



Optimist
International
**WINUM
DISTRICT
2024-25**

**LEADERSHIP
DIRECTORY**



Optimists
are just ducky!



Bringing Out The Best

2024-25 Leadership Team Directory

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Name: Angie Riemer

2024-25 District Leadership Offices:

Governor

Website Advisor

Email Address:

[angiecolfax](mailto:angiecolfax@aol.com)

[@aol.com](mailto:angiecolfax@aol.com)

Phone Number:

715-456-5150

What is your job/your goal in this position: Lead the District to a successful year

What is your home club: Chippewa Falls

How long have you been an Optimist:

18 years

What other offices have you held in your club and in the District:

Lt. Governor, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member:

To be a better person



Name: Chuck Erickson

2024-25 District Leadership Offices:

Immediate Past Governor, OI Convention Chair & Oratorical Contest Chair

Email Address:

[chuck](mailto:chuck@collegeconnectors.com)

[@collegeconnectors.com](mailto:chuck@collegeconnectors.com)

Phone Number: 920-585-4300

What is your job/your goal(s) in this position: My role is to support Governor Angie in her year and promote the Optimist International (OI) Convention to WINUM members

What is your home club: Appleton Noon

How long have you been an Optimist:

6 years

What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Governor, Lt. Governor, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member: I am an Optimist Club member because I believe in making a difference for the youth in our community. Every child should feel supported, loved, and cared for. We should celebrate and support our youth with every chance we get.



club and in the District: Governor, OI Convention Chair, International Marketing Committee, Lt. Governor, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member:

Bringing out the Best in Youth, Ourselves and our Communities

Name: Mark Sprangers

2024-25 District Leadership Office:

District Treasurer

Email Address:

[mksprs](mailto:mksprs@outlook.com)

[@outlook.com](mailto:mksprs@outlook.com)

Phone Number:

920-980-8091

What is your home club: Sheboygan

How long have you been an Optimist:

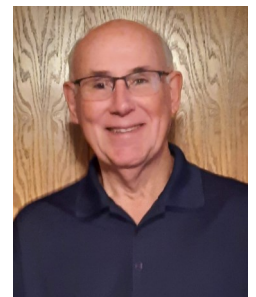
38 years

What other offices have you held in your club and in the District:

Governor, OI Foundation Rep, Lt.

Governor, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member: I was asked. Enjoy working with and for the benefit of the kids of the area. Continue to be a member for that reason and the relationships developed with other members of the club and beyond. Enjoy being part of a great district with great people.



Name: Vanessa Rueth

2024-25 District Leadership Office:

Governor Elect

Email Address:

[vanessar.optimist](mailto:vanessar.optimist@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:vanessar.optimist@gmail.com)

Phone Number:

715-218-8608

What is your job/your goal in this position: To help make a difference in the lives of children and to assist others with their positions

What is your home club: Merrill Noon

How long have you been an Optimist:

10 years

What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member: To be able to make a difference in the lives of the children of our community and other communities by volunteering whenever possible



Name: Tammy Koehler

2024-25 District Leadership Offices:

Past Governor,

Finance Chair

Email Address:

[tammy](mailto:tammy@theitdeptllc.com)

[@theitdeptllc.com](mailto:tammy@theitdeptllc.com)

Phone Number:

920-418-2298

What is your job/your goal in this position: Make sure we utilize funds to the goals of the district. To make good choices with WINUM funds.

What is your home club: Brillion

I am also the president of the Hilbert/Potter Optimist Club.

How long have you been an Optimist:

18 years

What other offices have you held in your



Name: Deb Braden

2024-25 District Leadership Offices:

District Secretary,

Hospitality

Email Address:

[bradendm1](mailto:bradendm1@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:bradendm1@gmail.com)

Phone Number:

715-579-0298

What is your job/your goal in this position:

Maintain minutes of District meetings and submit to OI in a timely manner.

What is your home club: Chippewa Falls

How long have you been an Optimist:

26 years

What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: District Treasurer, Lt. Governor, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member:



2023-24 Leadership Team Directory

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When I graduated from Lakeland College, my good family friend, Ray Helgerson, asked me to check out the Optimist Club. I was planning on joining a service club, so I went, and joined that day.

Name: Romey Wagner
2024-25 District Leadership Office: Governor's Assistant
Email Address: romey.wagner@winumnews22@gmail.com
Phone Number: 715-571-2901



What is your job/your goal in this position: Keep the ship sailing.
What is your home club: Wausau Noon
How long have you been an Optimist: 32 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: All of them.
Why are you an Optimist Club member: I was asked.

