



**Illinois Optimist
District Directory 2023-24**

Mission Statement

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

Vision Statement

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them to develop to their full potential.

The Purposes of Optimist International

- ❖ To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;
- ❖ To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
- ❖ To inspire respect for the law;
- ❖ To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;
- ❖ To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

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Please send any updates to the Illinois Optimist Directory to Sandi Schmidt at schmidtsandi@gmail.com

A message from the Governor

Dear Illinois Optimists,

It's my privilege and honor to serve as your District Governor for the 2023-2024 Optimist year. I can assure you Optimist International for the past year has spent countless hours and dollars in training and preparing me for this role.

My theme as Governor is "Engagement, Retention, and Trust Building".

International President Bob McFadyen (2022-23) at our recent convention in Arlington, VA told us Optimists will lose over 2,500 members worldwide in 2023. There isn't enough time to cover all of the reasons for this.

I want to introduce all of you to the CARE Program Optimist International has produced in hopes of reenergizing and revitalizing all of its clubs worldwide and, more importantly, the ones in our Illinois District. At our first quarter Conference in October, a representative from Optimist International presented the program. You'll be hearing more about this from me and from Optimist International so you can take it to your respective clubs and institute it.

One of my main goals during my term is that a minimum of 50% of the clubs in our District have introduced their members to this great CARE program.

I will also be seeking a 5% increase in both retention and the addition of new members to our District.

As I travel across our fine State of Illinois, in hopes of visiting your club, my message will be short and simple. It's time to rebuild and make our District one of the finest in the world. Please help me achieve this and obtain my goals.

In Optimism
John Good
Illinois District Governor
2023-2024





What an honour it is to serve this 2023/2024 Optimist year as the 106th International President. I've spent 28 years as an Optimist with a capital "O", making it my mission to give back to the club and organization that gave to me as a child.

I have been working alongside Governor John for some time now. John will continue to be the most up to date on new developments and focuses for the future of Optimist

International. From a fresh direction on engaging our membership, developing new membership growth approaches, C.A.R.E.ing for our members and truly focusing on the 3rd pillar of our mission statement, your Governor and each member of your district plays an integral role in the future of our impact around the world.

"By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, their communities and themselves."

What are you doing to bring out the best in yourself and help fellow members to do the same?

Let's make that the mission for 2023/2024, to take C.A.R.E. of our members. Imagine what could happen if we spent a little time making each other feel valued and heard! Make the plan to be educated on the C.A.R.E. retention program and conduct your club's first ever C.A.R.E. program this year and plan to make it an annual focus. Our members, clubs, districts and Optimist International will be stronger and better for your efforts.

Optimist International is not this illusive group of people in St Louis, Missouri. Optimist International, "OI," is each of us! Every decision, the direction of our future and the values of this organization, lay in the hands of each of us. Us, the members of our clubs, are OI. Together, only we, OI, can ensure the future is full of hope and positive vision for future generations. Let's rally together and embrace the opportunity to approach things from a new direction and see where we can take this next century of service as Optimists, with capital O's.

I look forward to serving alongside all the Optimists of all the countries within Optimist International. We have so many great talents and such incredible passion for Optimism. It's our mission to bring out the best. Let's do that, together.

Yours in Optimism,

Tracy Huxley
2023/2024 President
Optimist International

Vice President Middle America Region 2023/2024
Michael “Mikey B” Boles



A vital shift at the core of our mission is brewing, – I call on you to redirect our focus toward membership engagement. As we look back, we take pride in the Optimist organization's profound influence on countless young lives, instilling in them the values of optimism and bringing about positive change.

As our world evolves, so must our approach. For over a quarter of a century, membership growth stood as our measure of success. However, it's time to understand that quantity alone does not determine our impact. It's not about headcount, but rather “heart count”. It's about the profound involvement in our mission. We must shift our emphasis toward the quality of engagement within our organization. A united, committed circle achieves far more than one connected loosely by name only. Engaged members possess lasting commitment. We must not just attract members but also retain them, through engagement.

By focusing on engagement, we can channel our resources more effectively toward programs and initiatives that genuinely make a difference. Every engaged member becomes a catalyst of our mission, which is to impact the lives of young people and our communities. Engaged members provide more support to those we serve. Amidst a world of constant change, they are more adaptable and resilient. They respond to challenges, seize opportunities, and evolve with the times.

Let's cultivate a culture where every member feels valued – a culture of communication, participation and collaboration. Equip members with skills for exceptional community service. Applaud achievements, big and small, that stride toward our mission. Let's commit to continuously seek feedback from each other and be willing to adapt our strategies accordingly.

My fellow Optimists, let's embrace this transformative journey with boundless Optimism. Membership growth will remain important, but membership engagement will define our future. Together, as empowered members, we will champion our cause and nurture the positive impact on Middle America's youth. Thank you for your unwavering dedication, passion and commitment to spreading Optimism. The future is bright, and together we will make it even brighter.

Yours in Optimism,
Mikey B

Illinois Optimist Conferences and Convention

2023-24

October 20-21, 2023

OI Vice President Michael Boles and C.A.R.E.

Holiday Inn & Suites

101 Holiday Street
East Peoria, IL
309-698-3333

January 20, 2024 – Virtual Conference

April 12-13, 2024

Scholarship Contests - Oratorical, Essay
Poster Contest, election of Lt. Governors

Holiday Inn & Suites

101 Holiday Street
East Peoria, IL
309-698-3333

August 16-17, 2024

Convention – training, election of Governor-Elect
Optimist Memorial Service

Location – To Be Announced Later

Leadership – Illinois Optimist and Optimist International

Illinois Governor

John Good

612 Thames Dr
Schaumburg, IL 60193
847-341-3332
jgoodness54@hotmail.com

Illinois Governor-Elect

District Secretary-Treasurer

Charles Mayhew

423 South Douglas Ave
Belleville, IL 62220
618-806-5145
charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com

Immediate Past Governor

Ron Elvin

105 Linden Dr
Oswego, IL 60543
630-664-4520
elvinmanor@sbcglobal.net

Past Governor

Carol Schlitt

624 Brook Stone Court
Freeburg, IL 62243
618-977-7787
cschlitt54@gmail.com

Optimist International President

Tracy Huxley

240 Richmond St
London, Ontario N6B 2H6
519-521-7049
tracy.huxley@optimist.org

Middle America Vice President

Michael “Mikey B” Boles

1308 Durham Dr
Herculaneum, MO 63048
314-393-2322
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OI Executive Director

Cheryl Brenn

4494 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-371-6000
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Optimist International Website

