



# Optimist International WINUM DISTRICT

Fourth Quarter  
Newsletter  
July 2025

## Governor Angie's Message

Dear Optimist,

As I write this, we are driving back from the Optimist Convention in St. Louis. Troy is driving, and Deb is dozing in the back seat. It was a great convention with dynamic speakers and great training sessions.

I hope you are ready for our WINUM convention coming up the 15th and 16th of August in Menomonie. We are having a speaker from Stepping Stones, an organization that helps with food needs in their community. Please bring an item for their food pantry, as with the federal cuts, they are in great need of donations. Louise will be conducting a scavenger hunt on Friday night, which will be followed by a potato bar back at the hotel. Should be a fun time. Come check it out.

Getting our ducks in a row!!

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



2024-25 Governor  
Angie Riemer



## 2024-2025 Inside this Issue

4th Quarter Convention Agenda	2
4th Quarter Convention Registration	3
Gov. Elect Vanessa - Stand Tall, Face the Sun	4
Memorial Service	4
New Save the Date	4
Second-Third Quarter Jammed-Packaged Conference	5
OI Foundation Update	6
JOI Wrap up	6
Membership Update: Who Got a Postcard?	7
WINUM District Attends OI Convention	8
Great Plains Regional Summit	9-10
Zone Reports	11-17
2024-25 Leadership Team	17
Optimist Creed	17

## A Word from the Gov's Assistant Duckster



2024-25 Assistant  
Romey Wagner

Duck, Duck, Duck, GOOSE!!?

"Mama President Angie Duck, what is going on now?" says Opti duck Romney. "Don't we have a big enough club now with the FROGS joining that we can serve all the kids?"

"As the story goes," said Mama President Angie, "We will always need new members, especially ones that have talents we can utilize. For instance, that GOOSE may be great at fundraising, as rumor has it that her auntie goose "laid a golden egg" in a story that helped others."

"Well then, we should keep trying to recruit new members even if we don't know their talents as they just may **want** to get involved and serve youth. If we are the ones that "**Just Ask**" first, then we can recruit anyone!" she said.

So, when Romney asked President Angie Duck, "So we can ask anyone?" She replied, "Just look in a mirror, as we must have asked a TURKEY to join at one time!!"

It is amazing how after a few years in an Optimist Club we all look so similar.

"Just Ask" someone this week.

Really Romey, no relation to Romney

**WINUM District 4th Quarter Convention**  
**Friday, Aug 15-Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025**  
**Friday: Hampton Inn, 2017 Stout St, Menomonie, WI 715-231-3030**  
**Saturday: Off Broadway Banquet & Conference Center,**  
**1501 N. Broadway, Menomonie, WI 715-233-3333**

## AGENDA

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

#### Friday, Aug 15, 2025 Hampton Inn

4:45pm – PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT: Meet Louise Bentley in the Hampton Inn lobby to get instructions for a FUN Photo Scavenger Hunt in Menomonie. We will get in groups of two or three people to go on the hunt and then return to the hospitality room at the hotel when finished.

6:00pm - Hospitality at Hampton inn. (Theme: Baked potato bar)

#### Saturday, Aug 17, 2024 Off Broadway Banquet & Conference Center

8 am - Past Governors' Breakfast

8:00-10:00 am - Check-in & Registration Open

8:30 am - First Timers Meeting - If this is your first conference, we have a gift for you!

9:00am – Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance & First Timers Introduction

9:30 am – 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 vote on the District elections for 2025-2026.**

10:30 am – Break

10:45 am SPEAKER – Stepping Stones, Menomonie. BRING ITEMS FOR THEIR FOOD PANTRY.

11:45 am - Purchase Raffle Tickets

Noon-1:00 pm LUNCH - Optimist International Awards, Swearing-in of New Officers & Optimist Foundation Raffle Baskets

1:00 pm - Memorial Service

1:15 pm – Optimist Elevator Pitch

1:45 pm - Break

2:00 pm - General Session: Updates from Committee Chairs and District Leaders

3:00 pm - TOWN HALL MEETING

3:30 pm - Optimist Creed & Farewell



**WINUM 4th Quarter Convention**  
**August 15-16, 2025**  
**Hampton Inn, 2017 Stout Str, Menomonie WI**  
**715-231-3030 - AND - Off Broadway Banquet &**  
**Conference Center, 1501 North Broadway, Menomonie**  
**WI 715-233-3333**



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**

		(\$5 late fee each item)			
		Advance	On Site	Number	Total \$
<b>Members</b>		(by Aug 9th)			
? Registration & Saturday Lunch		\$50.00	\$55.00	_____	_____
<i>Menu: Barbeque Buffet Incl hamburgers &amp; chicken breasts, baked beans, potato salad</i>					
<i>(all menus are subject to change)</i>					

