



The Southern Exposure

Indiana South District – Optimist International

Volume 31, Issue 4

August 2026

2025-2026

“Ripples of Change”

Monica Wallace, Governor

Walt Willms, Immediate Past Governor

Greg Kuhn, Past Governor

Jim Tribble, Governor Elect

Kent Reyling, Secretary-Treasurer

Lt. Governors

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

Zone 2- **Greg Kuhn**, **Indy Bft**

Zone 3- **Darrel Paul**, **Avon**

Zone 4- **Mike Butts**, **Terre Haute Bft**

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

Zone 6- **Ron Fuhrman**, **Santa Claus**

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

Attention:

Committee Chairs & Lt Governors

The deadline for submitting articles for the next District Bulletin is **October**

5, 2026. Send your articles to **monicasmiles78@gmail.com** via e-mail.

If you prefer, send it snail-mail: 1029 W CR 500 N, Brazil, IN 47834.

DON'T FORGET!

Greetings all Indiana South District Optimists

“Ripples of Change – An Elvis Tribute”

Well, it's now or never... please register for the Indiana South Convention and partake in the festivities to close out this year. During this weekend we will enjoy some Elvis-inspired fun while celebrating the true stars, our Optimists who make a difference in the lives of children and communities every single day.

As I prepare to pass the reins to Governor-Elect Jim, I do so with excitement and gratitude. Jim will help keep our district **“All Shook Up”**—in the very best way—with fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and outstanding leadership. I wish you every success as you begin your journey as Governor.

Serving as your Governor has truly been **“The Wonder of You”** for me. Thank you for your knowledge, guidance, leadership, encouragement, and especially your patience throughout my first year. You welcomed me, supported me, and reminded me that none of us serve alone. I will always treasure this experience and the friendships we've built together.

As we look ahead, I am excited to watch our clubs continue to grow, welcome new members, develop future leaders, and exceed the needs of the communities we serve. If we continue working together, there will be **"Good Luck Charm"** moments around every corner, and the future of Indiana South will be brighter than ever.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Governor. It's been an unforgettable journey, and I know the best is yet to come. Until we meet again...Wise men say only fools rush in, but I couldn't help falling in love with serving alongside each of you.
With heartfelt appreciation,
Monica Wallace
Governor, Indiana South District Optimist International

Indiana South Optimists Officers and Members Incentive Program

Dear Indiana South Optimist Club Officers and Members:

You're Invited! Join us at our upcoming district events and qualify for exciting incentives: mileage reimbursement, door prizes, and big drawings like a night's stay at the annual convention in August 2026 or free registration at our next Jasper Conference! The more you engage, the more chances you have. Thank you for your service—let us reward your leadership!

Eligibility

Open to all currently serving Club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Members who are in good standing within Indiana South District.

Incentives & Rewards

Mileage Reimbursement

Description: Officers attending in-person at conference and the convention are eligible for mileage reimbursement.

- **Rate:** \$0.25 per mile round trip, up to \$50 per meeting/conference.
- **How to Claim:** Submit mileage log at the end of the conference to Kent Reyling, District Treasurer.

Door Prizes

Description: All officers and members are entered into special drawings for door prizes at each conference.

- **Examples:** Optimist merchandise, gift cards, books, logo apparel, etc.
- **Draw:** Multiple prizes drawn at each event and must be present to win.

Grand Prize Drawings

All attending officers and members will receive one entry per event attended (more attendance = more chances!) for these grand prizes, drawn at each conference:

- **A. Night's Stay Giveaway:** Win a complimentary one-night hotel stay at the convention venue in August 2026.
- **B. Dinner & Show Ticket:** Win 2 free tickets to the Friday night dinner and show at the convention in August 2026.
- **C. Jasper Conference Registration:** Win a complimentary registration for the Jasper Conference (April).

How to Earn Entries

- Attend a conference event in January and April and be in good standing with your club.
- Bonus: Bring a new officer or member (first-timers) – get **1 extra entry** for yourself to win one of the grand prize drawings.
- Must be present at the end of each conference to win.

