

# Illinois District Optimist Land of Lincoln Bulletin



March 2019

**When Optimists come together, we can make a difference!**



Steve Switzer (r), President of the Taylorville Optimist Club, presented a check for \$1000 to Ed Legg, Missions for Taylorville. Ed's group is coordinating the relief effort following the December 1st tornado that struck Taylorville. The check was the Disaster Grant the Taylorville Optimist Club received from the Optimist International Foundation. If your community experiences a disaster, your club can contact the Optimist International Foundation to apply for a Disaster Grant to aid in the recovery efforts.



# Optimism – The Perfect Fit

By Governor Sandi Schmidt

We're five months into the 2018-19 Optimist year, and the time is just flying by. I am proud of what all of you have done so far this year, and I'm looking forward to seeing even more successes in the coming months!

As of January 31, we have 11 clubs with positive membership. Congratulations to each of these clubs!

- |                       |                            |                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Deerfield +1        | • Silvis +2                | • Waterloo +3      |
| • Des Plaines +5      | • Springfield Breakfast +2 | • Pinckneyville +5 |
| • Sterling +3         | • Champaign-Urbana +1      | • Alton +2         |
| • Moline Breakfast +2 | • Freeburg +1              |                    |

I challenge each of your clubs to get out there and recruit some new members. Every new member brings new energy and ideas to your club. I'd really love to recognize EVERY Illinois Optimist Club for positive membership in the next Land of Lincoln Bulletin!

Now is a perfect time for each of you to take a look at your goals for this Optimist year and see how well you're doing. Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I doing my best to be a strong, fully-participating member of my Optimist club?
- Have I sponsored a new member this year?
- Is my club actively working to grow our membership so we can serve more kids?
- Is there a new project that our club can and should introduce in our community?
- What are my club and I doing to keep members interested in our projects and activities?
- What is my club doing to celebrate the Optimist International Centennial?

Do you like your answers to these questions? If not, you have plenty of time to make some changes to be the very best Optimist member and the very best Optimist Club you can be. I know I have some gaps in liking my answers to all of these questions, and I'm refreshing my commitment to making all my goals a reality for this Optimist year.

I hope your club is either planning a Centennial Celebration or has already completed one. It's a great milestone to celebrate – Optimist International's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Your celebration can be big or small, and you can find a list of ideas for your celebration on the Optimist website (<https://www.optimist.org/member/optimistcentennial.cfm>). No matter how you celebrate, be sure to share what you're doing. Include it on your club's website and Facebook page, work to get it in your community's newspaper, and send an article about it to our Bulletin Editor Michael Taylor ([michaeldemosstaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeldemosstaylor@yahoo.com)) to be included in the next Land of Lincoln Bulletin.

Please let me know what I can do to help your club be more successful. I'd love to visit your club and help you out with a project. You can contact me at [schmidtsandi@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtsandi@gmail.com) or 309-236-1342.

You are the reason your Optimist Club is a success in your community. Keep doing all you can to make your club's puzzle complete. We can't be The Perfect Fit without you!

## **Polar Vortex Can't Stop the Illinois Optimist Conference**

The weather outside was frightful, but that didn't stop these Illinois Optimists from sharing their ideas and club activities with Optimist friends from around Illinois and from welcoming our Canadian visitor, Sandy Larivee, a member of the Optimist International Board of Directors.

Along with some great training sessions, attendees enjoyed Minute to Win It games in the hospitality room on Friday evening and horse races to help get us excited about the Optimist International Convention in Louisville, KY, June 30-July 3. Laughter and some friendly competition are always a great addition to the Conference. Come check it out at our next Conference on April 12-13.



Governor Sandi Schmidt with Sandy Larivee, Certified International Trainer and OI Board Member



Ron Elvin, District Foundation Rep and Oswegoland Optimist, presented OIF awards and shared what the Foundation can do for our clubs.



Just a few of the Optimist members sharing their clubs' successes during the Club Brag session.



And they're off...opening session of the Illinois Optimist Conference, where Governor Sandi shared information on member and club awards for the year. Look for more details in this Bulletin.

