



# SWIS District Newsletter 2021 – 2022



*To inspire youth of Southern Wisconsin to be the force of positive change now and in the future.*

## Table of Contents

Message from the SWIS District Newsletter Editor	02
Message from the SWIS District Governor	03
SWIS District Conference Details 2021-2022	04
Message from the SWIS District Governor Designate	05
2022 Optimist International Convention – Reno, NV	06-07
2022 SWIS District Oratorical Contest	08-09
2022 SWIS District Fund Craze	09
2022 SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball Competition	10
SWIS District Club Stories	11-15
SWIS District Governor – Famous Last Words	16
2023 Optimist International Convention	17
2022 Optimist International “Celebrate Community”	17
SWIS District Website	18
Optimist Creed	18
2021-2022 SWIS District Governor’s Team	19-20
2021-2022 SWIS District Lieutenant Governors	21
Writers, Readers, Photographers - Oh My!	22

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## From My Home to Yours

SWIS District Newsletter Editor: Amanda Szymkowski



If you've talked to me in the last month or so, you would have been greeted by my grumpy rumblings of disappointment that my friends are going to Reno and I'm not. I know what you are thinking – *what a drag!* And you're right. I was a not-very-Optimistic drag. But when the week arrived, I was reminded of something: We live in the digital age. So, while my friends took in the sites and sounds of Reno, NV – I gobbled up every virtual experience that was offered to me. I saved my money and gas and attended keynote presentations, President and President-Designate addresses, and business sessions, while I sat at home in my pajamas. While I missed my district dinners, happy hours with friends, and exploring a new city - I really did enjoy being comfy and cozy at home. I also enjoyed how much I felt included while being so far away!

Tuesday evening, I attended my friend Victor's Coffee Café – Live from the Silver Legacy and Resorts, where he channeled his inner TMZ paparazzi and interviewed Convention goers. He caught unsuspecting Optimist celebrities such as President Patsy, President Designate Bob, Vice President Josh, Executive Director Cheryl, Past President Jim, and so many more. With a tiny microphone and portable speaker, Victor asked "How many Conventions you have gone to?" "Why should those at home who have never gone to a Convention go to Convention?" And "What are you most looking forward to for this Convention?". What an absolute treat!

Sunday evening, Victor also hosted a "Live from the Red Carpet" Coffee Café, where he welcomed Optimists attending the President's Banquette. I waved to and chatted with so many of you, and your genuine excitement warmed my heart. Your happiness became mine, and I'm so grateful that you all attended and enjoyed yourself.



Thanks to the digital age, texting is a quick and easy way to connect with friends. I excitedly took screen shots of my friends as they walked across the Optimist International Convention stage and sent them messages. In turn, they sent me photos and "Wish you were here" messages. I can't tell you how amazing it all feels and how much gratitude beamed out of my face.

And just like that, my Optimism has been restored! All of these feel-good stories solidified that no matter what is going on at work or in the economy next year, nothing will keep me from attending next year's convention in Arlington, VA. I've never been to DC, and what better time than the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. That reminds me, gotta submit my vacation request! See ya next year!

## Governor's Message:

### John Fons: Governor, SWIS District



I keep a calendar on my desk. It's a calendar made of paper. On it I write important dates and times. They come and go. On it I also write in ascending order the number of days I have served as SWIS District Governor. This is Day 265.

There are 100 days left.

During this time, according to my tally of Club Roster Adjustments, our District has gained 87 members since October 1, 2021, and lost 91 members. We have lost two clubs through Revocation and two more are discussing the possibility of disbanding or perhaps merging with one another.

The vanished clubs are Stoughton and Fitchburg. The clubs on the Get Well Soon list are Mukwonago and Waukesha.

We're down in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

That's locker room parlance and equally locker room is my reply.

I'm Optimistic.

And I can Prove It.

On Monday, June 13, Jane Meyer and I drove back to Madison from a long-awaited vacation, two days in Door County after three years absence due primarily to the pandemic. We saw all the places we wanted to see and moreover, all the people, the dear friends we wanted to see and longed to see, right where we remembered them. Those reunions added immeasurably to our enjoyment.

We made new friends all along the way.

The weather forecast on our return included a Moderate Chance of rain over Madison. I didn't give it a thought. By the time we reached Sun Prairie at 3pm the Moderate Chance turned into Warnings, loud klaxon beeps on the radio and Take Cover Immediately. Curtains of rain, hail stones, falling branches driven by gale force winds, way too close lightning strikes and motorists changing lanes like hysterical bees all announced:

Welcome To Madison. Vacation is Over.

Downed trees, power outages, traffic signals inoperative at all major intersections added to the challenge of getting home, but we did and more than a little grateful found our power still on and everything intact, including our three cats who might have caused significant damage all by themselves, even if the weather had remained sunny and bright.

There's a moral to the story.

You can see it coming.

Let's make it multiple choice.