<https://www.optimist.org>

Optimist Institute

<https://optimist.tovuti.io/>

Official Optimist International Suppliers

Shumsky

www.OptimistStuff.com
877-678-2582
optimist@shumsky.com

Ansell’s Awards and Specialties

www.optimistsupply.ca/
800-565-7062

Illinois Optimist Important Dates & Deadlines

Date		Club	Lt. Gov
Sep-Oct	Planning conference for 2023-24 year	X	X
10/1/23	Beginning of 2022-23 Optimist year		
Oct 2023	District and International dues payment due	X	
10/13-10/14/23	Fall Conference – East Peoria, IL	X	X
11/1/23	Deadline for District Bulletin submissions	X	X
12/31/23	Club Roster Adjustments due	X	
Jan 2024	District and International dues payment due	X	
1/8/24	OI Foundation Grant Applications available		
1/20/24	Winter Virtual Conference	X	X
1/26/24	Childhood Health & Wellness Grants due to OIF	X	
2/1/24	Deadline for District Bulletin submissions	X	X
2/15/24	Form 990 due to IRS	X	
2/28/24	Essays due to District Chairperson	X	
3/2/24	Club Oratorical contests complete	X	
3/16/24	Zone Oratorical contests complete (if needed)		X
3/18/24	OI Foundation Grants due to OIF in St. Louis	X	
3/30/24	Regional Oratorical contests complete		
3/31/24	Club Roster Adjustments due	X	
Apr 2024	District and International dues payment due	X	
Apr-May 2024	Lt. Governor official club visits – all clubs in zone	X	X
4/5/24	Posters due to Poster Chair for judging	X	
4/12-4/13/24	Spring Conference – East Peoria, IL	X	X
4/13/24	District Scholarship Contests – Oratorical		
4/13/24	District Poster Contest		
4/15/24	District Essay winner submitted to OI		
4/30/24	Election of club officers complete	X	
5/1/24	Early registration for OI Convention ends		
5/1/24	Deadline for District Bulletin submissions	X	X
5/1-5/31/24	Voting for Optimist International leadership	X	
5/15/24	District Oratorical winners submitted to OI		
5/20/24	Club Officer Elect Report due to OI	X	X
5/21/24	Hotel reservations for OI Convention ends		
6/10-6/12/24	Illinois District OIJGC Qualifier – Decatur, IL	X	X
6/23-6/26/24	Optimist International Convention–Niagara Falls	X	X
6/30/24	Club Roster Adjustments due	X	
Jul 2024	District and International dues payments due	X	
Jul 2024	OI Oratorical World Championship–St. Louis, MO		
8/1/24	Deadline for District Bulletin submissions	X	X
8/11-8/12/24	Illinois Optimist Convention – Location TBD	X	X
8/23/24	Childhood Health & Wellness Grants due to OIF	X	
9/1/24	Begin next year's scholarship contest preparations with schools – Oratorical, Essay	X	
9/30/24	Club Roster Adjustments due	X	
9/30/24	Optimist International Foundation donations due	X	
9/30/24	President's Pride report due	X	X

Illinois Optimist Committee Chairs

Audit/Review

Howard Held
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Highland, IL 62249-3056
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Bulletin Editor

Nancy Roach-Wilder
504 Littleton Trail
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Carol Schlitt
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Freeburg, IL 62243
618-977-7787
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Candidate Qualifications

William Wagner
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618-401-0681
wwagner6@charter.net

Communications, Internal

James Patrick Schmidt
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Community Programs & Projects

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Conferences/Convention

JB Culbertson
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janetculbertson@yahoo.com

District Directory

Sandi Schmidt
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Moline, IL 61265
309-236-1342
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District Foundation Rep

Sandi Schmidt
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Essay Contest

Aiden P McDonnell
2242 Hampshire St
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Finance

Sandi Schmidt
3754 47th Street Drive
Moline, IL 61265
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Growth

-

Hospitality

JB Culbertson
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Leadership Development

William Wagner
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Marketing, External

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Membership Engagement

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OI Convention Ambassador

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847-341-3332
jgoodness54@hotmail.com

OI Junior Golf

William Wagner
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Oratorical Contest

Sam Meier
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Sterling, IL 61081
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sam.meier@edwardjones.com

Photographer

Roger Simonson
725 Juneberry Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015
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rksimonson@hotmail.com

Poster Contest

Charles Mayhew
423 South Douglas Ave
Belleville, IL 62220
618-806-5145
charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com

Sergeant at Arms

Marshall Rinderer
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Highland IL 62249
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mhrinderer@gmail.com

Webmaster

ZONE 1

Co-Lt. Governors

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725 Juneberry Road
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847-910-2130
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Nancy Roach-Wilder
504 Littleton Trail
Elgin, IL 60120
224-305-2257
nroach12@gmail.com

COUSINS EMPOWERED 12380

Chartered 3/31/2019

Weekly meetings in various locations

President

Raimonda O Pierce
6700 S Crandon #12A
Chicago, IL 60649
773-454-8148
55bigdreams@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Trey Station
2702 Kenwood Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90007
872-305-3669
musicbystation@gmail.com

DEERFIELD 12083

Chartered 6/13/1972

1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm, various locations, see website for current info; 2nd & 3rd Tuesday at 11:45 am, 4th Tuesday 8:00 am, West Deerfield Township Boardroom, 2nd door

President

Philip Fine
392 Millford Road
Deerfield, IL 60015
216-235-6624
fine333@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Howard I Kirshenbaum
15 Burning Tree Ln
Deerfield, IL 60015-4716
kirsh15@comcast.net

DES PLAINES 12084

Chartered 11/18/1954

1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm, Mr. Beef & Pizza (Mount Prospect)

President

Ruth Del Re
649 E Eisenhower Ave
Palatine, IL 60074
C 847-571-8985
H 847-358-5529
ruthdelre@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Leeann Arnold
914 E Sayles Dr
Palatine, IL 60074
847-791-3103
LeeAnnandDickArnold@comcast.com

Treasurer

Jane Gilbert
1440 Wicke Ave
Des Plaines, IL 60018
847-390-9776
rubin1111jg@gmail.com

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ZONE 1 (continued)

FOX VALLEY 12382

Chartered 9/27/2022

2nd & 4th Thursday, check Fox Valley Optimist on Facebook for location details

President

Nancy Roach-Wilder
504 Littleton Trail
Elgin, IL 60120
224-305-2257
nroach12@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Stephen Wilder
504 Littleton Trail
Elgin, IL 60120
858-472-2903
stephen_g_wilder@yahoo.com

GLENVIEW 12154

Chartered 1/31/1961

1st Tuesday at 12:00 noon, Johnny's Kitchen and Tap

President

Reed Brunzell
1830 Linneman Street
Glenview, IL 60025
847-226-6791
reedbrunzell@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Steven K Bucklin
2718 W Central Rd
Glenview, IL 60025
847-722-7086
skbucklin@gmail.com

NILES 12246

Chartered 2/4/1986

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm, may not be monthly, Chasers Sports Bar and Grill

President

John C Jekot
7335 W Lee St
Niles, IL 60714
C 847-651-7624
B 847-297-4183
jjekot@att.net

Secretary

Corey Achino
8553 N Oleander
Niles, IL 60714
708-738-5257
corey.achino@gmail.com

Treasurer

Richard E Mangold
8287 N Merrill St
Niles, IL 60714
C 847-302-3718
H 847-698-2657
rem8287@aol.com

OAK PARK 12264

Chartered 5/31/1924

1st & 3rd Tuesday at 12:00 noon, location varies, contact President for details

President

Allan R Hippensteel
901 S Plymouth Ct
Apt 1005
Chicago, IL 60605
312-939-8888
davis-steel@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Joan Hutchinson
215 Circle Ave
Forest Park, IL 60130
702-689-0603
joanhutch@aol.com

Treasurer

Allan R Hippensteel
901 S Plymouth Ct
Apt 1005
Chicago, IL 60605
312-939-8888
davis-steel@sbcglobal.net

ZONE 2

Lt. Governor James Patrick Schmidt
1828 36th Street
Moline, IL 61265
309-236-2843
jamespatrickschmidt@gmail.com

MOLINE BREAKFAST 12030

Chartered 4/22/1959

Every Wednesday at 7:30 am, Windmill Family Restaurant (East Moline)

President

John Zelnio
2605 31st Street
Moline, IL 61265
309-314-7575
jzelnio@gmail.com

Secretary

Thomas G Reagan
904 37th Street
Moline, IL 61265
309-235-8653
tr3077@me.com

Treasurer

Sandi Schmidt
3754 47th Street Drive
Moline, IL 61265
309-236-1342
schmidtsandi@gmail.com

ROCK FALLS 12302

Chartered 4/29/1947

2nd & 4th Monday at 6:00 pm, Nick's Tap

President

Dan Arickx
28791 Summer St
Rock Falls, IL 61071
815-499-7162
darickx@gmail.com

Secretary

John L Hoffmiller
1209 Sixth Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071
815-626-1028
mariannehoffmiller@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mike Wolber
206 11th Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071
815-716-0436
mikeandsheila@comcast.net

