

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself-

- *To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.*
- *To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.*
- *To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.*
- *To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.*
- *To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.*
- *To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.*
- *To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.*
- *To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.*
- *To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.*
- *To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*

--Optimist International

Purposes

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;

* To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;

* To inspire respect for the law;

* To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;

* To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.



**Indiana South District
Optimist International**

39th Annual Indiana South District Convention

**Terre Haute Convention Center
Terre Haute, Indiana
August 22-23, 2025**



Message from Governor Walt...

I'd like to welcome all of you to the 39th Annual Indiana South District Convention at the Terre Haute Convention Center. This is an excellent venue for our Convention providing us with the necessary spaces for training as well as large enough rooms for members of our District to congregate for general meetings and fellowship. The District Convention is always a great opportunity for Optimists throughout the District to get to know each other and to learn from our collective successes. There is also an opportunity to tour the Larry Bird Museum. Larry Bird is an Indiana success story. Take some time to learn about his amazing story.

During our sessions on Saturday we will be having some great training on how to recruit members during NOW meetings, there will be training for Secretaries/Treasurers, and there will be an opportunity for each of our clubs to showcase and "brag" on some of the great projects and activities that you are doing for the youth of our community. The keynote speaker for our convention is Bill Myers, a former member of the Indianapolis Optimist Club. He gave the Keynote Address at the recent Optimist International Convention in June. We are fortunate to have him at our convention as well. So, let us all enjoy and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to grow as Optimists at our Annual District Convention.



Sandy Doyle, Optimist International Vice-President, Middle America Region

Sandra K. Doyle (Sandy) is a mother of seven, grandmother of nineteen, and great-grandmother of three. She has been a member of the Optimist organization for over 26 years. Sandy loves spending time with her family, friends, traveling, and coming up with great ideas to help enrich the lives of children in her community. She has served as the Optimist, having been the Charter President of the West Jay club, Lieutenant Governor of Zone 5, and Governor of Indiana North for the 2018-19 term. She is currently Vice-President for Middle America. On top of all her pursuits, Sandy is a storyteller. Her book, "My Life at the Cemetery: It's Not as Dead as You Think: My Spiritual Journey through Life and Death," details the events of her 12-year career in the deathcare industry and how her encounters made her rethink her relationships, life, and spirituality. Optimism, spirituality, and gratitude are at the core of her story, and sharing this message has become her passion.



Message from Governor-Elect Monica Wallace...

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 at the Terre Haute Convention Center.

Convention Agenda

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

**4:00 p.m. Joint Executive Committee (Willms & Wallace)
Ballroom B**

5:30 p.m. Dinner-The Terminal

7:30 p.m. 1st General Session-Room Ballroom C

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Open Convention | Governor Walt |
| • Invocation | Chaplain Tony Trimble |
| • Pledge of Allegiance | Veterans |
| • Welcome & Introductions | Governor Walt |
| • Conference Overview | LDC Committee |
| • District Board Meeting | Governor Walt |
| • Call to Order | |
| • Approval of Minutes | DST Kent Reyling |
| • Finance/Budget Report | DST Kent Reyling |
| • Policy and Zoning | Tony Trimble |
| • Candidate Qualifications | IPG Greg Kuhn |
| • Adjourn | Governor Walt |

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

7:00-7:45 Past Governor's Meeting-Ballroom B

7:30 a.m. Old Timers/New Timers Breakfast-Ballroom D

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| • Welcome | Governor Walt |
| • Invocation | Tony Trimble |
| • Pledge of Allegiance | Veterans |
| • Guest Speaker | Mayor Brandon Sakbun |
| • Breakfast | |
| • Introductions-1st Timers | Governor Walt |
| • Countdown | Dave Osborne |
| • Adjourn-Optimist Creed | Gov.-Elect Monica |

BREAK (15 MINUTES)

9:30 a.m. Joint Officer Training

Lt. Governors & Presidents-Wallace Team-**Ballroom C**
Club Secretaries/Treasurers-Wallace Team-**Ballroom B**

ALL OTHER ATTENDEES-Ballroom D

Club Showcases

Expanding Optimism in your Club Paula Reyling

BREAK 15 MINUTES

10:45 a.m. Joint Officer Training

Lt. Governors & Presidents-Wallace Team-**Ballroom C**
Club Secretaries/Treasurers-Wallace Team-**Ballroom B**