<b>Spouse/Guest/Child (non-members)</b>	<b>Name(s):</b> _____				
? Saturday Lunch		\$25.00	\$30.00	_____	_____
<i>Menu: Barbeque Buffet Incl hamburgers &amp; chicken breasts, baked beans, potato salad</i>					
<i>(all menus are subject to change)</i>					

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

**THREE WAYS TO REGISTER:**

1. Register on-line at [www.WinumOptimists.org](http://www.WinumOptimists.org). Pay with a credit card thru PayPal.
2. Register on-line at [www.WinumOptimists.org](http://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](mailto:schirmerlaurel@gmail.com)

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Call the Hampton Inn (715) 231-3030 and ask for the WINUM Optimist group block. Rate is \$134+ tax. **Rooms "unblock" July 12, 2025!**

# Governor Elect Vanessa — Stand Tall, Face the Sun

Vanessa Rueth -- 2024-25 Governor Elect

Dear Fellow Optimists,

It is with great enthusiasm and deep gratitude that I introduce myself as your Governor-Elect for the WINUM District of Optimist International. I am honored to serve alongside such passionate and purpose-driven individuals who embody the spirit of optimism in everything we do.



Vanessa Rueth



As we look ahead to a new chapter, I'm inspired by Tom Kendo, our International President Elect's, powerful theme: **"Be The Change."** It's a call to action that reminds us that optimism isn't just a mindset—it's a movement. Together, we have the opportunity to lead with courage, compassion, and conviction.

In harmony with that vision, I've chosen our district theme: **"Stand Tall, Face the Sun."** Like the sunflower that turns toward the light, we too will rise with resilience, seek out the positive, and shine brightly in our communities.

I look forward to working with each of you as we grow stronger, serve boldly, and continue to make a lasting impact. Let's be the change—and let's do it with optimism.

Yours in Optimism,  
Vanessa Rueth  
[vanessar.optimist@gmail.com](mailto:vanessar.optimist@gmail.com)

## Memorial Service to Honor Members

There will be a short Memorial Service to honor the members of WINUM that passed away during the year of 2024-2025 during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention on August 16, 2025.

If your club has lost a member during this year, please send the name of the member to Judy Goodchild at [goodchild-mom@gmail.com](mailto:goodchild-mom@gmail.com) or text to 920-794-4787.



Help us honor our members that helped build our clubs, supported our clubs and show us the way of Optimism! They are part of our history.

**NEW! SAVE THE DATE**  
**2025-26 Conferences & Convention**  
**WINUM District**

**November 14-15, 2025 (1st Quarter Conference)**  
Hotel: AmericInn, 3300 East Main St, Merrill  
Conference: Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes  
1208 N Center Avenue, Merrill

**April 24-25, 2026 (Combined 2nd & 3rd Quarter Conference)**  
Comfort Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St, Green Bay

**August 7-8, 2026 (tentative) (4th Quarter Convention)**  
Hotel: Comfort Inn & Suites, 5810 Schofield Avenue, Weston  
Conference: Dale's Weston Lane (next door to hotel)



# Second -Third Quarter Jam-Packed Conference



April 25, 2025  
2023-24 Governor Chuck Erickson's Banquet  
The Commons Non-Profit Center  
Stevens Point, WI



April 26, 2025  
Essay and Oratorical  
Contest Winners, Girl  
Scouts, Salvation Army  
Bread of Life Hope  
Center and FUN!  
Holiday Inn Convention  
Center, Stevens Point



# OI Foundation Update

Troy Dostal -- 2024-25 Optimist International Foundation Representative

Hello WINUM Optimist,

I recently attended the 107<sup>th</sup> Optimist International Convention in St. Louis, MO. What a great time seeing all the people that are focused on helping our youth and communities. The OI Foundation has been busy since last year's convention. Since then, in just a year, they have awarded 134 College Scholarships, gave \$55,000 for World Oratorical, awarded 19 club grants, and 38 Childhood Health and Wellness grants (helping over 29,095 children). They also helped clubs with \$355,757 in Club Pass-Through Program, \$454,096 in Club Campaign Fund with an additional \$100,000 in interest, giving over \$10,000 to Ronald McDonald House, and \$160,836 to Junior Optimist International. Wow they have been busy! Every donation to OIF helps better the future for our youth. Every dollar given to the Foundation turns into something real.



Troy Dostal

Because of your generosity:

- A student who once doubted themselves can stand in front of an audience and deliver a speech.
- A young JOI Leader can develop skills that will service them for a lifetime.
- A community project can provide a safe space for kids to learn and grow.
- These are not just numbers on a report. They are lives changed, futures shaped, and voices empowered.



**Beyond Words:  
Where Every Child's  
Voice Matters**

Please reach out to me if you would like additional information regarding club grants or info on any foundation programs. I am happy to assist.