**Indiana South District
40th Annual Convention**
Friday and Saturday August 28th and 29th
Radisson Hotel Louisville
505 Marriott Dr
Clarksville, IN 47129



PLEASE FILL OUT PAGES 1 AND 2

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

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: _____



Governor Monica Wallace



Governor Elect Jim Tribble

Registration Payment Form

Friday Funday Derby Dinner Playhouse (505 Marriott Dr, Clarksville, IN 47129)

Group seating \$46/person includes Buffet Dinner and show. Please ensure if mailing in your reservation that you allow enough time for mail delivery. If mailing reservation is close to deadline, please email form as well to David Osborne at indsoptimist@gmail.com to ensure tickets are reserved. Tickets are available as long as they have seats available. Must Call David Osborne for tickets after Aug. 6th 317-538-4548. **Do Not order through Derby Dinner Playhouse. They will charge you full price.**

Conference Functions Require a Reservation

	Price	Number	Amount
Registration Fee (only if you are not eating on Friday)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Derby Dinner Playhouse (if you received free tickets Mark Free)	\$46.00	_____	_____

Full Hot Breakfast Buffet: Chef's Choice

\$23.00

Italian Theme Lunch Buffet

Baked Chicken Alfredo, Eggplant Parmesan (for the Vegetarians)
Vegetable Medley + Steamed Broccoli + Zucchini & Squash,
desserts and drinks

\$25.00

Dinner Buffet

Grilled Chicken, Brisket, Baked Potato,
Green Beans, Glazed Carrots, Roll, Dessert and Drinks

\$35.00

Package Deal (\$23 savings Includes Breakfast,
Lunch and Dinner)

\$60.00

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (Must Accompany This Form)

\$ _____

***Deadline for meal choice is Thursday August 6, 2026. After that date lunch may be "on your own".**

REGISTRATION FORM & REMITTANCE

Must be received by: August 14, 2026

Indiana South District Registrar

Attention: Dave Osborne

1189 Pinewood Drive

Plainfield, IN 46168

C (317) 538-4548

indsoptimist@gmail.com

Hotel Accommodation

Radisson Hotel Louisville

505 Marriott Dr

Clarksville, IN 47129

Hotel Phone 812-283-4411

BLOCK CODE: Indiana South Dist. Optimist

Reservation due by August 14, 2026 link on
website <https://www.indianaoptimist.org/>

Agenda See on website <https://www.indianaoptimist.org/>

The Club Pride Report is Changing!

We're excited to announce a new and improved way to capture your club's success!

The **Club Pride Report** has been replaced with two new digital reports:

- The **Club Project Impact Report** — completed each time your club finishes a service project.
- The **End-of-Year Club Impact Report** — completed at the end of the Optimist year to share your club's overall story, including membership growth, fundraising, and other accomplishments. The End-of-Year Club Impact Report will be available in August 2026.

The **Club Project Impact Report** is ready for you to start inputting your club's projects today!

How to Submit a Project:

1. Log into Optimist Leaders — submissions must be entered by a Club Officer (President, Secretary, or Treasurer).
2. Click on "**Club Impact Report.**"
3. Select one of **Optimist International's Signature Programs** (such as Oratorical, Essay, CCDHH, JOI, Junior Golf) or choose a **Community Project** your club has completed.
4. Enter the project details and submit!

By entering your projects regularly, your club will:

- See all your projects in one place throughout the year — a great way to visualize your service impact as it grows.
- Showcase your impact on youth, schools, and communities.
- Simplify end-of-year reporting — no more scrambling for details!
- Be recognized for your service achievements and dedication to optimism in action.

At the end of the year, your club will be able to reflect on the incredible difference you've made — a true celebration of optimism in service!

Helpful Tip: Use the Web App

If you follow the instructions to download the **Progressive Web App (PWA)** to your phone, it will remember your login credentials for easier access. You can even use the app offline — your data will automatically upload the next time you connect to the internet.

