

Illinois District Optimist Land of Lincoln Bulletin



April 2023

Hello Optimists,

Spring is here and with it a season of renewal, refreshment and rebirth. The grey skies of winter have been replaced with greens and blues as growth begins anew.

The district conference in January via zoom had a fair turnout and welcomed regional Vice President Julie Robison and Optimist International President Bob McFadyen who spoke about the growth of Optimist International by recruiting new members as well as retaining those we have. The scholarship programs have been taking place over the winter with Angela Cortes named as the Essay Contest winner and the four finalists being determined to compete at the Third Quarter Conference on April 29th. In addition, the Annual Poster Contest winners will be named as well. Angela will be reading her winning essay during the conference.



The conference will also feature Fatima Plater, OI Board member for our Middle America Region. Fatima will be speaking about the Optimist Foundation. Governor-Elect John Good will also be introducing himself to everyone. As a reminder the conference will be held in East Peoria at the Holiday Inn beginning with a hospitality room Friday night the 28th for those arriving then and the Saturday session starting at 9:00 AM on the 29th. The conference registration form can be found in this bulletin with deadline to register, April 19th.

It's also time to make your plans to attend the Annual International Convention in Arlington VA over the Fourth of July weekend. What a great way to celebrate the founding of the United States; among Optimists from around the world in our nation's capital. I hope to see you there. The convention agenda is also in this bulletin.

One last thing, as always the District is still looking for those who have skills to offer for the many roles it takes to run the district smoothly and also those who seek to learn new skills by volunteering to help at the district level. There is still plenty of time to help me through this year or join John when he moves forward with his 2023 – 2024 team starting in October. Please reach out. I hope to see you soon.

Yours in Optimism,

Governor Ron

Welcome New Members

Since our last bulletin, we have added 31 new members to the Illinois District Optimist family. We welcome these new members and thank their sponsors for leading them into their clubs.

New Member

Robert Zitter
Steve Williams
Vicki Williams
Denny Hayes
Bonnie Walker
Jerrie Garcia
Shelly Winters
Amy Gutierrez
Dave Grafton
Kervin Evans
Mary Jo Newman-Evans
Denessa Bowman
Mike Bell
Kevin Kendregan
Dakota Behiter
Heather Lee
Tammy Kincannon
Donnie Kincannon
Randell Brand
Christina Brand
John Farris
Tyler Mitchell
Stephen Nichols
Daniel Bollmann
Chris Schwend
Fred Michael
Brian Ramsey
Travis Knebel
Ethan Shimer
Austin Ulmer
Brent Frey

Club

Deerfield
Des Plaines
Des Plaines
Fox Valley
Sterling
Sterling
Sterling
Sterling
Quincy
Chillicothe
Chillicothe
Delevan
Delevan
Delevan
Pinckneyville
Pinckneyville
Pinckneyville
Pinckneyville
Pinckneyville
Waterloo
Waterloo
Waterloo
Waterloo
Highland
Highland
Highland
Highland
Highland
Highland
Highland

Sponsor

Philip Fine
Susan Boyajian
Susan Boyajian
Nancy Roach-Wilder
Andrea Rogers
Andrea Rogers
Andrea Rogers
Andrea Rogers
Matt Schmidt
Neil Price
Neil Price
Steven Skinner
Steven Skinner
Steven Skinner
Christina Brand
Christina Brand
Jeff Miller
Jeff Miller
Jeff Miller
Carrie Miller
Rodney Cissell
James Grimsley
James Grimsley
Kermit Constantine
David Schwend
Jeff Foehner
Scott Geest
Brent Frey
Marshall Rinderer
David Callahan
Ryan Basye

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





Illinois Optimist Conference Registration

3rd Quarter Conference – April 28-29
Holiday Inn & Suites, East Peoria, IL

Join us at the 3rd Quarter Illinois District Optimist Conference

Please complete a separate registration form for each Optimist member:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Club _____ Club-Position _____

District-Position _____

Guest name for nametag _____

____ Registration plus Breakfast, Lunch and Breaks	\$65.00
____ Registration only	\$20.00
____ Guest Breakfast, Lunch and Breaks	\$50.00
Total enclosed	\$_____

Special dietary requirement(s) _____

Please return completed conference registration form and check payable to **Illinois District – Optimist International** by **Wednesday, April 19th** to:

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

charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com
618-806-5145

Hotel information:	Holiday Inn & Suites	Hotel rate: \$109.00 + Taxes
	101 Holiday Street	
	East Peoria, IL. 61611	
	855-797-6733	

Reserve your room online or call the hotel and reference "Illinois District Optimist Meeting".
Hotel registration deadline – Monday, April 24th.