You still have time to donate to the Dime-A-Day program. You can [go onto the foundation website](#), send a check to OIF, or even bring to 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Convention next month. As we heard from our keynote speaker at convention, Dan Meers, "Your life is like a coin. You only get to spend it once. Spend it wisely."

Remember to bring your OI Raffle Basket to the 4th Quarter WINUM Convention in August.

Thank you for your continued support of the Optimist International Foundation.

OI FOUNDATION QUESTIONS? Contact Troy Dostal at [dostalt@live.com](mailto:dostalt@live.com) or 715.531.5085.

## JOI End of Year Wrap up

Judy Goodchild -- 2024-25 JOI Chair

Another school year is in the books for the JOI Clubs! It was an excellent year with the JOI (Junior Optimist International) members being active in their clubs and communities.

I have enjoyed working with the JOI Clubs and continue to be impressed as, just like the adult clubs, the JOI clubs are unique in their meetings and activities.



Judy Goodchild



I have stepped back from this leadership role for next year for no other reason than it was time. Please continue to be active with your clubs and your young people. I look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things the JOI clubs will be working on in the newsletter and remain Yours in Optimism!

# Membership Update: Who Got a Postcard?

Ann Sheahan -- 2024-25 Membership Chair

Our District is Just Ducky! WE have 67 new ducklings in our District since October 1, 2024.

Now is the time to invite those friends, family and strangers to help at our events. Don't forget to put out information about your club as well as club applications at all your events and fundraisers. What a great way to recruit potential new members by talking about the amazing things you do for your community. Just ask, and ask again, you never know when it is the right time for that person to join. A good group to target is those parents sending their kids off to college because now they have more free time on their hands.



Ann Sheahan

Any club that has recruited a new member this year: Ask new members if they received a postcard welcoming them to Optimism. If they did receive it, (which every one of them should have, since I hand write each one as they are added) ask them how they felt about it; I will be looking for answers at 4th quarter convention! Thanks & Choose Optimism!

And now a word from the SS Optimism:

Thank you for coming aboard with the Growth and Membership Engagement Committee and our incredible captain, President Jan, on the unforgettable journey of the S.S. Optimism Cruise!

While our original plan included quarterly drawing presentations, we're excited to chart a new course and end the year with one special "Welcome Home" Zoom Celebration. During this event, we'll announce the final port winners, revisit all four ports -- Canada, the Caribbean, Asia District, and St. Louis -- and celebrate the amazing impact our Optimist Clubs and Members have made, and continue to make, throughout the rest of the Optimist year.

We look forward to finishing the voyage together — full of optimism and momentum for the future.

If your club has not signed up for the Membership Incentive yet, please do so at <https://forms.office.com/r/hFR8hXT0qh>. You only need to sign up once for the entire year.

Here are the winners from the first two ports:

- **Port Canada (Quarter 1 Winner)**  
Club 05247 – Greensburg, IN (added 1 new member)
- **Port Caribbean (Quarter 2 Winners)**  
Club 16080 – Great Falls, VA (added 1 new member)  
Club 35140 – St. Paul, MN (added 5 new members)

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS? Contact Ann Sheahan at [gsheahan@charter.net](mailto: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>



# WINUM District Attends Optimist International Convention



From June 29 to July 3, Optimists from around the globe gathered at the historic St. Louis Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, for the 107th Annual Optimist International Convention. This year's event welcomed over 450 delegates from various countries, all united by a shared commitment to optimism and service.

The WINUM District was proudly represented by Jodi Arriola, Deb Braden, Troy Dostal, Chuck Erickson, Tammy Koehler, Angie Riemer, Vanessa Rueth, Marty Tlachac, and Laurel Schirmer. Our delegation participated in a wide range of workshops covering key topics such as Technology, Conference Planning, Retention and Growth, Leadership Development, Fundraising, Responding to Community Needs, Marketing, and Positivity in Leadership. These sessions offered valuable insights and practical tools to help strengthen our clubs and broaden our impact.

Inspiring keynote presentations were delivered by Morgan Carter-Christian, Dan Meers, and Bill Myers, who each brought unique perspectives on leadership, service, and living with purpose.

As always, the convention served as a powerful reminder of the Optimist mission and the strength of our global network. We look forward to continuing this journey of learning, service, and connection next year at the 108th Annual Optimist International Convention, which will take place June 28 to July 1, 2026, in Jacksonville, Florida.

OI CONVENTION QUESTIONS? Contact Chuck Erickson at [chuck@collegeconnectors.com](mailto:chuck@collegeconnectors.com).

# SAVE THE DATE

Great Plains Regional Summit  
September 6, 2025  
Kalona, Iowa

Bringing Out the Best



## Bring Out the Best



By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists. . .