Note: If you belong to more than one club, the PWA will only remember the most recent login.

A training video is coming soon.

OWLS Program

OWLS Program Recap: Supporting Schools, Inspiring Optimism

Optimist International's OWLS (Optimists Working for Learning Success) program, introduced in 2023, is making strides in supporting elementary school-aged students through partnerships with local schools. The initiative provides vital resources such as nutrition, clothing, school supplies, hygiene products, and tutoring assistance, fostering academic success and personal growth.

Key Benefits and Success Stories

OWLS is already delivering significant benefits. Students gain access to critical resources, increased self-esteem, and better academic performance, while clubs deepen community connections and attract new members. The Dor-Wood Optimist Club in Kettering, Ohio, exemplifies success by engaging schools through ongoing collaboration, volunteer recruitment, and student recognition programs.

Steps for Club Participation

Optimist Clubs can get involved by identifying local school needs, initiating projects, building relationships with educators, and sharing their success stories. By maintaining these connections, clubs ensure continued support for their communities.

OWLS is transforming lives by empowering students and strengthening communities. With your participation, the program will continue to grow and inspire optimism across the globe.



New District Bulletin Chair/Editor

I have been asking for someone to step up and take over the Bulletin Chair/Editor position. I have been doing it since about the year 2000. I took over from Bill Scott who named our District Bulletin. Well our current Governor has stepped up to the position. I will give her all the help she needs. Monica Wallace will take over effective October 1st, 2026. Please be sure and give her all the support that you can.



Clay County Optimists Receive OI Foundation Club Grant New Wood Mulch Park Ground Cover

The Clay County Optimist Club was again named a recipient of an OI Foundation grant in 2026. This year's project is to refurbish the mulch ground cover at Optimist Park in Staunton, Indiana located in Posey Township of Clay County.

Working with township trustee, Jim Smith, and member Dick Boyce generated the idea that the local club could provide part of the funding to renew the ground cover at the playground located next to the Staunton Elementary School. The total project cost was over \$7,000. The Optimist Club contributed \$2,000 of that amount combining its locally raised \$1,000 with the OI Foundation grant of \$1,000.

The work was completed in June giving the park bearing the Optimist name a freshened look.



Clay County Optimist Club
Optimist Club's Clothe A Child
Drive Concludes Fundraising; Enters Final Month

The Clay County Optimist Club's Clothe A Child Fund Drive concluded its fundraising at the end of June for its 2026 campaign. The campaign begins in March and concludes at the end of June.

The club has spent June and July buying clothes for the many children in Clay County who benefit from this program. In 2026, there will be an estimated 133 children for whom clothes are purchased. The goal of the Drive each spring is to identify 100 children in need in Clay Community Schools by working with the school nurses. Clothes constituting 2-3 new school outfits are purchased by members during the summer and then distributed to the children's families as the new school year gets underway. The distribution is typically done on the first Tuesday of August from a shelter in Forest Park in Brazil. The target is to spend approximately \$100/child so that a goal of \$10,000 for the school-based program is set.

The Optimists would like to thank the many businesses, individuals, fraternal and sorority organizations and churches that donations. It is never too late to join their number and help the children of Clay County. Donations can still be sent to the Clay County Optimist Club, PO Box 158, Brazil, Indiana 47834. Optimist members themselves have donated over 25% of the goal again this year.

Clay County Optimist Club
Raises Funds at Forest Park Concession Stand

The Clay County Optimist Club has adopted a new fundraiser this year as it has taken on working some Sunday evenings at the Forest Park concession stand prior to the Brazil Concert Band's weekly concerts. The first night of service was on June 28th. About 8 members plus Matthew Tribble's three oldest children were in attendance to serve an enticing menu of sloppy joe's, Coney dogs, hot dogs, nachos & cheese, popcorn, a variety of soft drinks and water plus ice cream treats.

