



SWIS District Newsletter 2022 – 2023



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 Governor	02-03
SWIS District 2 nd Quarter Conference	04-06
SWIS District Optimist International Foundation	07
SWIS District – Welcome New Members!	08
2021-2022 Optimist International Awards	09
2022-2023 SWIS District Tri-Star Competition	10
SWIS District Treasury Updates	11
SWIS District Club Stories	12-18
2022-2023 Scholarship Contests	19
Optimist International Announcements	20
2022-2023 SWIS District Governor's Team	21-22
2022-2023 SWIS District Lieutenant Governors	23
Optimist Creed	24
Thank you, Contributors!	24

SWIS District Newsletter Team:

Amanda Szymkowski

Editor, SWIS District Newsletter
amanda.szymkowski@gmail.com
(414) 202-4116

Jo'El Pearlman

Governor, SWIS District 2022-2023
JpOptimist23@gmail.com
(414) 588-2714

Maureen Crombie

Co-Chair, SWIS District Website
608-576-5819
crombie0112@gmail.com

Bonnie Spindler

Co-Chair, SWIS District Website
blspindler@charter.net
(608)-850-9561

Governor's Message:

Jo'El Pearlman: Governor SWIS District of Optimist International 22-23 "All Roads Lead to Optimism" and "Enjoy the Ride!"

Happy New Year Optimists! I can't believe it's almost February! I'm delighted to see people out and about, enjoying a peek of sunshine here, a little snowflake there (yes, a little), and the warmish temperatures that January has provided! Most of us are busy making plans, running errands, and rushing here and there! But before I head out for the day, I make sure I have 3 things: Phone. Wallet. Keys.

Keys. What do you think of when you hear or see the word "Key"?

When I think of the word *Key*, I think of Key for 2023...

The Key to a lock: The key opens the door of opportunities for youngsters and your community. The key to open the door for your club members to provide ideas, and/or to step up into leadership positions and take the wheel! Remember to invite the new and returning Optimists for the ride! Invite new friends and some Optimists who have stepped away for a bit. Unlock the potential of endless wonderful ideas, possibilities and make incredible memories!

The Key to Ignite: Use your key to ignite and to inspire! Every Club and every Community needs a spark for an idea, and someone to ignite their Optimism for the journey ahead! Engage. Ignite. Inspire!

The Key to Wind Up: Get those gears moving. Now is a great time to plan the adventure! Provide programs and fundraisers for your community. Be a Superhero for kids by providing a Tri-Star Basketball program, Essay contest, Oratorical contest, Spark fun in the Park event, and more. Find out more information at our quarterly conferences where you can learn about new concepts, refresh your knowledge about the tried and true, meet fellow Optimists, and share even more ideas! And take full advantage of the FREE (this year) Optimist Institute Resource where you can check out an abundance of information on Optimism and personal and professional growth. All Optimists can take part in any of the offerings on the Optimist Institute. This year's club Officers should please take their training for their office no later than March 30th to help your Club qualify for Honor Club.

(continues on page 3)

Governor's Message:

The Key to a Map: No need to worry, Optimism always goes the distance! Optimism reaches near and far. We are International! Go the extra mile and see how far your Optimist Club and your random acts of Optimism can reach by partnering with other Optimist clubs and other youth and community friendly organizations!

The Florida Keys: The Keys aren't just for Florida anymore! At least when you are an Optimist. Find your happy place! Do what you love to do. Create a program, a fundraiser, or even build a new club! If your club meets at a time that your friends cannot make it, create a Club-Within-a-Club and meet at a time that works better for you. Start a new club and invite the people you would like to be with you in your very own "Florida Keys" happy place right here in Wisconsin! Optimists Make Good Things Happen and we'll even provide a flamingo!

The Key as a Tool: There are several keys that are tools. I think of a key to repair. Optimists love to get things done! If your community or even your club has an area that is in need of help, don't be shy and bring that to your club's attention. Even better, bring a potential solution to the problem that you see and really get the ball rolling. Remember, sometimes you need a little help or a little muscle; so ask your fellow Optimists in your club, in our district, your Lt. Governor, and Governor. You have a whole world of support all around you. And Remember, you can always invite other organizations to work together and bring their keys.

The Key to a Treasure: Unlock and Share the Treasures of Optimism! There is a reason why YOU are an Optimist and remain an Optimist. When you began your journey as an Optimist: What did you anticipate? What did you discover? What memories have you made? What skill have you learned? What personal impact did you make? What wonderful friends have you welcomed and what incredible smiles for miles have you provided to the youth in your community? These are all treasures you have found and helped to create, and the best news is that there are more memories, more friends, more smiles...more treasures to locate!