Bring Out the Best in Youth



Bring Out the Best in Our Communities



Bring Out the Best in Ourselves

- OI Trainers & Great Plains Optimists:  
Susan Fix, Sandi Schmidt, Jodi Arriola, Gerri Barnett
- Summit Registration (with lunch included): \$35.
- Creative and Fun Service Project to support Kalona Primary Grade Classrooms Stock-up on school supplies this August and donate to this project
- Opportunity to Tour Kalona Historical Village—Friday or Saturday afternoon



Block of Room @ Dutch County Inn: \$98./night under "Great Plains Optimist"



## OI Great Plains Region Summit Registration

September 6, 2025

Summit begins at 0830 AM with Networking/Registration and concludes by 4 PM

Kalona Historical Village Museum

719 D. Avenue

Kalona, IA

Please submit registration form by Wednesday, August 27 if possible

Cost: \$35.00

**Bringing Out the Best** in youth, our communities, and ourselves

- OI Trainers:
  - Susan Fix
  - Gerri Barnett
  - Sandi Schmidt
  - Jodi Arriola
  - Jim Boyd

Please consider bringing donations of school supplies for a service project: Building School Supply Cakes to be donated to the Mid-Prairie East Elementary School and Washington Township School classrooms in the Kalona, IA community. Thank you in advance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Club(s) \_\_\_\_\_ District(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Request (choose one meat entree):

\_\_\_\_\_ Roast Pork Loin

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Breast

Broccoli & Cauliflower Salad, Baked Potato, Carrots, and variety of pies

- Opportunity to Tour Historic Village Museum for additional \$10. on Friday or Saturday afternoon
  - Friday \_\_\_\_\_ or Saturday \_\_\_\_\_
- Rooms Blocked at the Dutch Inn, 110 East Avenue, Kalona under Great Plains Optimists by calling: (319) 656-3611 Room pricing: \$98/night
  - Continental Breakfast included with awesome Cinnamon Rolls

Send completed form to: Great Plains Region Vice President:

Jodi Arriola, 9545 State Highway 178, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**\*\*Please copy and share with other interested Optimists that you know.**

# Zone Reports

## ZONE 1 Lt. Governor:

### Louise Bentley



Lt. Gov. Louise Bentley

#### The Chippewa Falls Optimist Club

will be busy selling cheese curds at their permanent stand at the Northern WI State Fair July 9-13. They officially kicked off preparations with a pre-fair picnic on June 17 at Irvine Park.

They will serve breakfast and lunch at their stand on Aug. 3 for the Indianhead Car Show. On Aug. 5, they will provide free hot dogs and chips for National Night Out.

Attending the OI International Convention in St Louis were Club President Marty Tlachac, and WINUM Governor Angie Reimer, Secretary Deb Braden, and OI Foundation Rep Troy Dostal.

Bus Driver of the Year and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards were given to some outstanding members in the community in June. They also helped prepare and serve dinner at Agnes Table, Chippewa Falls' free community evening meal, *see photo*.



Hallie Optimist Club held a Kids Fishing Event at Lake Hallie on the morning of June 7. Fifty kids participated in the event where they fished or learned to fish. Thanks to John and Lucille Van Beek's efforts, more than 20 sponsors contributed prizes; every kid at the event got a prize! Lots of fish were hooked, *see photo on right*, and hot dogs were enjoyed by everyone.



On the same day, June 7, Prime Realty and J-KO Autobody and Rodshop of Durand co-sponsored a first annual vintage car show in Durand. All proceeds from the event went to the Hallie Optimist Club's Childhood Cancer Program. Under the leadership of Daryl Dehnke, *pictured in center of photo*, the



Hallie Optimist Club collects aluminum cans to raise money in support of families that have a child suffering from cancer or other life-threatening diseases. Treatment usually requires families to travel long distances for medical treatment; the club provides gas cards and/or cash to help with these expenses. Optimist supporters in the Durand area raised \$2,370 for the Hallie Optimist Club's Childhood Cancer Fund.

Club President Dave Zschernitz said he appreciates member Jim Bakken for writing this article. Do you have someone in your club who is a good writer, who you can delegate to do the marketing for your club?

#### Menomonie Optimist Club:

On May 21, Menomonie Club member Dennis Spader received a special award from the WINUM District. Dennis earned a 50-member pin for recruiting 50 members into their club since he joined in 1994. Lt. Governor Louise Bentley and Governor Angie Reimer, *pictured in the photo with Dennis*, were at the meeting to present Dennis with his award. Congratulations Dennis!



At that meeting, the Menomonie Club also recognized two area students as Optimist Youth of the Month. An interesting fact is that both of the young ladies had a parent in attendance who had also been a Youth of the Month! How many clubs can say that they have had two generations chosen as a Youth of the Month?

This summer the club is busy with the Menomin Meander, a family-friendly bike ride around Lake Menomin.

UW-Eau Claire Optimist Club partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters for their Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser in May. They continue to work with Joshua's Camp. Joshua's Camp offers free services for families with a child 17 or younger being treated for cancer or out of treatment less than three years.