There is only one correct answer.

*(continued on page 4)*

A. Everything is fine. There is no problem. Anyone who

says different is being Pessimistic and that is simply not allowed. “Think only of the best.” It written right in the Optimist Creed. If we ignore anything negative all our problems, if there were any problems, will simply go away.

B. Everything is terrible. Gasoline prices are at record highs. There’s war in Europe. No

one wants to work. Membership in Optimist International is in decline. So is membership in every other social organization. Shelves are empty. Supply chains are broken. The stock market is falling. So is the sky.

C. Everything is not everything. We need to deal with what we do know in a realistic manner. We need to take into account what does not work or what has broken and count our blessings to make best possible use of all our available resources. That makes our Optimism real and that makes our Optimism uniquely our own.

The correct answer is C.

If you answered A or B, you need to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter SWIS District Conference, August 12-13, at the Comfort Inn & Suites / North Star Conference Center in DeForest, Wisconsin. That will give you the best example possible of what Optimism is really about in Southern Wisconsin.

If you answered C, congratulations. You need to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter SWIS District Conference, August 12-13, at the Comfort Inn and Suites / North Star Conference Center in DeForest, Wisconsin. You got it right and you need to share what you know with others about the opportunities and challenges of being Optimistic in our ever-changing world.

Right or wrong, our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Conference will be a success based entirely on your willingness to participate and join with others in telling the Optimist Story, the wonder and the woes, the hopes and always the hopes for our future. There’s a bonus.

Sure, the agenda isn’t finalized. The menu hasn’t been established. The awards haven’t all been determined, but the Waunakee Big Band has been engaged by special arrangement to play all your favorite Big Band hits during lunch hour. The dance floor will be kept open for your best light fantastic moves. You think Optimism doesn’t have a bright future in Southern Wisconsin? You tempted for a moment to believe there aren’t children all across this SWIS District desperate to meet a Friend of Youth? You have an idea how to make it better and are willing to invest your time and your effort to make your Optimism come true?

Mark your calendar now, whether you bought it half price made of paper after the first of the year or whether you spent a fortune for some electronic miracle and pay every month to keep it connected, you’ll receive all the details in plenty of time to enhance your anticipation and facilitate your attendance at the District Conference August 12-13 at the Comfort Inn and Suites/North Star Conference Center in DeForest, Wisconsin.

Just remember to wear comfortable shoes.

And feel free to change the District Slogan.

From Prove It.

To Move It.

**Registration information to come out early this week, so keep a look out! In the meantime, enjoy photos from [Quarter 3](#)**

## **Governor Elect Message**

Jo'El Pearlman: SWIS District Governor Designate

Hello Optimists! It's summertime! A wonderful time for Optimism to flourish!

It seems like everyone I talk with is busy making plans to visit with friends and family, stopping in for fun at a festival, a sporting event, traveling to attend weddings and family reunions, taking trips up north to cabins, checking out Door County or even the local beach. No matter what they are doing, they are feeling Optimistic and rejuvenated in anticipation of getting out and soaking up the sun and fresh air. I too have been filling the days with get-togethers with family and friends and even making new connections. Most of all, I am eager to get together with my Optimist family. Please let me know about any events and fundraisers your club will be doing so I can support, spread the word, and attend.

A Summer Safety Event for Kids makes another Optimist Connection: In early June, while volunteering with the South West Milwaukee Optimist Club at a Bike Rodeo in Franklin, I couldn't help but be impressed by a group of youth who were also volunteering and incredibly involved by conducting safety checks on bicycles and helping to securely fit helmets on children who were in attendance. I was so impressed that I sought out the group's (adult) leader who told me that they were helping out at this event so that they could learn how to run a successful event in their area. Turns out, they are from the Kenosha area, and the Optimist club there is looking for partnerships to provide a bike rodeo in their community. They attended the very next Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club meeting and a representative is planning to join the club!

When traveling to Oshkosh to meet a friend who was visiting Wisconsin, I stopped at a local restaurant and engaged in conversation with another patron who heard us talking about Optimism. She gleefully stated that she was an Oratorical program student, and it boosted her confidence and helped launch her career in Public Relations. She expressed interest in Optimism and the opportunity to help youngsters find their voice. This was not the first time I had the pleasure of meeting a past scholarship program student in my travels, and it made my heart smile at the opportunity to hear about how Optimism had helped yet another youth. I gave her the information for clubs in her area and encouraged her to attend a meeting and bring friends!

Another Opportunity to Refresh, Renew, Re-Connect with Friends old and New! Beer Gardens/Biergartens are a fun tradition in Wisconsin and are filled with people enjoying great big pretzels, brats, beer, root beer, and conversation. People bring their families so the laughter and giggles of little ones fill the air, and often, dogs are welcome too. A few weeks ago, I traveled about an hour to meet some friends to check out a band that was playing at the beer garden. We struck up a conversation with people at the next table who had a very friendly puppy named Clyde who was eager to meet everyone. Turns out our picnic table neighbors are brand new to the area and are looking for something to do! When they asked me, "Who are Optimists and What Do They Do?" I handed them my club's Optimist brochure and simply replied, "Optimists are good people who do good things and we have a really good time!" Hint: They are now looking forward to attending their first Optimist meeting.