It was an early evening of fun and fellowship led by member Elaine Silva who organized the event, arranged for the volunteers, purchased much of the supplies and did a fantastic job making it a great club activity. Of course, the first time it is held, there are many necessary expenses that are not fully recouped, but the club has another date on July 26th coming up as this is written.

If we can avoid the dreaded Sunday thunderstorms, it should be a night that will help fund many of the upcoming children's program activities for incoming President Brian Boyce and his team.

Clay County Optimist Club

Junior Golf Terre Haute Regional

On June 24th, the Terre Haute Area Optimist Clubs conducted their annual Junior Golf Regional at Hulman Links for boys and girls ages 10-18. The field was near record size with 45 registered players. The tournament is limited to the first 50 players to register.

The weather conditions cooperated as it was a nearly perfect 80°F under partly cloudy skies with a gentle north wind. Because of the continual rainfall of the past week, the tournament was played under Lift, Clean and Place rules. Hulman Links Pro Greg Towne had the tees set up at challenging but fair distances with the Boys 16-18 playing from 6500 yards and the Boys 14-15 group from nearly 6200 yards. The high school girls played from 5600 yards and the Boys 12-13 and Girls 10-12 played from 4800 yards.

The Boys 16-18 grouping consisted of 22 players. Austin Cheek of Terre Haute South claimed the first-place prize and medal shooting a four over par 76. Two players tied at 79 and a scorecard tiebreaker found Noah Walker of Terre Haute North in second with Graidey Cottrell of Terre Haute South losing the tiebreaker. Four additional players shot 83 or better in a very competitive field. Included in that group were Cooper Goda of Life Academy, Nick Straw of South Vermillion, Lucas Downing of Greencastle, and Connor Brundige of Sullivan. The Boys 14-15 field included 7 participants. Keller Halter of Vincennes Rivet claimed first prize shooting an 82. Tucker Goda from North Clay Middle School shot a 92 to finish second and he was followed by Carter Hill of North Clay with a 95.

The Girls 15-18 field was small with only 5 participants. Two West Vigo golfers led the way with Briley Wolfe winning the first-place medal followed by teammate Sydney Auten in second. Ashley Harrison of Clay City finished in the third spot. There were no girls entered in the 13-14 age group. There was a single entry in the Girls 10-12 age group as 2026 District Champion Danielle Lee made the trip from Carmel to play at Hulman Links. Danielle shot a very impressive 77 playing from the same 4800 yards as the Boys 12-13 age group.

The competitiveness of the Boys 12-13 age group was the highlight of the day. Three boys tied for first place shooting 87's. The three-player playoff was over after one hole as Blake Dunkerly of Bloomfield sank about a 15 foot birdie putt on #1 to claim the victory. Using a scorecard tiebreaker, the second-place medal went to Boyd Landis and third to Tanner Goda. This tournament is the first step in the process to select players to compete in the Optimist 2027 International Tournament which is being held this year at Trump Doral in Florida in the second half of July.



Clay County Optimist Club Sponsors Community Theater of Clay County's Children's Workshop

The Clay County Optimist Club chose the Children's Theater Summer Workshop conducted by the Community Theater of Clay County as the recipient of its third quarter children's programs grant for 2026. The Community Theater's President is Optimist Member Alyssa Lovett and its previous President is Optimist Member Matthew Tribble.

Under their leadership and with the able assistance of many theater volunteers, the Theater annually hosts a workshop which involves children ranging in age of 5-14 in all aspect of creating a theatrical production: acting, building and painting sets and creating costumes.

Approximately 60 children take part in the weeklong workshop. Those not capable of paying the workshop fee and covered by funded scholarships. The club provided \$250 to cover the expenses for materials for sets, paints and costumes for the young actors.

The event concludes each year with a free performance for family and friends. This year the workshop concluded with performances on June 19th in the theater.