## ZONE 2 Lt. Governor: Shannon Dalton

Antigo Optimist Club: The Antigo Optimist Club Youth Fishing Event was held May 13 at Silver Moon Springs. The club sponsors this event for the school districts to send special needs children for a day of fishing and food. They part-



Lt. Gov. Shannon Dalton

Cont. on Page 12

# Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 11

ner with the Antigo Police Department and had 20 Optimist volunteers. They had 40 kids out fishing and having a great time, as shown in photo on right.



The club has several Antigo Optimist Club Cheese Curd & Steak Sandwiches Fundraiser Events: June 16 at Antigo Music in The Park, June 20 & 21 at Amsoil Midwest Extreme Dirt Track Nationals Event at Langlade County Fairgrounds, and July 24-27 at the Langlade County Fair.

**The Everest Club:** Everest Area Optimists held a Bike Rodeo in April, which is also one of their first cheese curd stand fundraisers as well. They gave away a few bikes and a scooter as well. The club made sure that every kid had a helmet and safety check on their bike, and gave medals or trophies for placing too. Next year they are going to loan out the prize bikes to any kid who is there with no bike.

Everest also held their Spring Fest fundraiser, which consists of the curd trailer in the ACE parking lot. Then hot on the heels of that they had the trailer at St Mark's Church where some parishioners and Optimists work together for a mad dash during the church picnic. And.... also there was an event that Marathon County puts on for the employees and the public that is another furious cheese curd extravaganza for a couple hours with a good gain for the club for scholarships.

The Wisconsin Valley Fair July 29-Aug. 3 is the next big thing, which is their biggest fundraiser of the year. Let Shannon know if you want to be on a shift, it's fun in the trailer.

**Merrill Optimist Club** held a recycling event on May 30 that is a big electronics recycling event to keep all that toxic stuff out of the landfills and get it back in the system to get recycled. 100% of the proceeds go to the Merrill Optimist Club.

The club has a big fundraiser coming up September 5 -- the Merrill Noon and Junior Optimist Golf Outing. This event is a four-person 9-hole scramble and includes lunch.

**Wausau Breakfast Optimist Club** participated in the Wausau Children's Festival at Marathon Park May 10 making buttons for the children in attendance.

The club is also busy planning for their cheese curd booth at the Wisconsin Valley Fair.

**Wausau Noon Optimist Club** is busy getting their new Elephant Ear Stand ready for the Wisconsin Valley Fair. The stand, used for community youth service projects, was destroyed in an arson fire last summer.

## ZONE 3 Lt. Governor: Anna Flahaut

No report.



Lt. Gov. Anna Flahaut

## ZONE 4 Lt. Governor: Ben Elsner

**Green Bay Optimist Club** held their Oratorical Contest in April. Congratulations to the talented and well-spoken high schoolers who participated. A special thank you to the teachers at Notre Dame de la Baie Academy for all their work helping prepare the students and to the Green Bay Preble Optimists for helping co-host the event. *Oratorical Contest participants are pictured on right.*



Lt. Gov. Ben Elsner



On June 11 the WINUM Optimist Junior Golf Qualifier took place at Mid Vallee Golf Club. The event was a huge success with 23 kids registered. Five qualified for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. *Two*

*winner are pictured above and on right, with an additional two kids hitting qualifying scores. Thank you to members of WINUM,*



Cont. on Page 13

## Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 12

especially Gov. Angie Riemer and Gov. Elect Vanessa Rueth, and the Sheboygan Optimist Club for helping put on this event.

The 46th season of their Optimist Softball League kicked off in June with over 230 girls registered. They have 21 teams between four leagues: 4K-K, 1st-2nd grade, 3rd-4th grade and 5th-7th grade. Their season concludes at the end of July, and the club will be hosting an end of season party/cookout for all players and their families.

Green Bay recently awarded several college scholarships to local Green Bay seniors through their partnership with College Ready. They also awarded three college scholarships to students from the Luxemburg Casco School District.

On October 10, the UWGB Volleyball Team will be hosting "Optimist Night" at their volleyball match on Friday, Oct. 10. Head Coach Abbey Sutherland is a member of their club and has encouraged her players to volunteer in a variety of their programs. They are excited for the opportunity to showcase their club (and all that they do) to a larger audience.



**Green Bay-Allouez:** The 40th Annual AllouezFest Picnic and Car Show June 8th didn't have optimal weather but the club made the best of it. Thank you to the 300 plus car show participants and all of the spectators that came out to support local youth causes. Thank you, too, to all of the sponsors and club and family members who allocated countless hours to pull it off, *see photo above.*

Who likes baseball? And who likes help raising funds for local youth organizations? [Visit this link](#) to purchase tickets for the Tuesday, July 29 Green Bay Rockers vs Wausau Woodchucks game. You'll get a hat in conjunction with your ticket and \$10 of each ticket sold will go to the Allouez Optimist Club! Please share!