Looking back on just these past few months and even more encounters, I noticed that wherever we travel, the conversation turns to people wanting to be part of doing something to help their community and also have fun. We have the opportunity to make a difference by discovering new places, new connections and fostering new friendships.

When you are venturing out, no matter what the season or where you go, remember: All Roads Lead to Optimism! Look Around, Take It In, and Invite a New Friend to Enjoy the ride!

# Optimist International 2022 Convention, Reno, NV



A big SWIS District shout out to Josh Zaidel and Jo'El Pearlman, both of which graced the Optimist International stage at the Reno Convention!

Josh has been Vice-President for the Great Plains Region. He is shown below with OI President Patsy Gardner, her husband Ken, and the Governors of the Region. Patsy is a member of the Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth, TX. John Fons was not able to attend, but he was of course on stage in spirit!

Jo'El, as Governor Designate for the SWIS District, is also pictured below with OI President Designate Bob McFadyen, his wife, and the other Governor Designates of the Great Plains Region. Bob is a member of the Kitchener West Optimist Club, Kitchener, Ontario. Congratulations to those who have lead, and continue to lead this Optimist year, and those who will take office October 1<sup>st</sup>!



# SWIS District Oratorical Scholarship Contest

Students from around Southern Wisconsin competed in the Optimist International SWIS District contest on May 14th, 2022 on the topic of “Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times” to win 1 of 3 scholarships: \$2,500, \$1,500, \$1,000. Congratulations to our SWIS District Oratorical Scholarship Winners: Charlotte Chen (1<sup>st</sup>), Jonah Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Joshua Mims (3<sup>rd</sup>).



Charlotte Chen, our \$2,500 SWIS District scholarship winner, recently finished her junior year at Madison West High School. Currently, she is serving as the Vice President of Community Service for Wisconsin DECA, a business and leadership-oriented organization with over 11,000 members. Last year, she was also a board member of her school's Public Health & Advocacy club and treasurer of the key club, both dedicated to volunteer work. This summer, she is interning at Little John's Kitchens, a local nonprofit dedicated to "transforming food excess into accessible, chef-quality meals for everyone regardless of their means". Further, Charlotte is an avid member of West High School's math club and National Honor Society, a dancer, and loves to read. She hopes to major in mathematics and economics in college.

Jonah Johnson our \$1,500 SWIS District scholarship winner, recently completed his junior year at Mount Horeb High School. He was inducted into the National Honor Society and is a past president of the National Junior Honor Society. Asked what Jonah loves to do, he responded by saying that he loves to entertain. His passions are singing, piano, guitar, and dancing. His dream is to start a band and take it worldwide. Jonah enjoys spending time with friends, family, and his beloved pets.



Joshua Mims, our \$1,000 SWIS District scholarship winner, just completed 8th grade, and at his graduation, he was one of the 2 commencement speakers where he delivered a compelling and motivational speech. In the fall, he will be attending Menomonee Falls High-school as a 9th grader and plans to take three 10th grade honors classes. When asked about what he likes to do in his free time, Joshua said that he loves to swim competitively for Walter Schroeder Swim Club. In relays, Joshua holds 5 state records and has competed in regional and national swim meets. Joshua also loves to read historical fiction novels, and lastly, he enjoys playing the Alto Saxophone in the school's band. Joshua shared that his parents recently bought a new Saxophone for him and he absolutely loves it!



## SWIS District Oratorical Scholarship Contest (continued)

As our first place winner, Charlotte Chen advances to the next level of the Optimist International World Oratorical Competition to compete in the Optimist International Regional Level on Thursday July 21st, 2022 in St. Louis, Missouri. Charlotte will compete with other first place winners within the Great Plains Region. If (when) Charlotte wins at the Optimist International Regional Competition level, she will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship and will advance to the Optimist International World Championship level on Friday, July 22nd, 2022 to compete with all of the Regional Winners for a chance to win a \$15,000 scholarship for 1st place; \$10,000 scholarship for 2nd place; or \$5,000 for 3rd place.

You can livestream the regional and World competitions [here](#). The event begins Thursday at 8:45am central, with our Great Plains Region contest scheduled for 10am. On Friday, July 22, the day begins at 10:30am with the announcement of the Regional Winners advancing to compete in the World Championships beginning at 11:00am central time Friday.