ALL OTHER ATTENDEES-Ballroom D

Hands-on Community Service Activity

BREAK 15 MINUTES

12:00 a.m. Luncheon Meeting-Ballroom D

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| • Welcome | Governor-Elect Monica |
| • Invocation | Chaplain Tony Trimble |
| • Pledge of Allegiance | Veterans |
| • Lunch | |
| • Committee Reports | CCDHH, RFL, Golf Chair |
| • OI Convention Report | Paula Reyling |
| • OI Vice-President | Sandy Doyle |
| • Adjourn with Optimist Creed | Governor-Elect Monica |

BREAK 15 MINUTES

District Humanitarian Award Recipients

Indiana District (abbreviated)

1983-84 Herman Greenwood

1985-86 William "Bill" Scott

Indiana South District (starting 1986)

1986-87	Cyril Block, Jasper
1987-88	Jerry Martin, Indianapolis
1988-89	Gayle Manaugh, Hanover
1989-90	Dave Berkley, Columbus
1990-91	Jeffrey Stratton, Petersburg
1991-92	Frank Peebles, Clay County
1992-93	Glen Bowers, Danville
1993-94	Connie Daugherty, Jeffersonville
1994-95	Irv Bittler, Columbus
1995-96	William M.S. Myers, Indianapolis Downtown
1996-97	Reada Barnhart, Speedway "500"
1997-98	Carl Smith, Plainfield
1998-99	Mickey Higdon, Jr., Clarksville
1999-00	Brenda Hurm, Jasper Luncheon
2000-01	Mario "Mark" Wilson, North Vermillion
2001-02	Ralph Kennedy, Santa Claus
2002-03	Mike Smith, Jr., Georgetown
2003-04	Doris Stone, Jeffersonville Evening
2004-05	Karen Decker, Jeffersonville Falls City
2005-06	Oren "Doc" Sutherlin, North Vermillion
2006-07	Bill Drake, Mill Creek
2007-08	Paul Grant, Avon
2008-09	Thomas Logsdon, Santa Claus
2009-10	Cheryl Curry, Indianapolis Downtown
2010-11	Bill Nelson, Mill Creek
2011-12	Rick France, Indianapolis Downtown
2012-13	Daniel Keefe, Santa Claus
2013-14	Dawn Wickham, Plainfield
2014-15	Ken Loudonback, Indianapolis Downtown
2015-16	Trish Vaal, Santa Claus
2016-17	Tom Thake, Santa Claus
2017-18	Andy Harris, 500 West
2018-19	Greg Kuhn, Indianapolis Breakfast
2019-20	Vally Allen, Indianapolis Downtown
2020-21	Rick Johnson, Greensburg
2021-22	Merrill Smith, Greensburg
2022-23	Sue Fuhrman, Santa Claus
2023-24	Brook Reinoehl, Clay County

District Distinguished Optimist Award Recipients

Indiana District (abbreviated)

1977-78 William "Bill" Scott, Jeffersonville
 1985-86 John Reel, Plainfield

Indiana South District (starting 1986)

1986-87 Dale Voight, Jasper
 1987-88 Victor Hurm, Jr., Jasper
 1988-89 Don Mershon, Mooresville
 1989-90 Philip Powers, Indianapolis Downtown
 1990-91 Dr. Greg Berger, Jasper
 1991-92 Jim Crowe, Avon
 1992-93 Joe LaFauci, Columbus
 1993-94 Mike Woodward, Plainfield
 1994-95 Kent Reyling, Jasper
 1995-96 Don Pifer, Columbus
 1996-97 Stan Stewart, Jasper
 1997-98 O. Ray Marvel, Greenwood White River
 1998-99 Paula Reyling, Jasper
 1999-00 Carolyn Wischmann, Indianapolis Breakfast
 2000-01 Ken Kolmerten, Indianapolis Downtown
 2001-02 Rick France, Indianapolis North Side
 2002-03 Steve Arisman, Speedway "500"
 2003-04 Bethe Arisman, Speedway "500"
 2004-05 Linda Stein, Mill Creek
 2005-06 Judy McDowell, Wabash Valley
 2006-07 Mario "Mark" Wilson, North Vermillion
 2007-08 Pat France, Indianapolis Downtown
 2008-09 Herman Greenwood, Speedway "500"
 2009-10 Ron Fuhrman, Santa Claus
 2010-11 Paul Grant, Avon
 2011-12 Kathy Williams, Jeffersonville
 2012-13 Andy Tice, Plainfield
 2013-14 Mike Novak, Greensburg
 2014-15 Gerald Lawrence, Greensburg
 2015-16 Jerry Schue, Santa Claus
 2016-17 Cheryl Curry, Indianapolis Downtown
 2017-18 Chuck Curry, Indianapolis Downtown
 2018-19 Sandi Holstein, Fishers
 2019-20 Elbert Bradshaw, Indianapolis Breakfast
 2020-21 No Nominee
 2021-22 Frank Fowler, Santa Claus
 2022-23 Sue Cherolis, Santa Claus
 2023-24 Jessica Heathman, Santa Claus