**Howard Suamico:** On May 6, the Howard-Suamico Optimist Club celebrated their 14th annual Law Week Appreciation

Lunch at the 1951 West. Several members were invited from Brown County Sheriff's Dept, Howard and Suamico Fire Depts. Kate Mann, executive director for the REACH-A-Child Organization was presented with a donation of \$500 to help replenish children's books. These books are carried in units "Helping First Responders Comfort Children-In-Crisis."

Daddy D Productions (Honoring our Veterans) held a great dinner show May 7, and over \$500 was raised for the club.

On May 13, the Essay/Oratorical Winners Annual Awards Lunch was held. Those present had an opportunity to share their stories with the group.



The 1st place winners received \$300 each and all participants received a medal and certificate, *see photo above.* A special thank you to Krista Greene (Essay chair), Pam Beldon (Oratorical chair), and Nicole Smith (marketing) for their "many" years of assisting Howard Suamico in helping to give these students this opportunity.

Culvers Ice Cream Family Fun Nite was May 14. Over a dozen members



helped to serve food and ice cream from 5-8pm, *some of which are pictured in photo above.* The club had the opportunity to make a percent of the sales during that time and raised over \$900.

Many Howard Suamico members marched in the Memorial Day Parade May 26, and June 30 was the golf outing held at Mid Vallee golf course in De Pere.

**Shawano Optimist Club** kicked off the Thursdayz at Franklin on June 5th. Johnny Wad performed and the club had an amazing turnout for the 50/50 raffle, *photo on right.* Upcoming Thursdayz include July 17, 24 and 31.



Cont. on Page 14

## Zone Reports

Cont. from Page 13

On June 7, Shawano Optimists supported the Sundrop Dayz 5K with water stations and traffic control for the runners.

**Pulaski-Krakow:** July 17-20 is the Pulaski Polka Days. It is one of the largest fundraising events for the Pulaski-Krakow Optimist Club. More details in the next newsletter!

### ZONE 5 Lt. Governor: Brenda Wolff

No report.



Lt. Gov. Brenda Wolff

### ZONE 6 Lt. Governor: Colleen Sheahan

**Brillion Optimist Club:** This club's recent project was the Brillion Optimist Electric Parade on June 13 with over 70 entries, 6 marching bands including Americanos, Lutheran Vanguard of WI, and 484th Army Reserve Band. Great weather made for lots of spectators - 50-50 raffle winner took home \$5,300!



Lt. Gov. Colleen Sheahan

The next club gathering will be their annual N.O.W. meeting at the Nature Center on Sept. 10. Members and guests will mingle around the grills cooking their steak/chicken to their liking. After dinner they'll have a brief meeting, a little trivia, and installation of officers.

Brillion is a proud sponsor of National Night Out activities. Previous years donation was used for fireworks, this year something new with 10 hot air balloons. Food trucks, games and fun for all ages from 5-9 PM on Thursday, August 7, Stone Prairie.

Brillion club is on summer break, and monthly noon meetings return in October.

**Chilton Optimist Club:** Despite the cool temperatures and rain the day before, Chilton Club had a great turnout for their Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone's baskets were loaded with candy and prizes by the time it was over, and three lucky kids went home with a new bike. Gary, one of their members who assisted for the first

time, joked after it was over, that he had read in our weekly newsletter that the event started at 12 PM and would be over by 12:05 PM. He thought it was a mistake, but said he now realized what we meant. Kids scoop up the candy scattered around the park that quickly! *A photo from the Easter Egg Hunt is on the right.*



Chilton recently had television personality Bill Jartz at their weekly meeting to talk about his appointment to the Packers Board of Directors. Bill said it was a surprise and an honor to be chosen to be on the board. He is on the Community Relations Committee. He said, in a nutshell, he gets to help choose organizations to hand out money to that applied for grants. Bill has been the MC for Chilton's Friend of Youth Raffle the past 17 years, and has gotten to be a good friend to the club.

Club member Jerry Jensen drove his antique 48 Dodge truck in the annual Father's Day parade, June 15. They always joke with him prior to the parade: Will the truck start and if it does, will it make it through the entire length of the parade?

In conjunction with their bike rodeo, the club will participate in Calumet County Sheriff's Department Annual Community Night Out, Monday July 28. Free bike helmets will be given to kids as well as bike safety training.

**Manitowoc Sunrise:** The Brat Fry, held May 16 & 17, was a great success! Outside of being windy, the rain held off; mornings were slow both days but picked up over the lunch hour. There was a \$1,238.89 net profit! Tip bucket = \$163.06 and grand total = \$1,401.95.

