



Optimist International WINUM DISTRICT

Third Quarter
Newsletter
March 2024

Governor Chuck's Message

Greetings, fellow Optimists!

Happy Spring! I love the Optimist energy in springtime. As long as the snow stays away, the trees will start budding, and flowers will bloom. Nature comes alive and fills us with the feeling of growth and new life. As the weather warms up, Optimist clubs will launch more programs for youth, including Oratorical and Essay Contests, Youth Appreciation, Respect for Law, fundraisers, and other outdoor activities. I would love to join you at your club's events. Please email me your event information; I will do my best to be there.

My challenge to all of you is to talk about your Optimist Club more. Invite friends and family to help with an Optimist Club event. Make sure you are including your membership form at every club event. Post pictures on your Facebook page and in your newsletters. Share your stories with your local newspaper or radio station. Wear your Optimist gear as you run your daily errands. Be an Optimist with a capital O.

Our third quarter conference will be May 3-4 in Appleton, Wisconsin. As an Appleton Noon Optimist Club member, I am so excited to host you all in my city. On Friday night, we will enjoy dinner at the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Stadium while celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Appleton Noon Optimist Club. Dinner starts at 5 pm, followed by the baseball game at 6:30 pm. On Saturday, we will host our WINUM District Oratorical Contest at our District Conference. We will have elections for our 2024-2025 District leaders at our Board of Directors meeting. We will also discuss how to grow our clubs in the WINUM District. I hope you will join me for an incredible conference.

I invite you to read through this newsletter and share it with your fellow Optimists. Our District leadership team has written some wonderful articles and updates. They have worked hard to create these resources for all of you. Conference registration information is also in this newsletter.

Thank you for being an Optimist! I appreciate all of you. I hope this newsletter's information and resources bring you some "Peace of Mind."

Governor Chuck Erickson, WINUM District
[920-585-4300](tel:920-585-4300)
chuck@CollegeConnectors.com



2023-24 Governor
Chuck Erickson



2023-2024 Inside this Issue

3rd Quarter Conference Agenda	2
3rd Quarter Conference Registration	3
Awards and Twigs Top 2nd Quarter Conf	4
Spring into Optimism: New Incentive Program for Clubs	5
Increase Membership & Spring into Optimism	5
OI Foundation Update	6
Register for OI Niagara Falls Convention	6
Leadership Co-Chairs: Optimist Institute	7
Junior Golf	7
JOI Report	8
Town Hall Meeting Notes	8
Save the Date	8
Free District Meeting Drawing Winner	8
Help Wanted	8
Zone Reports	9-13
2023-24 Leadership Team	13
Optimist Creed	13

WINUM DISTRICT 3rd QUARTER CONFERENCE

May 3-4, 2024

DoubleTree, 150 S Nicolet Road, Appleton, WI

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Friday, May 3, 2024

5:00pm - Dinner at Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Stadium, 2400 N Casaloma Dr, Appleton

Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Optimist Club of Appleton (reserve your spot on your conference registration)

6:30pm - Wisconsin Timber Rattlers baseball game

CONFERENCE WILL BE AT THE HOTEL

Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:00am - Past Governors' Breakfast (All past governors, governor-elect, and OI guests)

9:00am - Check In & Registration Open in hotel conference room

9:00am - Oratorical Competition Begins

9:00am - First Timers Meeting - If this is your first conference, we have a gift for you!

9:30am - Welcome & Introductions, Anthem & Pledge

9:45am - Meditation

10:00am - Board of Directors Meeting - All members of the District Executive Board and all Club Presidents (or their representatives) are voting members of the board and should be present to conduct any business of the district. **We will open the District elections for 2024-2025.**

10:45am - Cindy Reffke, Executive Director, [Prevent Suicide Fox Cities](#)

11:45am - Purchase Raffle Tickets

Noon - 2pm Lunch - Oratorical Awards & Optimist Foundation Raffle Baskets

2:00pm - Growth & Recruitment: Zones A, B, & C

3:00pm - General Session: - Updates from Committee Chairs and District Leaders

3:45pm - TOWN HALL Meeting

4:00pm - Optimist Creed & Farewell

WINUM 3rd Quarter Conference
May 3-4, 2024
Double Tree by Hilton, 150 S. Nicolet Rd
Appleton, WI 920-735-9955



Name	Address	City, State, Zip
E-mail address	Phone	Is this your first conference? _____
Club Name	Zone #	Your 2023-24 office (if any)

