



Optimist International WINUM DISTRICT

Third Quarter
Newsletter
March 2025

Governor Angie's Message

Dear Optimist,

It's time for the clocks to spring ahead. Spring can't be far behind. It is also time for our conference in Stevens Point. Immediate Past Governor Chuck's awards banquet will be Friday evening April 25. Let's be there and cheer all his great accomplishments. Hospitality Chair Deb has some great food planned as well.

Saturday will be fun filled with the Essay and Oratorical Contest winners presenting at noon. Our speaker will be from the Salvation Army, and we are asking you to bring a new pair of socks to donate to the Salvation Army in Stevens Point. Just for fun, bring an item that is special to you to talk about during Show and Tell. Lots of decisions to be made at the General Session, we need your input. Please plan to attend.

Also, the window for the Optimist Institute is quickly closing. You have until March 31 to complete your training so [click here](#) to get it done. Remember this is a requirement for Honor Club.

Getting our ducks in a row!!

Angie angiecolfax@aol.com

A Word from the Gov's Assistant Duckster

The sun is shining by Lake WINUM, and I fall asleep on the shore watching the groups of "opti ducks" skim across the surface. They have increased the numbers in their groups and have been helping others along the way. I was startled awake to see some "opti ducks" on shore, out of their element, waddling along on the shore. They all seem to be led by a "president duck" and a group of "board ducks" as they waddle up to a group of frogs in the marsh grass encouraging each other to "just ask", so one rather outspoken duck, know-it-all (let's call him Romy) yells out to the frogs, "Hey You Want To Be Ducks" !!!

All the other ducks yelled at him for asking the wrong question! The right question is, "Hey you want to be an Optimist with us?" As I watched and listened, they explained to all the other creatures in the water, on the land and in the air that we all can work together for all youth and our community by joining an Optimist Club in the big lake of life.

Think outside of your pond and recruit others not like yourselves.

Your Governor's Assistant Duckster,
Romey "you quack me up" Wagner romey.wagner@gmail.com



2024-25 Governor
Angie Riemer



2024-2025 Inside this Issue

2nd-3rd Quarter Conference Registration	2
2nd-3rd Quarter Conference Updates	3
2nd-3rd Quarter Conference Agenda	4
OI Foundation Update	5
Membership Update	6
Time to Register for the OI Convention	6
Junior Golf Qualifier	7
Oratorical Contest	8
How to Bring Your Club new JOI	8
Have You Completed Optimist Institute?	9
Tri-Star Basketball Skills Contest	9
Save the Date	9
Zone Reports	10-15
2024-25 Leadership Team	15
Optimist Creed	15



2024-25 Assistant
Romey Wagner

WINUM 2nd/3rd Quarter Conference
 April 25-26, 2025
 Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Ave
 Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715-344-0200)



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL



Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____
 Is this your first conference? _____

Club Name _____ Zone # _____ Your 2024-25 office (if any) _____

REGISTRATION INFO

	Advance (by Apr 19th)	On Site	Number	Total \$
(\$5 late fee each item)				
Members				
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration & Saturday Lunch <i>Menu: soup/salad/sandwich buffet</i> <small>(all menus are subject to change)</small>	\$50.00	\$55.00	_____	_____
Spouse/Guest/Child (non-members)	Name(s): _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Lunch	\$25.00	\$30.00	_____	_____

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

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER:

1. Register on-line at www.WinumOptimists.org. Pay with a credit card thru PayPal.
2. Register on-line at www.WinumOptimists.org and indicate that you'll pay onsite. Then bring cash/check to the meeting!
3. 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

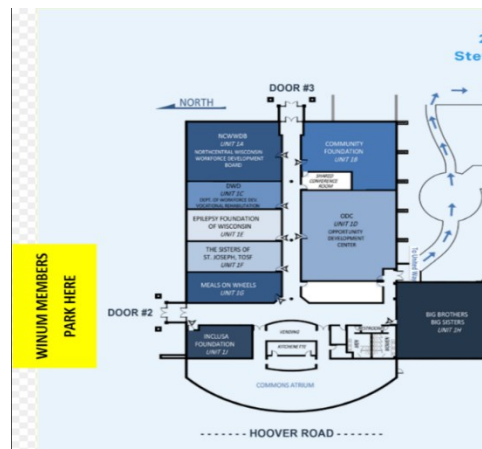
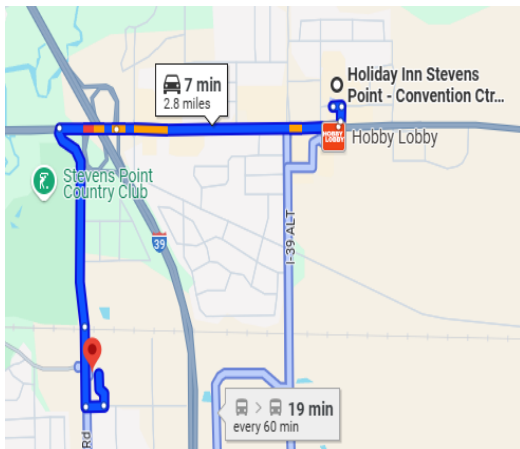
ROOM RESERVATIONS: Call the Holiday Inn Convention Center (715) 344-0200, Press #1 to reserve your room. Use the group name "WINUM" or Group block code: NUM. Rate is \$113.99 + tax. **Rooms "unblock March 26, 2025!"**

