

Illinois District Optimist Land of Lincoln Bulletin

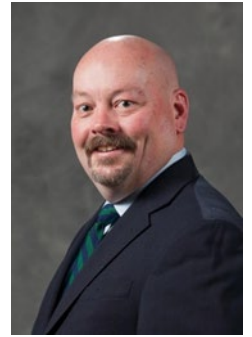


February 2023

Hello Illinois Optimists,

The holidays are behind us... Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. With them came a time filled with activity. There were places to go and people to see. Sometimes it was hard to get a chance stop even for a moment. So many things to do and time goes fast when you are busy.

Now the calm of winter has set in and that means time to think about the many contests and opportunities available for the kids in our communities...essay, oratorical, poster contests, sports competitions. I hope your clubs are gearing up for many of these opportunities which provide some meaningful scholarships and prize money for the winners.



For me this time of year has always been a time of reflection, to take a moment to think about and to feel what I am thankful for. The love of family, the camaraderie of friendship, the ability to earn a living and provide the essentials that are needed to live in a comfortable manner, good neighbors to rely on when necessary and to help when they need me, and health. As a cancer survivor that always comes to mind. We can all relate to the many gifts that we are given each day.

But the best gifts are not bought but given from the heart, giving of yourself, your time and understanding. This is what being an Optimist is all about. The Optimist creed spells this out. Whether you are talking health, happiness and prosperity to every creature you meet, making all your friends feel that there is something in them or giving so much time to the improvement to yourself that there is no time to criticize others. The sharing of your time and efforts to improve your community and impacting kids and others through your deeds in such a positive way is an important and precious gift to give and will have a far greater return in the long run.

Each club does outstanding work for their communities and so be thankful for your Optimist friends and family just as they are thankful for you and the gifts they receive from you by being an Optimist.

I thank you all for the hard work you do as Optimists.

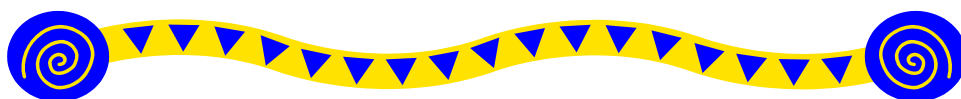
Governor Ron

Welcome New Members

Since the beginning of the 2022-23 club year, we have added 33 new members to the Illinois District Optimist family. We welcome these new members and thank their sponsors for leading them into their clubs.

<u>New Member</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Deerfield Public School District 109	Deerfield	
Michael Behn	Deerfield	
Jerrold Levy	Deerfield	Ron Schwartz
Jim Christiansen	Des Plaines	Thomas Swanson
Richard Fang	Des Plaines	Edward Welther Sr.
Wade Usyak	Des Plaines	Richard Fang
Paul Gorishek	Moline	John Zelnio
Janne Short	Moline	Patrick Wendt
Ryan McCarty	Rock Falls	Roland Salas
Jake Reed	Quincy	Matt Schmidt
Lucas Kane	Quincy	George McDonnell
George McDonnell	Quincy	Terry L. Quick
Kathleen Paul	Delavan	Steven D. Skinner
Ali Conine	Marshall-Clark	Art Miller
Zachary Martin	Marshall-Clark	Art Miller
Kara Macke	Marshall-Clark	Mary Jenkins
Kalynn Larsen	Belleville	Charles Mayhew
Jennifer Martin	Belleville	Charles Mayhew
Joshua Strausbaugh	Belleville	Charles Mayhew
Jacob Halde	Belleville	Charles Mayhew
William Wright	Belleville	Charles Mayhew
Kathryn Skaer	Millstadt	Ben Steppig
Matt Gardner	Waterloo	Mark Miller
Mark North	Waterloo	Brad Karn
Todd Shylanski	Waterloo	James Probst
Trevor Davis	Waterloo	Kermit Constantine
Cole Moore	Waterloo	Shelby Mathes Sr.
Caleb Moore	Waterloo	Chad Dillenberger
Alfred Tumwesigye	Granite City	
Edward Pinnell	Greenville	Jeff Outman
John Strickler	Greenville	Cari Outman
Matt Rezabek	Highland	Marshall Rinderer
Jeff Potthoff	Highland	Ben Eberwein

Every time we welcome a new member, we increase our ability to serve the youth and our communities, so the real winners here are the kids.



