

Illinois District Optimist Land of Lincoln Bulletin



November 2021

From your Governor, Carol Schlitt 2021-22

Hello, Wonderful IL District Optimists!

The theme I've chosen for Illinois for the 2021-22 Optimist year is "Living the Creed." 2022 will be the 100th anniversary of the adoption of our creed and I think it is only fitting that we center this club year on the 10 tenets that make up the creed.

At our recent 1st quarter IL District Conference, we kicked off the year of "Living the Creed" with a session that looked at the first 3 tenets of the creed. I challenged each Optimist to stop and think about what we are promising ourselves when we recite the creed. What does it really mean when we say..."Promise yourself...to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind?" I'm reminded of Nelson Mandela who said that while in prison he realized his mind was the only thing his captors could not break. His mind was strong and that is what sustained him through the many years of food deprivation and subhuman living conditions.

During the 2021-22 club year I encourage each IL District Optimist club to talk about one of the Optimist Creed statements asking each other – what does it mean to you, how can I live my life espousing this optimistic trait, what is one that I can do each day to live closer to this statement, etc. I assure you that by "Living the Creed" this club year you'll see opportunities others miss.



My goal this club year is to physically visit each club within the Illinois District. Since late September, I've had the opportunity to travel around Illinois, visiting with nine Illinois Optimist Clubs, sharing my thoughts and goals and installing the clubs' new officers for the 2021-22 Optimist year. It didn't matter how large or small the club or how many members were in attendance at the meeting or banquet I attended. What I saw everywhere was the passion every Optimist has for what their club is doing for the kids and in their community. I know that passion extends to every Optimist club in Illinois, and it's what makes this such a wonderful organization. In the picture I'm with two passionate Optimists -- the charter president of the

Chillicothe Optimist Club, Harry Crull, and his wife, Marian Crull – the first woman member of Optimists in the Illinois District.

Be sure to read this Land of Lincoln Bulletin carefully as it contains lots of information about upcoming projects for this club year. OI President, Patsy Garner, has outlined her "212 – One More Degree Awards" program with great incentives for both members and clubs. To learn about the 212 campaigns please watch this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1sRqisi3JI>

Let me know when your club is having an event...I'll do my best to attend and support your club in any way I can. Please feel free to contact me at 618-977-7787 or cschlitt54@gmail.com.

Welcome!

We welcome these 24 new Optimists who have joined an Illinois District Optimist club since August 1, 2021.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>
Tim Woods	St. David	Jeffrey L. Braden
Rosemary Hillman	St. David	Jeffrey L. Braden
Jeff Bartlett	St. David	Jeffrey L. Braden
Philip Fine	Deerfield	Howard Kirshenbaum
Mary Ann Glowacz	Deerfield	Alyson Feiger
Shay Carlson	Chillicothe	Mary M. Crane
Kassandra McElhiney	Chillicothe	Joyce Close
Ryan Basye	Highland	Nic Gould
Jared Goestenkers	Highland	Kevin C. Frey
Daniel Amman	Highland	Ben Eberwein
Dominic Sirko	Highland	Keith Hagler
Jeff Outman	Greenville	Carl Outman
Jace Benhoff	Breese	Eric Johnson
April Nail	Freeburg	Dustin E. Nail
Derek Schrof	Highland	Mike Ammann
Thomas Strossner	Des Plaines	Patrick Flannigan
Timothy Todd	Quincy	Dennis Zapletal
Fran Strossner	Des Plaines	Patrick Flannigan
Anthony Vrooman	Millstadt	Susan Schneider
Kimberly Vrooman	Millstadt	Susan Schneider
Deanna Loesche	Millstadt	Peggy Vallandingham
Justin Riebeling	Waterloo	Mark E. Miller
James P. Neary	Waterloo	Kerry Kelley
Shannon L. Stelling	Belleville Inc.	Douglas E. Dahm

**From your Editor, Nancy Roach-Wilder,
Deerfield Club, Co-Lt. Governor Zone 1**

While new to Optimist International, I have quickly and deeply been inspired by every member I have met, and by our history. Born during tough times, OI sought to shine a light on the power of optimism to improve one's life.... and by extension our communal lives. In spite of an amazing array of "improvements" to the quality of life in the last century, human nature has not changed. Optimism is as relevant today as it was at our founding.