Thank you fellow Optimists for taking the time to enjoy our April 2023 newsletter.

We echo Governor Ron's message of appreciation for the signs of spring. One of my most cherished memories of my mother is her constant encouragement to "fill my basket with flowers", (as opposed to rocks or anchors). Several hyacinths have made their way to my home and oh what a fragrance! It's a dearly regarded positive tradition, gained from her.

My friends, we are all in the position of holding to, and/or creating new traditions. What is the value of those traditions? When arrived at without reflection they can be positive or thoughtlessly harmful. Optimists intentionally foster positivity and personal strength in others when they hold true to the principles of the creed. Those impacted individuals can go on to better their own lives and the lives of others.

Have I seen this impact in real life? Why yes, in all of you! Please enjoy our first quarterly Meet Our Club feature, with a highlight on our Zone 1, Cousins Empowered Club. Read up on how they use local partnerships to upgrade the confidence and skills of young people. Your club could be featured next, if I get me your article by July 1st.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Peoria for our 3rd quarter II conference. The April conference is extra special in that we have young people in attendance promoting their oratorical, essay and artistic skills. As it happens, Steve and I will be able to attend the international conference in Washington DC. Continue promoting the golf qualifier of June 12, 13 and 14th. Standing shoulder to shoulder with all of you is an encouragement and an education we all need to continue the positive traditions that are our trademark.

In gratitude for each of you and this positive organization,

Nancy Roach-Wilder and Carol Schlitt, Co-Editors

**** MAKE NOTE: new email address for bulletin articles: lolbulletin23@gmail.com****

Optimistically Yours!

Nancy Roach-Wilder

On the go: 224-305-2257



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION | 2023

Arlington, Virginia July 2-5 2023

SCHEDULE

#OICON2023



ARLINGTON
105th ANNUAL CONVENTION | 2023

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM..... OI Board Meeting
- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM..... Optimist Leadership Academy
(Lunch is included) by invitation only
- 4:00 – 4:30 PM Vice President Council

SATURDAY, JULY 1

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM..... Vice Presidents/Governors Training
- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM..... Vice Presidents-Elect
and Governors-Elect Training
- 3:55 PM..... Ribbon Cutting
- 4:00 – 6:30 PM Registration Open
- 5:30 – 6:30 PM First Timers Program
- 7:30 – 10:00 PM Evening of Entertainment
Stay tuned for details.

SUNDAY, JULY 2

BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN OURSELVES

- 8:00 – 10:00 AM District Chair Training Sessions
 1. Growth
 2. Member Engagement & Retention
 3. Communications
 4. Marketing
 5. Leadership Development
 6. District Secretary-Treasurer Training
- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM..... House of Optimism EXPO
Registration
- 10:00 – 11:30 AM Heritage of Optimism Brunch
Honor our Past Int'l Presidents
and their Spouses
- NOON – 2:00 PM Opening Ceremony
Featuring keynote Speaker Amy Downs
- 2:30 – 4:30 PM Workshops
- 4:30 – 6:00 PM Optimist International Foundation
Donor Appreciation Reception
By invitation only
- 6:00 – 8:30 PM District Night Out/Dinners
- 9:00 – 11:30 PM Trivia Night

MONDAY, JULY 3

BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM..... House of Optimism EXPO
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM General Session: Best of Community
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM..... Town Hall
- 12:00 – 4:30 PM Service Projects
- 1:30 – 2:30 PM Workshops
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM Workshops
- 6:30 – 7:30 PM Pre-Banquet Reception
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM Presidents Banquet/Gala
- 9:30 – 11:30 PM President's Gala/Dance
Featuring the band Rock X

TUESDAY, JULY 4

BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN YOUTH

- 7:30 – 9:00 AM Optimist International Foundation
Past Presidents Breakfast Reception
by invitation only
- 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM..... House of Optimism EXPO
- 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM..... General Session:
OI Youth Program Showcase
- 11:30 AM– 12:30 PM..... Workshops
- 1:30 – 4:00 PM Annual Business Meeting
- 5:00 – 6:30 PM Wm. H Harrison Reception
by invitation only

ENJOY FIREWORKS – A list of locations to come.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

FUN DAY

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM Club Presidents-Elect
& Lt. Governors-Elect Breakfast
Hosted by President Designate
Tracy Huxley
- 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM..... There are a variety of optional
group tours available
Sign up forms to come.