LT. GOVERNORS

Name: Louise Bentley
2024-25 District Leadership Offices: Zone 1 Lt. Governor
Communications-Internal/Newsletter
Email Address: winumnews22@gmail.com
Phone Number: 715-379-8363



What is your job/your goal(s) in this position: To improve communication within our District and to assist clubs in Zone 1 as needed.
What is your home club: Chippewa Falls
How long have you been an Optimist: 29 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor and District Publicity Chair, Club President

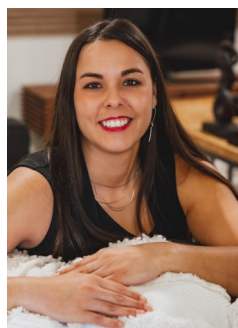
Why are you an Optimist Club member: I joined because someone asked me, and I stay to connect with other optimistic people.

Name: Shannon Dalton
2024-25 District Leadership Offices: Zone 2 Lt. Governor
Essay Chair
Email Address: shannon@wicker-shamjewelry.com
Phone Number: 715-573-1238



What is your job/your goal(s) in this position: Reporting to District about clubs and judging District essays
What is your home club: Everest Area
How long have you been an Optimist: 15 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor, Club President, Oratorical and Essay Chair
Why are you an Optimist Club member: It's a great way to help the community.

Name: Anna Flahaut
2024-25 District Leadership Offices: Zone 3 Lt. Governor
Email Address: aflahaut@bankfirststate.com
Phone Number: 425-495-1746



What is your job/your goal in this position: To meet other clubs and share the information that is given to me with those clubs, keep them engaged, and offer guidance to grow and maintain members
What is your home club: Stevens Point
How long have you been an Optimist: 3 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Club Treasurer
Why are you an Optimist Club member: I believe in the power of positivity, and believe my purpose in life is to help others. This organization has both opportunities for me to serve out my purpose and cre-

ate positivity in others' lives.

Name: Ben Elsner
2024-25 District Leadership Offices: Zone 4 Lt. Governor
Email Address: winum.ben.elsner@gmail.com
Phone Number: 920-660-0035



What is your job/your goal in this position: To support the clubs in my zone in events and growth
What is your home club: Shawano
How long have you been an Optimist: 2.5 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor Zone 8, Club President - Appleton Noon
Why are you an Optimist Club member: Carry on my father's legacy, bring out the best in myself and my community, and leave an imprint for the future.

Name: Brenda Wolff
2024-25 District Leadership Offices: Zone 5 Lt. Governor
Junior Golf Chair
Email Address: brenda_wolff@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 920-707-3431



What is your job/your goal in this position: To support and grow the clubs in my zone
What is your home club: Green Bay
How long have you been an Optimist: 8 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor, Club President
Why are you an Optimist Club member: I am an Optimist to support the youth in our community and help them thrive.

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Cont. from Page 3

Name: Colleen Sheahan
2024-25 District Leadership Offices: Zone 6 Lt. Governor
Email Address: colleen.sheahan@icloud.com
Phone Number: 920-629-7693



What is your job/your goal in this position: To assist the seven clubs in my zone with any questions or problems. Report to the governor any information they or OI wants.
What is your home club: Two Rivers
How long have you been an Optimist: 16 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor, Club President
Why are you an Optimist Club member: To help in my community and meet more people as well as be with my brother Gary and his family.

Zone 7 Lt. Governor position is open. If anyone is interested in this opportunity, contact [Governor Angie Riemer](#)

Name: Ann Sheahan
2024-25 District Leadership Offices: Zone 8 Lt. Governor Membership Chair
Email Address: gsheahan@charter.net
Phone Number: 920-901-6352



What is your job/your goal in this position: As Membership Chair, I welcome new members and work towards educating the District on how to recruit and retain members.
What is your home club: Two Rivers
How long have you been an Optimist: 21 years

What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor, Leadership Chair, JOI, Club President
Why are you an Optimist Club member: I grew up volunteering/watching my parents as role models. I love the feeling I get when a child smiles and enjoys the events we do. My heart is happy!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Name: Laurel Schirmer
2024-25 District Leadership Office: Conferences & Convention Chair
Email Address: schirmerlaurel@gmail.com
Phone Number: 920-946-7246



What is your job/your goal in this position: To contract convenient, safe, clean, economical properties for District meetings and take that responsibility off of the governor's plate.
What is your home club: Sheboygan
How long have you been an Optimist: 32 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor, Club President
Why are you an Optimist Club member: I joined because I enjoy contributing to my community and its kids -- I stayed because of the leadership opportunities offered within the club and District that my job didn't offer.