REGISTRATION INFO

		(\$5 late fee each item)		
	Advance	On Site	Number	Total\$
<u>Members</u>	(by April 27)			
Friday Night Appleton Club 75th Anniversary at the TimberRattlers				
_____ Buffet Dinner AND Game	\$35.00	n.a.	_____	_____
_____ <i>Game ONLY</i>	\$12.00	n.a.	_____	_____
_____ Registration & Saturday Lunch	\$50.00	\$55.00	_____	_____
<i>Menu: Taco Bar!</i>				
(all menus are subject to change)				

Spouse/Guest/Child (non-members) Name(s): _____

Friday Night Appleton Club 75th Anniversary at the TimberRattlers				
_____ Buffet Dinner and Game	\$35.00	n.a.	_____	_____
_____ <i>Game ONLY</i>	\$12.00	n.a.	_____	_____
_____ Saturday Lunch	\$25.00	\$30.00	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (Make checks payable to WINUM District) \$_____

TO REGISTER: Register on-line at www.WinumOptimists.org. Pay with a credit card thru PayPal OR indicate that you'll pay onsite. Then bring cash/check to the meeting! You can also snail mail your check & this form to: WINUM Conference Chair Laurel Schirmer, 1807 North 6 Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081

If you would like to request a special meal **due to specific food allergies** please indicate: YES NO
 Type of meal required: _____. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs.

If you have any questions, please call Laurel at 920-946-7246 or e-mail: schirmerlaurel@gmail.com

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Call the Double Tree at 920-735-9955 to reserve your room; Ask for the WI/ Upper MI Optimist room block. **NEW!** Book your room on the Double Tree website at <https://group.doubletree.com/lzyi2h>. Rate is \$119 + tax. **Rooms "unblock" April 3, 2024!**

Awards and Twigs Top Second Quarter Conference



**February 16-17, 2024
Boarders Inn & Suites
Shawano, WI**

CITRUS PICK-UP
THE ORIGINAL CITRUS PICK-UP ...SUN-DROP
THE ALL-PURPOSE FAMILY DRINK ...SUN-DROP
REFRESHING AS A CUP OF COFFEE



Spring Into Optimism: New Incentive Program for Clubs

Tammy Koehler -- 2023-24 Marketing Chair

Are you ready to welcome new members to your club? If so, you will love Optimist International's (OI) new incentive program: *Spring into Optimism!*

This program will encourage clubs to recruit new members during the months of March, April, and May by waiving the registration fee of \$15 for each new member added to their rosters. This is a great opportunity for clubs to save money and grow their membership, while also bringing new ideas and perspectives to their projects and activities.

How to Participate

Participating in this program is easy and simple. All you need to do is:

- *Fill out and submit the [official enrollment form](#) by **May 28, 2024**.
- *Add new members to your club between **March 1 and May 31, 2024**.
- *Ensure that the new members pay their dues in full by **September 30, 2024**. This will ensure that they are eligible for all the benefits and opportunities that our organization offers, such as attending District and International Conventions.

That's it! Once you complete these steps, you will be part of the *Spring into Optimism* program and enjoy the rewards of having a larger, more vibrant Club.

What are the Benefits?

By participating in this program, you will not only save money on registration fees, but also gain many other advantages, such as:

- ***More membership diversity:** Having new members from different backgrounds, with different experiences and perspectives, will enrich your Club's culture and foster a more inclusive environment.
- ***More creativity and innovation:** Having new members with fresh ideas and insights will spark your Club's creativity and innovation and help you tackle challenges and opportunities in new and better ways.
- ***More engagement and satisfaction:** Having new members who are eager and enthusiastic will boost your Club's engagement and satisfaction and make your club more attractive and enjoyable for everyone.

We hope that you are excited and inspired by this program and that you will join us in making it a success. This is a unique and valuable opportunity for your club to grow. Don't miss it! Thank you for being an Optimist and for making a difference in the world. We look forward to welcoming your new members to our organization. Let's spring into Optimism together!



Tammy Koehler



Increase Membership and Spring Into Optimism

Ann Sheahan -- 2023-24 Membership Chair

Our District is making strides in membership this quarter. If every club can recruit one new member, we can have a positive membership number. As you can see in Tammy's article above, Optimist International is helping us out through the *Spring into Optimism* incentive. [Filling out the questions](#) takes about 45 seconds at most; it is very easy: 1) Club Name 2) Club Number 3) Club goal for new members - (If you don't know what your membership goal is, pick something attainable and then exceed it!) 4) What resources would help you to be successful? You can check all 5 boxes or ones that apply. 5) Contact person. SUBMIT! It is that EASY!