1:40 p.m. 2nd General Session Room-Ballroom C

- Call to Order Governor Walt
- Governor-Elect Election IPG Greg Kuhn
- Gov.-Elect Election Results IPG Greg Kuhn
- NCB & Membership Update Jim Tribble
- Keynote Speaker Bill Myers
- Follow-up Discussion Governor's Awards Governor Walt
- OI Foundation DFR Mike Novak
- Happy Dollars Kent Reyling
- Memorial Service Gov. Walt & Kent
- Resolutions Tony Trimble
- Darrel's Digital Diary Darrel Paul
- LDC Debrief LDC Committee
- Final Comments Governor Walt
- Adjourn with Optimist Creed

***Larry Bird Museum Tour Open from 3:00-5:30**

Hospitality Room 520 (Open until 6:00 p.m.)

6:30 p.m. Governor's Banquet-Ballroom D

- Welcome & Introductions Kent Reyling
- Invocation Tony Trimble
- Pledge of Allegiance Veterans
- Boo-Boo Award
- Humanitarian of the Year
- Distinguished Optimist of the Year
- Dinner
- 2025-26 Officer Installation OI VP Sandy Doyle
- Remarks from Gov.-Elect
- Remarks from Gov. Designate Monica Wallace
- Governor's Message Gov. Walt
- Adjourn-Optimist Creed Monica Wallace



Bill C. Myers, Keynote Speaker

Bill C. Myers is an Emmy-winning author and filmmaker from Indiana. Known for the Bloodhounds Inc. series and inspirational novels, he writes about resilience, faith, and purpose. His work motivates audiences to grow compassion, creativity, and connection. He is also a former president of the Indianapolis Downtown Optimist Club.

Thank you to the Past Governors' Association for supporting Convention printing expenses and years of service to the Indiana South District!

**See you at the 2025-2026 1st Quarter Conference
Joint Conference with Indiana North**

November 8, 2025

Richard A. Carlucci Recreation and Aquatic Center, 651 Vestal Rd, Plainfield, In 46168

Past Governors' Association

Indiana District (abbreviated)

Patrick Grady	1955-56
William "Bill" Scott	1971-72*
John Reel	1981-82*

Indiana South District

O. Ray Marvel (H/DO)	1986-87*
Donald Miller (H/DO)	1987-88*
Elbert Bradshaw	1988-89*
Lou Moschell	1989-90
Rex Leonard	1990-91*
Ron Fuhrman	1991-92
Stan Stewart	1992-93
Paula Reyling	1993-94
Tracee Lutes	1994-95
Kenneth Kolmerten	1995-96
Paul Grant	1996-97
Mike Woodward	1997-98*
David Kirkman	1998-99*
Bob Thompson	1999-00
Linda Stein	2000-01
David Wischmann	2001-02*
Gerald Lawrence	2002-03*
Rick France	2003-04
Jim Fleming	2004-05
Steve Arisman (H)	2005-06
Rich Slayton	2006-07
Jerry Schue (H/D)	2007-08
Tony Trimble	2008-09
Sandi Holstein	2009-10
Kathy Underwood	2010-11
Chuck Curry	2011-12
Patricia France (H/D)	2012-13
Frank Fowler	2013-14
Mike Underwood	2014-15
Herman Greenwood	2015-16*
Dave Osborne	2016-17
Mark Wilson	2017-18
Mike Novak	2018-19
Bev Oerhle	2019-20
Bill Cherolis	2020-21
Mike Novak	2021-22
Kent Reyling	2022-23
Greg Kuhn	2023-24

* Deceased; H = Honor District; D = Distinguished Governor
DO = Distinguished and Outstanding Governor