Georgetown Optimist Club



GEORGETOWN OPTIMIST CLUB

8260 Highway 64
Georgetown, IN 47122

Serving youth in our community for 65 years

Georgetown Elementary 3rd and 4th grade essays

Boys & Girls Jaguar Basketball teams

Indiana South District Oratorical and Essay contests

Optimist 4-H Club, 4-H Jr. Leaders

4-H Shooting Sports Archery Club (514 youth in 2025)

Junior Optimist Club-Robotics-First Lego League

Ann's Angels of Hope Donations-Schools/Veterans

Fire Safety Materials for our Fire Departments

Beehive Residents-Christmas gifts and cookies

Local Police and Fire Department Christmas Cookies

Indiana South District Optimist Youth Golf Tournament

SMG Youth Garden, 20 youth each summer

Georgetown Elementary K and 1st Coloring Contests

Light up Georgetown Community Event

Georgetown Elementary Christmas Activity

Whistle Stop Showcase

Shop with a Cop Christmas

Avenue of Flags Program

Flag Memorial

Farmer's Markets

Community Flea Markets

Antique & Vintage Fair

Butterfly Garden

Purdue Pollinator Day

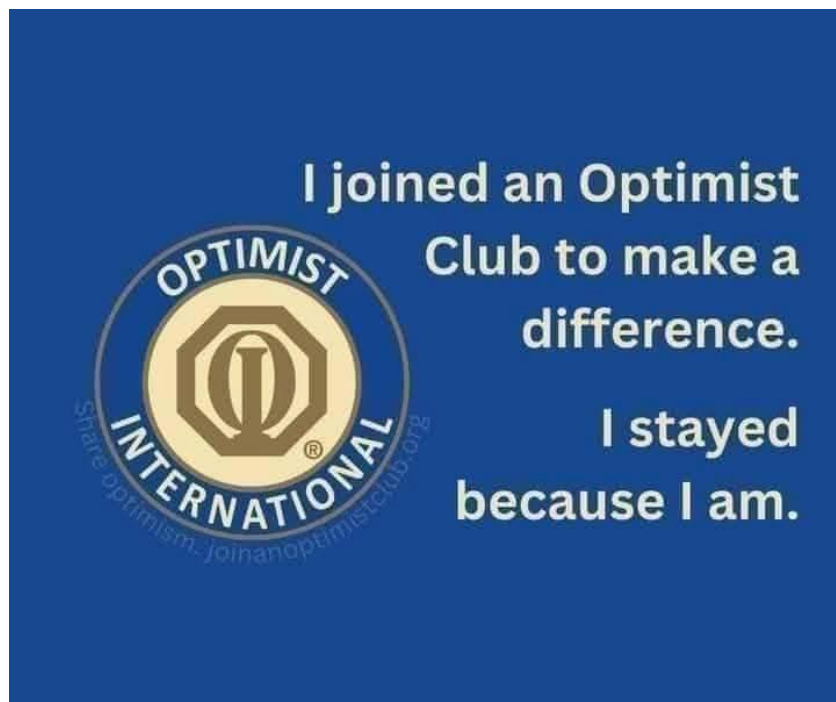
Youth Dances

Kids Healthy Eating Class

National Child Safety

NAHS German Club

Optimist Ball Park



Plainfield Optimist Club – Avenue of Flags

Optimists' Avenue of Flags



The core values of Optimist International include promoting interest in good government, civic affairs, and patriotism.

The Avenue of Flags is a program within Optimist International that the Plainfield Club began exploring about five or six years ago. Modeled after several other clubs in the Indiana South District, the Plainfield Club started their program in 2022 through a partnership with the Red Pride Booster Club at Plainfield High School. JDH Contracting has been a sponsor since the program started. The club's goal is to get more sponsors to place flags all around Plainfield High School. Eventually, they would like to grow the program to spread it throughout the town and neighborhoods.

The Optimists believe the program is important to the Plainfield community to help show community values and promote Optimism. Initially they started it to display flags on major holidays and school events (e.g., graduation and homecoming). When they learned about the Honor Flight receptions at the high school, they began displaying flags to honor our veterans for their commitment and sacrifice for those important events.