Name: Lori VanNatta
2024-25 District Leadership Office: First Timers
Email Address: lavannatta@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 608-214-3993



What is your job/your goal in this position: To welcome First Time conference attendees, give them information about Optimists, help them to meet and mingle

with other attendees who have been coming to conferences for years.
What are your home clubs: Fond du Lac Noon and Fond du Lac Evening
How long have you been an Optimist: 11 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Lt. Governor, Club President
Why are you an Optimist Club member: To give back to my community

Name: Greg Goodchild
2024-25 District Leadership Office: Growth Chair
Email Address: gltgoodchild@gmail.com
Phone Number: 920-946-8906



What is your job/your goal in this position: To restructure our approach to New Club Building
What is your home club: Two Rivers
How long have you been an Optimist: 14 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Governor, Lt. Governor, Club President
Why are you an Optimist Club member: To be a better person and help the world be a more caring/loving place to be.

Name: Judy Goodchild
2024-25 District Leadership Office: JOI Clubs
Email Address: goodchildmom@gmail.com
Phone Number: 920-794-4787



What is your job/your goal in this position: To increase energy, interest, and grow our youth clubs
What is your home club: Two Rivers
How long have you been an Optimist: 25 years
What other offices have you held in your club and in the District: Governor, Lt. Governor, Leadership Chair, Club

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President

Why are you an Optimist Club member:

The Optimist Creed is amazing, it keeps me focused. The Octagon Club keeps me young.

Name: Bonnie

Ciesielski

2024-25 District

Leadership Office:

Leadership Chair

Email Address:

[bonjane66](mailto:bonjane66@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:bonjane66@gmail.com)

Phone Number:

715-496-7527

What is your home club: Stevens Point

How long have you been an Optimist:

17 years

What other offices have you held in your

club and in the District: Lt. Governor, District Leadership Co-chair, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member:

To help the kids in my community



Name: Lisa

Thelen

2024-25 District

Leadership

Office:

Communications-

External

Email Address:

[optimistlisa](mailto:optimistlisa@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:optimistlisa@gmail.com)

Phone Number:

715-563-2369

What is your job/your goal in this posi-

tion: I am committed to doing my best to ensure clear and consistent communication with those who are not involved within the WINUM District. Guided by the Optimist Creed, my goal is to bring out the best in myself and others by encouraging a spirit of optimism and representing our District with integrity and positivity.

What is your home club: Chippewa Falls

How long have you been an Optimist:

It depends on when you consider my starting date. I was first sponsored by Ralph Cushman in 2018, and I've been a member on and off since then.

What other offices have you held in your

club and in the District: Newsletter Chair



and club board member

Why are you an Optimist Club member:

By being an Optimist Club member, I get unlimited opportunities to BE that human who brings out the best in kids, my community, and ultimately, myself.

Name: Troy Dostal

2024-25 District

Leadership Office:

OI Foundation Rep

Email Address:

dostalt@live.com

Phone Number:

715-531-5085

What is your job/

your goal in this

position: Let clubs and members know what OI Foundation can do for their clubs and how to use it

What is your home club: Chippewa Falls

How long have you been an Optimist:

10 years

What other offices have you held in your

club and in the District: Governor, Lt.

Governor, Club President

Why are you an Optimist Club member:

To help the youth in our community and to see my amazing Optimist family.



Name: Mary Joan

O'Leary

2024-25 District

Leadership

Office:

Photographer

Email Address:

[mjoleary2020](mailto:mjoleary2020@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:mjoleary2020@gmail.com)

Phone Number:

920-819-2767

What is your home club: Howard-Suamico

How long have you been an Optimist:

30 years

What other offices have you held in your

club and in the District: First Timers Chair

Why are you an Optimist Club member: I

love children and want to help to make a positive difference in their lives.



Name: Gary

Sheahan

2024-25 District

Leadership Office:

Technology

Email Address:

[gsheahan](mailto:gsheahan@charter.net)

[@charter.net](mailto:gsheahan@charter.net)

Phone Number:

920-901-6351

What is your job/

your goal in this position: Run computer programs during conferences

What is your home club: Two Rivers

How long have you been an Optimist:

15 years

What other offices have you held in your

club and in the District: None

Why are you an Optimist Club member:

To help our community and socialize with good people



The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself:

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

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