Ann Sheahan

The catch to a positive membership is to not delete any members. Easier said than done, right? Not really: You can take a few steps to keep your deletes to a minimum. 1) If you have a member that is looking to resign, please have a conversation with them. Why are they leaving? What can we do better or different? You may not get them to stay but you may prevent another member from leaving if you listen and then act upon any suggestions given (within reason). 2) If a member does leave, replace them ASAP. Get another member added to the roster.

It's not always about the numbers, it's about making your members feel welcome, needed, and valued. Another member is another set of hands to help your club be Optimistic with a capital "O". Just ask someone *today*.

OI Foundation Update

Troy Dostal -- 2023-24 Optimist International Foundation Representative

Greetings from Optimist International Foundation (OIF) District Rep Troy,

Thank you for everybody that contributed to the Dime-A-Day at 2nd Quarter! Zones 1 and 2 seem to have a healthy challenge to see which zone can have the most members on the Dime-A-Day list. You too can join that challenge and get on the list by donating \$36.50 during the Optimist Year (October 1-September 30th). Donations can be given to me with the form: [dime-a-day-form.pdf \(oifoundation.org\)](#), or by going to www.oifoundation.org/donate.cfm.



Troy Dostal

Please also remember that in addition there are other levels of giving as well. One of the benefits of donating to the OIF is that they are able to give money back in the form of scholarships and club grants and for other areas such as Childhood Health and Wellness. More information on the ways to donate and club grants can be found at: [Optimist International Foundation \(oifoundation.org\)](http://Optimist International Foundation (oifoundation.org)). I was excited to see that some clubs took advantage of applying for the Club Grants. I wish them all the best in getting selected. If selected, they are eligible to receive between \$250-\$1,000.

We will be seeing some incredible students at the 3rd Quarter Conference for the Oratorical Contest and hopefully we will have the Essay Contest winners there as well to read their essays. They do an amazing job. These winners are awarded scholarships from OIF because of donations from WINUM District Members. Thank you!

Please remind your clubs to bring baskets to the 3rd Quarter Conference for the foundation raffle. Also remember that since there will be youth attending, that the baskets should be age appropriate. Some great ideas could include: plants or planting themed, coffee, chocolate, wellbeing/relaxation, snacks/desserts, smores basket, more chocolate, etc. Thank you WINUM District for all the support you have shown the OIF. If you have questions, contact me at dostalt@live.com or 715.531.5085

Registration Open for International Convention



106th Optimist International Convention

June 22-26, 2024

Great news! The online registration form for the 106th Optimist International Convention is live!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)


To view the convention schedule or book your hotel, go to the [OI convention web page](#). [Watch this video from OI International President Tracy Huxley](#).

Stay tuned for more exciting news including information about the multiple keynote speakers.

Turn every event into a recruiting opportunity!

Spring is in the air and the membership incentive waiving the new member processing fee runs through May.

it's the perfect time to have a N.O.W. meeting!

[CLICK HERE](#)  for more information

3 Steps to Success:

- Show them what you do
- Tell them why you do it
- Watch your membership grow



Leadership Development Co-Chairs: Optimist Institute

Sue Van Dreser and Bonnie Ciesielski --
2023-24 Leadership Co-Chairs

Happy Spring WINUM Optimists!

Your Leadership Development team has been actively assisting members with the completion of online officer training on the Optimist Institute. Thank you to all who have completed training sessions. Your clubs will benefit from your dedication and effort. It has been a bit of a bumpy and confusing ride, but we are staying focused on our WINUM District goal to encourage and engage more member participation with the Institute. We have decided to go ahead with our original Optimist Institute Challenge with just a few updates.



Sue Van Dreser



Bonnie Ciesielski

This prize will complete the Foundation requirement for Honor Club.

Please note that Honor Club requires officers to complete all required training sessions (4 or 5 sessions depending on the office held) by March 31st.

- If 10 club members complete a training, your club will get 2 entries into the OIF drawing. **You will submit a list of additional club members to Sue Van Dreser at kayaksvd@gmail.com.** (This will be on the honor system as not all training sessions give completion certificates and OI only tracks officer training).
- All *individual members* who complete a training session on the Institute will have their name put into a separate drawing for various prizes. All winners will be announced at WINUM Convention in Eau Claire in August.