And it can be measured in ones' attitudes and behaviors towards one's fellow citizens. Positivity, it turns out, makes a difference in one's results. And certainly to the quality of one's journey. As significant a choice as it is, optimism doesn't spread itself. For optimism to grow it needs to be demonstrated and shared with everyone who will listen.

With gratitude for each of you and faith in the results of acting on our Creed I am honored to present to you with highlights from around the district. If your special news didn't make it here, we promise to include it next time. Please submit your news and testimonials to nroach12@gmail.com. Your good work encourages others and promotes more giving activities throughout the district.

Yours in optimism, Nancy Roach-Wilder, Editor, nancy.roach@prudential.com 224-305-2257

From Illinois District Foundation Representative, Rich Gaebel

Hello Fellow Optimists.

I know the past years have been tough for all of us, including our family and friends. It has been tough for our clubs and the Optimist International Foundation and definitely the youth in our communities. I know that you and your clubs dug deep to help the Foundation as well as you could. The Optimist Foundation did not forego any Optimist Programs. All programs were funded as before the pandemic.

What we need to do is dig deep and do what we can. If you can donate to Dime a Day, that's one dime each day amounting to \$36.50 that would be great. There continue to be ways to contribute as a member and a club.

Please review www.optimist.org foundation tab, to see what the program does and is planning to do, that would be great. Ask your club Foundation Representative what you can do to help to spread the word. Thank you!

Rich Gaebel
Optimist International Illinois District Foundation Representative

**From Chairman of District Leadership Committee,
John Good, 21-22 President of The Glenview Club,
*Subject: Leadership***

OI Leaders are often identified by a number of traits they all possess. Unfortunately, they often forget one of their roles as leaders is searching for and recruiting new members into their clubs.

The age-old question has always been, "WHERE CAN I FIND NEW TALENT?" Have you considered, this "new talent" may be someone you already know? It may be a friend of a member in your group, or a person you interact with socially or finally, an acquaintance of yours you simply forgot might be a candidate? This person is simply unaware until you ask them.

I have found the final, yet most critical piece of the puzzle of recruiting new members isn't a phone call or an email. Those are only steps towards what seems to work best, a face-to-face meeting, at their convenience. During this meeting, a key phrase I have often used is "I NEED YOU" as opposed to "We need you".

Make sure you are prepared with a solid reply when "WHY?" or "I'm too busy" comes up. People who are already in other clubs/activities and say they are too busy, have the unique talent of being able to multitask. This person has critical talent and is exactly the type of person you want in your club. Typically multitaskers get things done.

A number of people I have recruited using this method, have told me they joined our club due to this specific personal touch. Let me know how it works for you.

Best Wishes, John Good, President of The Glenview Club, Chair, IL Leadership Committee

From: Charles Mayhew

IL District Land of Lincoln Bulletin Poster Contest:

Slogan for 2022 is: "Climate Change: You Can Make a Difference!"

Our poster Contest is open to boys and girls in 4th, 5th & 6th grades. Two divisions - one for boys and one for girls. Each Club may submit one boy winner and one girl winner.

All entries must be received by 11:59pm, Wednesday, April 20, 2022 to be eligible for judging. Entries will be submitted electronically. Winners will be announced during the April 29-30, 2022 District Conference. District winners will receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. A complete set of rules and entry forms will be emailed to all club presidents. All clubs are encouraged to participate. Contact your local elementary schools to get them involved in the contest. Any questions, please get in touch with: Charles Mayhew at (618) 806-5145 or charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com

From: Ronald Schwartz, President, Deerfield Club
We're Back! Christmas Tree Sale, Jewett Park, Deerfield



The Optimist Club of Deerfield is selling Christmas trees again this year. Last year, before vaccines for COVID were available, we were unable to continue our tradition of selling them which went back to 1978. This year we'll be back to the sale and delivery of the trees. Howard Kirshenbaum, Tanya LaBuda and John Coughenour are heading our committee. We anticipate that the trees will move quickly from our lot to homes in the Deerfield area. The lot opens on Friday, November 26th from 4 pm to 8 pm. Saturdays from 9 am to 6 pm, Sundays from noon to 6 pm. And Monday - Fridays from 4 - 8 pm.