WINUM 2nd/3rd Quarter Conference Update

Friday, April 25: Celebrate the achievements of Governor Chuck Erickson's "Peace of Mind" year at The Commons Non-Profit Center, 2801 Hoover Road in Stevens Point. Awards for the 2023-2024 Optimist year will be presented in the facility's beautiful Atrium! We'll also enjoy the district hospitality room at The Commons from 6-9pm. (This is a change from previous years – in the past, we've held an Awards Luncheon at the 2nd quarter conference. Hopefully, our Honor and Distinguished Clubs can make plans to be present on Friday night to be recognized!!)



The venue is 2.8 miles from the hotel. Take Hwy 10 West to Country Club Drive. (Becomes Hoover Rd). There is access from Hoover Rd into The Commons front parking lot or turn on Coye Drive to access the parking lot (as shown on the map below). Attendees will want to park at the North end of the building and enter through door #2.



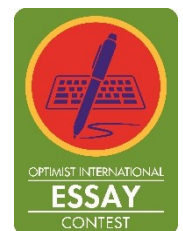
(The Commons houses nine non-profit agencies, providing shared spaces and resources. Big Brothers/Big Sisters is one of those agencies – and the Executive Director, Dawn Cherek, happens to be President of the Stevens Point Noon Club! Thanks, Dawn, for securing this space for our use!!)



Saturday, April 26th:

What is the #1 requested item for any organization serving the homeless population? SOCKS!!! Please bring SOCKS for kids and adults to the conference. We'll be donating all socks to the Stevens Point Salvation Army.

REMINDER: Essay and Oratorical winners will be participating in our luncheon. Listening to the kids is the BEST!! (Reminder: **OIF Raffle Baskets should be appropriate for kids!**)



Make your reservations BEFORE MARCH 26th!! Call the Holiday Inn at 715-344-0200, Press 1 and follow the prompts to reserve your room. Use the group name "Winum" or Group Block Code: NUM.



**WINUM DISTRICT 2ND & 3RD QUARTER CONFERENCE
AGENDA
April 25-26, 2025**

Friday: The Commons Non-Profit Center, 2801 Hoover Road, Stevens Point

Saturday: Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715) 344-0200

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Friday, April 25, 2025 The Commons Non-Profit Center, 2801 Hoover Road, Stevens Point

6:00pm-9:00pm – Celebrate the achievements of Governor Chuck Erickson’s year. Awards for the 2023-24 year. Hospitality with delicious appetizers.

Saturday, April 26, 2025 Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point

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

8:00am - First Timers Meeting: If this is your first conference, we have a gift for you!

8:00-10:00am- Check In and Registration

9:00am - Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and First Timers Introductions

9:30am- 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.

10:00am - Break

10:15am – Show and Tell: Bring a special item to talk about

10:30am – Speaker: Salvation Army of Stevens Point – Bring a pair of socks to donate

11:45am - Purchase Raffle Tickets

Noon-2:00pm – Lunch, Oratorical and Essay Contest Winners & Optimist Foundation Raffle Baskets

2:00pm - General Session: Leadership Reports

2:45pm - 3:00pm - Break

3:00pm TOWN HALL Meeting

3:30pm - Optimist Creed & Farewell



OI Foundation Update

Troy Dostal -- 2024-25 Optimist International Foundation Representative

Greetings to the Amazing WINUM District Optimists,

Thank you for your support for the first half of the Optimist year. We are currently at about the halfway point for our Dime-A-Day membership. Please join me in supporting the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) by joining the Dime-A-Day membership by donating \$36.50 to OIF. This donation can be made at any of the quarterly conferences, mailing a check to OIF, or online at oifoundation.org.



Troy Dostal

At our April 25-26 conference, we will be having the Oratorical Contest and the Essay Contest winners. The scholarships for the winners are made possible by your donations to OIF. Please consider making a donation to OIF or encourage your clubs to make a donation. We will be having the parade of checks along with the raffle baskets at the conference again too.

I want to point out a couple dates in April. The first is April 5th which is "National Self Care Day." Please take a moment to put a reminder on your calendar for this day. Join me on this day as I take some time to "unplug" from my phone, have my cup of coffee and let my mind drift as I listen to some relaxing music/meditation. I will also get out and enjoy some sun and fresh air while walking my dog. Spend time with another Optimist member and share a laugh! I found it interesting that research shows that aromatherapy is just as important as breathing exercises -- smells like citrus are proven to alleviate stress. For some more information on National Self Care Day you can visit <https://nationaltoday.com/national-self-care-day/>.