How to complete the challenge

- Club presidents, secretaries, and treasurers will have an opportunity to attend a ZOOM meeting introducing them to the Optimist Institute. We can get you started, so you can complete your training and assist other club members. There will also be an opportunity for members to attend a “get me started” ZOOM session.
- You will need your Club Number and Member Number
- Tip Sheets on how to register as a new user or to renew your account are available. The passcode is also provided on the sheet (CLUB2324).

WINUM Leadership Development: Optimist Institute Participation Challenge UPDATE

Contest Duration – November 2023 to **May 12, 2024**

Goal - to get more member interaction on the Optimist Institute (As an Honor Club Requirement - Club Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, and Foundation Reps need to complete their training on the Institute.)

- Between now and **May 12th** – Club Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Foundation Rep) will complete their respective officer training session on the Institute to get their club’s name entered into a drawing for a \$100.00 donation to Optimist International Foundation in the club’s name.

Junior Golfers Invited to Compete in the 2024 OI WINUM District Qualifier

CONTACT: BEN SORENSEN 906-396-9563

DATE: Thursday, June 6, 2024 TIME: Registration at 8:00am, Tee times start at 9:00am

GOLF COURSE INFORMATION: Name: Mid Vallee Golf Course

Address: 3850 Mid Valley Dr, De Pere, WI 54115

Phone: (920) 532-6644

Golf Course Website: <https://www.midvallee.com/>

REGISTRATION COST: \$45

REGISTRATION WEBSITE: <https://firstteenew.org/calendar/events/local-optimist-international-qualifier/>

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

- Top young competitors can qualify to move on to compete in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships in late July at Trump National Doral Resort in Miami, Florida. From the district-level tournament, two qualifying golfers from each age division will be able to advance to the international tournament.
- Registration will take place online through First Tee Northeast Wisconsin’s website; https://firsttee.my.site.com/parentRegistration/s/?language=en_US&website=www.firstteenew.org.
- For more information, please contact Ben Sorensen at 906-396-9563.
- The video link, from Optimist International, below illustrates the value all golfers get by competing in this event. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmdI04x40ZY&t=2s>
- How you can help: Distribute this flyer to your club members, local schools and any other way to promote the event. Sign up to volunteer at the event. Offer any other suggestions to help improve the success of this event.



Junior Optimist International Report

Judy Goodchild - 2023-24 JOI Chair



Judy Goodchild



Supporting a Junior Optimist International (JOI) is one of the most rewarding ways an Optimist Club can help and work in a community. You can support a club for the middle school or high school level students. Like the adult clubs, these can be structured to work in your communities.

WINUM District currently has seven JOI clubs on the roster. Not all rosters are up to date, making it difficult to contact the clubs. I would love to hear from all the clubs, and learn what they are working on. JOI clubs currently on the Optimist International Roster are: Antigo, Merrill, Wausau, DC Everest, West HS in Green Bay, Two Rivers, and Kewaunee.

If your club sponsors a JOI club, consider:

- Submitting an article for the next newsletter, sharing with the membership the activities your JOI club is doing and
- When a district meeting is in your area, bring some JOI club members and do a short presentation on their activities.

If your club is interested in starting a JOI club, I am available to help you with that! Thank you for all you do for the youth in your community. Contact me at goodchildmom@gmail.com or 920.794.4787 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

2023-2024 WINUM 3rd Quarter Conference
May 3-4th, Double Tree, 150 Nicolet Road, Appleton, WI

2023-2024 WINUM 4th Quarter Convention
Aug 16-17th Sleep Inn, 5872 33rd Ave, Eau Claire, WI
Newsletter Articles Due Date: July 6

3rd Quarter Winner Chosen

Laurel Schirmer -- 2023-24 Conferences & Convention Chair

Governor Chuck Erickson is continuing the "free district meeting" prize drawing that was created last year. This prize includes free registration for a member and guest, free Saturday lunch for both individuals, AND one hotel room for one night.



Laurel Schirmer

So many clubs don't attend District meetings. Think about the CONNECTIONS that members can make there! Think about the ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT a struggling club could receive! Think about the fundraising and project IDEAS that a club member could learn about and implement in their community! Why wouldn't one person use the opportunity presented by a FREE experience of joining us at a conference?

The drawing for the 3rd Quarter 'CONFERENCE PRIZE PACKAGE' worth approximately \$250 was held at the 2nd Quarter Conference in Shawano in February.