Leaders Tip: Time to Preview and Use the New LMS System

Are you a club president, secretary-treasurer or foundation rep in your club? A new Learning Management System (LMS) was introduced in 2020 as a leadership training tool for Optimist club officers and district leaders as a way to provide consistent and high-quality training information. This tool is complete with short videos and step by step suggestions to keep your club remain current, organized. efficient and energized.

From Sam Meier, Chairman 2021-22 Illinois Oratorical Contest

21-22 theme: *"Healing the World with Optimism"*

Fellow Illinois Optimists!

My name is Sam Meier and I am serving as the district chair for the Oratorical Contest. This year's theme is "Healing the World with Optimism" (it shouldn't be too terribly difficult to find source material...) If your club is considering establishing an Oratorical Contest for the first time, please call or email me! I may be biased, but I honestly feel the Oratorical Contest is the most enriching thing we do for youth at the district level. It is incredibly rewarding to watch young men and women wear the confidence earned with delivering a great speech. Plus, a club Oratorical Contest can be a great local event for your chapters & communities.

Presidents and club chairpersons – be on the lookout for a November email outlining the relevant dates & details.

Yours in Optimism, Sam Meier (815) 535-0776 sam.meier@edwardjones.com

District Optimists Make Positive Journals at October 9th Conference

Illinois District Optimists made "Optimistic Journals" for the Peoria Boys and Girls Club youth at the 1st quarter District Conference, October 8-9, 2021 in East Peoria. Governor Carol Schlitt had each of the attendees customize a journal with a book plate which stated that this journal was made by an Optimist member and also included a page with the Optimist Creed. Then the fun began...

Attendees then had an opportunity to add optimistic phrases to the journal to encourage the youth receiving the journal to think about the good things around them. Phrases like "Today this made me smile..." "I'm happiest when I..." or "I felt good about..." were randomly scattered throughout the pages to encourage the receiver to think and write about their feelings.

After they decorated the books, they decorated a bag which was going to hold the journal. This is where your fellow Optimists got really creative. Stickers and colorful markers were supplied for them to let their creative juices flow. Each bag was filled with the journal, pen and markers.

Governor Schlitt presented the completed journals to the Peoria Boys and Girls Club members on Friday, November 5th and the following pictures show the children that received them.



Taylorville Dinner and Officers inducted

Taylorville Optimist Club recently hosted Immediate Past Governor Bill Wagner and his wife Judy, to dinner with new officers, board members and spouses. They met at Florinda's Italian Restaurant on Wed., Oct. 13. Florinda is a club member and will also host the annual



Mostaccioli fundraiser in October.

Bill then attended the Thursday morning club meeting where he inducted the 2021-22 officers and board members. The upcoming board members and officers are shown.

Thank you Craig Loyet for the following:



The 104th Optimist International Convention will be in Reno Nevada from June 30th through July 3rd 2022. The convention is being held at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino. We hope it will receive a large showing of fellow Optimist members from around the world. If you have never attended an Optimist Convention I highly recommend it.



[Click here](#) to make your hotel reservation for the International Convention in Reno!

June 30 – July 3, 2022

Convention Registration will be available soon!

**From: John E. Ohnemus,
Re: Illinois Optimist Clubs Essay Contests**

Theme: How Does an Optimistic Mindset Change My tomorrow?

The 2021-2022 Essay Contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2021 and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent. There is no minimum age.

Illinois Optimist Clubs interested in having an Essay Contest should go to www.optimist.org. Click on Member Resources and go to Scholarship Contests and click on Essay Contest. Download and print the Club Essay Planning Guide.

All contestants need to read and complete the Application for 2021-2022 Optimist International Essay Contest. Clubs must submit the winning essay so that it is delivered or postmarked no later than February 28, 2022. All the necessary forms are in the Essay Planning Guide.

Illinois Clubs should send the local essays to: John E. Ohnemus, 2831 Harrison Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301. Essays must be received or be postmarked no later than February 28, 2022.