NATIONAL SELF CARE DAY - April 5, 2025 - National Today

The founding factors between National Self-Care Day and International Self-Care Day are pretty much identical. National Self-Care Day is a nationwide observance in the U.S., founded by Chicago-based development coach, Laura Schwartz, while International Self-Care Day is a worldwide observance founded by the International Self-Care Foundation.

nationaltoday.com

The second date is actually a week, NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, which is from April 20-26 this year. A whole week dedicated to volunteering and volunteers! How can we observe National Volunteer Week? We can get involved, spread the word, and say thank you to those volunteers! Why is National Volunteer Week so important? Volunteering makes us feel great! We give back to the community. We feel happier, self-confident, and embrace a more positive outlook, ushering in even greater accomplishments. We learn new skills, increase social interaction, boost self-esteem, receive recognition, awards, and a whole lot more! It also improves our lives as we face challenges in life. Optimist International is grateful for the immeasurable, selfless, and tireless service of volunteers. WE are able to build better communities. Thank you for all that you do!

Quick reminder to have your clubs bring raffle baskets for the conference. Since we will be having youth in attendance, please refrain from alcohol-related baskets. Some ideas for baskets would be grilling, coffee/hot chocolate, self-care, s'mores or other creative themed basket, or since spring will be just around the corner a nice plant as well.

Thank you again for your continued support to Optimist International Foundation.

I will leave you with this:

In a world where you can be anything, Be Kind.

If you have to choose between being kind and being right, choose being kind and you will always be right.

Kindness is the language in which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. -Mark Twain

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION QUESTIONS? Contact Troy Dostal at dostalt@live.com or 715.531.5085

Membership Update: Don't Miss the SS Optimism Cruise

Ann Sheahan -- 2024-25 Membership Chair

Hello WINUM Optimists! Third quarter is upon us. We need to get out there and start spreading the word about how great Optimist Clubs are for our communities.

Here is the District by the numbers: 1st quarter we added 37 new members!! 2nd quarter we added 6! Overall, we deleted 58 members; so if you do the math we are at a -15 as of 3/8/25. As our clubs enter into the "busy season", try to promote your club, events, and projects through social media, posters, and yes-even newspapers (a lot of people still read them online). When others see what an awesome and positive impact you make in your community, they are more apt to join; if you ASK!! Let's get out there and add more members which results in more hands to help at your events and makes the world a more positive place to exist!



Ann Sheahan

Don't forget to sign up for the SS Optimism virtual cruise:

- 1) Go to optimist.org
- 2) Search SS OPTIMISM BROCHURE
- 3) Click on the link that is in the Terms & Conditions section
- 4) Sign up your club!

Your club could earn \$250.00 based on your positive add membership since October 1, 2024.

Tip for the Quarter: Check on club members you have not seen at events or meetings in a while; maybe they just need a personal invite to attend -- let them know you care! RETAIN those members!

Feeling Ducky with Optimism,
Ann

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS? Contact Ann Sheahan at gsheahan@charter.net

WELCOME TO
**SS OPTIMISM
2024-2025
CRUISE**

optimist.org

**SPECIAL PORT OF
CALL : ST. LOUIS,
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION**

We will dock for shore
excursions, fun, education
and entertainment!
<https://www.optimist.org/Member/convention.cfm>



Time to Register for the OI Convention in St. Louis

SAVE THE DATE!

107th Optimist International Convention
St. Louis, Missouri
June 29-July 3, 2025.

<https://www.optimist.org/member/convention.cfm>

Contact [Immediate Past Governor Chuck Erickson](#)
for more information.

Join our WINUM delegates at the 107th Optimist International Convention in St. Louis, MO, June 29-July 3, 2025. Registration is now open. The convention will be at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton, 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, MO.

Our WINUM International Conference Rep Chuck Erickson plans to travel by Amtrak from Milwaukee to St. Louis, get in touch with him if you want to join him.

OI CONVENTION QUESTIONS? Contact Chuck Erickson at chuck@collegeconnectors.com.



WINUM DISTRICT

CONTACT: JIM GLOVER 920-309-9128

Junior Golfers Invited to Compete in the 2025 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WINUM DISTRICT JUNIOR GOLF QUALIFIER

- DATE: Wednesday, June 11th 2025
- GOLF COURSE INFORMATION:
 - Name: Mid Vallee Golf Course
 - Address: 3850 Mid Valley Dr, De Pere, WI 54115
 - Phone: (920) 532-6644
 - Website: <https://www.midvallee.com/>
- TIME: Registration at 8:00am, Tee times start at 9:00am
- REGISTRATION COST: \$65
- REGISTRATION WEBSITE: [Optimist International Junior Golf Championship Qualifier - First Tee - Northeast Wisconsin](#)
- AGE DIVISIONS:
 - Boys: 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-18
 - 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, 2 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; [Optimist International Junior Golf Championship Qualifier - First Tee - Northeast Wisconsin](#)

For more information, please contact Jim Glover at 920-309-9128.

The video link, from Optimist International, below illustrates the value all golfers get by competing in this event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmdI04x4OZY&t=2s>

How you can help:

1. Distribute this flyer to your club members, local schools, golf courses and any other way to promote the event.
2. Sign up to volunteer at the event.
3. Offer any other suggestions to help improve the success of this event.

