



Kansas District Newsletter

March 2026

KANSAS DISTRICT OPTIMISTS

3rd Quarter District Meeting and District

Oratorical Contest

April 25, 2026

OLATHE, KS

Meeting Place:

Olathe School District Technology Support Center
14250 S. Black Bob Rd
Olathe, KS 66062

Saturday:

Registration and Coffee: 8:00 a.m.
Meeting Begins: 9:00 a.m.



Join your fellow Optimists for fellowship, fun, and good food. Learn about District and Optimist International programs, listen to interesting speakers, and share ideas with other clubs. Support the students in the District Oratorical Contest which will be held during the meeting on Saturday. **A registration form is attached to this newsletter or you can register online at ksoptimist.org.** There is no charge for this meeting.

Governor:

Randy Bailes, RandyB16@cox.net

Immediate Past Governor:

Judy Morris, JudyTheOptimist@gmail.com

Governor-Elect:

Jacob Swisher, jaswisher@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Joe Shank, shank9538@gmail.com

Secretary:

Mary Griffin, kumoogie@aol.com

Lt. Governors

Zone 1: Judy Leary, Learysr@att.net

Zone 2: Rod Obermeier, obermeierrd@cox.net

Zone 3: Bill Wisdom, billwisdom17@gmail.com

Zone 4: Jim Morris,
jimorris2007@yahoo.com

District Team

Health and Wellness: Marlene Natoli,
marnatoli@att.net

Conf/Conv & Protocol: Suzi Obermeier,
suziobermeier@gmail.com

Foundation Rep: Dale Fox,
ddfox1701@yahoo.com

Finance Committee Chair: Charles Galligher,
cgalligher@cox.net

Member: Ruth Nelson,
rnelson1021@sbcglobal.net

Member: Cecil Cunday, cbcundayii@aol.com

International Convention Ambassador: Dave
Bruns, brunsteam@aol.com

Jr. Golf: Kit Kelley, kkelley1099@sbcglobal.net

Leadership Development: Kris Kirkes,
kris.kirkes@simmonsbank.com

Membership Engagement: Rod Obermeier,
obermeierrd@cox.net

Growth: Open

Oratorical: Diana Carlin-Pierron,
dianabcarlin@gmail.com

Essay: Lisa Brummett, the
brummett5@gmail.com

Communication/Social Media/Newsletter:
Mary Griffin, kumoogie@aol.com

Programs/Projects Community: Open

Webmaster/Owner of Site/Mgr.: Erica
Derrington, ederringtonwdsc@olathe
schools.org

Webmaster/Maintenance: Ruth Nelson,
rnelson1021@sbcglobal.net



MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR RANDY BAILES

Focus on Growth, Retention, Member Engagement, and Leader Development

Greetings Kansas District Optimists,

Spring is a season of renewal and vibrant energy, and it's the perfect time to refocus our efforts on the pillars that make our organization thrive—growth, retention, member engagement, and leader development. As your Governor, I am excited to share our vision and strategies for strengthening our clubs and communities in the months ahead.

Embracing Growth: Welcoming New Optimists

Growth is essential to our mission of bringing out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves. This spring, let's challenge each other to invite new members to experience the Optimist spirit. Share your stories of impact and let others know how joining our family can help them make a difference. Consider hosting open house events, leveraging social media, and engaging with local schools and organizations to reach new audiences.

Retention: Valuing Every Optimist

Retaining our current members is just as important as recruiting new ones. Every Optimist brings unique skills and perspectives that enrich our district. Let's make retention a priority by recognizing member milestones, offering meaningful opportunities to contribute, and providing ongoing support. Reach out to members who may have become less active and remind them of the value they bring to our team.

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR RANDY BAILES

Member Engagement: Building Connections and Impact

Engaged members are the heart of a strong club. This season, I encourage clubs to create more opportunities for involvement—whether through service projects, social gatherings, or professional development workshops. Listen to your members' ideas and empower them to take the lead on initiatives that matter to them. The more connected we feel, the greater our collective impact will be.