## SWIS District Fund Crazr 2022

Our annual Fund Crazr fundraiser is in full swing! A few reminders as you are selling tickets:

- In order to prevent phone calls seeking additional information and/or mistakes, please be sure to ask ticket buyers to completely fill out all information that is asked for on the ticket stub:
  - ✓ Name
  - ✓ Address
  - ✓ City
  - ✓ State
  - ✓ Zip Code
  - ✓ Phone Number
  - ✓ E Mail Address
  - ✓ Club name (Seller line)
- Please send tickets to us as they are sold. Do not hold a large number of tickets before they are sent to us. It takes time to get the information entered into the computer.
- Please have any ticket buyers who are paying with checks to write them out to your club. Then the club should write our one check for the total of the stubs being sent in. All checks sent to us should be made out to: “**Football Sweepstakes.**”
- Money and ticket stubs should be sent to: **Fred Dorn, 501 N Madison Street, Waunakee, WI 53597.**
- All sold stubs and money should be sent to us no later that **August 30th.**
- Thanks for your help on this and sell, sell, sell.



Sincerely, Fred and Maggie Dorn

**Tri-Star Basketball Chair:** Maureen Crombie

After a two-year hiatus, the SWIS Tri-Star Basketball competition returned to their pre-pandemic glory. On April 30th, we had a little over 75 kids in 10 of our communities attend our Tri-Star Basketball competition this year in Sun Prairie! It was exciting to learn about what Optimists did with their club contests. For example, Lake Mills had a pizza party after their event and Platteville had help from the UW Platteville basketball team! Families enjoyed watching their kids compete, win raffle items and supported our concession stand. This is one of our largest events that the District has that involves kids.

Governor John was on board to speak to the families and hand out awards! In addition to our Sun Prairie club, we also received help from Platteville’s Howard Crofoot and Wayne and Christine Dieckhoff from Brodhead. Every single child was a rock star! It was awesome to see smiles on their faces!

The winners included.....

**6-Year-Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Alayna Guenther Sun Prairie
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Kinsley Hoffman Monroe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Macyn Woodworth Portage

**6-Year-Old Boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mitchell Statz Cross Plains
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jack Wetter Platteville

**7-Year-Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Izzie Adams Sun Prairie

**7-Year-Old Boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Cayson Kiefer Portage
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Harrison McFarland Cross Plains
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Carter Braun Darlington

**8-Year-Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Savannah Chilson Portage
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Clara Veeder Monroe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Lilyana Yarbrough Beloit

**8-Year-Old Boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Byron Skemp Platteville
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Landen Guenther Sun Prairie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Wheelar Douglas Darlington

**9-Year-Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Sydney Meyer Platteville
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lexie Zimmerman Monroe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Kaitlyn Mills Brodhead

**9-Year-Old Boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Henry Mosher Monroe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Malik Cooper Beloit
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jayson Connelly Sun Prairie

**10-Year-Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Hayden Brown Portage
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Bella Peters Platteville
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Elizabeth Monroe

**10-Year-Old Boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Braden Romine Cross Plains
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Gavyn Kuhl Lake Mills
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Calix Thuli Darlington

**11-Year-Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Giavauna Thamal Beloit

**11-Year-Old Boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Brady Indergard Monroe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Zach Rahn Sun Prairie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Nolan Hein Cross Plains

**12-Year Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Anyka Johnson Darlington

**13-Year- Old Girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Julia Chilson Portage
- 13-Year-Old Boys**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Alex Friederick Platteville
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Joey Rikli Sun Prairie

It’s not too late to think about having a contest next year! We will be looking forward to hosting the SWIS District contest next year!

## Sauk Trails Optimist Club

Club President: Rick Thomas

May was a very busy month for the Sauk Trails Optimist Club with the Special Olympics Track and Field event along with Respect for Law. Both events make me proud to be an Optimist. It is always inspiring to see the Special Olympics athletes competing. It inspires me to work for the best and to expect only the best. The Respect for Law event also makes me proud, but in a different way. The police officers we honored have also worked tirelessly to be their best even when dealing with people who aren't always doing the same. It is often a thankless job that they do, and it warms my heart to see the pride these officers and their families have in the work they do. We can learn a lot from the Special Olympics athletes and from our police officers. Remember to always think only of the best, work only for the best and to expect only the best in everything that you do.

Please join us in Downtown Middleton on Saturday, August 6th for our annual tribute to Mustard, the G.O.A.T. of condiments. National Mustard Day is the biggest fundraising event of the year for the nonprofit National Mustard Museum and it takes a village to make it a success. As well as raising funds for the Mustard Museum, a portion of the proceeds from the mustard games, activities and hot dog stand will be shared with the Sauk Trails Optimist Club who support area youth with scholarships and more. If you haven't been to our event in the past, visit the National Mustard Day event page: <https://mustardmuseum.org/mustard-day>. The National Mustard Day street festival is open to the public from 10am until 4pm.

