awarded the 1st place medal for the honor. Winning the 2nd place medal was **Doyin Akande**. In third place was **Jade Price**. All three are students at Avon High School. Each were awarded medals and cash awards. In addition, **Mercy & Doyin** will represent the Avon Optimist Club, Avon High School, and all of Avon at the Regional level where they will compete against winners from other Optimist Clubs in the area. The Regional will be held at the Plainfield Public Library at 2 PM on March 16th. The public is invited to view the contest.

The winner of the Regional competition will be sent to the District level (to be held at Kimball International Headquarters, 1600 Royal Street in Jasper, Indiana on April 26th) with the chance to win a \$2500 scholarship, and then possibly onto the Optimist International Regional/World Championship for a chance to win an additional \$5,000 or up to another \$15,000 scholarship.



Mercy



Doyin



Jade

Pictured with our winners is Darrell Paul, Oratorical Chair



Evansville Downtown Meeting

Thanks to Kathryn Kornblum who was our speaker today at the Downtown Optimist Club. She is the Executive of Parenting Time Center. Surprise guest and past President Tim Deisher joined us today. He was welcomed by Past President Karen K. Morris.



Have you lost your Passion?

Who are we? Optimist! Who are we? **Optimist!** Who are we? **OPTIMIST!!!!**

I recently saw a meme on Facebook that said, "The biggest concern for any organization should be when their most passionate people become quiet." Therefore, I ask you, are you still passionate about your club? Are you still passionate about the children you serve? Have you lost your voice?

We hear every day about all the negative things going on in our communities, towns, states, country and the world. We as Optimists should be shining bright right now. We should be the voice of positivity. Our world needs us. Our children need us.

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.

Leadership

**Is not-Doing everything yourself
Is not-Doing the Same Old Thing
Is not-Never Failing
Is not-Pointing Out What's Wrong
Is not-Shooting from the Hip
Is not-Putting Your Family Second
Is not-Separating People into Groups
Is not-Micro Managing**

Leadership is having people do what they haven't been doing, so they can get What They Want!

Leadership is providing Direction and Purpose to Their Goals

Last but not least, Leadership is Showing People They are more than They Think They Are!



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

*The deadline to propose Bylaws changes is **April 2, 2025**; the deadline to submit Resolutions is **May 2, 2025**.*

Make Valuable Changes with Bylaws Proposals

Please take time to evaluate the [Optimist International Bylaws](#) to ensure they continue to effectively serve the organization. This process allows you and your Club to shape and improve all of Optimist International.

To recommend a revision, your Club must submit a proposed amendment citing the article(s) and section(s) and exact proposed change to the articles and sections cited, along with a written rationale in 200 words or fewer. The Club must submit the proposal on Club letterhead signed by the Club President. The proposal may be emailed to the International Office at executiveoffice@optimist.org, but the original Club letter must be received by the International Office for the proposal to be considered.

All submitted changes will be brought before the International Convention delegates for a vote.

All proposed change submissions to the Bylaws must be received at the International Office by 5:00 p.m. (CT) Wednesday, April 2, 2025 (no exceptions). Please submit to: Governance Committee, Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 or email to executiveoffice@optimist.org.

Optimist Clubs Speak Through the Convention Resolutions Process

The Convention Resolution Process is a communications vehicle that can be used to your advantage. Resolutions can be submitted by clubs and should cover any aspect of the organization not already covered in the Bylaws.

The Resolutions Process

1. Clubs need to submit resolutions by Friday, May 2, 2025, to the Governance/Resolutions Committee.
2. The Governance/Resolutions Committee will meet during the convention and choose the strongest resolutions to report to convention delegates.
3. At the convention business session July 2, 2025, the Committee will present these resolutions for debate and vote by the convention delegates. (NOTE: *Resolutions endorsed by convention delegates are non-binding and are sent to the International Board of Directors for further consideration and study.*)

How to Submit Resolutions

Type resolutions on club stationery and include the Club's name, number, and president's signature. All resolutions should be written in standard resolution format: Whereas ..., Whereas ..., Whereas ..., Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Optimist International is asked to consider

All resolutions must be received at the International Office by 5 p.m. (CT) Friday, May 2, 2025 (no exceptions). Please submit to: Resolutions Committee, Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 or email to executiveoffice@optimist.org.

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.

To me, boxing is like a ballet, except there's no music, no choreography

HELP!!! I've been the Bulletin Chair/Editor for over 25 years. I need a replacement! You should know Microsoft Word; how to send emails to ALL our members who have an email address. I can send multiple examples of this year Bulletins for you to use as a starting point. So, let me know if you would like to take over for me. You do NOT have to WRITE the entries. You can edit the submitted articles.

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

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



Topic
"How Optimism Has Guided
Me Through Trying Times"

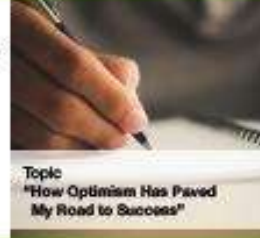
ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, 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.

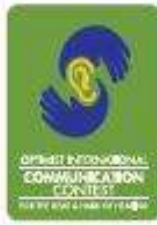
District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the
World Championships level

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"



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.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on www.optimist.org

2024-2025 District Meetings

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.

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) 555.7062; 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
FOUNDATION

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'.

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.

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.

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



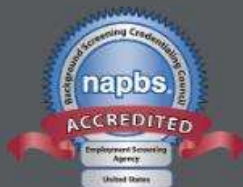
Program Benefits:

- 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.