Leader Development: Cultivating Tomorrow's Optimist Leaders

Our legacy depends on developing confident, capable leaders. Invest in leadership training and mentorship programs within your club. Encourage members to step into new roles, offer guidance and support, and celebrate their growth. By fostering an environment where future leaders can flourish, we ensure the continued success of our district for years to come. This is the perfect opportunity as we select our leaders for the next Optimist year. It is time for nominating committees, elections, and sending our newly elected leaders to the International Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, in July and to our District Convention in Topeka in August.

Looking Ahead

Let's make this spring a time of dynamic growth and renewed commitment. Together, we can create a Kansas District where every Optimist feels valued, empowered, and inspired to serve. Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm—let's spring forward and make this season one of our best yet!

Yours in Optimism,

Randy

Randy Bailes

2025-2026 Governor

Kansas District Optimist International

3RD QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING

Join your fellow Optimists at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting in Olathe on Saturday, April 25 at the Olathe School District Technology Support Center, 14250 S. Black Bob Road in Olathe. The Olathe Noon Club is hosting the event with the help of the Lenexa and Merriam Clubs. Registration and the Coffee Hour will begin at 8:00 a.m., and the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be catered by Diane Gossage of the Olathe Club.

We will be joined by Middle America Region Vice-President Liz Christman who will present a message to the group and update everyone on regional news. The District Oratorical Contest will be held during the morning, and we will have elections for Lt. Governors for 2026-2027. Be sure to read the Foundation News in this newsletter and learn about a fun Optimist Trivia Contest being planned by Dale Fox. A tentative agenda for the meeting is included in this newsletter. As the meeting is still a few weeks away, it is possible there will be some changes to the agenda.

There is no charge for the meeting, but you still need to register so we have a firm count for lunch. A form is attached to this newsletter which should be returned to District Treasurer Joe Shank.

We do not have a block of rooms reserved at a local hotel for this meeting. Due to World Cup preparations in the Kansas City area, rooms may be hard to find and the cost higher. If you do need a room for Friday night, you should make a reservation as soon as possible.

See you in April!

Suzi Obermeier, Conference and Convention Chair
suziobermeier@gmail.com





Randy Bailes
2025-2026 Governor

Kansas District Optimist Third Quarter Meeting

Tech Support Center, 14250 S Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS

TENTATIVE AGENDA

April 25, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Registration open
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome – Randy Bailes
Posting of Colors, Pledge, Girl Scout Troop #5778,
Blue River Elementary School
Welcome – Barb Cordts, President, Olathe Noon
Optimist Club
Welcome - City of Olathe
- 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting – Governor Randy Bailes
presiding
Approval of Minutes – Secretary Mary Griffin
Approval of Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Joe Shank
Lt. Governor Zone Reports
District Leadership Team Reports
Zone Breakouts & Election of Lt. Governors
New Business
Adjourn Business Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00 a.m. Kansas District Essay Contest – Lisa Brummett
- 10:30 a.m. 2025-2026 Kansas District Optimist Oratorical
Contest – Diana Carlin-Pierron, Kansas District and
Optimist World Oratorical Contest Chair

12:00 p.m. Lunch – Courtesy of Olathe Noon Optimist Club. Presentation by Liz Christman, Optimist International Vice President for Middle America Region

1:00 p.m. Presentation of Suicide Prevention Video, Sponsored by Olathe Noon Optimist Club

130 p.m. District Foundation Rep – Dale Fox – Trivia Contest

2:30 p.m. Kansas Optimist Club Showcase

This segment provides an opportunity for clubs to share and celebrate the many positive initiatives they are undertaking in their communities. Each club is encouraged to highlight their achievements, programs, and the impact they are making locally. The showcase serves as a platform for exchanging ideas, inspiring one another, and recognizing the collective efforts of Optimist Clubs across Kansas.

3:45 p.m. Closing Remarks
Creed - Adjourn

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to scheduling conflicts, the date for the 4th Quarter District Meeting and Convention has been changed to August 21-23, 2026. Please change this date on your calendars so you can be sure and attend!