Welcome to our newest Optimist Club – Fox Valley



L to R: Roger Simonson, Zone 1 Co-Lt. Governor, Michelle Milligan, Tyler Roach and daughter, Eevee Roach, Nancy Roach-Wilder, Zone 1 Co-Lt. Governor and new president of the Fox Valley Optimist Club, Jeffrey Allen (behind creed), Marty Schmidt, IL District Optimist New Club Builder Chairman, Ron Schwartz, Deerfield Optimist Club – sponsoring club, Stephen Wilder, club secretary. Nancy was holding a laptop because some new members attended by Zoom.

The Fox Valley Optimist Club was formed on September 27, 2022 with 15 members -- two of which, Nancy Roach- Wilder and Ron Schwartz, are already members in the Deerfield Optimist Club (the sponsoring club).

We welcome this new club and look forward to the many programs and projects you'll undertake to enhance the lives of kids in your community. They are jumping right in and hosting an oratorical contest, at Judsen College on March 29th.

Charter members: Nancy Allard

Jeffrey Allen

Karen Budnik

Barrette Davie

Dabnis Grandersen

Michelle Milligan

Tyler Roach

Nancy Roach-Wilder, President

Ron Schwartz

Jared Silver

Angel Szalonjek, Treasurer

Laurie Taylor

Steve Thoren

Stephen Wilder, Secretary

Terry Zachata



Sometimes life is a challenge and all you have is your Optimism. At those times even a thin thread of Optimism can get you rolling in the right direction. If you had only the nightly news to measure the state of things, you might think the entire world has lost its collective mind. The issues of war, racism, inequities, crime and climate change run the world, they tell us, and should define who we are and how we should be.

Not so for Optimists, and members of the Optimist clubs of Illinois. We understand that individual hope and guidance can touch others in the most important ways. We understand that we can influence communities by

strengthening individuals. Our Creed is a brilliant depiction of optimism in action. While the mission of OI is to bring out the best in youth, there is a mutually beneficial effect for our efforts. Like our partners in other volunteer groups, we do in fact make our own worlds go around.

So, read on, and reflect on our unity of purpose, training opportunities and encouragement opportunities. Connect with the online training to strengthen your clubs. Share your amazing successes with us often. The Golf committee appreciates your participation in their raffle, and in referring young talent to the June tournament. The essay, oratorical and poster contests always highlight creativity and leadership among our youth. We strongly suggest you join us for the oratorical finals at our April Illinois district Conference. Don't miss my favorite takeaway from the conference - learning about unique projects clubs do in response to unique community needs.

In gratitude for all of you, and especially Carol Schlitt, my co-editor. Please share your stories to lolbulletin23@gmail.com by our next deadline MARCH 1. Call or email with questions.

Nancy Roach- Wilder,
Lt Governor Zone One
Member Fox Valley and Deerfield Clubs

Please and thank you!
Yours in Optimism
Nancy Roach-Wilder
224-305-2257 cell
630-442-6806 day

2021-22 IL District Membership winners announced at Fall District Conference

The Illinois District awarded a total of \$1500 to three clubs who compiled the most points in the recent membership contest held during the Optimist year starting October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2022.

The Optimist Club of Delavan received a \$500 check for being the division 1 winner. Linda Slabaugh, club secretary accepted the check on behalf of the Delavan club.

The Optimist Club of Freeburg was the division 2 winner and received a check for \$500 for their accomplishment. Their check will be presented at a club meeting.



The Optimist Club of Highland was the division 3 and 4 winner. Their check was presented at their club meeting and was accepted by current year President Marshall Rinderer by IL District Membership Chair, Bill Wagner.

To make the contest as fair as possible the divisions were determined by size of the club and similar sized clubs were placed in a division. The funds awarded was an effort on the part of your Illinois District to give back to clubs surplus funds the district accumulated during the COVID time period.

Plan now to attend the 3rd Quarter Illinois District Conference

April 28-29, 2023

Holiday Inn and Suites, 101 Holiday Street East Peoria, IL 61661

Oratorical Finals, Essay Winner and Poster Contest

Registration information will be coming out soon so watch your email.



2023 – Illinois District Essay Contest

"Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?"

Entries from club contests are due to the District Essay Contest Chair, John Ohnemus, by February 28th.

For information about the Essay Contest, please see:

<https://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships3.cfm>

The winner of the District Essay Contest will receive a \$2500 scholarship and be asked to attend the II District 3rd Quarter Conference and read their winning essay.

John Ohnemus
2831 Harrison St.
Quincy, IL 62301-9986
217-577-9986
Johnemus6178@gmail.com



2023 – Illinois District Oratorical Contest

"Discovering the Optimism in Me"

All Regional Contests should be completed at least two weeks prior to our 3rd Quarter District meeting, April 28-29 in East Peoria.