SILVIS 12322

Chartered 1/25/1961

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Schroder Mortuary

President

Brian D Hillyer
701 1st Avenue
Silvis, IL 61282
309-755-2212
schrodermortuary@sbcglobal.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Emerick
c/o Blackhawk Bank & Trust
1100 1st Avenue
Silvis, IL 61282
C 309-236-1873
H 309-788-5044
B 309-752-1200
demerick@choosethechief.com

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ZONE 2 (continued)

STERLING 12328

Chartered 4/19/1967

2nd & 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm, Wagon Wheel Restaurant

President

Andrea Rogers
2008 E 7th Street
Sterling, IL 61081
815-718-0199
jaryn1mom@gmail.com

Secretary

Mark Sedig
1706 39th Avenue
Sterling, IL 61081
815-590-6362
marksedig72@hotmail.com

Treasurer

James C Hammer
210 12th Avenue
Sterling, IL 61081
815-590-0139
jshammer1@comcast.net

ZONE 3

Lt. Governor JB Culbertson
5512 E Marquette
Chillicothe, IL 61523
309-472-3418
janetculbertson@yahoo.com

CHILLICOTHE 12065

Chartered 5/22/1985

1st Tuesday at 6:00 pm, 3rd Saturday at 8:00 am, Grecian Garden Restaurant

President

Jaci Peters
PO Box 3
Rome, IL 61562
309-251-3754
Jpchillioptimist2023@gmail.com

Secretary

Lori A Richard
937 N Second St
Chillicothe, IL
61523
309-264-4359
lasarver@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Cheryl Farwell-Duckworth
14921 N Wayne Rd
Chillicothe, IL 61523
309-231-9396
cherylfarwellduckworth@gmail.com

DELANAVAN 12085

Chartered 5/1/1982

2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm, Delavan American Legion Post #382

President

Adele Wheeler
118 W 3rd Street
Delavan, IL 61734
309-419-3107
godskid81@gmail.com

Secretary

Linda Slabaugh
701 W 3rd
Delavan, IL 61734
815-272-3918
lc.condon@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Christy Hart
405 West Third St
Delavan, IL 61734
309-244-8424
hart-e@sbcglobal.net

GLASFORD 12150

Chartered 8/16/1956

2nd Wednesday at 7:00 pm, Optimist club house on Park Street

President

Thomas R. Robertson Jr.
PO Box 521
Glasford, IL 61533

Secretary-Treasurer

Robert A Meyer
PO Box 500
Glasford, IL 61533
H 309-565-7353
B 309-389-2551
rameyer@glasfordbank.com

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ZONE 3 (continued)

HAVANA 12176

Chartered 10/1/1946

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 6:00 pm, The Paddlewheel

President

Evan Jones
824 East Adams St
Havana, IL 62644
309-303-4104
jonesirwa@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Daniel Whitsitt
712 E Adams St
Havana, IL 62644
309-543-2488
whitsittde@gmail.com

QUINCY 12038

Chartered 2/10/1964

Every Tuesday at 6:45 am, American Legion

President

Aiden P Mcdonnell
2242 Hampshire St
Quincy, IL 62301
C 217-653-3027
B 217-209-3916
aidenpm2@gmail.com

Secretary

C E Archer
1500 Stone Creek Dr
Quincy, IL 62305
217-592-6096
carcher@adams.net

Treasurer

Glen L. Ebbing
1400 Huntleigh Rd
Quincy, IL 62305
C 217-242-7911
B 217-224-3920
gebbing53@gmail.com

ST DAVID 12318

Chartered 6/16/1953

2nd Wednesday at 6:00 pm, St David Optimist Club

President

Jeffrey L Braden
405 N Maple
Lewistown, IL 61542
C 309-231-1801
H 309-547-2028
jjobservice@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Jason A Myetich
205 W 6th St
St David, IL 61563
309-668-2308
myetichja@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jeffrey L Braden
405 N Maple
Lewistown, IL 61542
C 309-231-1801
H 309-547-2028
jjobservice@sbcglobal.net

ZONE 4

Lt. Governor - vacant

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA 12064

Chartered 6/14/1948

3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm, Perkins on University

President

Marcus Johnson
1105 N Harvey St
Urbana, IL 61801
217-390-0412
jjdad02@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Torianna Exum
PO Box 978
Urbana, IL 61801
217-390-3972
torionnae@gmail.com

MARSHALL CLARK COUNTY 12214

Chartered 10/29/1992

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 12:30 pm, Marshall VFW #5975

President

Art Miller
15819 N Oak Crest Rd
Marshall, IL 62441
217-340-4340
millerae@mchsi.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Linda Tucker
13599 E 100th Rd
Marshall, IL 62441
217-826-2775
altucker61@outlook.com

SPRINGFIELD BREAKFAST 12046

Chartered 3/24/1964

Every Friday at 8:00 am, Cathedral Church of St Paul

President

Mark R Depue
613 Catskill Drive
Springfield, IL 62711
217-698-7661
depuemr@outlook.com

Secretary

Ron Omer
2409 Wyndemere
Springfield, IL 62711
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Treasurer

Dean Hawk
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Springfield, IL 62704
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H 217-793-6771
dean.hawk@outlook.com

TAYLORVILLE 12334

Chartered 6/15/1965

2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:00 am, Peoples Bank & Trust

President

Adam Vocks
220 W Adams St
Taylorville, IL 62568
217-824-6398
adam@vocks.com

Secretary-Treasurer

James E Adcock
2347 East 1300 North Rd
Assumption, IL 62510
217-820-9323
jadcock@bankpbt.com

ZONE 5

Lt. Governor - vacant

BELLEVILLE 12016

Chartered 9/25/1923

2nd & 4th Tuesday at 12:00 pm, Bungalow; 4th Tuesday at 7:30 am, Board, UUMC

President

Susan D Reilmann
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Secretary

Charles C Mayhew
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Treasurer

Theresa J Seipp
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618-698-0693
tseipp54@yahoo.com

BELLEVILLE WESTSIDE 12354

Chartered 5/15/1952

Every Thursday at 12:00 noon, Tim & Joe's Tavern

President

Carol Reuter
216 Fournie Lane
Swansea, IL 62226
618-830-9900
carolreuter@carolreuter.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Debbie Rockwell
423 Arapaho
Belleville, IL 62220
H 618-234-3342
B 618-239-9000
rockwell@fcbbanks.com

FREEBURG 12120

Chartered 9/29/1988

1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm, Freeburg Township Hall

President

Angela K Menard-Mueller
301 Dogwood Ct
Freeburg, IL 62243
C 618-410-5584
H 618-539-0139
millstadtcarpets@yahoo.com

Secretary

Marilyn A Smithson
2502 Sweet Birch Ln
New Athens, IL 62264
C 618-691-8977
H 618-475-3727
glausma@htc.net

Treasurer

Karen R Nash
103 Willow Dr
Freeburg, IL 62243
C 618-910-0138
H 618-539-5438
karn229cat@aol.com

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ZONE 5 (continued)

MILLSTADT 12227

Chartered 4/28/1988

1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm, Quail Club

President

Ken Lickenbrock
115 Liederkrantz Ln
Millstadt, IL 62260
618-476-3006
klicenbk@gmail.com

Secretary

Scott Olson
20 Cedar St
Millstadt, IL 62260
618-250-2920
scottolson@readyinsightconsultingllc.com

Treasurer

Debra S Curtis
PO Box 331
Millstadt, IL 62260
618-476-3334
dcurtis@fnbwaterloo.com

O'FALLON 12373

Chartered 9/26/2002

Please contact club president for meeting details

President

Ronda Vaughn
11232 Hageman Rd
Lebanon, IL 62254
C 314-581-1452
B 314-881-1305
ronda.vaughn@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Virginia R Stark
159 Fieldstone Drive
Belleville, IL 62221
618-233-8522
ginnieb-jcp@att.net

PINCKNEYVILLE 12282

Chartered 2/27/1969

1st Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Perry County Fairgrounds

President

Christina Brand
108 W Randolph St
Pinckneyville, IL 62274
618-444-4713
behiter@yahoo.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Heather Lee
1107 Kennedy Dr
Pinckneyville, IL 62274
618-318-2689
thlee214@icloud.com