Suzi Obermeier
Conference and Convention Chair

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST

It's time for clubs to be completing their Oratorical Contests and preparing for Zone competitions. This year's topic is: **“The Moment I Realized I Belonged: My Definition of Community”**. Everything you need to know to plan a contest is found on the OI website under Signature Programs, Scholarship Contests. Clubs should complete their club contests by the end of March with Zone contests in April, culminating in the District Contest at the 3rd Quarter meeting in Olathe on Saturday, April 25th. When you provide information about the contest to schools and students who contact you, be sure to point them to the Guidelines for Oratorical Participants on the OI website. It gives suggestions for writing a winning oration. Your information should remind students that by signing the entry form, they are stating that the work is original and not written by another person or by AI. We will run all speeches through AI detection software. If you need assistance with doing this, please contact Diana Carlin, District Oratorical Chair. Also, if you have any other questions about recruiting students or running the contest after reviewing the OI website, please contact Diana.

Diana Carlin-Pierron

Oratorical Contest Chair, dianabcarlin@gmail.com



2nd QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING

Due to inclement weather, the 2nd Quarter District Meeting was held Saturday, January 24 on Zoom. During the morning session OI President Tom Kendo addressed the group and outlined his goals for the upcoming year in the areas of communications, marketing, and membership growth and retention. His phrase for the year is “Be the Change”, and President Tom challenged all Kansas Optimists to ‘be the change” for their clubs and communities.

Attendees also had the opportunity to view two excellent videos from Optimist Internation. The first was on Growth and Retention and the second was on Growing Optimism Through Consistent Marketing. As clubs often struggle to find new members these videos gave ways to find and retain members and market clubs and their activities.

Zoe Lane from the Derby Club gave an interesting presentation on Social Media and the best ways to use Facebook and other platforms to promote Optimist Clubs. During the day there was also a business meeting and a chance for clubs to share ideas for projects and fundraisers.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The 2026 Kansas District Optimist Childhood Cancer Golf Tournament will be held Monday, August 3 at Prairie Highlands Golf Course in Olathe. Last year’s tournament raised \$18,500 that was donated to two summer camps that give young people with cancer the opportunity to “be a kid” for a week during the summer. Of the money raised \$14,800 was given to Camp Quality Kansas and \$3,700 to Kymel (Camp Hope).

Please start thinking about how clubs can support the 2026 Childhood Cancer Golf Tournament by sending a team to play in the tournament, providing silent auction items and/or being a Hole Sponsor the day of the tournament. Planning for the 2026 tournament has already started, and further details will be available soon.

Marlene Natoli, Health and Wellness
marnatoli@att.net

KANSAS DISTRICT/OI FOUNDATION

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE KANSAS DISTRICT 3RD QUARTER MEETING IN OLATHE!!!

It's going to be jam packed with excellent young people competing for the Oratorical Contest, **AND THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU AND YOUR CLUB TO JOIN TOGETHER AS A TEAM and WIN THE OPTIMIST TRIVIA CONTEST.**

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR CLUB AND THE OPTIMIST ORGANIZATION?

We are going to have fun as we rediscover our origins and the development of our Optimist Organization. The entry fee for the event is \$20 per person or \$100 per table. A table will have 6 people, and those 6 people will comprise their team. A club could purchase a table and have 6 of their members be on their team/ or a club could purchase a table and only have 2 members attend. They could fill their table with people from other clubs. If the club would make out the check to Optimist International Foundation, it would satisfy one of the expectations for an Honor Club.

We are on target to reach our goal of 200 Dime-A-Day members for 2026. As of January 31st, we have 107 Dime-A-Day members. If you have not done so, NOW would be a good time to join your Kansas District Optimists in supporting the program side of our Optimist organization. Bring a check to our 3rd quarter conference for \$36.50 and made out to Optimist International Foundation (write Dime A Day on the memo line), and I will take it from there. It would be exciting if we could collect another 25 members at this conference.

Speaking of DIME-A-DAY – Being as we did not have a January meeting, the drawing for Royals tickets and parking for June 19th will take place at this conference. The names of Dime-A-Day members before January 1, 2026, will be in this drawing.