District Oratorical Contest is April 26

Chuck Erickson -- 2024-25 Oratorical Contest Chair



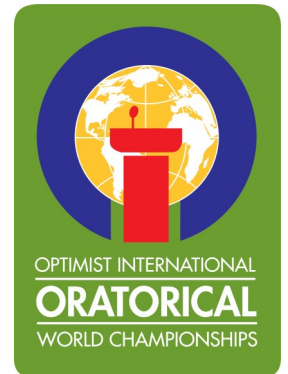
Chuck Erickson

This year's Topic for the OI Oratorical Contest is "How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times".

- **The Purpose:** The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking, perfect self-expression, gain self-assurance, improve communication skills, and provide them with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship.
- **Funding:** The Optimist Oratorical Scholarships are funded by member donations to the Optimist International Foundation. To continue funding the contest, all members must understand the significance of supporting the Foundation.
- **Who:** The contest is open to contestants under 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) who have not yet completed high school. There is no minimum age.
- **Club Contests:** A club may be represented at the District by no more than two qualified contestants. There is no minimum required number of participants for club contests. Here is the Oratorical Contest - Club Planning Guide: https://www.optimist.org/documents/2025/programs/24-25_Oratorical_Club_Planning_Guide.pdf
- **District Contests:** Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university, or trade school only. Three winners will be awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000, respectively, for first, second, and third place. District contests must have no fewer than three participants.

The Third Quarter WINUM conference will host the 2025 District Oratorical Contest in Stevens Point on the morning of Saturday, April 26. Please let me know if you will be participating this year. The winner will repeat their oratorical speech during the conference lunch, with the 1st place winner attending the World Championship in St. Louis.

ORATORICAL CONTEST QUESTIONS? Contact Chuck Erickson at chuck@collegeconnectors.com.



How to Bring Your Club New JOI

Judy Goodchild -- 2024-25 JOI Chair



Judy Goodchild

How many youth clubs (JOI) are there in the WINUM District? If you guessed 6 you are correct. The next question is, how many students are involved with JOI? If you guessed 134 you are again correct.

Do those numbers surprise you? Just think of the impact we would have if more Optimist Clubs sponsored more youth clubs! It would be amazing! Is it work? YES! Is it rewarding? Yes! Has your club considered sponsoring a youth club?



JOI clubs are just like our adult Optimist Clubs. You make your choices on activities and programs according to the interests of the students in your area. Every club is different, just like we are all different. The rewards are endless.

Looking for more information on starting a JOI club in your community? Let me know, and I will help you put that together. Let's build our JOI community in the WINUM District.

JOI QUESTIONS? Contact Judy Goodchild at goodchildmom@gmail.com or 920.794.4787

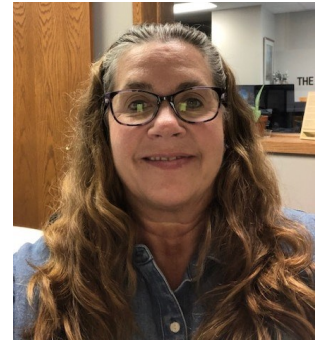
Have You Completed Optimist Institute?

Bonnie Ciesielski -- 2024-25 Leadership Chair

I would like to thank everyone that has completed their Optimist Institute training. And those that have not, time is closing in. All training for the club officers must be done by March 31st.

Looking forward to sharing my hometown of Stevens Point for the next conference.

OPTIIMIST INSTITUTE QUESTIONS: Contact Bonnie Ciesielski at bonjane66@gmail.com or 715.496.7527.



Bonnie Ciesielski

Tri-Star Invitational Basketball Skills Contest

Logan Krueger -- 2024-25 Tri-Star Basketball Skills Contest Chair

In case you missed the information on Tri-Star in the last newsletter, here it is again. My name is Logan Krueger of the North Fond du Lac Optimist Club, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new chairman for this year's WINUM Optimist Clubs Tri-Star Competition. I am honored to take over this role from John Leonhard, who has done a fantastic job leading this event in past years.

This year, we're making some updates to the event details:

New Location: Bessie Allen Middle School Gymnasium

305 McKinley Street
Enter Main Entrance

North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Date and Time: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Registration: 9:00 AM

Competition: 10:00 AM

Conclusion by: 12:00 PM

Cost: \$12.00 per entrant

Each club is limited to one boy and one girl from each age group. Maximum of 12 entries per club. Please make payment to *North Fond du Lac Optimist*. Each age group, both boys and girls, will receive trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.



Club Registration forms listing each participant must be received by Thursday March 20, 2025 for inclusion in the printed program and entry in the official tabulation PC program. Do not send us the forms that you used in scoring your local contest. New forms must be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. Do not forget to mark either the boy or girl category and fill in the age as of March 15, 2025, along with the entry forms.

Email me the completed club registration form that can be found on the WINUM website. Late entries will not be accepted unless previous authorization is granted. I'm eager to work with all of you to ensure this competition continues to be a success. We are looking forward to hosting your club at this annual event.

TRI-STAR BASKETBALL QUESTIONS? Contact Logan Krueger at lkrueger@vesta.cpa or 920.904.7179.