THURSDAY, JULY 6

Extended stays / Departures

Leadership Reminders

Bill Wagner Leadership Chair

Officer elections

Clubs should be conducting officer elections and striving to have elections completed by the middle part of May. The club officer-elect report should be completed and uploaded to Optimist International by May 20, 2023. Each year this report is expected even if a club does not change their officers. By completing your officer elections and the COER your club is providing information used by the District's Officer team as they prepare for the upcoming Optimist year, 2023-2024. The COER is available to current club officer and may be accessed by selecting Optimist leaders in the upper left hand corner of the Optimist International website. Once you are on select REPORTS and you will find Club Officer-Elect Report, Click on the report and the report will open including your club's current roster. To update the officers you merely drag, for example, your new president's name from the club roster and release in the spot for president. You do the same for the Secretary, Treasurer, and Club Foundation representative.

In summary Club Officer-elect reports are due 5/20/23 and are requested even when no change in officers are planned. Do not wait until 5/20/23 if your officers are in place for 2023-2024 year the form can be updated by a current officer now.

What if my Club misses the 5/20/2023 date? Complete it when you have your officers selected. The process is easy!

Optimist Institute

New club officers for the 2023-24 club year are encouraged to enroll in the Optimist Institute to start their training. New officers will be able to get on their respective officer training module on May 1, 2023. This is the way training for each officer role will be provided. This will allow each officer to review the training materials for their respective office.



Right now....all club members may access the Optimist Institute at <https://optimist.tovuti.io/> using the passcode "2223CLUB"

The fee to sign up is **ZERO**. It is **FREE!**

Illinois District Junior Golf (OIJGC)

Bill Wagner District Golf Chairman



The district's golf tournament is scheduled for June 12-14 at Red Tail Run Golf Club in Decatur, IL. Registration is open and interested golfers may register by going to OIJGC.org or googling Midwest qualifier for registration form and tournament information.

Fees are as follows:

Optimist Club sponsored golfer	\$ 95.00
Jr. High or High School golfer	\$ 95.00
At large golfer within district	\$125.00
Out of District	\$140.00
Youngest age divisions	\$ 65.00 Boys 10 and 11 and Girls 10-12 Play 9 holes each day of competition.

The golf tournament is open to boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18. The age divisions are as follows:

Boys: 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, and 16-18

Girls: 10-12, 13-14, and 15-18

More information is available on the registration website oijgc.org. or by contacting Bill Wagner at wwagner6@charter.net

Clubs are encouraged to send golfers to the tournament and send one or two members to work a day.

OIJGC Golf Raffle: Better odds than a Powerball ticket!

By now clubs should have raffle tickets in hand including instructions for participating in this raffle.

A couple reminders -- tickets may be sold up to April 20, and mailed back in the return envelope provided by April 22. Each ticket costs \$20.00 and the winners will win either \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000. The drawing will be held on May 1, 2023. All proceeds will be used to fund the district golf tournament. Each Club selling their allotted tickets will be awarded \$100 for their club treasury. This is a Great opportunity to spread the word about what it means to be an Optimist.



New this Bulletin --- Meet our Club

Featured Club of April 2023 - The Cousins Empowered Optimists

Going forward we encourage you and your club to present our readers with a creative introduction to you, your mission and your projects. This can take any style you like. Our initial club introduction has hit the mark, and we want to congratulate them for their hard work.

We proudly present the Cousins Empowered Club of Zone 1. They have received grants from inside and outside Optimist International to promote their youth programs. Their work is encouraging, enlightening and humbling. They are skilled networkers and connectors, and have found significant value in teaching technology and golf as life skills. Their marketing is outstanding and they have team members who maintain their social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. If reading their story on the next 2 pages inspires questions or feedback, please reach out to their stated officers.



THE CEO SUPERHEROES

Optimist International Club #12380 serves Illinois where our mission is a collective goal to provide quality instruction in S.T.E.A.M., self-wellness, entrepreneurship, self discipline, golf and community leadership development.

We share the vision to create youth leaders who demonstrate good character and commitment to serve.

Our team, headed by Raimonda Pierce and Donta Rice, work to collaborate with professional entities, dedicated to serving with excellence. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to participate in any and all of our programs. These programs include...



RC VEHICLES DESIGN INSTRUCTION AND 3D PRINTING

Construction, Repairing and Racing vehicles with Coach Joe Mosley.