My Favorite Key: The key that gives someone the "Ah Haaa" moment! The key you can count on, The Key to making a difference; the key to making positive things happen; the key to find the solution to make a brighter future for youth and communities! My FAVORITE KEY IS YOU! YOU are the key to a healthy community; YOU are the key to a brighter future; YOU are the key to bringing out the best.

YOU are the key to Optimism!

Happy 2023!

SWIS District 2nd Quarter Conference February 17th -18th, Sun Prairie

Our *All Roads Lead to Optimism* journey continues! Our 2nd Quarter conference will be held at the **Hilton Garden Inn** in **Sun Prairie** on **February 17th-18th**. Join us on Friday for a Mardi Gras themed Hospitality night! Saturday will be a day filled with opportunities for us to exchange ideas, learn about Optimistic programs & fundraisers, and take part in a hands-on experience to help our communities and ourselves. Our Optimist store will be open for supplies and information too!

OI Foundation Raffle: Encourage your clubs to bring a basket for the Optimist Foundation raffle. Our Optimist Foundation helps fund multiple programs for children and is the heartbeat of Optimism! The Raffle basket that generates the most interest and gets the most raffle tickets in the bucket also wins a special honor for the club donating the basket! The monies collected from the day's raffle will be donated to the OI Foundation in honor of that Club! So spread the word and get your clubs engaged!

Service Project: Everyone is invited to bring new socks that we will donate- all sizes are welcome! Everyone who brings a package of socks will receive a ticket to fun!

Registration now open!

Save The Dates
SWIS District Quarterly Conferences
3rd Quarter: May 5th – May 6th, WI Dells
4th Quarter: August 25th - August 26, Location TBD

All Roads Lead to Optimism 2nd Qtr Conference

SCAN TO REGISTER

Register by **February 2nd (Optimist Day)** to receive Early Bird gift & ticket for the **Let the Good Times Roll** drawing.

- Feb. 17th - 8pm: Mardi Gras Hospitality**
- Feb. 18th - 9 to 3:30pm Optimist & JOI Conferences**

Hilton Garden Inn, Sun Prairie

SPECIAL GUEST
International JOI President
Fatima Zaidi
(Canada)

Reserve your hotel room now (block ends January 22nd)

Register for the conference NOW at swisdistrict.org
Regular Registration closes **February 14th**.

- Hospitality on Friday evening following the Executive meeting (Mardi Gras Theme) Bingo to benefit the foundation and more floating fun!**
- Special Guest & Presenter-International JOI President, Fatima will be joining us -she will be visiting from Canada talking about bringing Joy to your community through JOI!**
- JOI Students will have their own conference in the same hotel as our conference and they will be able to join us for portions of our conference including the luncheon.**
- Conference opportunities-Networking, info on programs, fundraising, grants, service project and a hands-on activity to take back to your club and your community!**
- Service Project-Everyone is invited to bring a package of socks (any size is appreciated). Each person donating a package of socks will be given a ticket to a fun and exciting experience!**

Foundation Raffle Basket challenge!
bring a raffle basket---the club whose basket is the most popular (has the most raffle tickets) will win a special honor! The funds collected for the raffle will be donated to the Optimist Foundation in honor of that club!

SWIS District 2nd Quarter Conference JOI Conference

Our 2nd Quarter conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sun Prairie on February 17th-18th. I am excited to announce that we will be welcoming our Junior Optimist International (JOI) President! Fatima will be traveling from Canada to join us Friday evening and will be our guest presenter during our conference on Saturday.

To keep with the JOI-ful theme, we wanted to invite all JOI club members and participate in a District JOI conference. We are hoping to form a JOI District and elect a SWIS JOI Governor!

We will need 3 JOI clubs present in order to elect a JOI Governor. Please reach out to Cory St. Marie Carls, JOI Chair, if your JOI club is interested in participating.

SWIS District JOI Chair: CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls
coryann.stmc@gmail.com
(262) 914-1020



Junior Optimist INTERNATIONAL JOI Conference

Saturday, February 18th
9a.m. to 3:30p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn, Sun Prairie
1220 S Grand Ave, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Bring adult or children's new socks for our service project at the conference.