First Quarter Illinois District Conference – Fun on Friday Night!

A fun time was had by all at the first quarter IL District hospitality room. A rousing mini-corn hole tournament was held with 18 entries. It was a rip-roaring time – and harder than first thought, but JB Culbertson of the Chillicothe Optimist Club took top honors as the “First IL District Mini-Corn Hole Champ.” Thanks to the Chillicothe Club for providing the food for the hospitality suite and to all the members who brought food to share. JB will be defending her title at the April District Conference. Make your plans now to attend the in-person 3rd quarter IL District Conference – April 29-30 – at the Holiday Inn & Suites in East Peoria and try your hand at this fun and challenging game. Who knows...you may be the next IL District Mini-Corn Hole Champ! (Editor's Note: It was a blast!)





From Bill Wagner, Past Governor, and Illinois Golf Outing Chair

Illinois District Golf Qualifiers make Cut at Optimist International Tournament in Doral

On June 15-17 2020, 60 junior golfers competed to earn the right to represent the Illinois District at Doral Golf Club outside of Miami Florida. These golfers competed in 7 age categories ranging from 10 years to 18 years of age. The field this year consisted of 34 girls competing in three age divisions and 26 boys competing in four age divisions. This year's qualifiers were Sophia Gold, Quincy, in the girls aged 13-14 division. Ty Novosel, also from Quincy, qualified in the boys 12-13 age division.

Another Quincy participant was Gabriel Gold who qualified in the boys 14-15 age group. Brady Kaufman from Jacksonville won a competitive boys 16-18 age division to qualify for the Optimist International field in Miami.

Brady represented the district quite well as he finished eighth out of a field of 134 golfers at the OI tournament outside of Miami. All District qualifiers made the cut in their respective divisions at the Optimist International competition. Illinois also had 3 boys compete at large in the OI tournament. They were Peyton Woods from Springfield, Ryan Kruse from Waterloo, both competed in the 16-18 age group and Jaden Smith from Waterloo competed in the boys 14-15 age division. While these boys did not make the cut, they gained valuable experience for next year's event..

Stay tuned as plans are underway for the 2022 District Golf tournament with the dates and location announcement planned for early December.



From Charles Mahew, District Chair: Community Programs and Projects:

Purpose of the Committee: To organize service projects which meet the needs in your area for local schools, parks, hospitals – making the future brighter for our kids.

Some of the goals of the committee:

To work with clubs identifying projects that suit the needs of their community.

To Encourage clubs to adopt an Optimist International established project and use Optimist International's online tools for planning, implementing, and evaluating.

To Inform Clubs and the Districts of Optimist International service initiatives as they are introduced.

To Highlight successful projects during District events and to Optimist International, including use of social media.

Ideally the committee should consist of 2-3 members, representing a good geographical distribution of the District. Anyone wishing to get involved by joining this committee, please get in touch with Charles Mayhew at (618) 806-5145 or charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com

Optimist Club of Deerfield

Christmas Tree Sale – Jewett Park
(Jewett Park by the Hazel Street parking lot)

We're Back!!

New Hours:

Monday to Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Lot opens November 26 at 4:00 PM
PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUTH ACTIVITIES

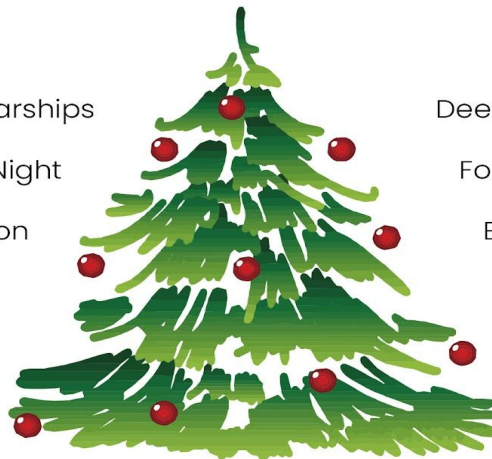
Deerfield High School Scholarships

Youth Appreciation Night

Deerfield Park Foundation

July 4th Family Days

Halloween Hoopla



Deerfield Historical Society

Food Pantry

Essay Contest

Voucher Program

D.A.R.E

For Christmas tree Sale Information
Call Howard Kirshenbaum (847) 347-9696



Optimist Club of
Deerfield



In Loving Memory

At the first quarter Illinois District Conference in East Peoria, we recognized those Optimists that have died since we last met face-to-face in October 2019.