WATERLOO 12346

Chartered 3/29/1954

2nd & 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm, Acorn's Golf Links

President

Chad J Dillenberger
3322 Prairie Rose Lane
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-980-1283
chad.dillenberger@gmail.com

Secretary

Shelby R Mathes Jr
6108 Red Bird Lane
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-1748
smrk2000@htc.net

Treasurer

Daniel J Krebel
6575 LL Rd
Red Bud, IL 62278
plumberdan7@yahoo.com

ZONE 6

Lt. Governor Craig Loyet
175 Falcon Dr
Highland, IL 62249
618-365-5431
crloyet@gmail.com

ALTON AREA 12000

Chartered 3/11/1946

2nd Tuesday at 6:00 pm, Johnsons Corner

President

Mark Cappel
2323 Mound Street
Alton, IL 62002
618-401-0993
mscappel@charter.net

Secretary

Joanne Curvey
1124 Taylor Avenue
Godfrey, IL 62035
618-972-1809
jcurvey@altonschools.org

Treasurer

Laura Munson-Dewein
5307 Cedar Creek Ct
Godfrey, IL 62035
deweinmunson@gmail.com

BREESE 12021

Chartered 3/27/1984

2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, KC Hall

President

Jace Benhoff
116 Hayes Ct
Breese, IL 62230
618-978-0564
jacobbenhoff@gmail.com

Secretary

Eric Johnson
9930 Liberty Ct
Breese, IL 62230
618-791-0727
breeseooptimist@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dale Detmer
10750 Nobs Rd
Breese, IL 62230
ddetmer83@gmail.com

CARLYLE 12058

Chartered 4/3/1986

1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., Carlyle VFW Hall

President

Ron Huels
19402 Sand Ridge Rd
Carlyle, IL 62231
618-444-3938

Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Renschen
990 11th
Carlyle, IL 62231
618-594-4431
garyrenschen@charter.net

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ZONE 6 (continued)

GRANITE CITY 12164

Chartered 4/25/1929

Every Thursday at 12:00 noon, Apple Tree Family Restaurant

President

Paul H Hellrich
3921 Dorothy Ct
Granite City, IL 62040
C 618-407-3011
H 618-797-1062
phhellrich@yahoo.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Karen L Gambichler
#35 Rickhaven Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-304-9210
karen.l.gambichler@gmail.com

GREENVILLE 12168

Chartered 9/29/1990

2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm, Greenville Country Club

President

Anne Betscher
114 Quail Hollow Road
Greenville, IL 62246
618-267-4648
aebetscher@gmail.com

Secretary

Ruth Wise
1152 Prairie Road
Greenville, IL 62246
256-509-6110
rw92050@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Joni Striickler
1428 Hillcrest
Greenville, IL 62246
630-460-1120
chio8285@gmail.com

HIGHLAND 12180

Chartered 12/15/1948

1st & 3rd Monday at 6:30 pm, Highland Country Club

President

Scott Geest
12503 Ambuehl Road
Highland IL 62249
618-444-3244
scottgeest@icloud.com

Secretary

Ryan Goodwin
375 Denrick Loop
Pocahontas, IL 62275
618-401-3924
ryan.goodwin@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dave Haberer
PO Box 471
Highland, IL 62249
314-560-0942
davebarb49@gmail.com

Illinois Junior Optimist International (JOI) Clubs

Zone	Club#	Club Name	Chartered
5	A1567	Roosevelt School Junior Optimist Club Sponsored by: Belleville	12/6/2000
5	B1582	Belleville East Lancers Sponsored by: Belleville	3/8/1996
6	B2127	Highland High School Junior Optimist Sponsored by: Highland	9/30/2009

Club Recognition

Honor Club

Service	Complete three or more service projects during the Optimist year
Community	Recognize a Club member or local community individual Grow Club by Net+3 in membership Conduct a Membership Recruitment (i.e., NOW) program
Charitable	Appoint a Club Foundation Representative Make a non-restricted contribution to the OIF or CCOF of at least \$100
Education	Club President, Club President-Elect (or two designees) attend District Convention (or two other District meetings/conferences) Club Foundation Representative completes the CFR training on the Optimist Institute Club President completes the Club President training on the Optimist Institute Club Secretary/Treasurer completes the Club S/T training on the Optimist Institute
Administrative	Complete the Club Pride Report and Club Officer-Elect Report Be current on District and OI dues and fees Club Bylaws to be in compliance with Standard Club Bylaws

Distinguished Club

Meet Honor Club Criteria plus one of the following:

Community	Add Net+15* in membership OR charter one or more new Clubs OR Increase by Net+8* and charter two or more JOI clubs
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*TOTAL net member increases required: +3 for Honor Club is included in the +15 or +8 required for Distinguished Club

Illinois District Policies

Adopted 2011 District Convention

Approved as stated for 2023-24 – August 12, 2023

- I. Policy Administration
 - A. Implementation: It is the duty of the Governor and the Executive Committee to ensure the implementation of these policies.
 - B. Amendments:
 - 1. A Policy Review Committee shall be appointed by the Governor. This committee shall be comprised of at least five persons, to include the Governor-Elect, the Parliamentarian, and at least one past Governor.
 - 2. Proposed changes to the District Policies should be presented to this committee not later than 45 days prior to the District Convention and shall be voted upon for approval at the annual District Convention. If, however, proposed changes or amendments to proposed changes are introduced after the 45-day period, such changes shall require a 2/3 vote for approval.
 - C. Distribution: Distribution of the Illinois District Policies shall be done annually as part of the Illinois District Directory.
- II. District Administration
 - A. Board of Directors
 - 1. Purpose: The Board of Directors functions as the main legislative body for the Illinois District.
 - 2. Membership: The Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:
 - a. Governor
 - b. Governor-Elect
 - c. Two immediate Past Governors
 - d. Lt. Governors
 - e. District Secretary and/or Treasurer
 - f. Assistant Governor(s)
 - g. Club Presidents
 - h. The JOI Governor shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Rights and Privileges: Only these members may make motions, debate and discuss motions on the floor, and vote at the general assembly of the quarterly district meetings. The presiding officer may recognize other members when a motion is not on the floor if they so desire but is not required to do so. However, at the District Convention all accredited delegates are afforded the same privileges as the Board of Directors. The District Board shall annually determine the District Depository and signatories.
 - 4. Meetings
 - a. A Board of Directors meeting shall be held in each quarter of the Optimist year. It is recommended that these meetings be held not later than during the second month of each quarter, except

that the first quarter meeting should be held in October. Zone meetings or combined Region/Zone meetings may replace the Second Quarter District Meeting as long as the Zones and/or Regions conduct training and business sessions during this quarter as authorized by the Governor.

- b. Arrangements for District Board meeting facilities and meals shall be made by a committee appointed by the Governor. Program and all arrangements are to have the approval of the Governor.
- c. Spouses and children are encouraged to attend these meetings. It is the responsibility of the host committee to arrange for spouses' and children's entertainment.
- d. The District would encourage Presidents of all clubs to attend District Meetings. However, should the President be unable to attend the Board of Directors meeting, an appointed delegate for that club would be allowed to speak and act as the President, in the conduct of the business coming before the Board of Directors, providing the delegate produces written proof of their appointment to the District Secretary and/or Treasurer.

B. Executive Committee

- 1. Purpose. The Executive Committee serves as the main advisory/administrative body of the Illinois District.
- 2. Membership. The Executive Committee is comprised of the following members:
 - a. Governor
 - b. Governor-Elect
 - c. Two immediate Past Governors
 - d. Lt. Governors
 - e. District Secretary and/or Treasurer
 - f. Assistant Governor(s)
- 3. Rights and Privileges. The District is in support of open meetings for the Executive Committee. However, only members of the Executive Committee may make motions, debate and discuss motions on the floor, and vote. This does not prevent the Executive Committee from receiving verbal or written reports from individuals or committees at their request. The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies in any office in the District.
- 4. Meetings. A minimum of four (4) Executive Committee meetings shall be held during the Optimist year. It is recommended that they be held immediately prior to the District Board meeting. If the Zone and/or Region option is chosen by the Governor for the second quarter, a teleconference with at least 51 percent of the Executive Committee online may replace the Second Quarter Executive Committee meeting.