KANSAS DISTRICT/OI FOUNDATION (Cont.)

**REMEMBER - OPTIMIST TRIVIA:
\$20 PER PERSON
\$100 TABLE SPONSOR (6 PEOPLE PER TABLE)**

Some potential questions:

1. The Optimist Organization began in what year?
A. 1923 B. 1914 C. 1919 D. 1920
2. Name a Kansas Optimist club that sells Christmas Trees.
3. Name the oldest Optimist Club in Kansas
4. How many zones are in the Kansas District
a. 8 b. 4 c. 1 d. 6

The winning team will have bragging rights and a prize to show for it. So, we will have fun, learn about our Optimist Organization, AND most importantly, we will raise funds for our youth.

Come join us on April 25th and have fun as we play Optimist Trivia. It would be helpful if you would register for the Trivia contest in advance. You may do so by email (ddfox1701@yahoo.com), or by text to 785-248-6309.

ALSO, A REMINDER ABOUT CLUB GRANTS!

The deadline for the first set of grants in March 30th. The committee will review them and inform the applicants in May. The application is on the Optimist International Foundation website. The funds available range from \$250 to \$1,000. The funds must be spent on a **NEW** project and is a matching grant. Thus, if your club has a new project that you are going to dedicate \$500 of your club's money to, you could double the impact for the youth by applying for a \$500 Club Grant from the OI Foundation. If your request is granted, you will have the grant money for one year. **This is an excellent way to impact the youth in your community.**

KANSAS DISTRICT QUALIFIER-OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

To date, we have 14 entries to the Kansas Qualifying Tournament for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. If you would like to volunteer on June 5 in Emporia, email me at the address below.

KANSAS DISTRICT QUALIFIER OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP (OIJGC)

ELIGIBILITY: Open to Girls and Boys 10 - 18 years of age who have not turned 19 on or before July 30, 2026, and may not have attended college. Entry Deadline - 5/30/26

WHEN: June 5th 2026

WHERE: Emporia Golf Course, Emporia Kansas 1133 S HWY 99, 620-343-5610
*Driving Range - balls provided

TO ENTER: Go To - **OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF: KANSAS DISTRICT QUALIFIER** or **Optimist International Junior Golf Championship**

POSTING: Tournament results posted approx. 1HR after all play is completed at - www.emporiagolfcourse.com and ASAP Optimist International websites

TEE TIMES: Posted May 31st by 5 PM
Girls All 8:30 - 9:30 AM (Oldest Group First)
Boys 10 - 15 10 AM - 12PM (Oldest Group First)
Boys 16 - 18 12:00 PM All times are approximate and
Requested tee times can be accommodated

OIJGC DATES: July 15 - 20 Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12
2026 July 20 - 25 Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14
July 25 -30 Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

SPONSORSHIP: Girls 13-14 & 15-18 Winner, and Boys 14-15 & 16-18 Winner
Will have entry fee sponsored by Kansas District Optimists

QUALIFYING SCORES: Equal to or better than and (Available Spots)
Girls 10-12 = 96 (2) Boys 10-11 = 95 (2)
Girls 13-14 = 92 (2) Boys 12-13 = 89 (2)
Girls 15-18 = 84 (2) Boys 14-15 = 82 (2) Boys 16-18 = 77 (5)

YARDAGE: Girls 10-12 = 5000 Boys 10-11 = 5500
Girls 13-14 = 5500 Boys 12-13 = 6000
Girls 15-18 = 6000 Boys 14-15 = 6500 Boys 16-18 = 6800

TROPHIES: 1st - 3rd All Divisions, Plus 4th and 5th for Boys 16-18

NOTE: All participants play 18 holes, pull carts are allowed. Parents may spot and help look for balls but no coaching. Parents may rent a cart but must stay on the cart path.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

108th Optimist International Convention, Jacksonville, Florida Hyatt Regency Jacksonville, June 28-July 2, 2026

The Optimist International Convention is more than a meeting – it is a celebration of the extraordinary difference that Optimist Clubs are making on behalf of youth in communities around the world!