Brat Fest 2022 - Willow Island - Friday May 27 to Sunday May 29 Bratfest is back and was held Friday May 27 through Sunday May 29. THANKS to the Sauk Trail Optimist members who volunteered Friday evening wrapping brats and who grilled Saturday and/or Sunday. Thanks to Diane Hoebel who provided exact jobs and shifts and coordinated this annual fund raiser event.



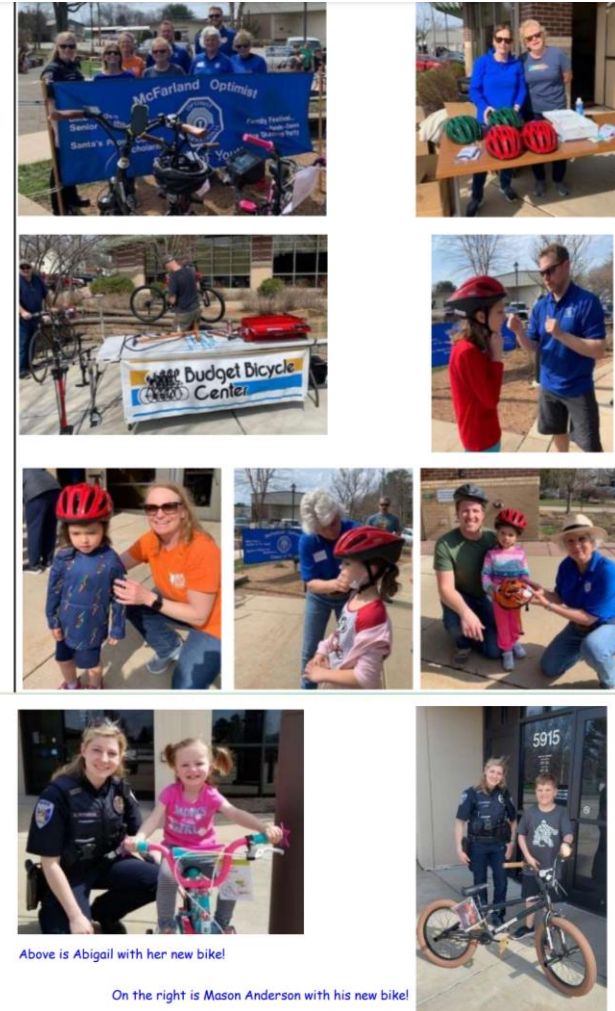
## Optimist Club of McFarland

Club President: Penny Simmons

Bike Helmet Fitting & Give Away- Our Club gave out 47 helmets and had 51 names entered in the Win A Bike Contest. Special thanks to the project coordinators & crew- Jean Papalia and Jonathan Gillette and the volunteers: Arlene Bast, Becky Cohen, Geralyn Hurley, Penny Simmons, Mike Beatty, Robb & Joel Z (MPD). An extra special appreciation to Craig from Budget Bikes for providing free bike tune ups; McFarland Police Department & Pacifica Cycle for bike donations, MPD for free bike registrations and the library for providing the location. Ready, Set Go for a safe Ride your Bike to School Day on May 4!

McFarland High School Optimist Senior of the Month for April 2022 was Brielle Bruce whose extracurricular activities include: McFarland Blue Notes, president of the Black Student Union, Multicultural club, Linkcrew, Hope Squad, Pitch Please, Cross Country, the fall musical “ The Addams Family”, the spring play “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, and Track & Field. She was awarded the “Outstanding Young Person Award” twice while in high school and once while in middle school. She plans to attend UW-Milwaukee next year with a Music Theater major and a minor in ESL and Korean. Matt Levin (MHS Teacher) nominated Brielle, saying: “Brielle is a wonderful member of our school community. She is engaged in various activities and is committed to making our school a better place and a more welcoming place for all students. This year, she's been involved in cross country and track, the fall musical and spring play, and several student clubs. She's the president of the Black Student Union, which is a place where some of our students of color are able to share their experiences with each other and also plan ways to engage the entire school community in issues they are passionate about. She is a great role model for her peers and for younger students. We are lucky to have her at MHS!”

McFarland High School Optimist Senior of the Month for May 2022 was Gabe Lee whose most prominent extracurricular is baseball. Gabe coaches youth baseball and wiffle ball camps in the summer. He is on the National Honor Society where he plans events and fundraisers for the school. Gabe works as a manager for Rock’n Rollz Sandwich Company. Gabe has been on the National Honor Society for two years. He also has been on the high Honor Roll every semester during high school. Gabe has been in the all- conference Honor Band this past winter. He was an honorable mention at Model UN conference during his freshman year. Most recently Gabe attended the Rock Valley Conference Top 10 of his class recognition ceremony. Gabe plans to pursue playing baseball next year but hasn’t committed to a school to date. He plans to major in Athletic Training to eventually become an athletic trainer for a major college



Above is Abigail with her new bike!

On the right is Mason Anderson with his new bike!