As a club devoted to community service, the club feels blessed to live here in Plainfield and the United States. Through the Avenue of Flags, the club hopes the flag days remind people of patriotism, our freedom, and the sacrifices made on our behalf.

Indiana South District Essay Winner



Optimist Club of Santa Claus 2026-05-19

Foreign Exchange Students Visit

We had 3 foreign exchange students as guest speakers tonight at our Optimist dinner meeting (Netherlands, Germany, and Spain). Very interesting perspectives on the USA, Santa Claus, HHHS, and their home countries. The Chateau supplied our Taco Bar for dinner.



Make a _____
Difference
_____ Today



Optimist Club of Santa Claus 2026-05-05 Optimist Guest Speakers & a New Member

At our dinner meeting tonight, Jennifer Mayo, Program Manager for Summer Community Adventures, was our guest speaker. She was joined by one of the program participants, Phoebe Ford.



Words can inspire, thoughts
can provoke, but only action
truly brings you closer to
your dreams.

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Indiana South District Jr. Optimist Golf Tournament Sends Qualifiers to International Championship

The 2026 Indiana South District Jr. Optimist Golf Tournament Qualifier was held June 19 at Oak Tree Golf Course in Plainfield. Fifty-nine junior golfers, boys and girls ranging in age from 10 to 18, competed for the opportunity to advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship at Trump National Doral Resort & Spa in Miami, Florida.



The District tournament served as a qualifier for one of junior golf's best-known international events. According to Optimist International, the 2026 championship will be played in three phases from July 15 through July 30, with age divisions competing on courses at Trump National Doral Resort & Spa.

A total of 25 players shot qualifying scores during the Indiana South District event. Each age group had a set number of available qualifying spots, and 16 of the 33 available spots were claimed. Those 16 golfers earned the chance to compete at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship.

Qualifiers from Hendricks County with score:

Girls 13–14, 1st place; Ava Wilson, Brownsburg, 106
Boys 12–13, tied for 1st; Jaxson Denson, Plainfield, 73
Girls 10–12, 2nd place; Kylie Sambyal, Brownsburg, 83

The tournament highlighted strong junior golf talent from across Indiana and beyond, with players representing communities throughout the state as well as Florida. For the 16 golfers who claimed qualifying spots, the next stop will be the national stage at Trump National Doral, where they will represent the Indiana South District in international competition.

Indiana South District Jr. Optimist Golf Tournament Sends 16 Qualifiers to International Championship

The 2026 Indiana South District Jr. Optimist Golf Tournament Qualifier was held June 19 at Oak Tree Golf Course in Plainfield, Indiana. Fifty-nine junior golfers, boys and girls ranging in age from 10 to 18, competed for the opportunity to advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship at Trump National Doral Resort & Spa in Miami, Florida.

The District tournament served as a qualifier for one of junior golf's best-known international events. According to Optimist International, the 2026 championship will be played in three phases from July 15 through July 30, with age divisions competing on courses at Trump National Doral Resort & Spa.