Location: Ravisloe Country Club
18231 Park Ave. Homewood IL.
Sundays 4:15pm - 5:15pm
Year Round
Ages 5-17



CEO SUPERHEROES BOTS & TOTS

Location: 735 E 79th Street
Chicago, IL.
Saturdays 11:30am - 1:30pm
Beginning April 15th
Year-Round
Ages 3 - 7



GOLF INSTRUCTION

PGA Certified instructor, Coach Dion Madkins and his Hit IT Straight Golf Academy

Location: Ravisloe Country Club
18231 Park Ave. Homewood IL.
Sundays 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Year-Round
Ages 5-17



Unity is our super power

FAMILY TECH DAYS

Location: Victory Christian International Ministries
10th & Hemlock St. Park Forest, IL.

FAMILY GAME DAYS *HOST: THE HEALING ACADEMY*

Location: Healing Academy
735 E 79th Street Chicago, IL
Year-Round
By Announcement



FACILITATING JOBS FOR YOUTH *AGES 16-24*

Youth will learn first aid, CPR, self discipline, nutrition, food safety and how to build and code robots.

Instruction will come from Chaka Farrow and Ismail Davis in the entrepreneurship component resulting in a line of quality natural soaps and body butters.

Made by youth for youth, which will soon be available on our website.
www.ceosuperheroes.org

Location: Safari Oasis 1403 W 111th Street
Chicago, IL
Saturdays 10am - 1pm
Year-Round



ACADEMIC *ASSESSMENT/REINFORCEMENT W/* *INDIVIDUALIZED TUTORING* *STRATEGY*

Implemented by Superheroes S.T.E.A.M. Academy Director Dionne Victoria who has earned a masters degree in education

Location: Healing Academy
735 E 79th Street Chicago, IL
By Appointment
Year-Round
All Ages



Unity is our super power

Freeburg Optimists Receive IL District Membership Award

Bill Wagner, 2021-22 Illinois District Optimist Membership Chair, was on hand at the March 2 Freeburg Optimist Club to present them with a \$500 check as the overall winner of the 2021-22 Illinois District Membership Contest in the 21-59 member category.



L to R: Jody Talick, Freeburg Optimist Membership Chair, Bill Wagner, Angie Mueller, Freeburg Optimist Club President

Thank you to the Illinois District Optimists for providing this membership incentive money.



Keep track of all the Optimist happenings with the Hotline. The Hotline, is Optimist International's monthly leadership email, which is filled with important news, events, communication, marketing material, notices, deadlines, and information to share with their Clubs, Members, and community. It is published the 1st week of every month. and is sent to all Optimists in leadership positions (Current Year Officers: Club, Zone (Lt. Gov), District, Region (VP), International).

Rewards for New Member Recruitment

Beginning April 1, 2023, recruiting new Optimists can earn you rewards!

The Member from each Region who recruits the most new Members between April 1 and June 30 will receive a \$100 gift card. The winners' names will also be placed in a drawing for free registration to the International Convention in Arlington, Virginia.

A second-place winner from each Region will receive a \$75 gift card and be entered into a drawing for a ticket to the President's Banquet at the Convention, while a third-place winner from each Region will receive a \$50 gift card and be entered into a drawing for a ticket to the Heritage Brunch.

Members aren't the only ones up for rewards; Districts are also in the running. The District that adds the most new Members and the District with the largest percentage of new Members will each have their Governor and a partner seated at the head table during the President's Banquet.



Optimist International Presents: **THE OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION!**



Guidelines

1. The contest will be held at the Club level and International level.
2. Club level judging may be by Club Members, professional artists/instructors, or by public voting.
3. The project for the Visual Arts Competition shall be the creation of a 2024 Optimist Calendar.
4. Artist must be **age eleven or lower as of October 1, 2022**.
5. Clubs may provide awards to participants and winners at the local level.
6. Artwork must be created on 11" wide x 8.5" high paper or construction paper.
7. Actual, physical artwork of the Club winner(s) **must be submitted to OI no later than May 1, 2023**. Do not fold the artwork, and be sure to protect the artwork by placing it between two pieces of thin cardboard before placing it inside of a large envelope. Mark the outside of the envelope with the words, "**DO NOT BEND**". Send to Optimist International, c/o Marketing, 4494 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108
8. Voting will be done by the Optimist International Marketing and Communications Committee **May 15 through May 30, 2023**.
9. There will be a monetary award for 13 OI winners, one for the image selected to go on the cover and one image selected for each month in the year.
10. At the International level, **the 12 winners** will receive a **\$150** monetary award; **the winner of the cover** will receive an additional **\$100** monetary award.
11. The calendars will be available for sale at the Shumsky online store. <https://www.optimist.org/member/supplies.cfm>



This exciting competition is designed to encourage and celebrate youth visual art skills and gives the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity!