## Illinois Optimist Spring Conference

Make plans now to attend the Illinois Optimist Spring Conference on April 12-13 at the Radisson in Normal, IL. This is a great conference to attend, because it includes all these youth-focused events:

Oratorical Contest finals  
Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing finals  
Essay Winner presentation  
Poster Contest

Gerri Barnett, our Middle America Region Vice President, will be our OI visitor for the week-end. Gerri has a particular passion for JOI (Junior Optimist International), so this will be a great opportunity to learn more about JOI and how you can bring it to your community or strengthen your current JOI clubs.

We'll also be sharing a presentation about the Optimist International Convention in Louisville, KY. The dates for that Convention are June 30-July 3, and it promises to be a fun time as we continue to celebrate the Optimist International Centennial. I hope you'll make plans to attend the OI Convention!

Watch your inbox for registration information and more details about our Illinois Optimist Conference on April 12-13.



## **Optimist Day at Camp Coco**

By Chris Smith, CCC Chair

Hello Illinois Optimists!

Mark your calendar for Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> – that's Optimist Day at Camp Coco 2019. Camp Coco was founded in 1986 by the Department of Pediatrics at SIU School of Medicine, for the purpose of providing a camp experience for children with cancer. Coco stands for Children's Oncology Camp Organization. It is for children with cancer ages 6-17, and their healthy siblings, aged 6-10. There has never been a charge for the campers. The cost, currently about \$700 per camper, has been underwritten through fundraising efforts by the SIU Foundation, including an annual golf outing. Children are chosen on a referral basis, and Dr. Greg Brandt, a pediatric oncologist at SIU School of Medicine, is the physician who oversees and attends the camp. Bet Spence is the head volunteer who runs the show.

The Theme this year is: "Let the Pirate Shenanigans Begin, Camp COCO 2019". Camp Coco is held at Lake Bloomington at the Timber Pointe Outdoor Center, 20 Timber Pointe Lane, Hudson, IL. I will update you next time on scheduling and activities for that day. In the meantime, all suggestions and input welcome, just email me at [papaguy1@comcast.net](mailto:papaguy1@comcast.net). This is a great district activity, we hope to see you there! Thanks!

## Welcome to New Optimists!

Thirty new Optimist members have joined the Illinois Optimist ranks from October 23 through January 31. That brings our total new Optimist members to 51 since October 1, with 40 Optimists sponsoring one or more new members and 19 Illinois Optimist clubs stronger because they've added new members to their roster. Thank you!

Let's keep this going! It would be great to have all 41 Illinois Optimist Clubs recognized for adding new members during this Optimist year. That would mean that more kids are served in our communities, and that's what it's all about.

<u>New Optimist Member</u>	<u>Optimist Club</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Pam Craig	Greenville	Ruth Wise
Mike Chitwood	Greenville	Ruth Wise
Beth Wiemers	Alton	Laura Shansey
Carol Clisham	Freeburg	Carol Schlitt
James Ward	Wilmette	Don Butzen
Trish Hirte	Pinckneyville	Brad Hirte
Abby Hartman	Pinckneyville	Jeff Miller
Jordan Nehrkorn	Pinckneyville	Jeff Miller
Koby Chapman	Deerfield	Judy Geuder
Ian McBride	Deerfield	Judy Geuder
Wendy Hart	Delavan	Christy Hart
Michael Dixon	Delavan	Edson Hart
David Holmes	Marshall-Clark County	Vineta Stone
Brian Pigott	Wilmette	Ben Wozney
Michael Kelly	Wilmette	Ben Wozney
Jack Mardirossien	Wilmette	Paul Hahn
Richard Rogers	Des Plaines	Ed Welther
Stephanie Rogers	Des Plaines	Ed Welther
Jordan Anderson	Alton	Cathy Elliott
William Nelson	Wilmette	Ron Porte
Liz Hale	Pinckneyville	Greg Hale
Carrie Miller	Pinckneyville	Jeff Miller
Linda Smith	Pinckneyville	Raymond Smith
Kathy West	Pinckneyville	Larry West
Ann Warren	Sterling	Dick Warren
Rich Sommers	Moline	Bob Moore
James Del Re	Des Plaines	Ruth Del Re
Jeremy Beard	Highland	Craig Loyet
Michael Behn	Deerfield	Ron Schwartz
J.P. Fitzgibbons	Waterloo	George Obernagel