SAVE THE DATE

2024-25 Conferences & Convention WINUM District

Nov. 1-2, 2024 Inn on Maritime Bay
101 Maritime Dr, Manitowoc, WI
Newsletter Articles Due: Sept. 15, 2024

April 25-26, 2025 Holiday Inn Convention Center
1001 Amber Ave, Stevens Point, WI
Newsletter Articles Due: March 9, 2025

Aug 15-16, 2025 Hampton Inn
2017 Stout St., Menomonie, WI
Newsletter Articles Due: June 29, 2025



Zone Reports

ZONE 1 Lt. Governor: Louise Bentley



Lt. Gov. Louise Bentley

[The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club](#) enjoyed celebrating International Optimist Day February 6th. Club members wore their Optimist shirts promoting optimism for a photo sent out on social media, as shown in photo on right. They also performed various Random Acts of Kindness in their community.



The club had 20 entries in the Essay Contest and sent the winning essay on to the District competition. Chippewa Falls recognizes a Youth of the Month each month, rotating between the two high schools.

They will be preparing and serving dinner at Agnes Table, Chippewa Falls' free community evening meal, later this month. They have a N.O.W. (New Optimists Welcome) meeting in April, are partnering with other groups on a Bike Rodeo and starting to plan for a busy summer season at their food stand at the fairgrounds.

[Hallie Optimist Club](#) will hold a 40th Anniversary celebration on March 26 at the Hallie Golf Club at 5:00 p.m. The Chippewa Optimist Club was involved in building their club 40 years ago and will be attending their celebration.

The Hallie Optimist Club proudly announces the winners of their Annual Essay Contest. Congratulations to Brady Schopf, Ashtyn Chantelois, and Jacob Ernst for their outstanding essays! Brady's winning essay now moves to the District level. Read more about their inspiring stories and the power of optimism in the club's latest blog post.

Pictured are members left to right: Jim Bakken, Jade Peterson, and John VanBeek. The club recently recognized Jade Peterson, owner of Mom's Kitchen in Eau Claire, where they have



their Thursday morning meetings. Jade is a recent new member in the club.

[Menomonie Optimist Club](#) continues to recognize Youth of the Month each month, two per month from the four high schools in Dunn County. The club will have an Earth Day work day at Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area on April 22.

They are also planning ahead for the Menomin Meander family-friendly bike ride around Lake Menomin in August. The ride is free and is a good way to get kids outside, get active, and enjoy the trails.

[UW-Eau Claire Optimist Club](#): All is well with the UW-Eau Claire College Optimist Club. The start of the year was slow as they were not on campus for the month of January. For their February event they made cards for students at a local elementary school to spread some positivity before Valentine's Day.

Later this month, UWEC will be hosting an event at Cabin Coffee Co. in Altoona for children to make some spring crafts and enjoy hot chocolate. This will be on Sunday March 30 from 1-3 pm, so they are looking forward to that. The club will be partnering with the Hallie Optimist Club on their Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 19 and with Big Brothers Big Sisters for their Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser in May.

ZONE 2 Lt. Governor: Shannon Dalton



Lt. Gov. Shannon Dalton

[Antigo Optimist Club](#) continues their membership drive with a drawing for prizes after April 30 for those who brought in new members.

Upcoming events include the St. John Spring Fling on May 4, Fish-eriee on May 20, Music in the Park June 16 and Langlade County Fair cheese curd stand July 24 -27. The club also approved several donation requests totaling \$1,200.

[The Everest Club](#): Everest Optimist Club's Student of the Month for February was DC Everest senior Solomon Jaipuri. Solomon is pictured on right receiving his certificate from Crystal Sippl.



Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 10

Egg My House -- Let the Everest Area Optimists "EGG" Your House with plastic eggs filled with candy and toys! Members of the Everest Area Optimists will start delivering eggs around 6 p.m. on Saturday April 19. Eggs will be placed around your yard so please list any special instructions on the form available from the club. Make sure pets are inside and that blinds are closed so kids don't see the bunny! All proceeds will support the Everest Area Optimists scholarship funds. Deadline for payments is Wednesday, April 11. Properties must be located within a 10-mile radius of the DC Everest High School. The cost: \$20 for 25 eggs or \$30 for 35 eggs. If you have any questions, please email adupuis20@yahoo.com.

This club has been doing a little fundraiser where local restaurants and chains hold special nights where an organization receives 20% of the food sales on a specific night. This will occur at Milwaukee Burger Co on March 31, followed by Red Robin on April 16.

[Wausau Breakfast Optimist Club](#) is planning to have a booth at the Marathon County Children's Festival in May and has their Swing 4 Kids Golf Outing in August.

The club recently approved donation requests for the Boys and Girls Club of Wausau for \$8,000, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Big Strike Sponsorship for \$2,500, Wausau Childcare for \$1,500 and Wausau Sluggers Baseball for \$1,500.

[Wausau Noon Optimist Club](#) established the Wausau Noon Optimist Club Elephant Ear Fund through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. The fund will be used by the Wausau Noon Club to replace the Elephant Ear Concession stand used for community youth service projects, which was destroyed in an arson fire last summer. The fund is now active, and you can [donate here](#). Romey Wagner reported that all is going well with the new trailer, and he continues to work on securing the storage facility for the new trailer.

In the photo, left to right, are District Secretary Deb Braden, President of Wausau Noon Club Eric Huan, District Governor Angie Riemer, and Roni Kaczor Smith of the Mosinee Optimist Club at the Luck of the Irish fundraiser on March 13.



