



JUNE, 2026

Jane Schmidt, Governor
Marguerite Fehseke, Secretary Treasurer



IOWA DISTRICT OPTIMISTS

CULTIVATE OPTIMISM

Let's keep growing!

Special Governor Membership Incentive: Each person adding a member during June will be placed in a drawing for a \$50 Casey's card. This is in addition to our membership engagement incentive.

CLUB ZOOM IN JUNE

There will be a zoom meeting held on June 13 from 9:30 - no later than 11 AM to touch bases on how to FUNdraise and Raise FUN in our clubs. This will be a great opportunity for us to check in on progress.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89865378747?pwd=4xeqM4E8ITZp3UXHUipRJ8paNaJiAp.1>



STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Included in this newsletter is the form to register **Iowa District Optimist State Convention** in Dubuque, IA, from Aug. 28-30, 2026. Please register for a wonderful and memorable time!

FOOD PACKAGING PROGRAM FOR STATE CONVENTION

We are hoping to have a food packaging program through **Meals from the Heartland** at the Iowa District Optimist State Convention. This will only be possible if clubs are willing to donate to make this happen. The **Noon Club of Western Des Moines** has agreed to donate \$1000 towards this project and **Bettendorf Optimist Club** will also be donating. Please consider a donation through your club so we can feed those facing food scarcity challenges in Iowa. All meals packaged will stay in our state. Call or email me by June 30 if your club is willing to participate through a donation. Together, we can make this happen! **GOAL: \$6000 for 10,000 meals!!!**

Check out their website at <https://mealsfromtheheartland.org/>
(Jane Schmidt, phone 563-249-2536 or janeschmidt5@gmail.com)

Message from Governor Jane

I have been thinking a lot about the Optimist Creed and what I have been privileged to witness within communities where Optimist Clubs exist. The Optimist Creed takes on feet and hands when community needs are met by local clubs. It is easy to be a spokesperson for the Optimist Clubs across Iowa because of the wonderful things they are accomplishing through a dedication to youth and community. Scholarships, good citizen recognition awards, promise awards, sports teams, All state winners, JOI clubs, food pantries, concert series, Shop with a Cop, Bike Safety Rodeos, services for those with health issues, school support, backpack programs...and the list goes on. It is our belief that cultivating optimism changes lives - whether we cultivate it within ourselves or within others. When we bring out the best in others, we bring out the best in ourselves.

Let's keep **being the change** as we **cultivate optimism across Iowa!**

Governor Jane



Message from Membership Chair: Dave Phillips

We are making positive strides in reaching our goals of having membership growth in our Great Iowa District and "Cultivating Optimism" in new areas. While we are currently in negative growth through June 3rd, our District experienced growth during April. Club building efforts continue in Clinton, DeWitt, Keokuk, and Waukee. I am optimistic that the goal of chartering the DeWitt Optimist Club by June 26th will come to fruition.

I trust that all of us believe that being actively involved in our respective Optimist clubs has added a meaningful purpose to our lives. I challenge each of you to think of at least one person; i.e., friend, relative, spouse, co-worker, etc., who would welcome an opportunity to add a meaningful purpose to their lives.

2nd Quarter Incentive Winners:

Club - Urbandale Optimist Club (received a \$200 check)

Individual - Braelynn Bertocchi, Tippee Optimist Club (received a \$100 check)

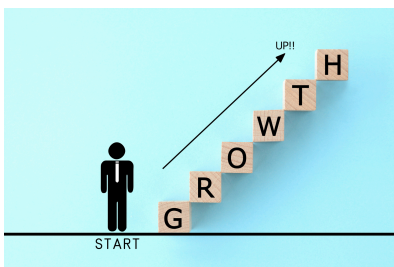
Eighteen members have recruited at least 2 members earning them an Awesome Optimist pen hand-crafted by Carl McCarthy

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER SPONSORS FOR THIS YEAR! YOU ROCK!

Scott Bengfort	Bettendorf
Taylor Benshoof	Winterset
Braelynn Bertocchi	Tippie Hawkeye
Jim Boyd	Urbandale
Judy Boyd	Urbandale
Becky Bray	Bettendorf
Rebecca Butler-Mona	DM-W Noon
Shawn Conley	Iowa City
Daniel Crouse	Red Oak
Jolynne-Davis	Bloomfield
Mauricio Diaz	Davenport Noon
Theresa Dunkin	North Liberty
Marybeth Ferring	Dubuque Morning
Roger Goldsberry	Waterloo
Connie Gordon	Urbandale
Jamie Grout	Newton
Ron Gunnare	Davenport Noon
Carol Hammill	Maquoketa
Wayne Hansen	Kimballton-Elkhorn
Marge Hopkins	Burlington
Mike Hoy	Council Bluffs
Margaret Jaeckal	Council Bluffs
Alicia Johnson	Underwood
Jane Johnson	Newton
Joleen Jorgensen	Grinnell

Dave Kapler	Peosta
Debbie Keast	Riverside
RD Keep	Oskaloosa
Kate Krabbenhoft	Maquoketa
Brad Krause	Council Bluffs
Kristopher Kucera	Solon
Michelle Leon	Siouxland
Roland Lamantia	Davenport Noon
Brian Monroe	Davenport Noon
Rueben Moore	QC Morning
Anne Morgan	Bloomfield
Joe Obleton	Davenport Noon
Dave Phillips	Bettendorf
Chad Rheingans	North Scott
Barb Robertson	Underwood
Dale Roberston	Underwood
Brian Schmidt	Maquoketa
Jane Schmidt	Maquoketa
Daryn Smith	Bettendorf
Steve Urlaub	Council Bluffs
Jeff Waller	Davenport Noon
Leonard Wright	Council Bluffs

REMEMBER: This year those who sponsor 2 or more members receive a beautiful engraved pen created by Carl McCarthy of Dubuque Eve Optimist Club. Let's keep Carl busy crafting his beautiful pens!