Manitowoc club received \$1,055 in donations from friends and family for the Gary Bents Memorial Fund: \$565 went for a memorial tree and granite marker to be installed on zoo property near the new bridge at Little Manitowoc River Walkway. An additional \$500 donation was made to the Y's School Care food program in Gary's name to honor his legacy of giving back to the community. *Pictured are Hope Boudnik and Patti Hoffmann presenting the check to Steph Peters, director of community engagement on June 5.*



## Zone Reports *Cont. from Page 14*

The Community Meal at First Presbyterian Church was on May 28. Joe, Patti, Amy, Hope, Nancy, Carolyn and Deb helped prepare the meal; the club made tuna salad sandwiches on Rosen's 9 Grain Bread, Fruity Pebbles rice crispy bars, and Panera bread cookies. Food was well received by patrons.

**New Holstein:** For the New Holstein Optimist Club, spring is their busiest time of the year. Their major fundraiser – a brat fry at Honeymoon Acres, the local greenhouse, was held in May. It was their best day ever, profiting over \$2,000 this year. Through this fundraiser the club was able to make donations to the public library's "Summer Reading Program," to "Music in the Park," which brings in musicians four times over the summer to the city, and to the fire department as they are working on their summer picnic in July. The club concluded the last Husky Hangout of the school year in April with the largest turn out in years. They also awarded a high school scholarship.

A lot of time and energy is being put into the fundraising portion of their playground project. Through the first matching grant they received in April, an outright grant in May, the generosity of community members this spring and fundraising at a Christmas cookie sale, bingo/food events, and lots of brat fries, the club is nearing the one third mark of their goal. And it's all done for the kids!

**Two Rivers Optimist Club:** The club had a busy spring and has a full summer of activities planned. First time event, a Night of Remembrance, held on April 12 was a HUGE success! As was the Easter Egg Hunt. Spring also brings scholarships! The club awarded two scholarships to graduating seniors, Cova DeBauche and Piper Fowler, each for \$1,000 and three scholarships for continuing education to Cade Lislow, Emjay Hilliker and Elizabeth Kinzel, each for \$660.

The winner was drawn for the Meat Raffle at the club social on June 17. The club also collected funds that evening for the CCC. Wrapping the evening up was a chicken picnic dinner.

A bike rodeo was also held in June. Two lucky participants received a new bike, donated by Fox Communities Credit Union. The Great Bike Give-A-Way will be held on July 30. They have begun collecting new bikes to give away to children from 2-12 years old. Their goal is 115 bikes.

**Two Rivers Junior Octagon Club:** The Octagon Club is finished meeting until September. However, this outstanding group of students will be visible at all club summer events.

The Octagon was able to award scholarships to their graduating seniors that have been active members of the club for three or more years. This year they awarded scholarships to Ashley Groothoff, Cova DeBauche - VP, and Mercedes Godfrey -

President. The dollars for these come from their fundraising throughout the year.

The students were guests of honor at an Appreciation Breakfast held in May. The spring Electronics Drive was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest event in the club's 13-year history of drives!

This group also read to the day care centers and left a book and stuffed monster for each child to take home. They will also be working at several summer events.

The Optimist Club is so proud of all their Octagon Club members.

**ZONE 7 Lt. Governor:** None this year

**ZONE 8 Lt. Governor:**  
**Ann Sheahan**

**The Fond du Lac Evening Optimist Club** has been hard at work in the last quarter. The club completed a service project by having several members volunteer at Broken Bread Food Pantry on May 10. Members helped sort and store food that was given to Broken Bread Pantry by the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger annual food drive. Several members also volunteered to drive courtesy and handicap carts at the Walleye Weekend Festival in the first weekend of June.



*Lt. Gov. Ann Sheahan*

On June 5, the club held a "club bonding event" at the FDL Dock Spiders baseball game. Over 40 members and family members enjoyed rooftop patio seating, an all-you-can-eat buffet, and great fellowship. Unfortunately, the Dock Spiders got crushed on the field, but club member Deb Spoerke threw out the ceremonial first pitch and delivered a "down the pipe strike".

On June 15, the FDL Evening Optimist held their 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Car & Truck Show at the FDL County Fairgrounds. The Car & Truck Show is the club's second biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's show was a rousing success. There were a total of 332 cars and trucks that registered for the show. The spectator parking lots were overflowing, with a huge family presence at the show. The FDL Police Department and FDL County Sheriff's Department brought their Bear Cat SWAT vehicles to display and FDL Fire/Rescue brought a ladder truck to



## Zone Reports *Cont. from Page 15*

display, all of which were enjoyed by the children in attendance. The entire club put an extraordinary effort into the show, and it paid off with a record profit, which will enable the club to give back more to the community.