The Youth Fisheree, *photo on left*, was held January 26 at Rookery Park. The largest fish were an 8" blue gill, 11" perch and 32" northern. 204 youth registered and many received prizes. Wausau Noon Club served hot dogs, hot cocoa and soda.

ZONE 3 Lt. Governor: Anna Flahaut

Zone 3 is preparing for the District Conference in Stevens Point April 25-26. See you then!



Lt. Gov. Anna Flahaut

ZONE 4 Lt. Governor: Ben Elsner

Green Bay Optimist Club is preparing for the Junior Golf Invitational on June 12. This is an annual junior golf outing in partnership with First Tee in. Those that qualify are then able to participate in an international tournament down in FL! The club is looking for additional support from Optimists and community members to help make this event great and socialize to our local communities. If interested in helping, please email Optimist Jr. Golf Chair Jim Glover (gpackercpa@gmail.com) and/or Zone 4 Lt Governor Ben Elsner (winum.ben.elsner@gmail.com) for more information. Registration & more info: click [here](#).



Lt. Gov. Ben Elsner

Optimist Softball League registration is now open - click [here](#).

[Green Bay-Allouez Club](#) held their annual curling competition,

2025 Bonspiel, on January 19. Unfortunately for Green Bay Allouez, Green Bay Optimists took the trophy home, see *photo*, but preparation is already underway for 2026.



Cont. on Page 12

Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 11

On June 8, the 40th Annual Allouezfest Picnic & Car Show will have family fun for all. It includes the NEW Zoo Zoomobile, Einstein Project's Mobile Makerspace, and the Touch of the Wild trailer! Come check out the cars, and partake in the raffle with the grand prize of \$5,000! [Event Information](#)

[Howard Suamico Club](#) had their Whitetails Unlimited Banquet March 11. This has been one of the club's largest fundraisers and was held again at the Rock Garden Supper Club.

On May 7, Daddy D's Presents *Star Spangled Salute* at the Riverside Ballroom. Dinner and show - \$52/person; Show only - \$32/person. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner for 6 p.m., followed by the show at 7. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Howard Suamico Optimist Club. Contact Darold at 920-530-0387 for more information.

A golf outing will be held at Mid Vallee Golf Course in De Pere June 30.

The Howard Suamico Club will be joining in the Essay and Oratorical Contests within the District.

Pulaski-Krakow Optimist Club will hold Pulaski Polka Days on July 17-20. This is one of the largest fundraising events for the club.

The **Shawano Club** held their annual Girls Basketball Tournament January 25. The tournament had full brackets of 40 teams and had many show up to help volunteer and support the players and their families. The club's 32nd Annual Boys Basketball Tournament was held February 22 with a total of 40 teams and 341 players!



The Annual Scholastic Awards Banquet was held on March 12. The guests of honor were students from Shawano Community High School with the focus on spotlighting those students who continue to pursue and achieve academic excellence.

This spring Shawano will have their annual Respect for Law where they honor an officer from the Shawano Police Department and the Shawano County Sheriff Department. The club holds this with a Steak Fry, which also serves as a fellowship opportunity for members and guests.

They will also hold their Bike Rodeo in May. Each youth that attends receives a free helmet, and has their bikes inspected.

The kids get to show off their biking skills with several stations that challenge their skills. Top riders receive a trophy and all are eligible for prizes which includes several new bikes.

June 5 kicks off Thursdayz at Franklin with Johnny Wad performing. The Shawano Optimist will be doing beverage sales and 50/50 raffles throughout the event.

ZONE 5 Lt. Governor:

Brenda Wolff

[Green Bay Breakfast Club](#) is active with numerous sponsored events with Danz School with Weidner programs for all levels, and also Neville Museum program and others.

[Green Bay Preble Optimist Club](#) continues to sponsor kids in the Oratorical Contest as well as other programs.



Lt. Gov. Brenda Wolff

Clubs in Green Bay are actively volunteering for the NFL Draft April 24-26 in Green Bay where as many as 400,000 people could attend.

ZONE 6 Lt. Governor:

Colleen Sheahan

[Brillion Optimist Club](#): Brillion Club has a N.O.W. (New Optimists Welcome) evening meeting on Thursday, March 20 at a local pizzeria/bar where they will serve a pizza buffet, play some trivia, and have chances to win attendance prizes - members are encouraged to bring a potential new member - spouse/guests are also welcome. The club hosts two evening socials a year, which enables those unable to attend regular noon meetings to come.



Lt. Gov. Colleen Sheahan

Brillion will have a spring cleanup in April at Horn Park, their park project was completed in fall with a grand opening, but they didn't have time to tidy up before the weather didn't permit.

The club has posted applications for the \$1,000 Brillion Optimist Volunteer Scholarship, which will be presented to a graduating senior in May. Grade point average is not a determining factor -- much consideration is given to a student who has demonstrated a history of volunteering in school, the community, etc. over the past four years.

Cont. on Page 13

Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 12

Next project is the Electric Parade to be held at 8:30 pm on Friday, June 13. The club is in the process of contracting marching bands who will also be performing the next day at the Appleton Flag Day Parade, so they do draw some very talented groups.