## Optimist Club of McFarland

Club President: Penny Simmons

(continued from page 12) or professional sports team. Cheyenne Bonincontri (Spanish Teacher) nominated Gabe because he “exemplifies all the attitudes and behaviors that we want our Spartans to have. In class, he is always engaged and on task. He pushes himself and his classmates to be better and to continue improving. He is always and available to help teachers, friends, and other students with whatever they might need help with. His respect, engagement, ambition, and work ethic reflect exactly what it is to be a Spartan.”

McFarland High School Optimist Senior of the Month for June 2022 was Hadley Johnson whose extracurricular activities include: Swimming, DECA, Ultimate Frisbee, Youth Apprenticeship. She’s on High Honor Roll and the National Honor Society. Her plans after graduation include: attending Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and majoring in marketing. DECA advisor Ginger Verhulst, one of her nominators, said: “Hadley is an outstanding student. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Hadley all four years of high school through DECA. She has matured as an individual and leader. She consistently demonstrates a positive attitude, goes above and beyond in her coursework and is a leader in and out of the classroom. She is an active supporter of our athletics, encourages all students to do their best and is creative with her projects. This year Hadley served as co-president of DECA, and has been a leader of Spartan Headquarters, the school store. Hadley has been an integral representative of our McFarland Marketing and Business Department. She is in the youth apprenticeship program for Marketing where she applies knowledge she learned in classes and in the workforce. She truly is a deserving recipient of the Optimist Senior Student of the Month.

## Janesville Wednesday Morning Optimist Club

Club Secretary: Jan Bier

Earlier in the year, we joined forces with the other service clubs in town to help homeless students. We collected supplies and provided monetary support. In the spring, we had a park clean-up day with some of the members of the Junior Optimist chapter at Craig High School. We cleared brush and downed trees from Optimist Park. In May, we awarded scholarships to three deserving high school graduates. This summer, the city showed Movies in the Park, and we provided barrel train rides to the kids before the movies started. Janesville hosted the first day of the Dairyland bike races – we were there selling our root beer floats and getting out the word about Optimism!



# Wisconsin Heights Optimist Club

Sara Shackleton

The Wisconsin Heights Optimist Club is proud to announce our recent events and accomplishments.

The top three essayists from our essay contest read their essays and received their awards at our May 6 meeting at the Old Feed Mill. First Place Winner Kylee Doherty, 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner Natalie Bartel, and third place winner Madeline Henne joined the Students of the Third Quarter and their guests at our meeting. Kylee went on to the SWIS District Contest and won the \$2,500 scholarship! At our May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, Deb Schroeder and Julie Jensen surprised four local teachers with a \$50 gift card to help show our appreciation for all the work they do in educating our local students.

We proudly sponsor Wisconsin Heights students Violet Bollenbach and Keera Payne for summer seminar series. Violet attended WILS 2022, the Wisconsin Leadership Seminar, June 10-12, at Carroll University in Waukesha. The mission of WILS is to identify outstanding high school sophomores throughout Wisconsin for being responsible citizens in their community and school and provide them with the opportunity and encouragement to recognize their leadership potential. Keera attended WAS 2022, the World Affairs Seminar, June 18 through 24, also at Carroll University. This is a week-long international experience, bringing together students from around the world to learn international relations and develop skills in diplomacy, communications and cooperation. Young people from over 30 nations are expected to attend. The theme this year is, "Reimagining Global Health and Wellness: Contagious Ideas."

Wisconsin Heights Quality Students of the Third Quarter were Anya Caminiti and Emily VanRiper, and of the Fourth Quarter were Emily Weitzel and Travis Dreikosen.

The Highway 19 cleanup was an unusual and exciting event. Julie Jensen and Gail Harrop in their quest for tossed away

litter, beer cans, fast food containers, and the like, happened upon two heavy round balls each a little bigger than a softball. Spinning one over, they saw printed, "Explosive Device, Do Not Handle". What could this be? After a quick phone call to Selma Bennett, working the other side of the highway, for a third opinion, Gail placed a call to 911. In about 15 minutes the local Dane County sheriff deputy arrived. Ah! Unexploded fireworks. One was labeled, "Green Peony". The deputy calmly tossed them into the back seat of her squad car and drove off, after thanking Julie and Gail for calling in their find.

Kathy Newman, SWIS District Lt. Governor presented Governor Jon Fon's Little Engine that Could Award to our President Mary Lieck at our May 20 meeting. Our club consistently enters more essays into the Essay Contest than any other in the District. The award was, in turn, presented to Wisconsin Heights English teacher Kathy Haig who includes the essay contest as part of her class assignments annually.



Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club's Respect For Law & Youth Appreciation Pizza Party took place on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2022. Law Representatives from the Kenosha area were honored in conjunction with the Club's Youth Appreciation event.



Honorees were invited to a pizza party with children and their families from the community to celebrate working together. Officers enjoyed pizza with the kids and their families and shared

how they work to make the community a safer place each and every day. The key is to understand that we are all partners in "Safety, Optimism, and Caring For Our Community".