C. Appointed Positions

- 1. Assistant Governors. The Assistant Governor(s) may be appointed for

one year by the Governor-Designate, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

2. A District Secretary and/or Treasurer shall be appointed annually by the Governor-Designate, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. They shall have full voting rights on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The District Secretary and/or Treasurer shall not serve more than three consecutive years.
3. The Sergeant-at-Arms and Parliamentarian are appointed members of both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. However, they serve only in an advisory capacity. They may not make or vote on motions on the floor.
4. The Governor shall appoint all current committee chairs and may call for quarterly meetings.

III. District Convention

- A. Annual Convention. A convention of the clubs of the District shall be held annually during the month of August, but no later than September 30.
- B. Convention Program. The convention shall embody the following features:
 1. A Lieutenant Governors-Elect training session, unless held at a separate time.
 2. A quarterly Executive Committee meeting and a meeting of the Board of Directors.
 3. A "Club Administrative Conference" attended by newly elected club and District officers. Club and District committee members are also encouraged to attend.
 4. The election of Governor-elect for the coming year.
 5. A Governor's Banquet and Installation of Officers with the International Representative as speaker.
 6. An "All Optimist Breakfast".
 7. A Memorial Service should be held for those members who have died during the prior year.
 8. The program shall have the approval of the Governor prior to printing.
- C. Convention Administration. The convention is the District Convention. The Governor-Elect is chairperson of the convention. It shall be planned and supervised by the Convention Committee, the Governor, and the Governor-Elect.
- D. The District Board of Directors will choose the Convention site and establish voting procedures for the Convention.
- E. Proposed Convention Rules
 1. The convention shall be composed of delegates as set forth in the International Bylaws Article VII, Section 4.
 2. To be accredited by the Credentials Committee and eligible to vote on convention business, delegates must have registered at the convention, paid the registration fee, and produce such credentials as may be required by the Board of Directors.
 3. Each club is entitled to one vote for each 10 members or major

fraction thereof (6 or more). Friend of Optimist members are not voting members in their club or the Illinois District.

4. On a voice vote or hand vote each club may use their allowed quota of votes but only with those accredited delegates present. Example – if your club is allowed 5 votes but only has 3 members present then you only get 3 votes.
5. On a written or paper vote the rule is different. Each club that has a registered delegate present shall be allowed their quota of votes without having their full quota of delegates present. Clubs may split their votes but votes must be a whole number. Each club shall select a chairperson to tally the results and report the same.
6. The Credentials Committee shall report at the first session thereof and periodically thereafter or when directed to do so.
7. The program as printed shall be the official program of the convention.
8. Following the report of the Candidate Qualifications Committee, the Governor-Elect shall call for other nominations from the floor and then call for closing of nominations.
9. Following the report of the Candidate Qualifications Committee, there may be nominating speeches on behalf of all candidates.
10. A nominating speech, seconding speech, and candidate's response shall not exceed a total of twelve minutes for each candidate.
11. All voting shall be by voice, hand, or rising vote, at the discretion of the chairperson unless a ballot or roll call vote is ordered by a majority vote of the accredited delegates. In the event a vote by ballot is ordered, the chairperson shall appoint a committee of tellers and name its chairperson. If the balloting has been conducted for the purpose of electing an officer, the chairperson shall announce the name of the winner only and then entertain a motion to destroy the ballots.
12. No accredited delegate shall be entitled to the floor unless they rise, address the presiding officer, and give their name and club affiliation.
13. Debate shall be limited to five minutes a speaker. No accredited delegate shall speak a second time to the same question at the sitting if another accredited delegate who has not spoken thereon rises and asks for the floor.
14. No accredited delegate shall speak more than twice on the same question if anyone objects.
15. Main motions shall be put in writing when the chairperson directs.
16. The chairperson shall entertain no motion unless seconded and shall not be open to debate or amendment before the chairperson has repeated it.
17. The vote on a question, once commenced, shall not be interrupted except to ask that the chairperson restate the question.
18. An accredited delegate may change their vote from one side to the other provided they rise and ask for the floor promptly and before

the chairperson declares the result final.

19. No more than two (one primary, one secondary) amendments to any question shall be pending at one time, but after disposal of one or both of them, other amendments may be proposed.
20. The convention may, to expedite the handling of business, limit as it chooses the time or the number of speakers for each side on any question or the total time for debate, by a two-thirds vote.
21. The chairperson of committees may make partial reports during lull periods of the convention unless otherwise ordered.
22. These convention rules shall be adopted by majority vote, but they may be suspended, rescinded, or amended after their adoption by a two-thirds vote.
23. The rules as adopted for the current convention shall be the proposed rules for the convention in the following year.
24. In the absence of a specific convention rule or a specific printed Optimist International Bylaw, ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER shall govern the deliberation of this convention.

F. Elections

1. Elections shall be held in accordance with Optimist International rules governing same.
2. In the event of nominations from the floor for Governor-Elect, there shall be a fifteen (15) minute recess in which time the Candidate Qualifications Committee shall determine the candidate(s) eligibility.
3. To be eligible to be elected as Governor-Elect, a person must be a member in good standing and have served a full term as Club President. The Governor-Elect automatically becomes Governor on October 1 the year following their term as Governor-Elect.

- G. Registration. All District officers, club officers, and members are required to register on the official form supplied by the District and pay the registration fee for all District Board of Directors meetings and the convention. All registered persons shall check in personally at the meeting and official attendance records will be made from these check-in forms.

IV. Finances

A. Finance Committee

1. The Finance Committee shall present to the first quarter District Board of Directors meeting a proposed budget for approval.
2. The Finance Committee may adjust items within the framework of the budget to suit the needs of the District, so long as the total budget is not altered or major categories appreciably changed.
3. The Finance Committee shall include in each annual budget a reserve in the amount of \$3500. This reserve shall be restricted to transfer and use by the incoming administration for expenses chargeable to the next fiscal year. Moneys will be available for transfer not later than the annual District Convention.
4. The Finance Committee shall review the adequacy of the Illinois District dues annually and report their findings and recommendation

- at the third quarter Board of Directors meeting.
5. The Finance Committee shall meet quarterly to review the status of current District finances and budgets.
 6. An annual review of the prior fiscal year shall be given to the District Board of Directors by December 31.
- B. Expenses
1. Budgeted monies for Governor, Governor-Elect, Governor-Designate, Assistant Governors, Lieutenant Governors, Committee Chairs, Parliamentarian, Sergeant at Arms, and Secretary and/or Treasurer are to be paid upon submitting expense vouchers with the necessary receipts.
 2. District Conference(s) and Convention
 - a. Eligibility: Governor, Governor-Elect, Governor-Designate, Assistant Governors, Lieutenant Governors, Committee Chairs, Parliamentarian, Sergeant at Arms, and Secretary and/or Treasurer.
 - b. Mileage: Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of 28 cents per mile.
 - c. Lodging: Eligible attendees will be reimbursed for one night of lodging for Conferences and the Convention. A maximum of two nights lodging is allowed if the attendee is required to travel more than 100 miles each way.
 - d. Meals: Only lunch and dinner served at the Conferences or Convention will be reimbursed.
 - e. Registration: Registration fees for the Conferences and Convention will be reimbursed.
 - f. Dual Office: If a person holds more than one eligible office (i.e., Lt. Governor and Committee Chair) they may be reimbursed for only one position.
 3. Monies allocated to the Governor, Secretary and/or Treasurer, Governor-Elect, and Secretary and/or Treasurer-Designate as expenses for the International Convention may be paid prior to the Convention date, upon approval of the Governor. Lieutenant Governors-Elect will be paid upon completion of Lieutenant Governor required training at the International Convention.
 4. Lieutenant Governors and District chairpersons will receive budgeted monies at the discretion of the Governor, with the guidance of the Finance Committee and the District Secretary and/or Treasurer, upon submitting proper expense vouchers, substantiating the completion of the various requirements of their duties.
- C. District Dues
1. District dues will be billed to each club quarterly, using membership counts from September 30, December 31, March 31, and June 30. The amount billed will be one-quarter of the annual District dues, as authorized by the District Board of Directors and approved by the Optimist International Board of Directors.