LET'S GROW!

Currently, there are 23 clubs that show negative growth from October 1. Please set a goal to return where you were on October 1, 2026. We would love to be a Distinguished District, but we need your help! Contact your Lt. Governor, Secretary-Treasurer Marguerite Fehseke, or me if you need ideas on how to make this happen.

We would love to assist you!

CLUB IMPACT REPORT (REQUIREMENT TO BE AN HONOR CLUB)

REMEMBER: This year the **Club Impact Report** replaces the Club Pride Report. Links to this report have been sent to the club presidents and secretaries and can be found on the Optimist Leaders Online website. It is a place to record each of your club events as they happen instead of waiting until September to report them. It is fun to see how many hours clubs are serving and how many people they are impacting. Please check out OI's website for details on completing this report.

OPTIMIST OF THE YEAR

I am inviting each club to **nominate one member as their Optimist of the Year 2025-2026** - someone who has served above and beyond during this Optimist year, a person who has lived the Optimist Creed and brought out the best in youth, the community, and other club members. **Nominations should be submitted to me by July 15.** Those nominations will be showcased at the State Convention and the **Optimist of the Year** will be selected and honored at the First Quarter Conference in October.

OPTIMIST OF THE YEAR 2025-2026 Nomination Form

Nominate a club member who has gone above and beyond with your club **this year** by actively bringing out the best in youth, your community, and your club members; someone who lives the Optimist Creed by example. One nomination per club. You can email the following information or send the information in a way that works best for you. For past recipients of this award, check out the District Directory (your officers have copies).

CLUB:

PERSON BEING NOMINATED:

NOMINATED BY:

1. Why are you nominating this person as Optimist of the Year 2025-2026?
2. List how this person has participated in club activities including things like offices held (if any) or events attended. How have they brought out the best in youth, your community, and other club members? Be specific about how s/he has been an active participant in your club.
3. Give examples of how this person lives the Optimist Creed. What qualities of character does this person display that make him/her a great choice as Optimist of the Year 2025-2026?



Spreading Optimism Through OI's Microgrant Opportunity



Social media has changed the way we connect, share, and inspire each other. It gives Optimist Clubs a powerful way to amplify their mission and shine a light on the best in youth, communities, and ourselves. With every post, photo, and message, clubs can turn moments of service into stories that uplift others. In a digital world that moves quickly, Optimist Clubs can use social media to spread hope, encouragement, and action far beyond local boundaries. (BUT do not forget the importance of our local newspapers and radio stations to promote our club as well.)

Why Social Media Matters for Optimist Clubs

- **Reach Beyond Boundaries** — Social media helps Optimist Clubs connect with people far beyond their immediate community. It opens the door to new supporters, partners, and future members who may never have found the organization otherwise.
- **Inspire Daily** — A simple post can brighten someone's day and remind them that positive change is happening all around them.
- **Showcase Impact** — Sharing success stories brings the club's service to life and makes its mission obvious.
- **Engage Younger Generations** — Social platforms are where many young people spend their time and attention.
- **Build Community Connections** — Social media creates an easy way to stay connected with members, families, schools, and neighbors in meaningful ways.

Consider applying for a Social Media Grant from Optimist International. It is a simple form and will provide you with funds to either grow your club or sponsor a new club through Facebook marketing.

Here is the form for the **microgrant for social media campaigns** aimed at growth - Club growth or New Club Building: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=F9KmlNhq40aygRh7G-lrrEsLeZWmRpxHtWjhvPRk_BpURThNUzM1MUHNjQ0Tlo2UTNQRUtOVkVUWi4u&route=shorturl





2025-2026 Iowa District Optimist Convention

REGISTRATION FORM

August 28 - 30, 2026

Grand Harbor Resort at 350 Bell Street in Dubuque, IA 52001 PHONE: 563-690-4000

Rooms \$159 (plus taxes/fees), Room Block expires July 28, 2026
Price includes full breakfast and access to the water park.

Full Registration (if registered by July 28, 2026) Includes: \$135

General Sessions, Training, Model Club Luncheon, Friday Fun Night, Governor's Banquet & All-Optimist Breakfast

AFTER JULY 28 - PRICE IS \$175

Prices below are single event registration amounts

Friday, August 28, 2026

Friday Fun Night (included in full registration) \$30 _____ AFTER JULY 28 -
PRICE IS \$50

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Model Club Luncheon (included in full registration) \$45 _____ AFTER JULY 28 -
PRICE IS \$65

Governor's Banquet & Entertainment (in the beautiful River Room - looking out over the Mississippi River)

(included in full registration) \$55 _____ AFTER JULY 28 -
PRICE IS \$75

Sunday, August 30, 2026

All Optimist Breakfast (included in full registration) \$35 _____ AFTER JULY 28 -
PRICE IS \$45

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to:

**Iowa District Optimist Convention 2026
Attn: Barb Perleth
2455 Rolling Creek Lane, Dubuque, IA 52003**

NOTE: One form per person please

Name: _____

Club Name, Number, Club Position:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Special Food Needs: _____

E-Mail: _____