We gather each year at the Convention to recognize outstanding achievements, hear wonderful speakers, share inspiration, strengthen friendships, and energize our leadership skills. So, let's make this year's Convention in Jacksonville, Florida this summer our most impactful and well-represented convention to date.

This year we will be celebrating our Optimism from June 27–July 1 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Also, make sure to enjoy the beach and other attractions in surrounding area before or after the Convention.

For additional details, please visit: [Hotel Rooms & Suites in Jacksonville, FL | Hyatt Regency Jacksonville](#). To reserve a suite or ask questions about the hotel, please email Becky Smith, Associate Director of Events at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, at becky.smith@hyatt.com.

Also, registration for the convention is now open on the OI website. Go to Member Resources and then scroll down to Annual Convention. Register before May 1 to take advantage of the Early Bird rate. After May 1, the registration fee will increase by \$50 USD.

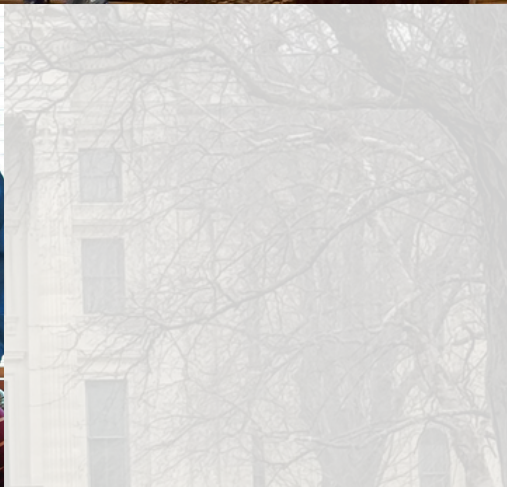
See you in Jacksonville!

Dave Bruns
International Convention Ambassador
brunsteam@aol.com



DISTRICT OPTIMIST DAY ACTIVITIES

Members of the **Kansas District Optimists** visited the Capitol in Topeka on Wednesday, February 5 in celebration of Optimist Day which was on February 6 this year. The group had the privilege of meeting Governor Kelly in her office where they presented her with a framed copy of the Optimist Creed. Then the Kansas District Optimists were recognized on the floor of the House of Representatives for their work with young people in our state. A proclamation was presented in honor of the Kansas District and Optimist Day.



The **Optimist International Foundation** gave each District Governor \$500 to present to a Ronald McDonald House of their choice in honor of Optimist Day 2026. Kansas Governor Randy Bailes chose to donate our \$500 to the Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Kansas located in Topeka.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

I am sure many of you are familiar with the **Optimist Institute** as the place to go for officer training. In addition to required training for club and district officers, the Optimist Institute is a benefit for all Optimists! It's easy for everyone to sign-up for the Institute on the OI website. If you have officer credentials, you will need to register separately for the Institute.

Here are some of the benefits to being active in the Optimist Institute.

Leadership Training – Workshops and modules for club officers and members.

Skill Development – Technology training, training on social media and AI, training in communication, leadership, youth program management, and community engagement.

Personal Development – Personal Growth and Development in both Optimist topics and general topics.

Resource Library – Guides, handbooks, and best practices for running successful clubs.

Support for New Members – Orientation materials, learning path and information on Optimism as a philosophy.

Kris Kirkes, Leadership Development
kris.kirkes@simmonsbank.com



KANSAS HONOR CLUBS 2024-2025

**CONGRATULATIONS to our KANSAS DISTRICT'S FIVE HONOR CLUBS
for the 2024-2025 Optimist Year:**

GARNETT OPTIMIST CLUB
GARY STEELE, President
CHARLES FOLTZ, Secretary-Treasurer

JUNCTION CITY BREAKFAST OPTIMIST CLUB
NITA MILLER, President
FERRELL MILLER, Secretary
RONALD JOHNSON, Treasurer

MANHATTAN OPTIMIST CLUB
GREG McCUNE, President
LISA BRUMMETT, Secretary
CLYDE SCOTT, Treasurer

OLATHE NOON OPTIMIST CLUB
BARBARA CORDTS, President
MARY GRIFFIN, Secretary
DEBBIE NEWTON, Treasurer

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB OF NORTH TOPEKA
TIM McCOY, President
CORY McPHERSON, Secretary-Treasurer

I am SO Proud of our Kansas District and the many accomplishments of our Kansas clubs during the 2024-2025 Optimist Year. Optimists are special people who serve their communities well. It is always exciting to be recognized for the good things you do, and these five clubs earned one of the highest recognition possible from Optimist International.