2. The Board of Directors may petition the Optimist International Board for a District dues increase.
 3. No additional assessments may be levied by the Board of Directors.
 4. District dues will be added to the Optimist International Club Invoices and delivered to clubs following the Optimist International procedures in place for Club Invoices.
 5. Clubs will remit their District dues payments along with their club dues to Optimist International.
- D. District Secretary and/or Treasurer
1. The current District Secretary and/or Treasurer shall maintain minutes and District financial records for the current year and the past five years.
 2. The most recent financial statements and minutes will be distributed two weeks in advance of any District meeting.
- V. International President's Visit
- A. The International President will be invited to officially visit this District every other year. All clubs are encouraged to invite them to a special club meeting at any time.
 - B. Arrangements for facilities and meals required for the International President's visit to a club or the District shall be made by the host club of the visit, under the direction of the Governor, and shall follow procedures as outlined in the booklet "How to Be a Good Host", available through Optimist International.
- VI. Publications
- A. District Directory
1. The Illinois District Directory, containing the names, addresses, and phone numbers of club, District, and international officers, District committee chairpersons, a list of past governors of the District, a list of any past international officer presently a member of an Illinois Optimist club, District Policies, and the dates and locations of all District meetings and conferences of the administrative year, is a record that should be held in trust.
 2. Its use for commercial or solicitation purposes shall be denied to all. The District may, however, sell advertising space in the District Directory, providing the District has received prior permission from Optimist International.
 3. The complete membership mailing list shall be used exclusively for the promotion of Optimism in the state of Illinois and shall be denied to all for commercial solicitation, promoting a candidate for office other than an Optimist office, and club solicitation. Exceptions will be granted for charter parties, club anniversaries, etc., at the discretion of the Governor.
 4. Distribution of the Illinois District Directory shall be made to all District Board members, District committee chairpersons, Past Governors, club secretaries and/or treasurers, and others as approved by the Governor.

5. The District may publish directory information on the District website. Such information shall be password protected and its use is restricted to Optimist International business by authorized representatives of Optimist International. Directory information will not be shared with any party outside of Optimist International.

B. District Bulletin

1. The "Land of Lincoln" bulletin shall be published electronically at least once each quarter.
2. The editor shall be the District Communications/Bulletin Chairperson.
3. Closing date for submissions of articles shall be sixty (60) days prior to dates of each District Board meeting and the District Convention.
4. All clubs are encouraged to submit articles and pictures for each publication to the editor prior to the closing dates.
5. Electronic copies of the bulletin will be made available to the general membership through the District website.
6. Lt. Governors, club presidents, and District committee chairs shall receive an electronic copy of the bulletin, provided their email address is on file.
7. The Lt. Governors should assist the clubs within their zones in setting up electronic communications.

VII. Organization

A. Clubs

1. It is encouraged that all clubs impress upon candidates for club offices that their attendance at all District Board meetings, zone meetings, and the District Convention is of prime importance.
2. It is the duty and responsibility of the club president, as a member of the District Board of Directors, and the club secretary and/or treasurer to be in attendance at all District Board meetings and the Convention. It is strongly emphasized and recommended that provisions be made in the club budget for defraying the cost of attending said meetings.
3. It is recommended that clubs institute an indoctrinating program for incoming officers in order to acquaint them with their duties and to insure a smooth transition to the new administration.
4. It is emphasized that new members be assimilated as soon as possible after induction so they feel they are an active part of the club.
5. Each club shall be incorporated as a non-profit organization.
6. Attendance by club members at Charter Presentation, International President's Visit, and other meetings of a District nature is encouraged.
7. Clubs are requested to actively participate in international programs such as Youth Appreciation Week, Essay and Oratorical Contests, Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, as well as community service, Respect for Law, etc.
8. Host clubs for District officers' visits should follow the procedures

outlined in “How to Be a Good Host”, furnished by Optimist International.

9. All Optimists handling club funds must be bonded.
10. Clubs are urged to refrain from lending their good name to any fund-raising campaign, project, or activity unless members are actively participating in or conducting such a program.
11. Individuals and clubs shall not offer merchandise for sale, conduct raffles, or engage in any fund-raising activity at any zone or District meeting, nor at the International Convention. This does not prohibit fund-raising on behalf of the Optimist International Foundation or any District activity.

B. Zones

1. Pursuant to the Optimist International Bylaws, the number and boundaries of zones for any administrative year, if subject to revision, shall be determined by the Board of Directors prior to its meeting held in the third quarter of the preceding year to accommodate selection of Lieutenant Governors to serve during the next administrative year.
2. All proposals for realignment of zone boundaries shall be submitted to the Governor not less than 30 days prior to said meeting. No zone should be created with fewer than four (4) clubs.
3. New clubs shall automatically be assigned to the zones of their sponsoring clubs. On October 2, new clubs will be assigned to the zones in which they are geographically located and services thereto shall be the responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor of such zone.
4. Lieutenant Governors are to be elected during the third quarter District meeting from a slate presented by the Governor-Elect or from open nominations from the floor. If there is no candidate from a given zone, the office shall be declared vacant. An appointment may be made at a later time, pending the approval of the Executive Committee.
5. Lieutenant Governors shall not be eligible to succeed themselves through election. In the case of emergency, they may be appointed to fill a vacancy with the approval of the Executive Committee. In any case, they should not serve more than two consecutive terms in succession.

VIII. Contests

A. Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

1. The Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) in the Illinois District will be conducted in accordance with the official rules of the contest as published by Optimist International.
 - a. Contest awards at the club, zone, and district levels will be awarded as detailed in the official rules.
2. The district contest will be held at the third quarter conference. The district contest will be conducted under the direction of the District

Chair, who is appointed by the Governor. The District Chair will also be responsible for coordinating club and zone contest deadlines and guidelines.

3. A single entry fee must be paid to cover the cost for each contestant participating at the zone contest (if applicable) and district contest. The amount of the entry fee will be established by the District Chair and approved by the Governor. The contestant's sponsoring club will pay the entry fee.
4. The sponsoring club is responsible for the following costs for their contestant:
 - a. Entry fee as detailed above
 - b. Transportation for the contestant to all contests beyond the club contest
 - c. Lodging for the contestant, if required, for all contests beyond the club contest
 - d. At a minimum, lunch for up to two additional guests above and beyond the district guest as identified in 5b below. However, a club may provide additional meals for contestant guests in excess of the required minimum, as it deems appropriate.
5. The District is responsible for the following costs:
 - a. Lunch for each district contestant at the District Conference
 - b. Lunch for one guest for each district contestant
 - c. Plaques for winners at the zone and district levels

B. Essay Contest

1. The Essay Contest in the Illinois District will be conducted in accordance with the official rules of the contest as published by Optimist International.
 - a. Contest awards at the club, zone, and district levels will be awarded as detailed in the official rules.
2. Club Essay Contests will be conducted during the first quarter of the Optimist year under the direction of each club's chairperson.
3. District judging of the Essay Contest will be conducted under the direction of the District Chair, who is appointed by the Governor.
4. An entry fee must be paid to cover the cost for each contestant participating in the district Essay Contest. The amount of the entry fee will be established by the District Chair and approved by the Governor. The contestant's sponsoring club will pay the entry fee.
5. The winner of the district Essay Contest will be invited to attend the third quarter district conference to read the winning essay.
6. The sponsoring club is responsible for the following costs for their contestant:
 - a. Entry fee as detailed above
 - b. Transportation for the contestant to the District Conference
 - c. Lodging for the contestant, if required, for the District Conference
 - d. At a minimum, lunch for up to two additional guests above and

beyond the district guest as identified in 7b below. However, a club may provide additional meals for contestant guests in excess of the required minimum, as it deems appropriate.