# Recognition for You and Your Club

By Governor Sandi Schmidt

To celebrate the Optimist International Centennial, there are some special awards available to Optimist members and Optimist Clubs. You can find all the details about the Centennial Awards and Recognition at <https://www.optimist.org/member/optimistcentennial.cfm>. I encourage each of you to check them out to see what you and your club could win this year.

Every Optimist member has the opportunity to earn the “Promise Yourself” pin from Optimist International President Rebecca Butler Mona.



To earn this special Centennial pin, you just need to complete these three tasks, then have an officer of your club complete the verification form:

1. Participate in a club project
2. Sponsor a new member
3. Submit your Optimist story at the link above. You can submit a short video or a text file with your story.

I can't wait to see every Optimist in Illinois wearing this special pin!

## Illinois Optimist Awards

I am pleased to announce these Illinois Optimist awards for members and clubs for this year. The member award and club banner patch are still in the design phase, but I expect to be able to share those items with you soon.

For **Optimist members**, complete 5 of these 7 items to win an Illinois Optimist Award:

1. Attend an Illinois Optimist Conference or Convention.
2. Make a donation to the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) of \$36.50 or more. (You'll also earn your Dime-a-Day pin from OIF when you complete this one.)
3. Sponsor a new member.
4. Participate in a club project.
5. Make a presentation at an Illinois Optimist Conference or Convention. (Club Brags do not qualify you for this one.)
6. Submit an article with pictures to the Land of Lincoln Bulletin.
7. Submit your Optimist story to Optimist International.

As an added bonus, if you earn this award by June 30, you'll be entered in a drawing to win free registration and lunch for the 2019 Illinois Optimist Convention.

I am happy to announce that a few people have earned this award or are well on the way to earning it already.



For **Optimist clubs**, complete 7 of these 10 items to earn a special banner patch:

1. Club President attends Illinois Optimist Conference.
2. Club President attends a second Illinois Optimist Conference or the Illinois Optimist Convention.
3. Club President and one other member attend a Zone Meeting. (Lt. Governors, be sure to get your Zone Meetings scheduled!)
4. Club makes a \$100 or more donation to the Optimist International Foundation.
5. Membership is net +1 on December 31.
6. Membership is net +2 on March 31.
7. Membership is net +3 on June 30.
8. Send an article and pictures to the Land of Lincoln Bulletin.
9. Recognize a club or community member.
10. Achieve Honor Club status for the 2018-19 Optimist year.

I hope to see every Illinois Optimist Club proudly displaying this banner patch on your club's banner!

If you have questions or want additional information on how to win these awards, please contact Governor Sandi Schmidt at [schmidtsandi@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtsandi@gmail.com) or 309-236-1342.

### **Optimist Directory Updates**

The 2018-19 online Illinois Optimist District Directory has been updated. You can view it at [illinoisoptimist.org/directory](http://illinoisoptimist.org/directory). To access the directory, please sign in:

Username	member
Password	Yours in Optimism

The following changes have been made in the online directory recently:

- Wilmette President – updated to Ben Wozney
- Sterling - email change for President Sharon Hammer (email also updated for Centennial Chair)
- Chillicothe Secretary - updated to Carol Gelling
- Chillicothe Treasurer - updated to Mary Jo Moore
- Delavan President – updated to Sharon Hultquist
- Delavan Secretary - updated to Chris Schertz
- Marshall Clark County - email change for President Lisa Richey
- Belleville - email address updated for President Brenda Fedak, business phone number removed
- Pinckneyville Secretary-Treasurer - updated to Larry West

If you see additional corrections that need to be made in the directory, please let [Sandi Schmidt](#) know. Corrections will be made in the online directory as they are reported.