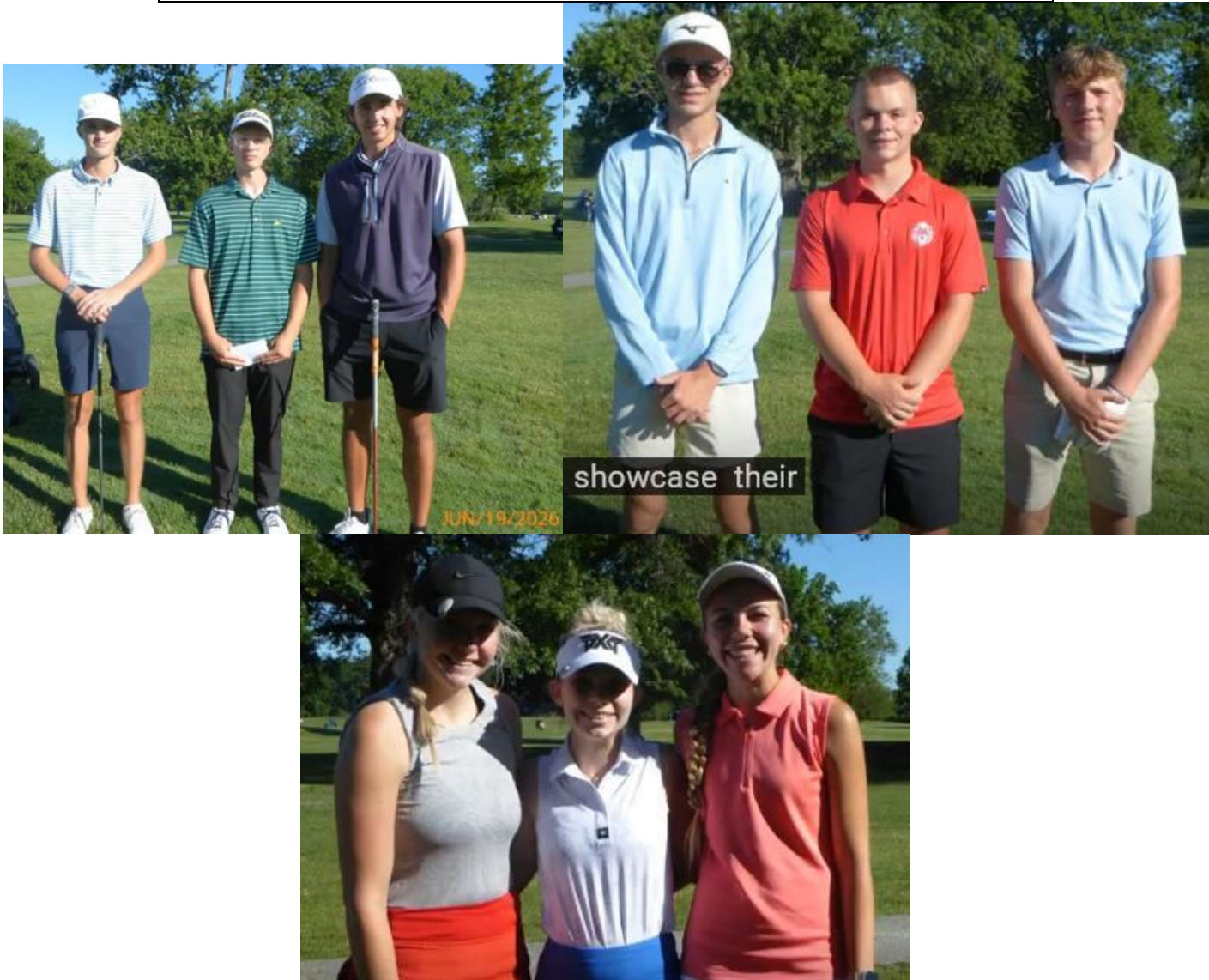
A total of 25 players shot qualifying scores during the Indiana South District event. Each age group had a set number of available qualifying spots, and 16 of the 33 available spots were claimed. Those 16 golfers earned the chance to compete at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship.

Division	Place	Golfer	Hometown	Score
Boys 16– 18	1st	Lincoln Pierce	Brazil, IN	72
Boys 16– 18	2nd	Nicholas Zaccagnino	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	73
Girls 15–18	T-1st	Kate Edwards	Evansville, IN	81
Girls 15–18	T-1st	Sammie Nusbaum	Williams, IN	81
Boys 14– 15	1st	Ryan Grassick	Terre Haute, IN	74
Boys 14– 15	2nd	Fox	Greenwood, IN	75

The tournament highlighted strong junior golf talent from across Indiana and beyond, with players representing communities throughout the state as well as Florida. For the 16 golfers who claimed qualifying spots, the next stop will be the national stage at Trump National Doral, where they will represent the Indiana South District in international competition.