New friends, the Southeastern Lakes Scholastic Mountain Biking Organization were in attendance and spoke about partnering with the Optimist Club and local police departments to organize a Bike Rodeo for all kids to have their bikes inspected and learn about bike safety. Special Guest Respect For Law Honorees were given Optimist International Respect for Law Certificates and gifted with donations to help with child focused programs for their departments. Youth in attendance were children who participated in the Family Activity Just Say No Area during the Kenosha Expo in spring. They were celebrated for being good citizens and were awarded with a plaque celebrating their commitment to safety, and gifted certificates for bikes and helmets.

## **Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club**

Club President: Amanda Szymkowski

MMOC Book Club has been busy reading and talking health, happiness, and prosperity! First, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, we gathered in-person and virtually to discuss our latest read "The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot." The story is told from the perspective of Lenni, a 17-year old girl who befriends Margot, an 83-year old woman. Together they form an unlikely friendship and paint stories of their collective 100 years of life. P.S. Keep the tissues nearby.

We are currently reading "Braver Than You Think," by Maggie Downs. Maggie writes about her world-wide travels, her mother's battle with Alzheimer's Disease, and how both pushed her to the limits. We will discuss on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Since we condensed this read into 2 sessions from 3, we'll host a one-month August read where members can pick their own book, read, and discuss what they learned. We think this will be a fun change of pace. Plus, anything is worth a try!

MMOC has also kicked-off our annual Beer Garden Social series! One the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, we will gather at selected beer gardens around Milwaukee. June was at Estabrook in Shorewood, July will be at



the Umbrella Bar in Franklin, and August will be at Hoyt in Wauwatosa. In addition to fun and fellowship, we are also gathering to collect dental hygiene products for youth in need.

## Famous Last Words

John Fons

“We’ve never done it like that before.”

Those words are in direct contradiction to the Optimist Creed.

Yet Optimists use them.

“We’ve never done it like that before,” implies the status quo.

Things are just dandy the way they are, the way they’ve always been.

They also imply a change has been suggested, perhaps only mentioned.

Yet that mere possibility of an alteration is placed immediately in contradiction to the past and found wanting.

“We’ve never done it like that before,” evokes a bygone majority called forth in absentia to influence the present and conform the future. “We’ve never done it like that before,” is safe, cozy, boring, relaxed and that’s why we didn’t do it that way during the 3rd Quarter SWIS District Optimist Conference.

The District Oratorical Contest is typically conducted by placing participating students in a separate room before judges who make their deliberation and once three winners are determined, present those winners to the entire conference audience. Yet all of our Oratorical participants are winners and this year we had eleven of them. I, for one, needed every word of Optimism any one of them had to offer. There are thousands of eligible students in Southern Wisconsin, hundreds of JOI Club members. Through their various Zone competitions, we had the honor of hosting eleven brave youth willing to declare the importance of “Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times.” That made each and every one of the eleven a Special Guest Speaker.

Members of the audience, including some who previously expressed doubt about the format, beamed declaring how much they enjoyed the outcome.

And the students?

Despite concerns the youth might experience undo stress by standing before over one hundred attentive Optimists, friends and family members, instead of three steely eyed judges in a barren room, the students who had the nerve to enter the contest knew in the first place what every performer knows when it comes to an audience.

Bigger is better.

That goes as well for our two Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants. We did not have enough for an official contest, but the two young women who stood and spoke gave it everything and we got everything they had to give. Who felt anything less than inspired?

Given the choice between, “We’ve never done it like that before,” and “Think only of the best, work only for the best and expect only the best,” we might consider none of the Oratorical or CCDHH participants ever did anything like that before either. Look what they accomplished.

Look at their names:

Oratorical: Charlotte Chen – Kenosha - 1st Place and Carly Doome – Friends of St. Francis and Joshua Mims – Menomonee Falls – 3rd Place and Keegan Kainz – West Bend and Claire Grunewald – Madison and Katherine Matthews – Madison and Nuzaira Rabanni – Darlington and Caleb Timmerman – Platteville and Jonah Johnson – Cross Plains – 2nd Place and Elizabeth Farritor – Verona and Juanita Duarte – Sun Prairie  
CCDHH: Melina Romero – Madison and Maggie Schut – Janesville

Each one of these students helped make our Optimism come true.



# Optimist International Convention 2023 July 2-5, 2023 Hyatt Regency Crystal City

The 105<sup>th</sup> Optimist International Convention will take place in Arlington, VA from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>! Enjoy historic Arlington and a stone's throw Washington, DC as we celebrate Independence Day and another great year in Optimism!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Celebrate Community 2022**  
**September 11-17, 2022**



In May 2021, Optimist International partnered with Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions to host “Celebrate Community.” This multi-organizational community service project returns September 2022! Please save the dates and work with your clubs to “Celebrate Community” with your fellow service clubs.