For the contest rules, please see:

<https://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships4.cfm>

Please let me know if your club is interested in sponsoring a club contest this year for the first time. I would be happy to come to a club meeting and/or work directly with your chairperson to make your club contest a success.

Sam Meier, IL District Oratorical Contest Chair

815-535-0776



2022 IL District Oratorical Contest Finalists

2023 - Illinois District Optimist Poster Contest

“Protect and Save Our Animal Friends”

Rules for Entry

- Poster Contest is open to students in 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades.
- Two divisions - one for 3rd and 4th grades and one for 5th and 6th grades.
- Each Club may submit one winner from each of the two divisions.
- Posters shall not have been entered in any previous Optimist Contest.
- Students are allowed to enter only one Optimist Club's Poster Contest.
- Posters must be on poster or illustration board - 14" x 22" (horizontal or vertical) and have a flat surface with no moving parts.
- Posters shall include only original artwork. No computer-generated pictures or wording are allowed. Poster designs may not incorporate any photographs, magazine or newspaper illustrations.
- Dark colors show best, and markers, paints, crayons and colored paper all work well on posters.
- The Contest slogan is: **“Protect and Save Our Animal Friends”**. **THESE WORDS MUST BE ON THE FRONT OF EACH POSTER.** Illustrations must be used in addition to words and must be related to the contest slogan.
- District winners will receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. All entries will receive prize ribbons. Checks and letters of congratulation will be sent to each winner with a copy to the sponsoring club.
- Clubs may enter their winning posters (one from the 3rd - 4th grade division and one from the 5th - 6th grade division) by taking a picture of each and sending the .jpg file to charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com With each picture please include a separate picture of the completed entry form that includes the student's full name, address, phone number, grade, school name, teacher's name and the name of the Optimist Club submitting the entry.
- **All entries must be received by 11:59pm, Friday, April 21, 2023** to be eligible for judging. Winners will be announced during the April 28-29th, 2023 District Conference.
- A \$10 District entry fee, paid by the local Optimist Club, must accompany each poster entered. Checks should be made out to: Illinois District – Optimist International. For each entry, please send \$10 to the Illinois District Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Mayhew, at the following address:

Charles Mayhew
Illinois District Secretary-Treasurer 423 South
Douglas Avenue Belleville, IL 62220-3709

Any Questions – Please contact Poster Contest Chairperson – Charles Mayhew (618) 806-5145 or charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com



Affiliated with Optimist International

Must be provided for each poster submitted for judging

Illinois District Optimist Poster Contest 2023 – Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ IL Zip _____

Phone No. _____ Grade _____

School _____ Teacher _____

Optimist Club Name _____

Must be provided for each poster submitted for judging

Illinois District Optimist Poster Contest 2023 – Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ IL Zip _____

Phone No. _____ Grade _____

School _____ Teacher _____

Optimist Club Name _____

Dates Set for the 2023 Optimist Golf tournament



The Illinois District golf committee has finalized the dates for the 2023 Optimist Golf tournament, and they are **June 12-14, 2023**.

The tournament will be held at Red Tail Run golf club in Decatur, IL. This golf course continues to be the host for the Illinois Class A girls state tournament. Many of the recent State Tournament winners have competed in the Illinois Optimist tournament.

Members of the committee are as follows:

Nancy Roach Wilder - Fox Valley Optimist (Zone 1)
Shaun Grant - Chillicothe Optimist (Zone 3)
Scott Novak – Highland Optimist (Zone 6)
Adam Vocks – Taylorville Optimist (Zone 4)
Mark Cappel – Alton Optimist (Zone 6)
Bill Wagner – Highland Optimist (Committee Chairman)

Zones 2 and 5 are open and anyone interested in being a part of the golf committee are encouraged to contact Bill Wagner via email at wwagner6@charter.net or by phone 618-401-0681 or via text to the referenced phone number.

Meetings are held via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00pm and last 1-1.5 hours. It is anticipated that members will attend and work the tournament.

Golf Raffle

Each year the district golf committee must raise funds to support the District Golf tournament. This year the committee has decided to offer a raffle with prizes being awarded of \$3,000, \$2,000, \$1000. The net proceeds from the raffle will be used to cover food, facility rental other than golf course, and supplies necessary to put on a top-notch tournament. The odds of winning one of these prizes is better than the money spent by some on the most recent POWERBALL Drawing. There will only be 1000 tickets sold. So already your odds are better. More details will be coming about this raffle and the benefits your club may realize by participating.