*The Optimist Jr. Golf - Midwest Qualifier is coming up soon, and it's time for all Illinois Optimist members and clubs to get excited about this event! The dates for the event are June 10-13, and it will be held at Red Tail Run in Decatur.*

*Information was sent out in February to 920 H.S. golf coaches and 196 Illinois golf courses and country clubs. The IJGA (Illinois Junior Golf Association) did an e-mail blast about the event to 3,000-4,000 of their members. Please share this information with any young golfer you know and encourage them to sign up for this fun event.*

*This tournament is a great event because of the outstanding team of volunteers who are involved in the planning and who spend their time at Red Tail Run on tournament days. You can be part of that team - just let me know that you want to volunteer! You can reach me at [terry@oijgc.org](mailto:terry@oijgc.org) or 217-827-5978.*

*Note from Governor Sandi: I urge you to support Terry Wirght and the Illinois OIJGC Qualifier any way you can! This is Terry's 25th year as the chair of our event, and he and his wife Noma are the backbone of this amazing event.*

*In honor of Terry's 25th year as the tournament chair, we need you to help make sure we can send all seven division qualifiers to the international championship at Doral.*

*Optimist Clubs, please sign up to sponsor a hole at the tournament for \$200. It would be great to see every Optimist Club in Illinois support this tournament.*

*Optimist Members, for a \$25 donation, you will be recognized on a special sign as a patron of the tournament. Your tax-deductible check payable to Optimist International Foundation can be mailed to Terry Wright at 505 S Main Street, Taylorville, IL 62568. Be sure to put "Jr. Golf" on the memo line on your check.*



## Christmas for Kids Brings Smiles to Kids in Taylorville



Arwen Kerley



Grey Crowder



Lucas Rozplochowski



Jennifer Hecker

The Taylorville Optimist Club hosted several children and their families for the annual Christmas for Kids just before Christmas. The evening consisted of food, carols, and a visit from everyone's favorite guest, Santa Claus. Every child received a gift from the jolly Saint Nick before he had to leave to help prepare for his big night on Christmas Eve.



Assembled group of Santa's helpers

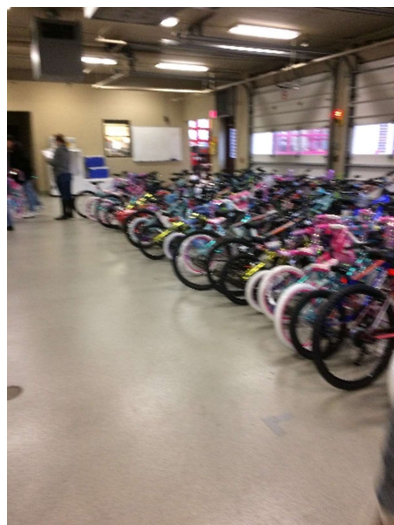
## **How the Oswegoland Optimist Club Makes a Difference Each Christmas**

Each year the Oswegoland Optimist Club sponsors a program where families who cannot afford to provide Christmas for their children are given gifts, toys and food with the assistance of our Club and the entire Oswegoland community. Toys for Tots donates excess gifts in our area to the Oswego Fire Department who in turn donates them to us. The Fire Department also collects gifts through District 308 schools and purchases bicycles for the children. This year over 100 bikes were purchased by the firemen! All of these gifts and bicycles are given to the Oswegoland Optimist Club for distribution.

Members of the community sponsor families and purchase gifts for the children. In addition, the Optimist Club purchases food and turkeys and coordinates all of this and delivers the donations to the families. They have many members of the community volunteering to help with sorting hats and mittens, toys and bikes and also volunteering to help deliver the donations. All of this would not be possible without the community stepping in to help. Families apply through their individual schools and are selected to participate by the social workers in the schools. This year they helped 85 families and about 240 children!

Marlene Wyld is the Chairman of their Hats and Mittens Drive where they collect hats and mittens through some of their middle schools in District 308. This year they had 7 schools participate and it was a great success! As the chairman of the Hats and Mittens drive it is also Marlene's responsibility to coordinate the whole arm of the larger picture. She contacts schools, begs for volunteers, coordinates sorting, and overall stays on top of everything to make it a success.