(Fee of \$5.00 per JOI member due upon arrival at conference, checks can be made to SWIS District)

To Register for JOI Conference:
Email District JOI Chair,
CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls, coryann.stmc@gmail.com
Call or Text: 262-914-1020 **by February 13th**

Special Guest International JOI

**President
Fatima Zaidi**
(Canada)



JOI Conference Schedule:
9am - Noon: JOI Members Breakout room - Welcome, Training, Info sessions, activities & Election for SWIS JOI District Governor
Noon - 3:30pm: Lunch, Service Activity and other presentations joining Optimist members

Hello fellow Optimists! My name is Fatima Zaidi, and I'm very excited to be your Junior Optimist International (JOI) President for the 2022-23 year! I'm a Senior at White Oaks Secondary School in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. I first joined my local JOI club in 2018 when I was in middle school, and since then I have served as a leader on the Municipal, District, and International levels. I have experience being a Club President, Vice President, District Lieutenant Governor, and International Board Director prior to my Presidency this year.

As an ethnic and gender minority, I've faced many obstacles throughout my lifetime. Facing these challenges allowed me to become the person I am today, but all the same made it harder to find opportunities for myself in order to succeed. Due to these experiences, I strive to help others facing similar hardships. Hence, my theme for this year is: ***Breaking Barriers Through Optimism***. With our members located worldwide, we have thousands of members each with their own set of unique skills and traits. Instead of isolating one another because of these differences, we should be using our diversity to uplift and support others to power our service and projects and spread Optimism throughout our individual communities. My mission is to allow JOI members worldwide to unite, to accept their differences and use it to their advantage, and to share perspectives as individuals. By tackling important social issues that face our youth today, such as equity and environmentalism, we can collectively make a bigger impact on the world, raise awareness amongst others, and create an accepting society for generations to come.

So, this year, let's join together as a community; let's celebrate our individuality and use our determination, perseverance, and citizenship as JOI members to help our neighbors and friends. I hope to grow our Optimist family and expand our membership to new countries and regions. In addition to this, I aim to increase communication. Whether it be from our Board to our members, or connecting Clubs from varying nations, we can share our ideas and goals to play our part in making the world a happier place for all. My goal this year is to listen to and support YOU, JOI members, and work as a team to expand our contributions through our work.

A special thank you to all the Advisors, adult allies, and JOI members and friends. I look forward to making a lasting impact by collaborating with you all this year. You are the reason our organization is so great and without you, we could not spread the much-needed message of Optimism across the world.

Please join me at the 2nd Quarter "All Roads Lead to Optimism" Conferences on February 18th in Sun Prairie. The Adult Optimists and JOI members will meet for our own conferences and then combine in the afternoon for lunch, a fun service project, and activity to share with our communities.

SWIS District OIF Representatives: Terry and Lindsey Hyland

Greetings! We were listening to beautiful Christmas music and thinking about Christmas movie we should watch. "It's a Wonderful Life" came to our minds. This is a wonderful life when we remember that "all roads lead to Optimism".



Travel with us down those roads:

1. As Optimist members, helping the youth of our communities is a wonderful part of our lives. Our Junior Optimists along with their counselors use their creativity to motivate students in their schools to use their skills to help others. It might be to help out with an issue in the cafeteria lunch line or helping senior citizens understand the features of their smart phones, computers, etc.
2. Invite a friend, coworker, speaker, or new community resident to join you at your next club meeting. It's a great joy to reconnect after Covid or meet new friends. Challenge your club to get new members.
3. Club Foundation Representatives (CFRs): Please take a few minutes of your club meetings to talk ways to support the OI Foundation. We spoke to our club at the beginning of October about the 10 ways to support OIF. Two of these ways are:
 - The first was the Dime-A-Day. We asked our members to bring the completed form and payment of \$36.50. We now have 25 members signed up who will receive their recognition pins soon. This was 1/4 of our total membership.
 - Another way is the "Hearts United in Optimism" form, which explains the services to the club, reasons to donate, and ways to collect the \$365 that goes to help kids. Our club passes a can around at each club meeting, and we receive \$25-\$35 each meeting.

District Dime-A-Day: Please let us know how many members from your club have signed up for Dime-A-Day. We had 50 members sign up for Dime-A-Day at our first convention! Our raffle took in \$465 for OIF.

District OIF Fundraising: Please plan to attend the 2nd SWIS District Conference on February 17th and 18th. And bring an item to raffle so we can continue our successful fundraising for the Foundation! Our SWIS district sent almost \$4,000 to OIF. This was a great start to fulfill Gov. Jo'El's goal for 2022-2023.

We wish all of you a Happy New Year, as we travel these roads to Optimism together!

Your DFRs,

Terry and Lindsay Hyland

Welcome New Members of SWIS District Clubs!

Congratulations! And Welcome to the SWIS District! You and your fellow Optimists provide a brighter future for youth and a stronger community. Welcome new members and thank you sponsors!