KANSAS HONOR CLUBS 2024-2025, CON'T

To put this in perspective, 30 of the 82 Districts in OI had at least 1 Honor Club during the 2024-25 year; but only 6 of those Districts had 5 or more Honor Clubs, and only 4 Districts had more Honor Clubs than our KANSAS District! We are nowhere close to being the “biggest” District, but KANSAS is definitely one of the BEST in OI – thanks to the amazing people who have chosen to be OPTIMISTS!

This is an achievement truly worth CELEBRATING!!

I encourage ALL of our Kansas clubs to look at the requirements for MERIT CLUB and other honor designations for the 2025-2026 Optimist year. Don't miss out on the opportunity for YOUR club to get the recognition it deserves.

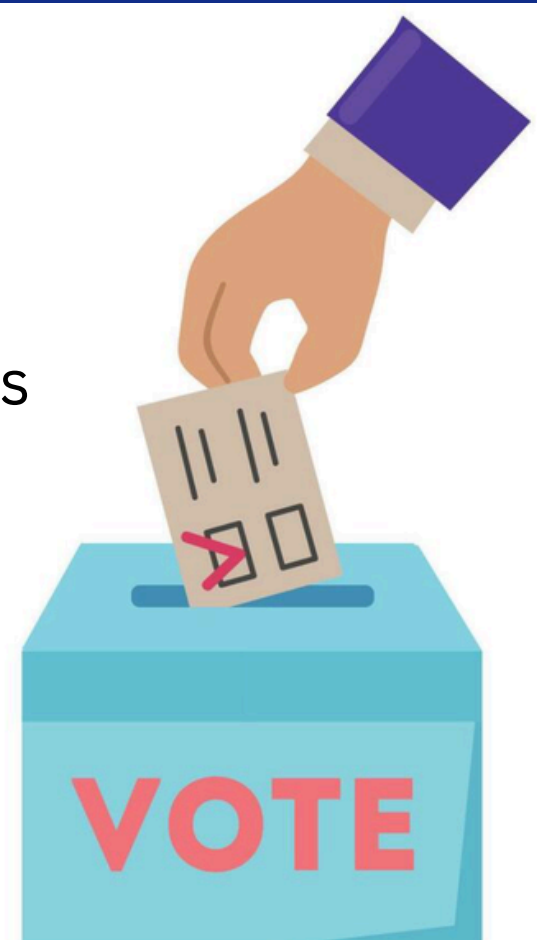
Thank you again to all our Kansas Optimists for all that you do!

Judy K. Morris,
2024-2025 Kansas District Governor



CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS

TO ALL KANSAS CLUBS: Now is the time to plan and hold your election of officers for 2026-2027. The Officer-Elect Report is due to OI by May 20. Even if you have the same officers as last year, you need to complete the report which can be found on your club's home page on the Optimist International website



ZONE 4 REPORT

Greetings, Kansas Optimists, from the Southern Zone! All eight clubs, from independence to Pratt, have been being Optimists and working for kids!

Arkansas City recently held their Valentine Banquet for their spouses and included immediate past Governor Judy Morris and Lt. Governor Jim in the festivities. It is time to consider running for Lt. Governor of Zone 4 and getting to visit clubs is one of the perks of the job. Also consider a portion of your expenses are paid if you'd like to attend the OI convention in late June-early July. It will be held in Jacksonville, Florida.

Derby's club just completed the Essay Contest and will hold their Oratorical Contest on Thursday, March 26 at Haysville West Middle School. In addition, the club's Student of the Year Award Ceremony will be in early May.