Congratulations to the winner...the Bloomer Area Optimist Club! Hopefully, we'll be seeing some new faces from their club at the 3rd Quarter Conference in Appleton May 3-4.

Town Hall Meeting Notes

Luke Kolstad -- 2023-24 Tech Co-Chair

2nd Quarter Conference

February 16, 2024

- Participants enjoyed the recap of the conference at the beginning of the Town Hall meeting
- Please continue to send the reminder email before the conference about what to bring and what to expect
- Encourage people to offer rides to other club members in order to get more participation
- Helpful to know that the Board of Directors discusses how our District dues are spent
- Can we work to make our conferences more environmentally friendly? Have reusable or compostable plates?
- Always great to learn about the various programs and activities that Optimist International has to offer for clubs
- Can we have a table rotation of different topics at a future conference?
- Is it possible to make a video of the Oratorical and Essay Contest winners?



Luke Kolstad

Website Volunteer Needed!

Can you enter items on a website? Would you like to volunteer your services to the WINUM District about an hour a month on this important Optimist communications tool? Contact Governor Chuck for more information at chuck@collegeconnectors.com. Thanks!

Zone Reports

ZONE 1 Lt. Governor: Gale Haas

Chippewa Falls: The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club was recognized as a 2022-23 Honor Club at the Second Quarter conference. They are one of two clubs in the WINUM District to achieve this status!



Lt. Gov. Gale Haas



The club celebrated International Optimist Day with a club photo of everyone wearing their Optimist shirts (*pictured above*), and then spreading random acts of Optimist kindness in the community.

The top three essay contest winners read their essays at the club meeting on Feb. 21, winners are shown in photo on right. On Feb. 15, the club prepared and served a delicious dinner at Agnes Table, a community meal. The club also continues to recognize Youth of the Month and have weekly speakers.



They are holding an evening Spring Fling/NOW Meeting on April 24 featuring pizza and social time.

Hallie Optimist Club: Spring has sprung in Hallie Optimist Club. Since the last newsletter, this club has added two new members, Anastacia Stueber and Dave Zschernitz.

The club had three students from Liberty Christian School receive medallions and award certificates for the top 3 essays in their Essay Contest. *Pictured are the volunteers and judges for the contest.* Scholarships are coming in and will be read, evaluated, and awarded by the committee at a later date. On Saturday, March 30, 2024 the Easter



Bunny will be at their annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at Lake Hallie Town Hall from 8:00 am- 1:00 pm. Smiles appear as the kids see the fire engine in the parking lot, and the laughter of children and families will fill the spring air with the jubilee of the Easter season.

Menomonie Optimist Club: Menomonie Club recognizes 18 Youth of the Month over the nine-month school year. Two youth each month, with parents, and teacher are invited to Exit 45 Restaurant for a club breakfast. After the teacher explains why this youth was picked to be recognized by the school, members give them a standing ovation and a plaque with the Optimist Creed and their names, month, and school listed. Menomonie has been doing this for the 30 years, and leaves them with a true sense of hope and just plain good feeling about the youth, schools, and parenting in the four high schools of Dunn County.

ZONE 2 Lt. Governor: Shannon Dalton



Lt. Gov. Shannon Dalton

Antigo Optimists On January 23, the Antigo club held their annual Tree Burn and Food Pantry Food Drive. It took place at the Antigo High School on the southeast edge of the gravel parking lot (*see photo below*). Hot dogs and hot chocolate were available on this beautiful evening. Baskets were set up to collect food and monetary donations to the Antigo Area Community Food Pantry.



Tree burn in Antigo

Everest Area Optimists just wrapped up the Essay and Oratorical contests for their club. Their club recently restructured the scholarship amounts to be \$500 for first place descending down to \$100 for 5th place for both contests. That means this club awarded \$3,000 for these two scholastic contests.

Everest Area Optimists also have a Student of the Month at each meeting where they hear from them personally about their high school accomplishments and future plans. The students each receive a scholarship as well. This year the club is on track to give out a little over \$10,000. Future plans include Tri -Star Basketball, and the same day they are dropping off Easter eggs at houses of people who sign up for

Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 9

them to “Egg My House”. Their Bike Rodeo is coming up in May as well. Busy time for the Everest club.