Member	Club	Sponsor	Member	Club	Sponsor
Andrew	SW Milwaukee	Bill	(continual)		
Angela	Verona	Ann	Maren	Monroe Tues Noon	Diane
Becky	Cross Plains	Virginia	Michelle	Lodi	Ted
Bill	Verona	Scott	Mitchell	Menomonee Falls	Chad
Brett	Cross Plains	Michael	Nikki	Menomonee Falls	Cathy
David	Menomonee Falls	Tom	Olivia	Monroe	Val
David	Madison Breakfast	George	Pam	McFarland	Penny
Donna	Monroe	Louis	Rachel	Lake Mills	Aaron
Eileen	Menomonee Falls	Sharon	Sarah	SW Milwaukee	Heidi
Elena	Verona	Scott	Theresa	Sun Prairie	Ray
Erin	SW Milwaukee	Matt	Tracy	SLLB	Diane
Jackie	Lake Country	Lisa	Trisha	Sauk Trails	Jackie
James	Menomonee Falls	Dan			
Janelle	Monroe	Val			
Jennifer	Sun Prairie	Ray			
Jim	Menomonee Falls	Cathy			
Judy	Cross Plains	Kathy			
Justin	Brodhead	Wayne			
Katlyn	Cross Plains	Richard			
Lane	Lake Country	Lisa			
Lynette	Menomonee Falls	Larry			

Members Who Are Friends of Optimists

Member	Organization	Club
Shaun	Bottoms Up	SLLB
Dean	Choose Well Services	SLLB
Nate	Lannon Stone Foundation	SLLB

2021-2022 Optimist International Awards Immediate Past President: Patsy Gardner



“...What an amazing year we had celebrating Optimism in this 2021-2022 year. We laughed together, we worked hard together, we challenged each other to leave our campsite better than we inherited it...”

“...This past Optimist year, I challenged us all to be concentrate on serving the community thru various avenues of Optimism – with the ultimate goal of a +212 in Membership. We did not meet that goal, however as President Kennedy reminds us that choosing Optimism and Being Optimistic – is sometimes hard, but challenges us with a passionate intent to win. I believe we will reach that goal in the near future, and when we do – it will be One Giant leap for Optimism....”

Today, we recognize and celebrate the Members, Clubs, Zones, Districts, and Regions that reached a level of achievement in their communities. On behalf of Optimists, communities, and children throughout our world, I thank you for going One Degree More – and congratulate you in those accomplishments. Thank you for Being Optimists!”

2021-2022 Presidential Awards

- **Distinguished District:** Pacific Southeast, Pacific Central, GATEway, North Texas
- **Top Vice Presidents:** John Grover - Most New Clubs Built in Region, Highest Percentage of Membership Growth in Region, and Most Honor & Distinguished Districts in Region

212 One Degree More Awards

- **District:** Pacific Central, GATEway, North Texas
- **Lt. Governor:** Dee Frewert, Donna Johnson, Patrice Hanson
- **Club:** Reno, NV; Carrollton Inc., GA; Fort Worth-BFT East, TX; Bossier City, LA; Des Moines-Western-Noon, IA; Oviedo/Wintersprings, FL; Kingston-Harbour View, JA; George Town, Grand Cayman; Spalding, JA; New Harbour Village, JA
- **SWIS District Members:** George Breadon & John Wytttenbach

2021-2022 Honor Clubs

- **SWIS District Clubs:** Madison Downtown Optimist Club, Madison, WI

To view the full list of Distinguished Clubs and Honor Clubs, [click here](#).

Pass, Dribble and Shoot!!

It is not too late to plan your club's Tri-Star Basketball event. The Sun Prairie Optimist club is excited to plan the District Tri-Star Basketball competition again for the 2022-23 Optimist year. The SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball event will be on **Saturday, April 29, 2023** at **Prairie View Middle School** in **Sun Prairie**.

Tri-Star Basketball is for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 13. Club competitions can take place prior to the District competition between January and April. Kids compete against others in their own age and gender group in 3 skills: dribbling, shooting and passing. Clubs determine the awards that are given to the winners of each group. The first-place winners of each age group go to the District contest on April 29, 2023. The District contest will provide awards, a raffle, concessions and an opportunity to compete with other kids around the District.

If you have not secured a date or location for your event, now is the time to start. Looking for a new project? This would be a perfect project for your club. Materials were sent out earlier this year and were given out at Governor Jo'El's 1st quarter conference and to your Lt. Governors.

The SWIS District has a strong tradition of supporting local clubs who put on local Tri-Star contests. Our District-wide basketball competition each spring continues to be the largest gathering of kids at the district level.