The Optimist Club in Independence is always busy as they have a menu of 15 child centered programs they manage. Compared to many clubs, their list covers the whole year. After Prom and City Fireworks are a couple events coming in the next few months.

Mulvane is ramping up for their very successful Spring Steak Fry. They also recently instituted a couple new programs: Basketball Shooting and a Teen Trivia Contest. Coming soon will be "Big Truck Day!"

Pratt continues with their bicycle restoration project and also had a great turnout for the Essay Contest.

Wichita North, Northeast, and West are closing in on their joint event, the Unsung Hero's Banquet. It's always a highlight of the year. The Northeast club also entered a student into the Oratorical Contest as did Derby. No Zone contest will be required as no other clubs are holding a contest.

Jim Morris, Zone 4 Lt. Governor
jimmorris2007@yahoo.com

THANK YOU FROM CAMP HOPE

The Kansas District received the following letter from KyMel, Inc., thanking the District for their donation to Camp Hope. The money donated to the summer camp for children with cancer was raised during the 2025 Kansas District Optimist Childhood Cancer Golf Tournament on August 4 at Prairie Highlands Golf Course in Olathe.

KyMel, Inc.
P.O. Box 1529
Great Bend, KS 67530



Jan. 3, 2026

Connecting Experiences
for families on the cancer journey

Dear Kansas District Optimist,

Thank you for your VERY kind donation of \$3700.00 to KyMel, Inc. This donation will help provide week-long camps for children who are battling cancer, who have survived cancer, and the siblings of these children.

Camp Hope offers the campers an opportunity to do things that all children do at summer camps and to be among peers who have, or have had, similar life-threatening illnesses. It provides a sense of empowerment, of self-determination and of self-esteem.

Camp SIBsational is a camp for the siblings of youth with cancer because KyMel, Inc. recognizes that cancer affects the entire family. Camp SIBsational provides a traditional summer camp experience in a peer-support environment for these siblings

KyMel, Inc. is funded strictly by donations. Your donation will help to carry on these wonderful opportunities.

Sincerely,

J. Bryan Wohlwend
President, KyMel, Inc.

**It is the mission of KyMel, Inc. to support families
living with, through and beyond the cancer experience.**

Please consider this letter the official receipt of your contribution. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution, other than the joy of giving back and being kind. KyMel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Gifts are tax-deductible as allowable by law. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of this gift.

Website: kymel.org
Email: kymel@kymel.org

KANSAS CLUB ACTIVITIES

The **Shawnee Heights Optimist Club of Topeka** has been providing youth basketball programs for the Topeka area for over 40 years. On Saturday, February 7, District Governor Randy Bailes and Zone 2 Lt. Governor Rod Obermeier visited the club to watch some of the games. Shawnee Heights Club Secretary/Treasurer Ron Reiter indicated the program includes about 105 participants, plus coaches, in coed competition. The club runs a concession stand to provide snacks and drinks as well as biscuits and gravy for those wishing to indulge.

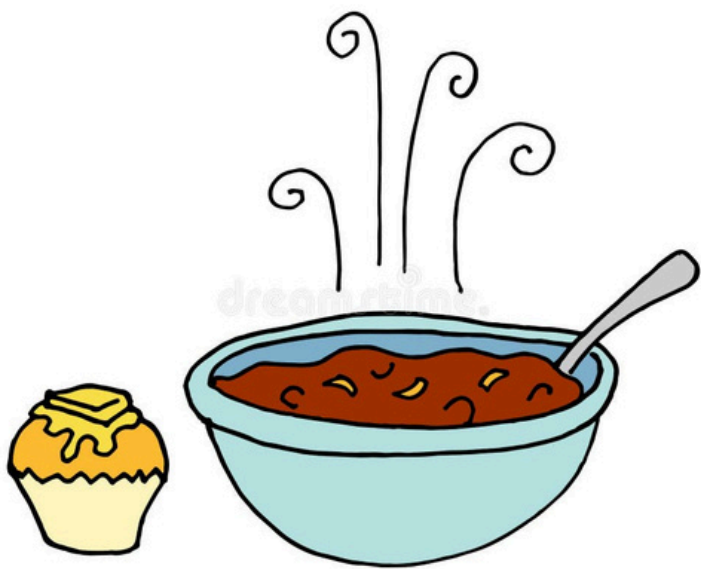
The Shawnee Heights Club will end their basketball season with a “Tri-Star” competition. Prizes will be awarded to both boy and girl winners in each age group.