Bryan Noble coordinates the Family Christmas Program each year and he is an expert at putting this event together. Under his leadership the whole event comes together successfully. Without the help of the entire community this event could not be possible, but Bryan does an excellent job of seeing to it that it does.





## Breakfast Optimist Club Rings Bells of Peace

The Moline Breakfast Optimist Club participated in BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR ONE REMEMBRANCE in Moline on November 11, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Members of the Breakfast Optimist Club joined with local veterans for this event. This nationwide bell-tolling was done to honor the 116,516 men and women who died in World War One.

BELLS OF PEACE is a nationwide program designed to honor those American men and women who served 100 years ago, during World War One. The war ended by an armistice agreement between the warring countries at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918. The program was developed by the World War One Centennial Commission, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



## Highland Optimist Club Donates to Leaps of Love



Highland Optimist Club President Rick Duft presented a check to Leaps of Love Director Traci Riechmann at their February 4, 2019 meeting.

**Leaps of Love** is a local Highland and St. Louis region organization that assists childhood cancer families, focusing on brain tumors and late-effects of their treatments. Assisting childhood cancer families ourselves since 1992, they have found there are so many needs unaddressed by existing organizations. It is truly their passion to engage support for families who are dealing with **childhood brain tumors** and **late-effects** of childhood cancer.

Many people do not realize that even though the children may be surviving longer, their chances of health problems due to their treatments increase, problems like heart damage due to radiation therapy, effects on growth, thyroid dysfunction, fertility, and obesity. Brain function and academic achievement has been confirmed as lowered due to radiation on the young brain. Chemotherapy damages normal cells as well as the cancer cells. Chemo given into the spinal column has been linked to learning disabilities. The younger the child is at the time of treatment, the greater the risk. Other chemotherapy treatments have been linked to problems with vision, hearing, growth and development, thyroid, muscle and bone, sexual development, respiratory, teeth and emotional issues.

With the growing number of children diagnosed every day, their goal is to help these families engage together and give them hope, strength and encouragement to endure the challenges everyone in the family faces. Family retreats, social events, outings, workshops and more can help give these families the opportunity to strengthen their lives with the support, wisdom and encouragement of others who have experienced similar scenarios to theirs.

## Youth Appreciation Week - Highland Optimist Club

The Highland Optimist Club recognized Youth Appreciation Week, a program sponsored by Optimist International, the week of November 19th, 2018. The Highland club invited the leaders of 32 various clubs and organizations of Highland High School to a banquet on their behalf.

Illinois State Representative Jay Hoffman, Highland Mayor Joseph Michaelis, and Illinois Zone Lt. Governor and Optimist District Governor-Elect greeted the leaders and spoke prior to the dinner banquet. Each student leader was recognized and presented a certificate on behalf of their club or organization from the Highland Optimist Club.



Presenters at the Youth Appreciation Banquet were (left to right) Dr. Chris Becker – Principal of Highland High School, Rick Duft – Highland Optimist Club President, Mike Sutton – Superintendent of Highland School District, Jay Hoffman – Illinois State Representative and Joseph Michaelis – City of Highland Mayor



Highland Optimist Club President with Youth Leaders of Highland High School





Highland Mayor Joseph Michaelis talking to the Youth Leaders of Highland High School and reading a Proclamation on Youth Appreciation Week for the City of Highland



Illinois State Representative Jay Hoffman was the guest speaker for Youth Appreciation Program



These pictures show additional new bleachers (approx. 400 seats) and new chair seating for the Highland High School Gymnasium which were purchased by the Highland Optimist Club this year and donated to the school.







## THE 28TH ANNUAL 2019 HIGHLAND OPTIMIST HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT WAS THE BEST EVER

The 28th Annual 2019 Highland Optimist Shootout Classic held on January 5th is widely recognized as the premier high school basketball shootout in the St. Louis area. This year's event once again brought together some of the top local and national basketball players and teams to one gym for one full day of hoops. The 2019 event featured eight games with teams from Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin. This year's event sold out with over 3,000 fans packed into the Highland High School Gymnasium.