7. The District is responsible for the following costs:
 - a. Lunch for the district winner at the District Conference
 - b. Lunch for one guest for the district winner
 - c. Plaque for the winner
- C. Optimist International Junior Golf Championship (OIJGC)
 1. The district Optimist International Junior Golf Championship shall be held in the month of June in enough time to allow for necessary arrangements to send one (1) boy and one (1) girl winner to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship tournament in July. The district tournament is to be under the direct supervision of the district OIJGC chairperson and conducted according to the rules and/or guidelines of Optimist International Junior Golf Championship and the PGA. The district Board of Directors will approve one entry fee per contestant that will be paid for each entrant. The district will pay the cost of conducting the district tournament and the expense of sending one (1) boy and one (1) girl winner to the international OIJGC tournament. All other expenses to and from the district tournament shall be borne by the individual participant or the sponsoring clubs.
 2. An annual entry fee schedule shall be determined by the district Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the district OIJGC chairperson.
- D. Oratorical Contest
 1. The Oratorical Contest in the Illinois District will be conducted in accordance with the official rules of the contest as published by Optimist International.
 2. The district Oratorical Contest will be held at the third quarter conference. The district contest will be conducted under the direction of the District Chair, who is appointed by the Governor. The District Chair will also be responsible for coordinating club, zone, and regional contest deadlines and guidelines.
 3. A single entry fee must be paid to cover the cost for each contestant advancing to a contest beyond the club contest (zone, regional, or district). The amount of the entry fee will be established by the District Chair and approved by the Governor. The contestant's sponsoring club will pay the entry fee.
 4. The sponsoring club is responsible for the following costs for their contestant:
 - a. Entry fee as detailed above
 - b. Transportation for the contestant to all contests within the district beyond the club contest
 - c. Lodging for the contestant, if required, for all contests within the district beyond the club contest

- d. At a minimum, lunch for up to two additional guests above and beyond the district guest as identified in 5b below. However, a club may provide additional meals for contestant guests in excess of the required minimum, as it deems appropriate.
5. The District is responsible for the following costs:
 - a. Lunch for each district contestant at the district conference
 - b. Lunch for one guest for each district contestant
 - c. Prizes for winners as defined in the official rules of the contest as published by Optimist International
 - d. Lodging and transportation costs for the district winner to the Optimist International World Championship
6. Zone Contests. Zone Oratorical Contests are to be conducted by the assigned Lt. Governor or zone chairperson, under the supervision of the District Oratorical Chair.
7. Regional Contests. The region's Assistant Governor or a chairperson appointed by the Governor, under the supervision of the District Oratorical Chair, shall conduct the regional Oratorical Contest. Regional Oratorical Contests shall be held with a nearly equal number of zones in each region and simultaneously or as nearly so as practical. Regional participation certificates will be presented to all participants. The District Oratorical Chair shall determine the number of regional contests to be held, following the rules as published by Optimist International.
 - a. If a two-region system is selected, the top two contestants from each region will advance to the District Oratorical Contest, without determining a regional winner.
 - b. If a three-region system is selected, the top contestant from each region will advance to the District Oratorical Contest.
8. District Contests. The contest winners will be awarded scholarships by the Optimist International Foundation in accordance with the Optimist International rules. The scholarships awarded to district winners will be \$2500 for first place, \$1500 for second place, and \$1000 for third place.
- E. Poster Contest
 1. The District Poster Contest will be held at the third quarter district conference. The district contest will be conducted under the direction of the District Poster Chair, who is appointed by the Governor.
 2. The poster contest will be open to third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. There will be two divisions – one for third and fourth grade and one for fifth and sixth grade.
 3. Each club may submit posters for one winner in each division.
 4. Monetary awards, to be determined by the Governor, shall be given to first, second, and third place winners for each division.
 5. Posters shall be a uniform size, to be determined by the Governor and District Poster Chair and published in the contest rules.
 6. Posters shall include only original artwork. No computer-generated or

printed pictures or wording are allowed.

7. The back of the poster should contain the following information: grade, teacher's name, student's full name, address, and phone number.
8. An entry fee, to be determined by the Governor and District Poster Chair, must accompany each entry.

Illinois District History and Past Governors

The first Optimist club is recorded to have been formed in Buffalo, New York in 1916. At that same time clubs were also forming in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Syracuse and Rochester, New York, among other places.

In May of 1917 the first conference of these Optimist clubs was held at the national headquarters in Indianapolis. Thirteen (13) clubs attended that conference, and among those thirteen were the Optimist Clubs of Chicago, Peoria, and Springfield, Illinois.

In 1919 the first convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky, and on June 19th the association of clubs that is known today as Optimist International was formed. In 1922, the convention approved the first official emblem of Optimist International and adopted the “Optimist Creed” as our organization’s official creed.

We can trace the roots of the Illinois District to the beginning in 1917. From 1919 through 1964, clubs in Illinois were part of many separate sections and districts (districts 8, 12, 17, and 23). A lot of information has been lost in history, though the Optimist International staff has been able to provide some information. Many past governors are not listed below simply because the information has been lost.

In 1964 our clubs became members of two new and distinct districts as Optimist International began to use names for districts rather than just numbers. Our clubs became part of either the Northern Illinois District or the Central Southern Illinois District.

In 1970 the two separate districts were combined to unite all the clubs in the state into one Optimist District—the Illinois District. This district retained the identification number of 12.

Our rich history can be traced by the members who have served as Governor of our district or its predecessors. Three of our past Governors are counted among those who have served as President of Optimist International: James W. Chilton, Harlington Wood, and Gene Sternberg.

Listed below are our governors for all years the information is available.
Signs behind names indicate:

#	Distinguished Governor	*	International Vice President
+	International President	(-	International Vice Pres-Elect
\<	International Director		

Year	Governor		District	Club
1919-20	J.L. Schoen		Sect. 2	Chicago
1919-20	W.K. Robertson		Sect. 6	Springfield
1920-21	O.L. Prohaska		Sect. 2	Chicago
1920-21	E.E. Hagler		Sect. 6	Springfield
1922-23	James W. Chilton	+	12	St. Louis, MO
1923-24	Dr. W.A. Henckle		8	Peoria
1924-25	Harlington Wood		8	Springfield
1925-26	Harlington Wood		8	Springfield
1926-27	Harlington Wood	+	8	Springfield
1927-28	Paul Farthing		8	East St. Louis
1928-29	Paul Farthing	*	8	East St. Louis
1929-30	Frank Scharlott		8	St. Louis, MO
1930-31	Lawrence C. Horton		12	Oak Park
1931-32	H. Edward Reeves		12	Chicago
1932-33	Merritt M. Ramstead		12	Chicago
1933-34	Merritt M. Ramstead		12	Chicago
1934-35	A.C. Pearson Jr.		12	Wilmette
1935-36	Harry M. Weeks		12	Gary, IN
1936-37	Emile O. Bloche		12	Oak Park
1937-38	Emile O. Bloche	*	12	Oak Park
1938-39	Melvin O. Ferch		12	Hammond, IN
1939-40	Albert O. Olson		12	Chicago
1940-41	Charles W. Apley		12	Evanston
1941-42	George W. Reinke		12	Chicago (Austin)
1942-43	Charles W. Thompkins		12	Hammond, IN
1943-44	Henry R. Freitag		12	Rock Island
1944-45	E. Jay Wilttrout		12	Gary, IN
1945-45	Vaughn V. Moore		12	Chicago
1946-47	Ralph Stephenson		12	Moline
1947-48	Elmer P. Langguth		12	Oak Park
1948-49	LaVerne Burche		12	Rock Island
1948-49	William A. Hammitt		23	Normal
1949-50	Herbert C. Berggrun		12	Harvey
1949-50	Van W. Haverton		23	Peoria
1950-51	James F. Bates		12	Kewanee