The club made several donations to local organizations during this quarter. A \$500 donation was given to Broken Bread Pantry, a food pantry in Fond du Lac that serves hundreds of families in need. A \$700 donation was given to the National Fire Safety Council for the purchase of fire safety educational materials on behalf of the FDL Fire Department. This donation will supply the FDL Fire Department with fire safety educational materials for several hundred children in the Fond du Lac community. A \$100 donation was given to FDL Literacy Services, whose mission is to develop local adults' reading, writing, speaking and math skills, so that they achieve success and independence in the community. A \$400 donation was also given to FDL Cops for Kids. This donation is being used to purchase volunteer T-shirts for the FDL National Nite Out event that will be held in August.

Committees have been busy planning the club's biggest fundraiser of the year, which is the running of their food and beverage stand at the Fond du Lac County Fair from Tuesday, July 15-Sunday, July 20.

The Fond du Lac Evening Optimist Club is happy to report that they are the recipient of a matching \$1,000 Club Grant from the Optimist International Foundation. Their project is named the FDL Evening Optimist School Cares Project. For this project, they will be creating care packages for FDL schools comprised of basic hygiene items and essential clothing items such as underwear, socks, hats, gloves, etc. They will be creating care packages for each school and distributing them to each school for use in their respective "Caring Closet". The club is investing \$3,000 in this project for a total budget of \$4,000.

**The Fond du Lac Noon Optimist Club:** As is the case with many clubs, summer is the major fundraising season for the Fond du Lac Noon Club. A longstanding Fond du Lac festival, Walleye Weekend, is held early in June. The Noon Club traditionally has a concession stand on Oven Island of Lakeside Park, which is a busy spot because it is where the festival's softball and volleyball tournaments are held. Joe Skelton, Noon Club Fundraising Chairperson reported that Walleye Weekend was incredibly successful! In Joe's words, "Even with a quiet day on Sunday, this was our most profitable WW ever!" Rain contributed to lower sales on Sunday.

Next up for the club's fundraising efforts is the Fond du Lac

County Fair where the club has its own food stand on the grounds. For five days during the fair, the club will serve fairgoers delicious food featuring the World-Famous Homemade Macaroni and Cheese, as well as many grill items, a fish dinner and cold beverages.

These fundraisers, as well as the sale of Fundcrazer tickets pay for the club's many service projects and donations throughout the entire year.

Fond du Lac's National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Fairgrounds Park. The Fond du Lac Noon club will have a booth at the event greeting children and families attending. The youth attending have been excited about the Bicycle Safety Sticker books, which club members give out during the event.

August and September are significant Optimist anniversaries for two members of the Fond du Lac Noon Club. On August 31, 1995, John Leonhard joined the club and on September 30, 1995, Mary Tessner joined the club.

John was recruited by Dave Foster (deceased) and Mary was recruited by her husband, Dick.

Mary has previously held the position of Vice-President of the Noon Club. For many years, Mary was the creator and editor of the club's newsletter. Additionally, for countless years Mary and Dick worked together to chair the club's successful fundraisers. Mary is still active in the club. This year she assisted with the club's Tri Star Basketball Competition.

John has held countless positions with the club and WINUM. He has served as WINUM Governor, Lt Governor for six years, District Leadership Development Chair for one year, District Convention Ambassador for one year, and District JOI Chair for one year. Additionally, he chaired the District's Tri Star Basketball Competition for over a decade. At the Club level, John has served as President four years, and as Club Foundation Representative for eleven years. He remains quite active at both the club and district level.

Congratulations to John and Mary and thank you for your years of service to the youth of Fond du Lac!

**Oshkosh Optimist Club:** The Oshkosh club is looking for ideas to recruit new members. Please share your ideas with the club.

The community is having a Children's Parade on August 2, and

## 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 16*

the club is hoping to be a sponsor and get their name out there. They are also looking into the Farmers Market and Music in the Park as possible venues to promote their club.

They meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month and usually have a guest speaker at their lunch meetings. In June they had Randy Domer speak about the five books he has written, which include many historical events or people related to Oshkosh. The club hopes to increase their membership by each bringing a potential new member to their next club meeting.

**Sheboygan Optimist Club:** In recognition of the club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a commemorative sign will be posted at Optimist Park recognizing the club's work in the community. It will be erected at the time of the park's playground expansion is completed, which also is supported by the club.

Joining the Green Bay Club, Sheboygan Optimists assisted with the district's Junior World Golf qualifier at Mid-Vallee Golf Course. Several youths qualified out of this event and will test their golfing skills at the July national

event in Miami.

Sheboygan's Optimist Park is a continual focus of the club. In addition to the \$100,000 expansion and renovation now underway, the club annually spends an afternoon at the park weeding and planting around the park's sign. *Pictured here is an enthusiastic group of Optimists completing their work.*



Sheridan Elementary School in Sheboygan will be the recipient of an Inchy the Bookworm vending machine. The book vending machine will be placed in the main entrance to school, and it will be part of the school's reading incentive program. The club purchased the machine and the initial inventory of books for the school. The school will maintain the future inventory and develop the incentive for children to obtain a book from the machine.



### **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.](#)