The final three games were streamed live on Facebook by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Networks Hoop broadcast team. The final game between Belleville West and St. Louis Vashon has over 117,000 views, 674 shares and 2008 comments to date on Facebook. If you like log on and see some the action from this year's event log onto the Highland Optimist Club Shootout Web site <https://sites.google.com/view/highlandshootout> and link to: <https://www.facebook.com/NFHSNetworkHoops/videos/313759022806383>.

This event would not be possible without the support of our Corporate Sponsors, Advertisers in our Program Booklet, City of Highland, Highland School District and the entire Highland community. Over 90 of our Optimist members come out and work the entire day at this event.

Funds for this event are earmarked for the benefit of the many Youth activities, groups and other "building block" projects that support our future leaders. Activities & projects support over \$60,000 annually for the Highland Optimist Club and over the years, it has been estimated that over "One Million" dollars has been contributed to the Youth of Highland and the surrounding area.



This is a view of the more than 3,000 fans packed into the Highland High School gymnasium for the Highland Optimist High School Basketball Shootout.

## **Highland Optimist Club Hits a Home Run With \$12,000 Donation to Baseball Field Campaign**

### *Local Club Steps Up for the 'Start A Rally For Optimist Field' Community Fundraising Effort*

The Highland Optimist Club hit another home run recently with a \$12,000 donation to a local group raising money for improvements to Optimist Field at Glik Park.

"Our group of parents, Optimist members and community leaders created the 'Start A Rally' for Optimist Field community fundraising campaign late in 2018 with a vision of making improvements to Optimist Field," said the campaign's Marketing Committee Chair Adam Koishor. "We want to make the field Highland's premier baseball facility, and the reinvestment from the Optimist Club really helps us start the rally."

Optimist Club President Rick Duft and Treasurer Bill Wagner recently presented the check to Koishor and members of the Optimist Field Improvement Group, which is the lead committee to determine how the money raised for the field will be used for improvements.

"We realize that the city, the school district and the Legion program simply do not have the budgets to make improvements and maintain the field at a top-tier level," Duft said. "The club donated money when the field was originally built, and now we are reinvesting in Optimist Field."

The Highland High School varsity baseball team and the American Legion Lee Iten Post 439's baseball teams call Optimist Field home.

The Optimist Field Improvement Group includes Highland Director of Parks & Recreation Mark Rosen, Highland Senior Legion Coach Harry Painter, Highland High School Varsity Baseball Coach Joel Hawkins, baseball parent Jeremy Willis, and Optimist Club member Phil Mason.

"The donation from the Optimist Club along with other funds we have raised helped us get the improvement projects started," Hawkins said. "We have removed the infield playing surface and it is being improved with a new dirt surface and a new natural grass surface. When it is done, the infield will rival the fields of major college and minor league stadiums."

The Start A Rally group is actively seeking sponsors and donors toward the field improvement campaign.

"We are fortunate to live in a great community where businesses, organizations, and individuals are willing to support things that make Highland what it is," Koishor added. "We have a committed group of parents who are offering their time and energy to the marketing and fundraising efforts."

Phase one of the effort for improvements to Optimist Field at Glik Park started in June of 2018 when a new scoreboard was installed, doubling the size of the board. The next phase of the effort includes the infield upgrade.

“The Start A Rally campaign is designed to raise money now and in the future,” Koishor said. “We want to make sure when the future groups of parents who have kids playing baseball are involved, the campaign is ongoing to keep Optimist Field a premier baseball facility.”

The Start A Rally for Optimist Field campaign is seeking everything from three-year corporate sponsorships to small individual donations for the field.

“We are seeking business sponsorships and individual donations,” Koishor noted. “We hope that individuals or families with ties to Highland baseball will support the campaign.”

In addition to the upgrade of the infield playing surface, future projects that the Field Improvement Group hope to complete include fencing in front of the dugouts, improved bullpen areas, a batter’s eye in centerfield, a sound system and expanded stadium seating.