Year	Governor	District	Club
1950-51	Clarence C. Hoogland	23	Springfield
1951-52	Fred W. Hauser	12	Chicago
1951-52	Richard W. Velde	23	Havana
1952-53	Loyle Tharp	12	Moline
1952-53	Claude J. Hesh	23	Macomb
1953-54	Robert E. Blomquist	12	Harvey
1953-54	Arthur Roseman	8	Granite City
1954-55	Paul A. Knabe	12	Rock Falls
1954-55	Charles E. Tyrell	23	Peoria
1955-56	Vincent Johnson	12	Rockford
1955-56	Arthur Scheele	23	Springfield
1956-57	Alfred G. Waffle	\< 12	Moline
1956-57	Rev. Oscar Bohman	23	Canton
1957-58	Gene Sternberg	* + 8	Granite City
1957-58	Henry S. Pettett	12	Evanston
1957-58	Kirby R Clugsten	23	Peoria
1958-59	Norman T. Peterson	12	Des Plaines
1958-59	Dr. R.B. Sweetland	23	Decatur
1959-60	William Marlires	12	Rock Island
1959-60	John J. Blake	23	Springfield
1960-61	Henry R. Weller	12	Evanston
1960-61	Gene Hermann	23	Havana
1961-62	Francis Ortman	12	Rock Island
1961-62	Henry J. Wittlich	23	Belleville
1962-63	Earl N. Simpson	12	Aurora
1962-63	Fred W. Hendricks	23	Farmersville
1963-64	Joseph W. Folz	12	Des Plaines
1963-64	Alford O. Leffler	* 23	Mt. Vernon
1964-65	Robert D. Winter	Northern	Rock Island
1964-65	Elmer Von Behren	# Central/Southern	Springfield
1965-66	Kelly Wilkins	Northern	Loves Park
1965-66	Elmer C. Ruehl	Central/Southern	Belleville
1966-67	Mark Brooks Jr.	* Northern	Oak Park
1966-67	Ralph Kreiling	Central/Southern	Forest City
1967-68	Kenneth A. Kehe	Northern	Des Plaines
1967-68	Charles Linquist	Central/Southern	Springfield
1968-69	W. Standley Fuller	Northern	Moline
1968-69	R.W. Christiansen	Central/Southern	Fairview Heights
1969-70	Howard Rockafellow	Northern	Geneva
1969-70	Warren D. Nichols	Central/Southern	East Peoria
1970-71	Jack Leady	Illinois (12)	Fairview Heights
1971-72	Joseph W. Folz	Illinois (12)	Des Plaines
1972-73	Don Calvert	Illinois (12)	DuQuoin

Year	Governor	District	Club
1973-74	Robert F. James	Illinois (12)	Aurora
1974-75	Wilney Braddy	Illinois (12)	Mt. Vernon
1975-76	James Earnes	Illinois (12)	Deerfield
1976-77	Vance Wilson	Illinois (12)	Belleville
1977-78	S. Harold Roberts	Illinois (12)	Alton
1978-79	Chester M. Grafft	Illinois (12)	Princeton
1979-80	William Fitzpatrick	Illinois (12)	Oak Park
1980-81	Ralph Wrench	Illinois (12)	Normal
1981-82	Glenn Sparesus	# *	Des Plaines
1982-83	Frank O. Brutcher	Illinois (12)	Princeton
1983-84	Ronald A. Grim	Illinois (12)	Mason City
1984-85	Rodney C. Senn	Illinois (12)	Oswegoland
1985-86	Robert R. Gaebel	Illinois (12)	Quincy
1986-87	William Ambuehl	Illinois (12)	Highland
1987-88	Donald Nicholas	Illinois (12)	Peoria
1988-89	Norman Hall	Illinois (12)	Granite City
1989-90	Scotty Canale	#	Taylorville
1990-91	Thomas Croxton	Illinois (12)	Alton
1991-92	Thomas Croxton	Illinois (12)	Alton
1992-93	Richard Bentley	Illinois (12)	Aurora
1993-94	Gary Kessinger	Illinois (12)	Highland
1994-95	Burton Wikgren	Illinois (12)	Belleville
1995-96	Frank Duke	# *	Belleville
1996-97	Milton Wiggers	Illinois (12)	Springfield
1997-98	Howard Dewell	Illinois (12)	Quincy
1998-99	Al Hippensteel	Illinois (12)	Oak Park
1999-00	Dr. Jack Cluney	Illinois (12)	Decatur
2000-01	Lloyd P. Kuehn, Jr.	Illinois (12)	Glenview
2001-02	Debra Castiglia	Illinois (12)	Decatur
2002-03	Carmett "Corky" Helms	Illinois (12)	Belleville
2003-04	Kathryn Dewell	Illinois (12)	Quincy
2004-05	Dr. Jerry Wolf	Illinois (12)	Vandalia
2005-06	Michael Koenig	Illinois (12)	Belleville
2006-07	Jerry Emery	Illinois (12)	Oswego
2007-08	Jerry Emery	Illinois (12)	Oswego
2008-09	Stan Knecht	Illinois (12)	Centralia
2009-10	Chris Ladner	Illinois (12)	Des Plaines
2010-11	Martin C. Schmidt	Illinois (12)	Silvis
2011-12	Barry Montague	Illinois (12)	Sterling
2012-13	Roger Simonson	Illinois (12)	Deerfield
2013-14	Richard Volker	Illinois (12)	Princeton
2014-15	Bill West	Illinois (12)	St. David
2015-16	Steve Turner	Illinois (12)	Taylorville

Year	Governor	District	Club
2016-17	Ruth Del Re	Illinois (12)	Des Plaines
2017-18	John Del Re	Illinois (12)	Des Plaines
2018-19	Sandi Schmidt	# \< Illinois (12)	Moline Breakfast
2019-20	William Wagner	Illinois (12)	Highland
2020-21	William Wagner	Illinois (12)	Highland
2021-22	Carol Schlitt	Illinois (12)	Freeburg
2022-23	Ronald Elvin	Illinois (12)	Silvis

New Member Induction and Pledge

Ladies and Gentlemen: This occasion marks the beginning of your opportunity for participating, through fellowship and friendship, in the activities of your Club on behalf of your community. Through your personal service as an Optimist you will have the opportunity to help re-pay, in various ways, the debt we all owe our community for the privilege of enjoying its many benefits. You will learn the Optimist Creed and its significance, a genuine challenge to the life of all men and women. You will be inspired by our slogan, "Friend of Youth".

In all these things we seek to make our indelible mark on the life, progress and welfare of our communities, our nation and our peoples. But only by your regular attendance at meetings and active participation in your Club's activities can you be rewarded with a fuller life and the self-satisfaction that comes to each of us as we serve our community and its youth.

We therefore ask, as we admit you to the fellowship of Optimism, if you will join our company, our friendship and our fellowship, in an effort to strive toward these objectives. If you do, please answer, "I DO".

I _____ do hereby pledge / that I will do my best /at all times / to live by the spirit of the Optimist Creed / and I will also give of my time /and talents / as generously as possible / to support the activities / of my Club, /my District /and Optimist International.

Now, being aware of the responsibilities, opportunities and privileges available to you as a member, on behalf of the officers and members of the Sponsor Club, the Illinois District and Optimist International, I am happy to offer you my hand of Optimist Friendship. We are happy to have you as a member.

Your President _____ will present you with your new member kit and your membership pin. President _____ will then review the expectations of each new member joining our Optimist Club.

(If the President is conducting the Induction, the new member's sponsor could present the new member kit and their membership pin.)

The Optimist Creed

Promise yourself...

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

By: Christian D. Larson, 1912