[Chilton Optimist Club](#) had Tri-Star Basketball on March 5 with approximately 20 participants. The first-place winners will go to the District competition on April 5 in North Fond du Lac.

The club is holding an Oratorical contest on March 19 at CHS. They always look forward to their Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on April 19 at Klinkner Park at noon. It takes about an hour to get all the candy and eggs spread around the park, and about 2 minutes for a couple hundred kids to scoop up every single piece. Inside each egg is a surprise and three of the eggs contain bike winner notices, one bike awarded for each of three age brackets.

Manitowoc Sunrise: In March, Manitowoc Sunrise Club sponsored the InCourage Domestic Chef fundraising event. Hope Boudnik and Patti Hoffmann were privy to attend the event, which took place at the newly remodeled Inn on Maritime Bay. There they enjoyed a silent auction and dined on chef prepared appetizers, dinner tidbits and desserts. They witnessed an outpouring of giving at a live auction and listened to live music by The Jukebox Road Dogs and singer Amirah Franzen. Their Optimist logo was proudly featured in the event program, and they sat at a table with fellow Optimists Greg and Judy Goodchild, as shown in the photo above.



In April, Manitowoc club will participate in the Lincoln Park Zoo Easter Event by preparing and handing out goodie bags to all children who attend. May 16 and 17 you'll see them frying burgers and brats at Manitowoc Piggly Wiggly, so please stop by and "Hi-Fryve" them! Highway 151 cleanup will also take place in May, and on May 28, they're slated to prepare a community meal at First Presbyterian Church.

[Two Rivers Optimist Club:](#) The Two Rivers Club continues to have a full schedule. They offer a quarterly social gathering, welcoming guests who may be interested in joining the club. Each event is chaired by a board member and they plan the activity. March social will include bingo with an Optimist twist!

Future activities include a new fund raiser *In Remembrance Night* on Saturday, April 12. People will purchase luminaries to be placed on a grave at the cemeteries. A short welcome and service will be held, and then people may walk or drive through the cemeteries.

Spring brings the club's community Easter Egg Hunt, meat raffle, scholarship programs for graduating seniors and another one for a continuing higher education student. In June they will host their annual CCC Walk where they will draw the winner for the meat raffle. Planning for summer programs includes the Bike Rodeo, The Great Bike Giveaway, so they will be very busy raising funds and supporting youth.

Two Rivers Junior Optimist Octagon Club is still going full speed ahead as the school year winds down. Opportunities on their calendars include reading at the day care centers and Youth Appreciation Breakfast on May 12. Spring Electronics Drive will be held on May 17, and there will be scholarships for their graduating seniors, and in-school bake sale. They will also be helping the Two Rivers Optimist Club with set up and clean up at the In Remembrance Night, and other events for the upcoming summer.

ZONE 7 Lt. Governor: OPEN For 2024-25

[Contact Gov. Angie](#) if interested.

ZONE 8 Lt. Governor:

Ann Sheahan

[The Fond du Lac Evening Optimist Club](#)

has had a busy quarter. The club completed service projects by donating and serving a meal in both January and March at the FDL Holy Family Warming Shelter, which provides safety and respite for up to 35 people experiencing homelessness in Fond du Lac. Several club members also volunteered at the Project Linus Make a Blanket Day Event. Project Linus gifts new handmade blankets and afghans to seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need children.



Lt. Gov. Ann Sheahan

In February the club held their first fundraiser of the year by serving beverages and selling pull tab tickets at the annual FDL Festivals Bags Fest cornhole tournament. This year was the most successful of the three years the club has participated in



Cont. on Page 14

Zone Reports *Cont. from Page 13*

Bags Fest.

The Fond du Lac Evening Optimist also made several donations to local organizations during this quarter. A \$150 donation was given to United Singers, which is a choir in Fond du Lac that gives physically and mentally challenged adults a space to engage in the arts while also providing entertainment to the community. A \$200 donation was given to Fond du Lac ASTOP, which provides free, confidential therapy, prevention education, and advocacy services to survivors of sexual violence across Fond du Lac and Green Lake counties. A \$250 donation was given to Project Linus, to buy supplies for their Make a Blanket Event Day. Also given a \$250 donation was Celebrate COMMUNITY, an event held by United for Diversity, a local nonprofit organization that educates and advocates for diversity and inclusion in the Fond du Lac area. A \$500 donation was given to Fondy Junior Football League, a local nonprofit, all volunteer organization whose mission is to provide quality recreation and skill development in the game of football for all youth, grades 5-8, in Fond du Lac and the surrounding area. Also given a \$500 donation was the Miss Fond du Lac Scholarship Organization.

The Fond du Lac Evening Club also has had committees busy planning their biggest fundraisers of the year. These fundraisers are the 48th Annual Evening Optimist Father's Day Car & Truck Show being held at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds on Sunday, June 15th, from 8:00 am-2:30 pm, and the running of their stand at the Fond du Lac County Fair from Tuesday, July 15 thru Sunday, July 20.