Merrill Noon Optimists:

Thirteen members of the Optimist club and Merrill citizens were lucky enough to take the Merrill-Go-Round historic bus tour (photo on right). It’s called the Nickel Tour (so named because the original cost to ride in 1921 was 5 cents). The guided tour followed the route of the original trolley. The streetcars ran until 1921, when a fire in the car barn destroyed and damaged the entire fleet. Wisconsin Valley Electric Co., which owned the company, replaced them with motor buses. Merrill celebrated 100 years of motorized buses in 2021.



Wausau Noon Optimist Club: The Wausau Noon Club was busy with the Tri-Star basketball tournament that hosts around 90 teams from around the state. Local schools' gyms are used for this event and it is quite an undertaking. They have speakers at every meeting.

This club held their Oratorical and Essay contests and gave out \$300 scholarships for first place, \$200 for seconds and \$100 for thirds in both contests. They started this back up a couple years ago, thanks to Mary Kuss, for bringing that back and for chairing the District Oratorical Contest coming up in May at the Third Quarter conference.

ZONE 3 OPEN [Contact Governor Chuck](#) if interested.

ZONE 4 Lt. Governor: Dan O’Leary

Allouez Optimist Club: The Allouez Club has been working on their annual AllouezFest Family Picnic and Car Show, which is being held on June 9, 2024, at Green Isle Park Allouez. [Check their Facebook page for miscellaneous posts and pictures of the event.](#)



Lt. Gov. Dan O’Leary

This is the club’s one major fund raiser for the year. They generate funds thru car registration, vendors, food sales, 50/50 raffle and a raffle ticket sales event. If anyone would like to buy a raffle ticket, please contact the club. They cost \$100 per ticket and the prizes are fantastic! They have the following categories to win: one \$5,000, one \$1,000, one \$500 and 77 \$200!

Optimist Club of Howard-Suamico: The Howard Suamico Club held their Annual Whitetail Unlimited Fundraiser on March 12. The event drew over 275 outdoor enthusiasts this year and their expectations were met! A big round of thanks to the 22 club members who turned out to sell tickets and help with individual auction items, and to WINUM Governor Chuck and Luke Kolstad for attending this year.

Please mark your calendars now for the 3rd annual Hit the Trails



5K Run/3K Walk on September 7. *Pictured above are some of the participants from last year.* Join the club for another great day of smiling faces and wonderful fun! [Sign Up Here.](#)

Here are some other upcoming events: Semi Annual Daddy ‘D’s’ Fundraiser – May 1, first Semi-Annual Meat Raffle – May 19, and First Annual Cornhole (Bags) Tournament – August 31. The club is hosting the Bags Tournament in conjunction with the Village of Howard’s 60th Incorporation Celebration at the beautiful new Howard Commons. There will be live music, food by the famous Howard Suamico Optimist Chefs, and three days of fun. So if you are able, join them this summer for great fun, smart talk and some good food!

ZONE 5 Lt. Governor: Brenda Wolff

The Green Bay Preble Optimist Club just completed their annual donation process where \$90,000 was given to 23 non-profit groups in their area. Each member was allocated \$2,000 to be given to the group of their choice. As part of the \$90,000, \$10,000 was used for scholarships at NWTC and funds were also used to support Kids with Disabilities Night at Bay Beach, Shop with a Cop, bike helmets for kids through childhood safety and Cops & Bobbers event with the



Lt. Gov. Brenda Wolff

Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 10

Boys & Girls Club. Over the past 10 years, the club has donated over \$500,000 to area youth-related groups in need.

Members of the Preble Optimist Club helped out answering phones at the Cerebral Palsy Telethon on Sunday, March 3, as pictured on right. In addition to answering phones the Preble Optimist also presented a check to Cerebral Palsy.



ZONE 6 Lt. Governor: Colleen Sheahan

The **Brillion Optimist Club** annual Electric Parade will be held June 7 at 8:30 pm in conjunction with Brillion Fest weekend activities. The club is hoping for the return of eight marching bands, four of those are contracted (cost-share) in coordination with the Appleton Flag Day Parade, held on June 8.



Lt. Gov. Colleen Sheahan

The \$1,000 Optimist Volunteer Scholarship applications are available. Graduating students pursuing *any* post-secondary education are eligible, grade-point average is not considered. What is required is a four+ year history of volunteering for the club, church and community along with a 250-word essay on "What you learned while volunteering for the Brillion Club and how you will apply those lessons in your future."

The club also has an upcoming N.O.W. Meeting and is planning a new venue for members and guests with a mini golf challenge at new local course Braun's Deer Run.