Optimist Institute now free for all members

The Optimist Institute is now a member benefit in 2023!

What is the Optimist Institute? It's a training platform and resource library for all members. There are officer training modules, courses, and for new members a five module Orientation Modules series. These are great videos for new members to watch that explain the creed, mission, vision, the foundation and opportunities.

To register for a new, free subscription, go to <https://optimist.tovuti.io/> and click on "Register" in the upper right hand corner.

Scroll down and click the "Click Here to Subscribe" button in the section labeled Optimist Club Member Registration.

To access the registration form, enter this year's Passcode, then click Get Access.

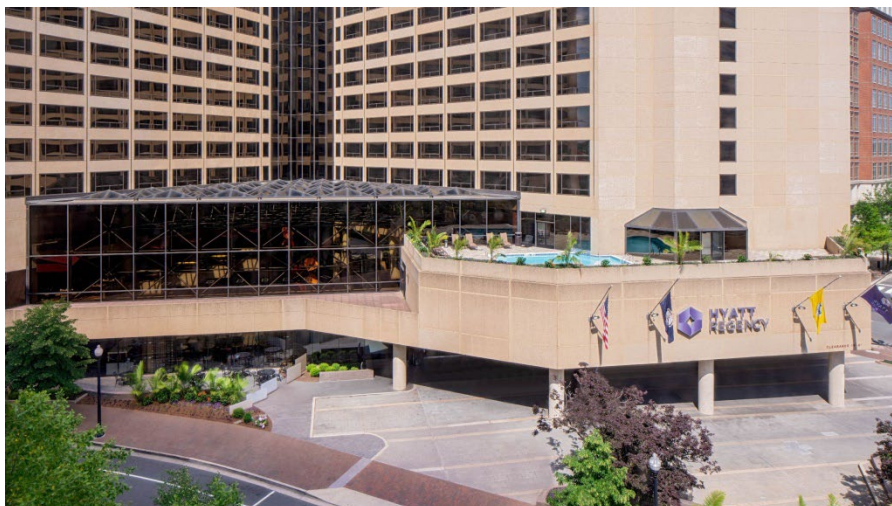
The Passcode is 2223CLUB.

Complete the required account information. For the username, use the email address that you have associated with your account. Then "Click Here to Subscribe".

The 2023 Optimist International Convention will be in Arlington, Virginia at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, July 2-5.

Information about the convention can be found at:

<https://www.optimist.org/Member/convention.cfm>



Optimist International Foundation Grants

Does your club have a project that could use an infusion of cash to get it started or make it bigger and better? The Optimist International Foundation (OIF) offers two grant programs to do just that!

Club Grant Program

This grant is for a **NEW** project, starting and finishing between April 2023 and March 2024. It is a matching grant for \$250 - \$1000. This is a oneyear grant, and your club must include your plans for matching the money in your application.

Here are some important dates to remember for this grant:

- January 6, 2023 – applications will be available at <https://wwofoundation.org/>
- March 17, 2023 – applications must be received in the St. Louis office
- May 12, 2023 – winners will be notified

Childhood Health & Wellness Grant Program

This matching grant for \$250 - \$1000 can be for either a new or existing project of your club. The focus areas for these grants are:

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Chronic Diseases
- Mental Health
- Disabilities – Physical, Intellectual & Developmental



There are three submission dates for these grants during the 2022-23 Optimist year, January 27, April 28, and August 25. The application and additional information can be found at https://www.oifoundation.org/Childhood_Health_Wellness.html.

Your club must have a Club Foundation Rep (CFR) appointed to be eligible to apply for these grants. If you haven't already appointed your CFR for this year, use this form (<https://oifoundation.org/downloads/cfr-appointment-form.pdf>) to assign one today!

Good luck in your application process! If you have any questions, you can reach out to me or to the OIF staff in St. Louis.

Sandi Schmidt
District Foundation Rep
schmidtsandi@gmail.com
309-236-1342

Glenview Club Hosts Ralph Lynch Youth Appreciation Breakfast



Ralph Lynch

What a beautiful way to start a November morning! Ralph Lynch himself was present at the Ralph Lynch Youth Appreciation Breakfast on November 16, 2022 at North Shore Country Club. The Youth Appreciation Awards in Glenview are named after Mr. Ralph Lynch Sr. in grateful recognition for leading the annual program for a quarter century. While Ralph Lynch Sr. was Chairman of the Youth Appreciation Awards Committee of the Glenview Optimist Club, over 775 high school seniors from Glenview, Illinois were selected by their teachers, counselors or clergy to be recognized with Youth Appreciation Awards for their outstanding contributions to their schools, communities and places of worship.