“We are excited about the Legion teams playing on the new infield surface this summer,” Painter noted. “We are also looking forward to plans for additional improvements. We truly appreciate the Optimist Club making the donation to this campaign.”

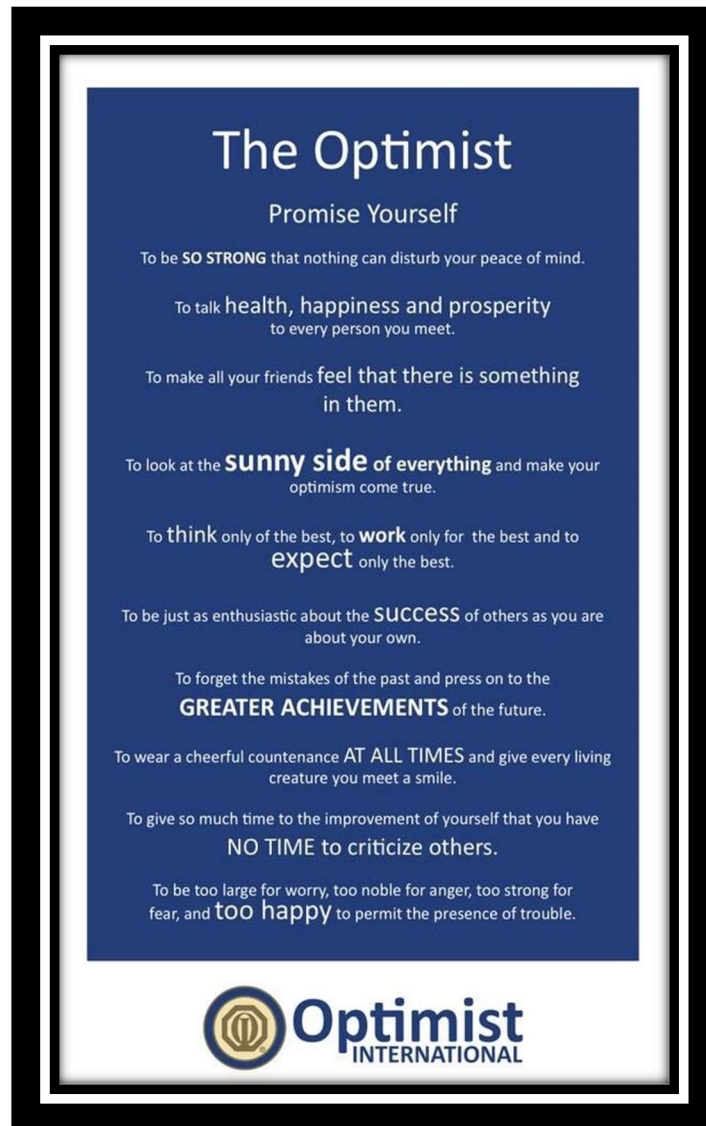
For more information about the Start A Rally for Optimist Field campaign, to become a sponsor, or to make a donation online, visit [www.rallyforhighlandbaseball.com](http://www.rallyforhighlandbaseball.com).

The Highland Optimist Club, which was chartered on December 15, 1948, donates to many projects and events in the community that benefit children. The local club also host an annual high school basketball shootout each January at Highland High School, and its pizza wagon is a staple at local festivals.



PHOTO CAPTION: The Highland Optimist Club recently donated \$12,000 to the Start A Rally for Optimist Field fundraising campaign for improvements to the field at Glik Park. Pictured from left are American Legion Lee Iten Post 439 Coach Harry Painter, Highland High School Varsity Coach Joel Hawkins, Optimist Club President Rick Duft, Campaign Marketing Committee Chair Adam Koishor and Optimist Club Treasurer Bill Wagner.

**As always, don't forget to live the creed!**



Want to see your Optimist Club in the **Land of Lincoln Bulletin**? Send your information to Michael Taylor at [michaeldemosstaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeldemosstaylor@yahoo.com). I can't wait to see what everyone has been up to! Deadline for sharing your news in the next issue is **May 15, 2019**.

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 the 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.