Governor Jo'El's theme this year is "All Roads Lead to Optimism." Events like your club's Tri-Star basketball are an effective way to improve or provide a new program, motivate members, and provide growth in your community. This event will lead to amazing places. Eventually the road to this event is all about celebrating teamwork and providing opportunities for kids to be happy, confident and superheroes.

If I can ever be of service or answer questions for you, feel free to reach out to me.

Looking forward to April 29, 2023 at Prairie View Middle School in Sun Prairie starting at 9:00am!!!

Maureen Crombie
District Tri-Star Basketball Chair
608-576-5819
crombie0112@gmail.com

District Treasurer: Howard Crofoot
 Contact: treasurer@swisdistrict.org

IRS - 990: A Reminder to the Club Treasurers that the IRS-990 report for Optimist year 2021 - 2022 ending September 30, 2022 is due by February 15, 2023. For most clubs, it is relatively easy to fill out as the [IRS 990-N e-postcard](#).

Dues for JOI Clubs: As of January 8, we have six JOI clubs that are over 90 days past due. If you sponsor or support a local JOI club, please check your club bylaws to determine if the adult club assists the JOI club in paying dues and help them maintain current status with OI. Lt. Governors may check the Optimist Leaders website under Aging Report to see which adult and JOI clubs are in arrears.

Paying Online: Did you know that you can play club invoices by check or credit card online? See the screenshots and directions to find out how!

Did you know that you can pay Club invoices by check or credit card online?

It's easy!

STEP 1

Log on to www.optimistleaders.org.
 Enter the club number.
 Click Invoices/Payments.
 Select an invoice from the list.



STEP 2

At the bottom of the invoice, click the circle next to Checking/Savings or Credit Card, depending on how you would like to pay.



STEP 3

Click on Make an Invoice Payment. Follow the instructions from there!



It was another stellar season for Candy Cane Lane. Through the volunteering efforts of the Southwest Milwaukee Optimist Club, the Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club, and the Brew City Optimist Club, and various other individuals and community groups, **\$134,530.82** was raised for the MACC Fund this year!



Brodhead Optimist Club

Submitted by: Christine Diekhoff

The Brodhead Optimists have loved every minute of service we have engaged in since the slacking of the covid restrictions! This year we raised over \$5000 for cancer patients and research with our Pig, roast, put huge smiles on children's faces as they received pumpkins to decorate with stickers for the first time in Optimist history, proudly displayed the tattoos put on them at the Brodhead Family Festival, decorated awesome cookies at the Fire and Ice Festival and will win cash awards at the upcoming essay and oratorical contests! The club also enjoyed each other's company at various parties and gatherings. Below are photos from our very successful mitten tree giving event! The Optimist life is a great life! Live and enjoy it!



Optimist Club of McFarland

Club President: Penny Simmons

In November, the Optimist Club of McFarland honored Donovan Johnson-Pfaff with Senior of the Month. Donovan is very busy in extracurricular activities including: the Black Student Union (BSU), Multicultural Club, Connect, United Against Hate, P.A.C. Pack, and Link Crew. Outside of school, Donovan is involved in the Dane County Youth Social Justice Forum and the Wisconsin National Barrel Horse Association.

Donovan has been awarded the *Outstanding Young Person Award* which is sponsored by the Urban League of Madison and *Student of the Month* which is sponsored by the MSD Tech Department. After graduation, Donovan plans to attend UW-River Falls with an emphasis on Psychology & Social Work.

We are honoring Donovan with Senior of the Month after receiving two nominations one from Teacher Wendy Pliska and one from District Nurse Christin Strong. Wendy says: “Donovan is a bright, articulate, and passionate young man with an excellent bright future. He is co-President of BSU and leads his peers with courage and insight. He is also a representative in our We Are Many United Against Hate chapter. In his free time, he works at a ranch and participates in competitions.” Christin says: “In my few interactions with Donovan and many observations of Donovan with his peers, I have been very impressed. His energy and kindness were very evident during our Link activities for the Freshmen at the beginning of the year. Every time I have interacted with him, he is polite and respectful, even though he doesn’t know me. I have observed this respect for others repeatedly last year and this year, and I have noticed that he is a kind human and excellent example to both his peers and the younger students he mentors.”

Congratulations to our IMMS Students of the Month for November!

6th graders: Izzy Voss, Zachary Kuehl, Hannah Stolyarov, Grace Showalter, Max Hoyer, Libby Sampson, Connor Beaulieu, Cecelia Norgord, Kole Consigny and Liam Wallock.

7th graders: Parker Crye, Liam Wilkie, Simon Gamble, Dylan Deram, Nora Kolk, Taylor McMerty, Dom Kessenich, Riley Richards, Annie Verhagen and Eliana Pope.

