



APRIL, 2026

Jane Schmidt, Governor
Marguerite Fehseke, Secretary Treasurer



IOWA DISTRICT OPTIMISTS

CULTIVATE OPTIMISM



2026 JOI SUMMIT in West Des Moines – March 28

REMINDER for the 3rd QUARTER CONFERENCE:

- Bring dessert bars for the contest! And money to vote on winners!
- Bring quarters and toiletries for the Ronald McDonald House! (WISH LIST in this newsletter)
- Bring a laptop and a team to work on your Club Impact Report and Facebook Marketing during our workshops.
- Bring a basket for the OIF auction with the theme: Spring into Optimism!
- Bring your annual donations for the Optimist International Foundation.

Message from Governor Jane

GOALS FOR THIRD QUARTER CONFERENCE:

- 120 in attendance (Currently have over 80 registered and 33 rooms spoken for)
- 10 First Timers
- 10 entries in the dessert bar contest
- Raise \$5000 for OIF (Clubs should bring their annual donations to present)
- Be at 0 or + for our district membership (We are currently at -36!)

It is always fun to set goals, and even if we don't meet them, it is still fun to see how close we can come to them. As I examined our club memberships, we currently have 25 clubs that would receive MERIT level if they do not lose any members and 6 clubs currently earning HONOR CLUB status. That means 60% of our clubs could receive recognition. If a club shows +3 membership, they are recognized as HONOR CLUB so it is not too late for those MERIT CLUBS or those who have lost members to become HONOR CLUBS. What we do is too special to keep a secret – invite new members & see where they can lead your club.

Spring is a time for transformation – Easter signifies transformation from death to life. We just need to look out and see how the grass is transforming, how the trees are beginning to bud, and how the hard earth will soon be ready for cultivation of crops. Optimist Clubs are about transformation – providing opportunities for youth to make a difference in the world and changing our communities and ourselves for the better. Keep up the great work! Let's keep **being the change** as we **cultivate optimism across Iowa!**

Governor Jane

A & A Report

The A and A report for 2 nd Quarter is due on April 10th .

Another \$75 will be randomly awarded. All clubs are encouraged to submit a report to

lowaOptimistAandA@gmail.com. If you have any questions, Sharon's contact information is in the District Directory.

**THE BEST PART OF THIRD QUARTER CONFERENCE IS
THE DISTRICT COMPETITION FOR OUR ORATORICAL
WINNER!!!!**



Optimist Oratorical Contest

Zone contests are held if there are more than 2 participants who have won at the club level, otherwise, the 2 will be sent to regional competition.

EAST REGION - April 4, Lisbon Library

CENTRAL REGION - April 11, Grinnell College

WEST REGION - Two participants so both will complete at District Conference



Baskets/Items for Third Quarter Conference



Start getting those baskets and items ready for the Optimist International Foundation auction! The theme for third quarter items is: ***Spring into Optimism*** - focus on planting and growing things, as well as enjoying all the fun spring and summer have to offer.



Looking for ideas on how to grow your club?

Here are more ideas:

- Publicize everything your club does so your community will be interested in joining!
- Offer incentives for joining!
- Offer incentives for those bringing in members!

CONGRATULATIONS to the following clubs who have shown growth this year:

SIouxLAND +1

RIVERSIDE +5 (HONOR CLUB)

COUNCIL BLUFFS +1

KIMBALLTON-ELKHORN +1

UNDERWOOD +3 (HONOR CLUB)

RED OAK +1

URBANDALE +5 (HONOR CLUB)

DES MOINES - WESTERN DES MOINES +3 (HONOR CLUB)

IOWA CITY +1

SOLON +1

MAQUOKETA +4 (HONOR CLUB)

DUBUQUE MORNING +1

NORTH SCOTT +1

BETTENDORF +5 (HONOR CLUB)

THOSE WHO ARE MERIT (did not lose any members) include:

Logan, Griswold, COBRA – Council Bluffs, Manna Cares, Walnut, Des Moines, Perry, Ankeny, Boone, Ames, Marshalltown, Waterloo, Grinnell, Oskaloosa, Knoxville, Washington Twp., Fort Madison, Henry County



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Cultivating Optimism Across Iowa

One way to cultivate optimism in ourselves is to be part of our conferences and annual convention. Mark your calendars with the following important dates:

- **Third Quarter Conference:** April 17-18, 2026
 - Location: Amana Colonies, IA (Exec Board will meet Friday evening at 7 PM)
 - THEME: Bringing out the Best in Youth
- **Summer Zoom by Zones:** June 13 - 9:30-11:30 AM
- **IOWA DISTRICT CONVENTION:** August 28-30, 2026 **PLEASE COME!!!!!!**
 - Location: Dubuque, IA
 - THEME: Bringing out the Best



QUARTERS FOR 3rd QUARTER along with TOILETRIES!

At the Ronald McDonald House, the vending machines in the basement are the only items for which the families pay. Your quarters will be provided for families facing health challenges to purchase drinks from the vending machines. Let's see how many quarters we can collect for these families! You will deposit your quarters in a glass jar at the conference. They are also in need of toiletries so bring them along! (Wish list on pg. 7 of the newsletter.) We will present everything to our RMH speaker at our conference.

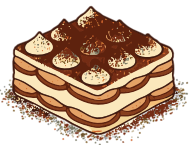


GUEST SPEAKERS:

- Oratorical contestants
- 2025 Iowa Teacher of the Year
- Ronald McDonald House of Iowa City Volunteer Manager



REMINDER: 3rd Quarter Dessert Bar Contest



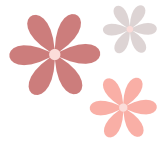
It is time to determine the **best dessert bar maker** in our Optimist Clubs. Bring your pans of bars to third quarter. The bars should not need refrigeration and may be your special brownie recipe. Judges will sample and vote for the best dessert bar. Attendees are invited to bring money to sample the bars and vote for a fan favorite. Let's see how many entries we can receive. Remaining bars will be delivered to the local police departments.

OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AS A CLUB TEAM

At the 3rd quarter conference, there will be a workshop in the morning to show how to complete the Club Impact Report. In the afternoon the workshop is designed for club members to work on creating ads and other promotional ideas to market your club. Make sure at least one of those in attendance from your club has a laptop for this very valuable and hands on learning time. The workshops will be presented by Sandi Schmidt (OI Board member), Erin Houston (our District Social Media Chair), and Bob Dunkin (Lt. Governor for Zones 7 & 13 and also a digital creator).

CREATING DOOR DECORATIONS

We will be creating door decorations for the Ronald McDonald House at 3rd quarter conference. All materials will be provided.



RONALD MCDONALD WISH LIST ***(Please bring items to 3rd Quarter)***

- *Laundry detergent (Scent and dye-free)*
- *Dishwasher liquid or pods*
- *Clorox wipes*
- *Sponges/Magic Erasers*
- *Postage stamps*
- *Durable paper plates & bowls*
- *Toilet paper*
- *Paper towels*
- *Cleaning supplies (Pledge, toilet cleaner, etc.)*
- *Deodorant*
- *Contact lens solution—travel size*
- *Full size & travel size body lotion*
- *Full size & travel size shampoo and conditioner*
- *Deodorant*
- *Grooming items (hairbrushes, razors, etc.)*
- *Batteries (all sizes)*



What's Been Happening



Bloomfield Optimist Teen of the Month

Burlington-West Burlington Booth:
Create your own comic books



CR Thursday Noon Club –
Donation to Kids First Law
Center

Oratorical Contests at
Clubs, Zones, and
Regionals