For more information about Optimist International Programs, please visit optimist.org, e-mail programs@optimist.org or call us at 800-500-8130

Optimist Visual Arts Contest (Club Level Entry Form)**Project:** 2024 Calendar**Topic:** Optimism

NAME _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

SCHOOL: _____

PARENT'S PHONE: _____

PARENT'S EMAIL: _____

OPTIMIST CLUB: _____ CLUB #: _____

I certify that I created this painting or drawing. _____
(Student's Signature)

You have permission to print the picture and my child's name.

(Parent's Signature)

Due date entries: _____**Include above application with each submission.**

Submit your painting or drawing and entry form to: _____

Via mail or deliver to: _____

Optimist Visual Arts Contest (International Level Entry Form)

Project: 2024 Calendar

Topic: Optimism

Please fill out this form and include a high quality picture of the painting or drawing for judging at the International level.

OPTIMIST CLUB: _____ CLUB #: _____

CLUB REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail _____

Entries must be mailed to Optimist International no later than May 1, 2023.
marketing@optimist.org

Optimist Club of Glenview Supports local high school Wrestling team



Parents of the Glenbrook South High School Wrestling Team contacted The Optimist Club seeking funds to support drawstring bags for 85 wrestlers for the end of the season banquet on February 27, 2023. GBS Wrestling Team, composed of 35 Junior Varsity and Varsity including one girl wrestler and 50 Freshmen boy wrestlers, has accomplished extraordinary achievements this season.

The Central Suburban League under Illinois High School Association is comprised of 12 fairly large high school teams in the North Shore area. On Saturday, January 28th, 2023, the lower levels had their Central Suburban League conference tournaments. Four freshmen wrestlers on the Freshmen team won conference champions. At the JV level three wrestlers won Central Suburban League conference champions. At the Varsity level, 11 wrestlers placed with two winning conference champions. Also, this year, the JV Team was the Central Suburban League Champions, having been undefeated by other teams. On Feb. 4th, 2023, at Illinois High School Association Regionals, six of the Titan Varsity wrestlers placed.

Many of the families of wrestlers are immigrant families who signed up for this sport because it is a low-cost commitment with no equipment, easy to understand rules/goals, and only a few gear requirements. Many of the wrestlers' families are foreign born, English learners, and with household earnings below Glenview medium household earnings, as proven by their apartment home addresses. Team parents believe that funding this project will benefit the wrestling program in the future because of the promotional and recruitment opportunity. It will also support a sport that appeal to so many ethnicities.

Glenbrook South High School Wrestling Team's demographics are significantly more diverse than Glenview itself. The racial make-up of the teams is: White (45%), Asian (30%), Hispanic (25%). The designation of Asian encompasses everywhere from the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia and Pacific Islands. On the teams, there are Muslims, Indians, Chinese, Koreans, Mongolians, Filipinos, and one Samoan. As for White, that also includes families who are learning English from Polish, Arabic, Assyrian and Armenian backgrounds. This sport of 15 weight classes is a no cut sport that welcomes all students from 106 lbs. to over 285 lbs.

The Optimist Club of Glenview is happy to partner with The League of Very Ordinary Gents in each contributing \$250.00 towards the drawstring bags and looks forward to other ways to support youths in our local community.

Go Titan Wrestlers!

TAKE NOTE: Important District Dates

Illinois District 3rd Quarter Conference	Registration information is in this bulletin. Registration deadline – April 19 th	April 28-29, 2023	illinoisoptimist.org	Ron Elvin, Governor Holiday Inn – East Peoria, IL
District Jr. Golf	Committee is always looking for new members	June 12-14, 2023	www.oijgc-il.org	Bill Wagner, Dist. Golf Chair wwagner6@charter.net
District Land of Lincoln Bulletin	Send articles for the next bulletin	Articles due July 1, 2023	All bulletins can be found at: illinoisoptimist.org	Nancy Roach-Wilder, Editor lolbulletin23@gmail.com
District Oratorical Contest	District finals – April 29 th	District Contest – April 29, 2023	www.optimist.org	Sam Meier, Oratorical Chair sam.meier@edwardjones.com
District Poster Contest	Winners announced at 3 rd Quarter District Conference	Pictures of posters due April 21, 2023	illinoisoptimist.org	Charles Mayhew, Poster Chair charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com

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

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