8th graders: Rachel Stolyarov, Garrett Crull, Colin McKeowen, Allie Van Horn, Katerina Lodewyk, Caiden Howell, Alaina Strayer, Jayden Bloodsaw, Sky Anderson and Parker Roh.



Optimist Club of McFarland

Club President: Penny Simmons

Happy New Year! To celebrate 2023, let's take a moment to celebrate our top 10 Highlights for 2022:

1. Fund Craze earnings surpassed previous years.
2. Optimist BINGO returned to the McFarland Community Festival.
3. Our Club's first ever community-wide Diamond Necklace Fundraiser Raffle resulted in \$2,100 profit. The lucky winner of the necklace was Maureen Crombie, our SWIS District Lt. Governor!
4. Weekend Snack Sacks support from McFarland Community Sponsorships continues to grow with our outreach serving 40+ youth weekly.
5. Optimists & friends collectively volunteered over 450 hours at the LaBahn Concession stand during the 2021-2022 hockey season.
6. NetTrex Recycling Plastic Project is working toward collecting 500 pounds of plastic and reducing the amount going into landfills.
7. Cuddle up with a Book continues to provide literacy opportunities for all ages by distributing Pillow Sack & books to McFarland Food Pantry, schools, & other Dane County Service Agencies.
8. Bike Safety Event provided 80 youth with new helmets & awarded 3 youth with new bikes!
9. Honored 10 McFarland High School Seniors & over 70 IMMS Scholars and awarded scholarships (\$2000) to two graduating seniors.
10. Welcomed new Optimists to assist us with our good work: Arlene Bast, Becky Cohen, Geralyn Hurley, Pam Priegel & Nancy Weinger.

Madison Optimist Club

Submitted by: Vern Andren

At our November 7th meeting, Nickolas Hein gave us a marvelous presentation about the aerospace industry. He gave us a history of his travels and insights into the early days of the industry. Nick displayed how he is a leader, innovator and brilliant engineer. Nick has turned his retirement to one of his passions as a kid bicycle engineer.



On December 5th, we welcomed Lance Owens, Director of Artworking, to our meeting who gave a most outstanding presentation. Artworking helps artists and entrepreneurs with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since its inception in 2006, Artworking has helped about 40 individuals pursue meaningful careers.

Francesca Frisque, Manager of the Goodman Center Food Pantry, gave us a presentation at our member meeting on January 9th. The food pantry is housed at the Goodman Community Center which offers childcare, summer camps, older adult programs, health and social programming, teen employment, and so much more. The Goodman Center Food Pantry is open 3-days a week and offers both in-person and curbside shopping. On average, the Goodman Center Food Pantry serves 215 households per week. They are always accepting food and monetary donations, as well as volunteer support.



Sauk Trails Optimist Club

Submitted by: Bonnie Spindler



In November, the Sauk Trails Optimist Foundation presented two grants one to Logan's Hearts and Smiles grant and the second to the Miracle League.

STOC members wrapped presents at their November meeting. These presents were then handed out to youth during the Lussier Christmas Party on December 2nd. The event was attended by over 100 kids between the ages of 5 and 13. There was face painting, cookie decorating, a photographer, Santa, and, of course, the community dinner.



In December, Dr. Ian Cook presented on his experience in the Dominican Republic at the December 7th STOC meeting at Vintage Brewing. Dr. Cook, 89, has made nineteen medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic and hopes to make the twentieth humanitarian effort next year. Under severe and often harrowing circumstances, these surgeons performed fifty operations during the course of ten days. Dr. Cook is a resident of Oakwood Retirement Village and comes to us through the invitation of Jane Meyer. In this this inspirational meeting we learned the heartwarming story of those who risk themselves to share the gift of healing and goodwill



Sauk Trails Optimist Club hosted their annual Ornament Exchange at the Vintage Christmas Workshop on December 14th. In addition to spreading holiday cheer, STOC members also presented a donation to the Canine Service Academy.





Optimist Club of Sun Prairie
Submitted by: Maureen Crombie



The Optimist Club of Sun Prairie recently had their Pancake Breakfast with Santa. The orchestra performed during the event. Santa and the Art Room was a big hit with the kids. The Media Center was on hand to provide our event live on our radio station.



Sussex Lannon Lisbon Butler Optimist Club

Diane Matuszak

The Sussex Lannon Lisbon Butler (SLLB) had another busy quarter! They participated in fundraisers, celebrations, and a food pantry donation project! Great job as always!