The five categories were: Citizenship (C), Religious Service (RS), Scholarship (SC), Sportsmanship (SP), Vocational (V).

There were five awardees from Glenbrook South High School: Ben Freidinger (SP), Charlie Emme (V), Ella Brown (C), John Tirpak (RS), and Sarah Kwon (SC). Five award recipients from Loyola Academy: Brandon Kunitzer (SC), Clair Murnane (SP), Demitra "Emmy" Panagakis, Hope Donnelly (RS), James Lombardo (V); from Notre Dame College Prep, Sean Minihan (SC); from Regina Dominican High School, Julia Cerimele (SC) and Molly Heaney (SC).

Dan Fraser emcee'd the event with congeniality and aplomb.

Thanks to our sponsors: Lynch McPeck Wealth Management and Maureen McPeck and Ralph Lynch Jr.

Coats and Shoes – Breakfast Optimist Club (Moline)

“And what happened, then? Well, in Whoville they say – that **the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day**. And then – the true meaning of Christmas came through, and the Grinch found the strength of ten Grinches, plus two!” – How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

On Wednesday, November 30, the Grinch joined the Breakfast Optimist Club (notice the Optimist pin!) in presenting new shoes and coats to students at a Jefferson Early Learning Center in Moline. And I think it's safe to say that his small heart did indeed grow three sizes that day!

This is a flagship program of the Breakfast Optimist Club and one of our members truly enjoy every year. Seventy coats and 65 pairs of new shoes, along with gloves and hats, were delivered to the students at Jefferson. More to come as the club also does this program at four separate Head Start locations in the Illinois Quad Cities.



Marshall Clark County Optimist Celebrate 30th Anniversary

Thursday, November 3, 2022, Marshall Clark County Optimist celebrated 30 years in existence. The club was organized October 29, 1992 with 25 members. At present we still have 6 charter members who are active in the club.

Celebration consisted of each member bringing a covered dish which was from recipes in our 1994 Cookbook. Recipes were from deceased members whom we paid tribute to at the meal. After enjoying meal, we played Family Feud with Michael Sanger as host.

The club is still active in the community. Shoes are supplied for less fortunate children, shoeboxes are filled with goodies at Christmas time and given to children, Breakfast with Santa, provide hats and mittens to schools for children when needed. BIGGER awards are given each month, bicycle safety program to 4th graders, poster contest, scholarship to trade school and donate to various activities in the community.



Charter members: Front Row : Mary Jenkins, Mary Lou Wernz, Pat Rhoads,
Back Row: Bob Brown, Linda Tucker, Albert Tucker



Members attending the 30th celebration. Front row: Linda Tucker, Mary Jenkins, Mary Lou Wernz, Lisa Richey, Sharon Wichman, and Pat Rhoads, Back row: Michael Sanger, Howard Tingley, Kara Macke, Bob Brown, Art Miller, Gary Richey, Albert Tucker and Vineta Stone.

TAKE NOTE: Important District Dates

Illinois District Conference	Registration information will be emailed to members	April 28-29, 2023	illinoisoptimist.org	Ron Elvin, Governor Holiday Inn – East Peoria, IL
District Jr. Golf	Committee is always looking for new members	June 12-14, 2023	www.oijgc-il.org	Bill Wagner, District Golf Chair
District Essay Contest	See article in this bulletin	February 28, 2023	www.optimist.org	John Ohnemus, Essay Chair johnonemus6178@gmail.com
District Oratorical Contest	See article in this bulletin	District Contest – April 29, 2023	www.optimist.org	Sam Meier, Oratorical Chair sam.meier@edwardjones.com
District Poster Contest	See article in this bulletin	Pictures of posters due April 21, 2023	illinoisoptimist.org	Charles Mayhew, Poster Chair charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com

Want to see your Optimist Club in the Land of Lincoln Bulletin? Send your information to Nancy Roach-Wilder at lolbulletin23@gmail.com Watch for my email announcing the deadline for the next issue (the deadlines are also on the Illinois Optimist website <http://illinoisoptimist.org>) but go ahead and send me your club's information ANY time. I can't wait to see what everyone has been up to!

Action pictures of your club's activities are more fun to share with your fellow Optimists around Illinois, so keep that in mind when sending your information. Always include captions or a story to explain what your club has done. We will also publish information about your upcoming events – you never know who might show up if they know you have an activity going on.