**Dr. Joann M. Moles -- Oak Park
William Nelson -- Wilmette-Lunch
H.C.Hutchison DDS -- Princeton
Ray Harrison -- Chillicothe
Rosella M. Wells -- St. David
Dan Buckley -- Quincy
George D. Youtzy -- Quincy
Eugene K Hunter -- Quincy
Norman J. Ward -- Quincy
Howard F. Schweighart -- Champaign -Urbana
Carlos Donaldson Jr. - Champaign-Urbana
Carmett "Corky" Helms -- Belleville Inc.
Lois G. Stroh -- Belleville Inc.
Willard P. Wiggers -- Waterloo
Al B. Hilmes -- Highland
Danny L. Byrd -- Highland
John O'Bryan -- Highland
Max Moore -- Chi-Rock Nation
Bob Smeltzer -- Rock Falls
Keith Vollrath -- Moline Breakfast
John L. Bell -- Moline Breakfast
Roger L. Minton -- Delevan
James Burch -- Lewistown
Dudley R. Crow -- Marshall Clark County
Rosa E. McKinney -- Marshall Clark County
James P. Markwell -- Taylorville
John F. Cassulo -- Millstadt
Ron Smith -- Greenville
Kathryn K. Holzhauer -- Greenville**

**Excerpt from Optimist International 21-22 President,
PATSY GARNER'S November newsmail:**

It's a new day, it's a new week, it's a new month... OPTIMISTS, it is NOVEMBER!

November kicks-off the "holiday" season, a time when Optimist Members traditionally go ONE DEGREE MORE in our communities. It's time to "FLY" and BE Optimists.

November brings numerous opportunities to stay connected through seminars, webinars, and OptiForums:

- **Wednesday, November 3rd: Optimist International Town Hall - Meet the Optimist International Board Members (Open to all Members)**
- **Monday, November 15th: Webinar: Who's Doing What - Community Programs and Projects, (Open to all Members)**
- **Tuesday, November 16th: President to Presidents Forum with Optimist International President Patsy Garner. (If you are a Club President, it's our time to visit)**
- **Wednesday, November 17th: Optimist International OptiForum featuring International Motivational Speaker Ray Young "This Is Our Time!" (Open to all Members)**

Visit the Optimist International Calendar to register and find more detailed information: <https://optimist.org/member/hot-topics.cfm>

To all Optimist Members Ken and I express our gratitude for your continued service and support and to Optimist in the United States, we wish you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving

Thank you all for Being an Optimist! Optimist International | [Visit our Website](#)

New 2021 District Directories are available!! Governor Carol distributed them at the October District Conference. If you didn't attend, your Lt. Governor has yours and will be getting them to you. Please check them for accuracy, of membership, and contact information of your members.

IMPORTANT DISTRICT EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Event	Date	Deadline	Resource	Contact
Optimist International Convention	June 30th-July 4th 2022	Reno Nevada		Optimist International website
District Jr. Golf Tourney	June 2022	watch for	OljGC committee	Bill Wagner
District Essay contest	Ongoing	Feb 28, 2022	Essay Planning Guide	John E Ohnemus
District Oratorical Contest	Ongoing	Contest at April District Conference	www.optimist.org	Sam Meier
Next District Conference	Jan 29, 2022	Registration coming soon	Zoom Conference	Carol Schlitt
Deerfield Tree Sale	November 27- all sold			Howard Hirschbaum
District PosterContest		April 20th		Charles Mayhew
Land of Lincoln Bulletin	Quarterly	Feb 11, 2022		Nancy Roach-Wilder

Want to see your Optimist Club in the Land of Lincoln Bulletin? Send your information to Nancy Roach-Wilder at nroach12@gmail.com Watch for my email announcing the deadline for the next issue which is Feb 11, 2022. The deadlines are also in the IL District Directory and 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.