SWIS District Club Stories

Wisconsin Heights Optimist Club

Sara Shackleton

2022 Brat Fry profits are \$1432.97! Thank you to all who helped out, especially Barb Blattner for heading up the effort. And thank you to Jill Adler and the Shoe Box for another successful fundraising season. Three brat fries were held. Gross receipts were \$1827.64 and expenses were \$434.67. Brat fry dates for 2023 are all Sundays: August 6, September 17, October 1, and October 15.

Penny Klein, retired head of the City of Middleton Parks Department, was our guest speaker on October 21. She spoke of her long and varied career as an environmentalist, park ranger, fire ranger and park administrator. She was among the first women in the field of land management and outdoor recreation.

We welcomed Jon Fons, past SWIS District Governor to our December 2nd meeting. Jon complemented our club for the work we with youth in our community. He believes the strength of Optimism in focus on local children and teens. He pointed out that for a small club we do a lot!

December 16, Todd Wuerger, Executive Director of then Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation spoke with us about the work the foundation does in the local area to promote health and wellness. He focused on project funded by the foundation in the Wisconsin Heights School District including, Wisconsin Heights Schools, Heights Unlimited, the Wisconsin Heights Community Gardens EMS District 1, and the Mazomanie Pool.

We sponsored Violet Bollenbach's attendance at the 2022 Wisconsin Leadership Seminar (WILS) on the campus of Carroll University in Waukesha, June 10-12. She sent us a thank you note which we shared in our club newsletter.

Optimist Club of Milwaukee

Club President: Barb Brinkmann

Here are a few great updates from the Optimist Club of Milwaukee (OCM)! First, they started their first Junior Optimist Club with the 6th graders at our partner Escuela Vieau. Big thank you to CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls for helping get started. Their first goal is to start a super recycling program, and their second will be to participant in an art contest in January.

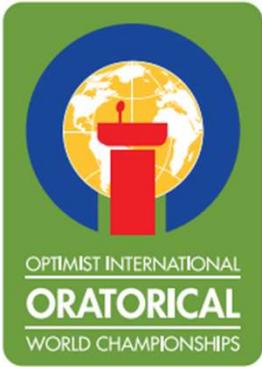
Monthly, the Optimist Club of Milwaukee continues their Youth of the Month series where they gift three youth each month with a certificate and a \$10 gift card. They partner with Escuela Vieau and Principal Mr. Radmanovic helps present the awards.

In October, OCM participated in a Trunk or Treat event that served 300 youth in Milwaukee. In December, the club donated money to the annual Three Kings event, an opportunity for families in need to enjoy a dinner and receive gifts. The Milwaukee Police Department District 2 gave OCM an award for their donation. Additionally, the Kosciuszko Community Center brought back their Breakfast with Santa event. Volunteers from both the Optimist Club of Milwaukee and Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club helped youth write letters to Santa, apply holiday tattoos, and hand out crafts and coloring sheets. The two clubs also got together again to respond to the letters as Santa's elves.





Provide Youth Optimist Programs in Your Community and Be a Superhero for Kids



Topic
"Discovering the Optimism within Me"

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the World Championships level

Oratorical Contest

Chair: Judy Metta
Planning Guide: [here](#)
Application: [here](#)
Oratorical Contact: [here](#)

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live.

The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

One District Scholarship of \$2,500



Topic
"Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?"



Essay Contest

Chair: Janet McGinty
Planning Guide: [here](#)
Application: [here](#)
Essay Contact: [here](#)



Topic
"Discovering the Optimism within Me"

COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

One District Scholarship of \$2,500

CCDHH

Chair: Judy Metta
Planning Guide: [here](#)
Application: [here](#)
CCDHH Contact: [here](#)

Optimist International

The 105th Optimist International Convention will take place in Arlington, VA from July 2nd to July 5th 2023!



Enjoy historic Arlington and a stone's throw Washington, DC as we celebrate Independence Day and another great year in Optimism!

Optimist International



EVERY OPTIMIST CLUB HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

EXERCISE YOUR CLUB'S RIGHT TO VOTE FOR THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, BOARD DIRECTORS & VICE PRESIDENTS!

Each and every Optimist Club can vote for International Officers online! To be able to vote for the next Optimist International President, two At Large Board Directors, and your Regional Vice President, your Optimist Club MUST be up to date in all Optimist International dues and fees by April 30, 2023.

Please make sure that your 2022-2023 Club President's email address is correct in the Optimist Membership database to ensure your Club receives the voting procedures this Spring:

- Go to <https://www.optimist.org/leaders>
- Login with Your Credentials (if you do not know your credentials, click on the "Forgot Password?" link, Select Yourself—confirm the email is correct or enter in the correct address.)

Club voting strength is one vote for 10 members or majority fraction thereof (6 or more) based on the numerical membership as of April 30, 2023.