Chilton Optimist Club: This club is getting ready for the Easter Egg Hunt that will be held on March 30. They are all being optimistic that they will be able to have it outside at a local park. If not, it will be at Chilton Middle School. It is always a great turnout, and every child goes home with plenty of candy and a gift of some sort. The club also gives away three bikes: one for a girl, one for a boy and a tricycle.

Kewaunee Optimist Club: The Storm Snack Pack Program is packing 85 bags each week. There were two participants in the club's Oratorical Contest. One will be at District Conference in

May.

April 16 is the annual Academic Breakfast for Kewaunee High School Seniors with Joel Kitchens as the guest speaker. June 1 is Bike Rodeo (bike safety).

The **Kiel Optimist Club** continues to be active in the community of Kiel. A committee has been formed to select two Kiel High School Scholarship recipients. The club's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held March 30 at Hingiss Park. In partnership with the Kiel Lion's Club, plans are well underway for the Kiel Community Picnic, which will be held August 8-11.

New Holstein: The New Holstein Optimist Club recently held a Tri-Star Basketball Competition. Seven kids will be going on to the District Competition in Fond du Lac in April. The club continues to sponsor Husky Hangouts for 6, 7, & 8th grades with three more to be held this spring.

Monetary donations were made to the New Holstein Elementary School's Library Makerspace Wishlist and to the New Holstein Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA)'s 'Stock the Shelves' project which funds supplies for school district kids to succeed at school.

Work has begun on New Holstein's largest fundraiser of the year, the Brat Fry on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend at Honeymoon Acres, area greenhouse. The club welcomed a new member in March.

Two Rivers: The Two Rivers Optimist Club is gearing up for their busy spring and summer. Some of the upcoming activities will be their annual Easter Egg Hunt with 4,000 eggs and over 100 prizes. The Easter Bunny is in attendance as well, *see picture on right.*

The club will be sponsoring a Bike Rodeo Safety Skills course in conjunction with the Police Dept. and the Recreation Dept. Two lucky children will win a free bike, and all will be given a new free bike helmet. They also sponsor the Great Bike Give A Way in July with donations from the community of brand new bikes, they hope to meet or exceed 125 new bikes donated this year; and of course all receive a new bike helmet too.



Two Rivers plans to have a meat raffle this spring to help fund these projects. They still have monthly night meetings with very interesting and educational speakers and quarterly they have a social for members and any potential new members.

Cont. on Page 12

Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 11

This club also sponsors a JOI club at the local high school, *in photo on right*, and they are extremely active! Club members help at their events, and they are always there to help the club with theirs.



ZONE 7 Lt. Governor: Tom Binish

Appleton Noon Optimist Club: What has Appleton Noon Optimist Club been up to? The short and sweet answer is raising money and giving it back to programs that support youth: Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley (\$2,000), YMCA of the Fox Cities (\$5,000), Greenville Civic Club (500), Fox Cities Salvation Army (\$500), and Friends of the Butterfly Garden (\$1,500). Those dollar amounts and commitment are due to hard work and devotion to Optimism...something the Appleton club is never short on.



Lt. Gov. Tom Binish

The Appleton Noon Club turns 75 on March 29, so mark your calendars and plan on attending the meeting at 4:30 pm at the Hilton Paper Valley Clubhouse to congratulate them for this awesome achievement! Plans are for the Mayor of Appleton to proclaim this date as "Optimist Day".

Coming up are Youth Appreciation in April, Law Appreciation Day, and in June – their biggest fundraiser – the 2024 golf outing.

Plus, mark your calendars, the Appleton Noon Club is hosting the WINUM 3rd Quarter Conference! They want to see everyone there!

Greenleaf Wrightstown Optimist Club:

A group of 12 Wrightstown High School students received the 2024 Optimist Youth Appreciation Awards in late January (*in photo above*). They are so deserving! Congrat-



ulations, too, to the Greenleaf Wrightstown Optimists for devoting time to honor our youth.

To celebrate Easter, they are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and Jr Optimist Bake Sale on March 30 at Wrightstown Middle School. They hope the turnout is huge and smiles larger than life! A special thank you to WHS School Counselor Mike Olson and to the event Guest Speaker WINUM Governor Chuck Erickson.

The 2024 Essay Winners and families were treated to a Pizza Dinner on February 15, capping off another successful event. First place went to Zoe Bratz, second place to Elise Kola and third place to Max Reignier. Congratulations to you all!