Age Division Winners and Runners-Up

13				
Boys 12–13	T-1st	Jaxson Denson	Plainfield, IN	73
Girls 10–12	1st	Danielle Lee	Carmel, IN	75
Girls 10–12	2nd	Kylie Sambyal	Brownsburg, IN	83
Boys 10–11	1st	Grayson Goforth	Sellersburg, IN	79
Boys 10–11	2nd	Boyd Landis	Sullivan, IN	96



Dear Junior Golf Sponsors and Supporters,

On behalf of the Indiana South District, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your support of the 2026 Junior Optimist Golf Tournament.

We would like to specifically recognize TableX for returning as our Title Sponsor and Andy Mohr Chevrolet for their generous sponsorship. We also appreciate our many "Friend of Youth" business and individual sponsors, the Optimist Clubs throughout the Indiana South District, and our personal donors. Your commitment to supporting the youth of southern Indiana is invaluable.

The tournament was a significant success, with 59 players competing at Oak Tree Golf Course on June 19th. We are proud to announce that 16 players have qualified to compete in the Optimist International Tournament in Doral, Florida, next month.

While the exact date for next year's tournament is yet to be determined, we anticipate holding the event around the same time. I will distribute the 2027 sponsorship forms after the first of the year and hope we can count on your continued partnership.

Thank you again for your generosity and for everything you do for our youth.

Best regards & Thank you!
David Osborne



Everyone Can Make a Difference; No Matter the Time You Give.

Whether you have an hour or a day,
your time matters.

Volunteer in your community and be the
reason someone's day is brighter.



GET UP
DRESS UP
SHOW UP
AND
NEVER
GIVE UP.



Celebrating 50 years of Marriage – Kent & Paula Reyling

Optimist History

Optimist International began with the Buffalo Optimist Club in 1911, grew with clubs like Indianapolis in 1916, and formally organized as an international body in 1919 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Its mission, to be the premier service organization for youth, solidified around its core principles of optimism and service, adopting the Optimist Creed in 1922 and expanding programs for kids like Octagon Clubs and Oratorical contests, evolving to include women members in 1987 and becoming a global force for "Bringing Out the Best in Kids".

Early Days & Formalization (1911-1920s)

1911: The first "Optimist Club" formed in Buffalo, New York, focusing on positive community outlooks.

1916: The Indianapolis Optimist Club spurred interest in a national body, leading to early growth in major cities.

1917: A conference in Indianapolis discussed formal organization, but World War I delayed it.

1919: Representatives from 11 clubs met in Louisville, Kentucky to form the International Optimist Club, electing William Henry Harrison as the first President.

1922: The Optimist Creed was adopted, defining the group's philosophy.

Growth & Programs (1960s-1980s)

1960s: Major campaigns against pornography and apathy toward crime began, alongside the launch of Octagon Clubs (high school) and the "Stay in School" program.

1968: Golden Anniversary celebrated in Louisville with participation in the Rose Parade.

1987: Women were admitted as members, a significant step for inclusivity.

1988: Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI) formed to support youth clubs.

Modern Era (1990s-Present)

1990s: The Optimist Junior Golf Championships grew into a premier event, launching careers for golfers like Tiger Woods.

2000s: First female President (Ronnie Dunn, 2006) and first non-US/Canada President (Theo W. Golding, 2007) elected.

2008: An Internet Safety program was launched to protect children online.

2016: First Optimist Oratorical World Championships held, showcasing youth speaking talent globally.

Today, Optimist International remains dedicated to its mission of "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," fostering optimism, and serving communities worldwide.

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) 353.7151	CanadianService@optimist.org
Canadian Supplies	(800) 565.7062; www.optimistsupply.ca	info@optimistpromo.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'.

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.

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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 | • Federal Criminal Searches |
| • Employment Verifications | • Civil Searches |
| • Education Verifications | • I9/E-Verify |
| • Drug Testing | • 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@intellicorp.net
www.intellicorp.net

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



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. This year's 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.