## SWIS District Website Index

Website Chair: Bonnie Spindler  
blspindler@charter.net  
(608) 850-9561  
[www.swisdistrict.org](http://www.swisdistrict.org)



**SWIS Youth Programs** (*Youth Programs > District Programs*)

**Oratorical Updates for 21-22 Year:** [Oratorical 21-22](#)

**Essay Updates for 21-22 Year:** [Essay 21-22](#)

**CCDHH Updates for 21-22 Year:** [CCDHH 21-22](#)

**Tri-Star Updates for 21-22 Year:** [TriStar 21-22](#)

**SWIS Club Resources Available:** (*Resources Information > Optimist Public Resources > SWIS Club Forms/Documents*)

**SWIS Logo for Club Newsletters for 21-22 Year:** [SWIS LOGO 21-22](#)

**SWIS Expense Voucher for 21-22 Year:** [Expense Voucher 21-22](#)

**SWIS Policies:** [SWIS Policies 21-22](#)

**SWIS Public Resources Available:** (*Resource Information > Resources Main*)

**SWIS Fund Crazr Fundraiser:** [SWIS Fund Crazr 21-22](#)

**The Sunny Side:** [SWIS Sunny Side 21-22](#)

**SWIS Quarterly Newsletters:** (*Leadership Tools > Newsletters*): [SWIS Newsletters](#)

## Happy Anniversary to 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.

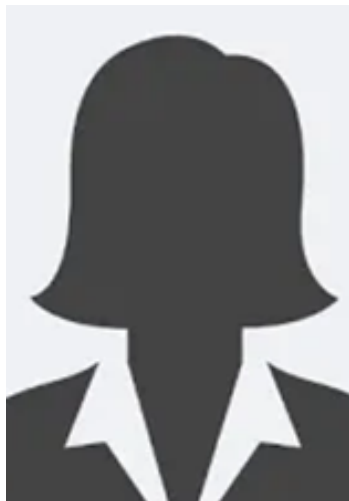
**To be** too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

# SWIS District Governor's Team 2021-2022

[https://swisdistrict.org/resources/district\\_officers.asp](https://swisdistrict.org/resources/district_officers.asp)



John Fons  
Governor



Jo'el Pearlman  
Governor Elect



Jeff Kuckenbecker  
Treasurer



Howard Crofoot  
Secretary



Sue Kranz and George Breadon  
OI Foundation Representatives



Joanne Ganske  
OI Ambassador



Jane Meyer  
Conference Chair

# SWIS District Governor's Team (continued) 2021-2022

[https://swisdistrict.org/resources/district\\_officers.asp](https://swisdistrict.org/resources/district_officers.asp)



Jo'El Pearlman  
Oratorical Chair



Diana Johnson and Paul Johnson  
Essay Co-Chairs



Maxine Lane  
CCDHH Chair



Bonnie Spindler  
Website Chair



Amanda Szymkowski  
Newsletter Editor



Maureen Crombie  
Tri-Star Basketball Chair



Tom Carls

Tri-Star Golf Co-Chairs



Todd Paulus

Tri-Star Golf Co-Chairs

# SWIS District Lieutenant Governors 2021-2022

[https://swisdistrict.org/client/client\\_images/uploads/files/SWIS\\_ZoneRestructuring21\\_22\\_Final\(1\).pdf](https://swisdistrict.org/client/client_images/uploads/files/SWIS_ZoneRestructuring21_22_Final(1).pdf)



Barb Brinkmann  
Zone 1



Jerry Schmitz  
Zone 2



Dave Lowe  
Zone 3



Phillip Sheahan  
Zone 4



Nancy Sutherland  
Zone 5



Kathie Newman  
Zone 6



Fred Dorn  
Zone 7



## **A Message of Gratitude: Writers, Readers, Photographers - Oh My!**

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles to this edition of the SWIS District Newsletter. I couldn't put out this quarterly publication without you – and I very much appreciate your time!

- **Articles Wanted:** If you are interested in contributing to the next edition, please send me your: Club Stories, District and Zone Events, Committee and Chair Updates, Member Acknowledgments, and any other articles that you would like to share. I will gladly accept them at anytime.
- **Helpful hint:** Does your club have a newsletter? Add me to your distribution list so that I can feature your articles at the district level. No need to write an article twice ☺
- **Deadlines:** If you are ever unsure of submission deadlines, please reference the SWIS District Conference schedule found [here](#). The date that registration opens, is the date that I try to send out the newsletter.
- **Feedback Appreciated:** I'd love to continue publishing what you want to read, so drop a note and let me know your thoughts.

One last, but very important thank you, goes to you – the reader. This newsletter loves to keep you company while you drink your morning coffee or orange juice, while you are on your lunch break at work, while you wind down from a long day, and everywhere in between. And this editor is very grateful that you chose to spend your time with us!

Amanda Szymkowski  
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