Hilbert Potter Optimist Club: President Tammy Koehler reports that plans are under way for an April 28 Bingo event in Potter. Doors open at noon and bingo is 1-4 pm. *Bingo photo on the right.*



The club continues to support the Tri-Star Sports Competition which was held on March 5th in the high school gym.

The **Sherwood Optimist Club** . The Sherwood Optimist Club hosted their first Meat Raffle on February 5. The event was a success and raised money to support programs for the youth and community. Sound like another is in the works!

ZONE 8 Lt. Governor: Ben Elsner

Fond du Lac Evening Optimist Club: The 47th Annual Evening Optimist Father's Day Antique Car & Truck Show will be held on June 16 at the Fond du Lac Fairgrounds. Registration is from 7:30 am-noon, with trophies awarded at 2 pm. This is one of the major fundraisers for the club throughout the year.



Lt. Gov. Ben Elsner

In the photo on right, Marie and Tom Scannell accept a donation from HUI manufacturing. A great big thank you to Matt Scannell & HUI Manufacturing for their donation.



North Fond du Lac Club Is helping with the District Tri-Star competition on April 13. They will hold their 4th annual Optimist Club Golf Fundraiser on June 14. They

2023-2024

OI Leadership Team

OI President:

Tracy Huxley

OI Vice President-Great Plains,

Mark Fielmann

WINUM Executive Team:

Governor: Chuck Erickson

Governor Elect: Angie Riemer

Immediate Past Governor:

Tammy Koehler

Past Governor: Troy Dostal

Treasurer: Mark Sprangers

Secretary: Roni Kaczor-Smith

Gov. Advisor: Jann Van Dreser

Committee Chairs:

Communications/Newsletter:

Louise Bentley

District Conferences &

Convention: Laurel Schirmer

Essay Contest: Shannon Dalton

Finance Chair: Tammy Koehler

First Timers/Photography:

Mary Joan O'Leary

Growth Chair: Greg Goodchild

Hospitality: Deb Braden &

Angie Riemer

Int'l Convention Ambassador:

Tammy Koehler

JOI & College Clubs:

Judy Goodchild

Jr. Golf: Ben Sorensen

Leadership Dev: Sue Van Dresser

& Bonnie Ciesielski

Marketing: Tammy Koehler

Membership Engagement:

Ann Sheahan

OI Foundation Rep:

Troy Dostal

Oratorical Contest:

Mary Sue Edens Kuss

Qualifications Committee:

Troy Dostal

Technology: Gary Sheahan &

Luke Kolstad

Tri-Star: John Leonhard

Webmaster: Andrew Schlagel

Lt. Governors:

Zone 1: Gale Haas

Zone 2: Shannon Dalton

Zone 3: OPEN

Zone 4: Dan O'Leary

Zone 5: Brenda Wolff

Zone 6: Colleen Sheahan

Zone 7: Tom Binish

Zone 8: Ben Eisner

Zone Reports *Cont. from Page 12*

are holding an Easter Egg Hunt on March 30 from 9-11 am.



BackPack Buddies organization stopped by a meeting recently. These ladies, *pictured above*, along with other volunteers, organize, pack, and deliver food to students in K-5th grades who might not have enough food at home for their weekends.

Plymouth Optimist Club: The Student of the Year banquet will be held in April.

Sheboygan Optimist Club: The Optimist Club of Sheboygan started a year of celebration. On February 29, the club celebrated its 100th birthday. They had the honor of having Governor Chuck join them for an evening social and talk about the past and the future of Optimism and the club.

The club recently "stuffed" plastic Easter eggs with candy or toys. The eggs were hidden at the Mead Library for the Easter Egg hunt on March 23. This is a fun event for the kids and a continuation of their relationship with the library.

They will again be working with Longfellow Elementary School as they wrap up another year. Their biggest event of the year is Back to School Basics school supply event. The planning of this year's B2SB's day is just beginning, and they are always looking for additional funding and volunteers.

As part of their 100th year, the club is looking to install a plaque to provide information of the history and sponsorship of Optimist Park. The club is also looking at expanding the play equipment at the park along with benches so the adults can relax as the kids play.

A new event for the club, in honor of their 100th anniversary, they have purchased about 120 coats, to donate this fall to one of the Coats for Kids programs in Sheboygan. They are also planning another visit by comedian John McGivern this fall.

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 fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

--Optimist International



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