[The Fond du Lac Noon Optimist Club](#) sponsored its annual Fond du Lac County Tri-Star Basketball Skills Competition on Saturday, March 8 at the YMCA. *The club will be sending six youth to the district competition in North Fond du Lac as shown in the photo above.*



In an ongoing effort to build community within the club, the first Fond du Lac Noon Optimist Club Night Out was held on Saturday, January 25. The evening started at the American Legion with some pre-game socializing and chili sampling as the Navy Club Ship 75 of Fond du Lac was holding its Chili Cook-off fund-

raiser that night. Optimist Tracy Qualmann took home lots of hardware from the event, winning the vote for Community Favorite Chili and also was the first-place winner in the formal judging! Tracy cooked up some very good chicken chili! We also enjoyed rink side seats to see the Fond du Lac Bears Hockey Team soundly defeat the Calumet Wolverines 11-2.

Oshkosh Optimist Club: The Oshkosh club continues to meet the first Wednesday of the month at noon at the Delta Restaurant. Their group is small but mighty! They held their Oratorical and Essay contests in early February. The winners were given cash awards and will be forwarded to the District competition in April.

They have also given donations to the following groups: Winnebago Mental Health, Father Karr for the homeless shelter, the Salvation Army, REACH Counseling for Suicide Prevention in Youth, Teachers Closet, and Day by Day Warming Shelter.

Oshkosh club would also like to acknowledge member Jackie Parish who recently received a pin for recruiting 25 members so far during her Optimist career. Congrats to Jackie and continued success for the Oshkosh Optimists!

[Sheboygan Optimist Club](#), chartered February 29, 1924, is entering its second century of serving the community. A small but dedicated group of Optimists are carrying forward the legacy of the club by investing in several projects to support the youth of Sheboygan. You can view the club's 100th anniversary article in the [Optimist Magazine](#).

Recently the club, in honor of its 100 years, donated 100 kids coats to the Salvation Army, *as shown in photo on right*. In addition to the donation, club members volunteered at the Salvation Army to assist families in selecting their winter wear.



Sheboygan's Optimist Park, *pictured on right*, has been the focus of the club for several years. In 2025 the club will complete its \$100,000 investment in the park. With the help of the city of Sheboygan, the club purchased and installed several new pieces of play-



2024-2025

OI Leadership Team

OI President: [Jan Oord Graves](#)
OI Vice President-Great Plains,
[Jodi Arriola](#)

WINUM Executive Team:

Governor: [Angie Riemer](#)
Immediate Past Governor:
[Chuck Erickson](#)
Past Governor: [Tammy Koehler](#)
Governor Elect: [Vanessa Rueth](#)
Treasurer: [Mark Sprangers](#)
Secretary: [Deb Braden](#)
Gov. Advisor: [Romey Wagner](#)

Committee Chairs:

Communications/Newsletter:
[Louise Bentley](#)
District Conferences &
Convention: [Laurel Schirmer](#)
Essay Contest: [Shannon Dalton](#)
Finance Chair: [Tammy Koehler](#)
First Timers: [Lori VanNatta](#)
Growth Chair: [Greg Goodchild](#)
Hospitality: [Deb Braden](#)
Int'l Convention Ambassador:
[Chuck Erickson](#)
JOI & College Clubs:
[Judy Goodchild](#)
Jr. Golf: [Brenda Wolff](#)
Leadership Development:
[Bonnie Ciesielski](#)
Marketing: [Lisa Thelen](#)
Membership Engagement:
[Ann Sheahan](#)
OI Foundation Rep:
[Troy Dostal](#)
Oratorical Contest:
[Chuck Erickson](#)
Photography:
[Mary Joan O'Leary](#)
Technology: [Gary Sheahan](#)
Website Advisor: [Angie Riemer](#)

Lt. Governors:

Zone 1: [Louise Bentley](#)
Zone 2: [Shannon Dalton](#)
Zone 3: [Anna Flahaut](#)
Zone 4: [Ben Elsner](#)
Zone 5: [Brenda Wolff](#)
Zone 6: [Colleen Sheahan](#)
Zone 7: OPEN
Zone 8: [Ann Sheahan](#)

Zone Reports *Cont. from Page 14*

ground equipment and added benches around the park's splash pad. The benches are for family use and include a plate attached to each recognizing the club. To commemorate its 100 years, the club will erect a plaque at Optimist Park in recognition of the many accomplishments the club has celebrated in front of the park sign, near the street for all to see. A second smaller plaque will be placed on the park's building.

Easter is fast approaching, and that means the Sheboygan Optimists will again partner with the Easter Bunny. Partnering with Sheboygan's Mead Library, club members will hide over 600 filled eggs for the library's children to hunt. The club assists with this event that includes kids' crafts, face painting, story time and of course an appearance by the Easter Bunny.

Entertainer John McGivern again appeared at Sheboygan's Weill Center for a performance which benefited the club. Money raised with John's help will go to support the many projects the club has under way.

Finally, the club recently received a significant and generous contribution from Sheboygan County from the sale of a property. The club is currently exploring opportunities on how the money will be invested in the youth of the community.



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



Like us on our Facebook page
[Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan
Optimists | Facebook](#)

[Visit us on our WINUM website.](#)