Want to Serve as International President-Elect, on the International Board of Directors, or as an International Vice President? Click to find out how to self nominate.

CLICK HERE

MAKE VALUABLE CHANGES WITH BYLAWS PROPOSALS

Please take time to evaluate the Optimist International Bylaws to ensure they continue to effectively serve the organization. This process allows you and your Club to help shape and improve all of Optimist International. To recommend a revision, your Club must submit a proposed amendment citing the article(s) and section(s) and exact proposed wording change to the articles and sections cited, along with a written rationale in 200 words or less for the change. The Club must submit the proposal on Club letterhead signed by the Club President. The proposal may be emailed and/or faxed to the International Office, but the original Club letter must be received by the International Office for the proposal to be considered. All submitted changes will be brought before the International Convention delegates for vote and possible endorsement.

All proposed change submissions to the bylaws must be received at the International Office by 5:00 p.m. (CT) Monday, April 3, 2023 (no exceptions). Please submit to: Governance Committee, Optimist International, 4404 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 or dana.thomas@optimist.org.

OPTIMIST CLUBS SPEAK OUT THROUGH THE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

The Convention Resolution Process is a communications vehicle that can be used to your advantage. Resolutions can be submitted by clubs and should cover any aspect of the organization not already covered in the Bylaws.

The Resolutions Process

1. Clubs need to submit resolutions by Wednesday May 3, 2023 Year to the Governance/Resolutions Committee.
2. The Governance/Resolutions Committee will meet during the convention and choose the strongest resolutions to report to the convention delegates.
3. At one of convention business sessions, July 2-5, 2023, the Committee will present these resolutions for debate and vote by the convention delegates. (NOTE: Endorsed resolutions by convention delegates are non-binding and are sent to the International Board of Directors for further consideration and study.)

How to Submit Resolutions

Type resolutions on club stationery and include the Club name, number, and club president's signature. All resolutions are to be written in standard resolution format: Whereas . . . , Whereas . . . , Whereas . . . Be it resolved, that the Board of Directors of Optimist International is asked to consider . . .

Mail Resolutions To:
Resolutions Committee
Optimist International
4404 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108
USA

SWIS District Governor's Team 2022-2023

https://swisdistrict.org/resources/district_officers.asp



Jo'el Pearlman
Governor



Howard Crofoot
Treasurer
Finance Committee Club



Christine Diekhoff
Secretary
Fitness & Membership



Josh Zaidel
Leadership Development



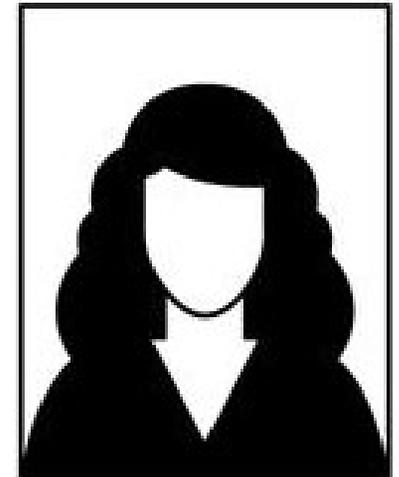
George Breadon
Childhood Health and Wellness



Lindsey and Terry Hyland
OI Foundation



CoryAnn St. Marie Carls
Junior Optimist International



Kathy Unger
Conference Chair

SWIS District Governor's Team (continued) 2022-2023

https://swisdistrict.org/resources/district_officers.asp



Janet McGinty
Essay Chair



Sean McGinty
Internet & Technology Chair



Marissa and Dr. Julio Rodriguez
OI Convention Ambassador



Vern Andren
New Club Building



Bonnie Spindler



Maureen Crombie
Website Co-Chairs



Amanda Szymkowski
Newsletter Editor



Tom Carls



Todd Paulus
Tri-Star Golf Co-Chairs

SWIS District Lieutenant Governors 2022-2023



Barb Brinkmann
Zone 1



Amy Soleimani Mafi
Zone 2
Club Fitness & Membership



Sherry Fickau
Zone 3
Finance Committee



Maureen Crombie
Zone 4
Tri-Star Basketball Chair



Wayne Dieckhoff
Zone 5



Kathie Newman
Zone 6



Fred and Maggie Dorn
Zone 7



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.

Writers, Readers, Photographers - Oh My!

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles and photos 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.
- **Feedback Appreciated:** I'd love to continue publishing what you want to read, so drop a note and let me know your thoughts.

Amanda Szymkowski
Editor, SWIS District Newsletter
amanda.szymkowski@gmail.com
(414) 202-4116