Randy Bailes
District Governor



KANSAS CLUB ACTIVITIES

The **Topeka Optimist Club** held a Chili Supper and Bake Sale in February. The event was so successful the servers ran out of chili! There were lots of yummy baked goods sold too, including some delicious cinnamon rolls.



To celebrate the holiday, members of the **Franklin County Optimists** enjoyed a Valentine's Day Trivia Contest with snacks and prizes.



KANSAS CLUB ACTIVITIES

Students from the **St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Junior Optimist Club** volunteered to help with the school's Tackle Hunger Food Drive. The school collected a total of \$5,360 food and hygiene items, surpassing last year's total of 3,260 items. The JOI Club is sponsored by the **Junction City Breakfast Optimist Club**.



The **Junction City Breakfast Optimist Club** invited members of the **Junction City High School Junior Optimist Club** to their January board meeting. The purpose of the invitation was to establish a relationship between the two clubs and also demonstrate to the students how the monthly board meetings are conducted.



KANSAS CLUB ACTIVITIES

The **Mulvane Optimist Club** held their Tri-Star Basketball Skills Competition in February. Medals were awarded to the winners and several youngsters won door prizes as well.



Mulvane Middle and High School students had a great time competing for prizes and eating snacks at a Trivia Competition sponsored by the **Mulvane Optimist Club**. The club strives to provide safe, fun activities for the young people in their community.

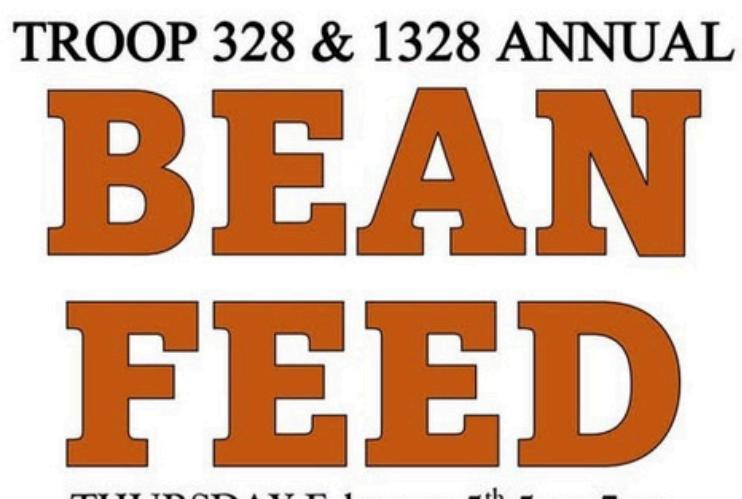


KANSAS CLUB ACTIVITIES

The **Optimist Club of Arkansas City** held a Membership Drive on February 5th at the historic Burford Theatre. They shared information about their club's many activities and served pork burgers.



The **Ark City Optimists** recently donated money for the ingredients needed by Scout Troops 328 and 1328 for the annual Bean Feed. The money raised by the scouts will fund their activities.



In support of another community event for young people, the **Ark City Optimists** held a Porkburger Lunch on February 13 to raise funds for the Arkansas City High School Junior-Senior Prom.



KANSAS CLUB ACTIVITIES

Dr. Jessica Lopez (front row center in photo) recently attended a meeting of the **West Wichita Optimist Club** and brought a thank you note from the Catholic Diocese of Wichita's Ministry with Persons with Disabilities. The note thanked the club for its donation to the organization which provides resources allowing parishioners with physical, mental, or sensory disabilities to fully participate in parish life. The group provides services such as equipment for adaptive masses for the deaf or blind and accessible church facilities. It also organizes the diocese's Special Olympics team of 60 athletes.

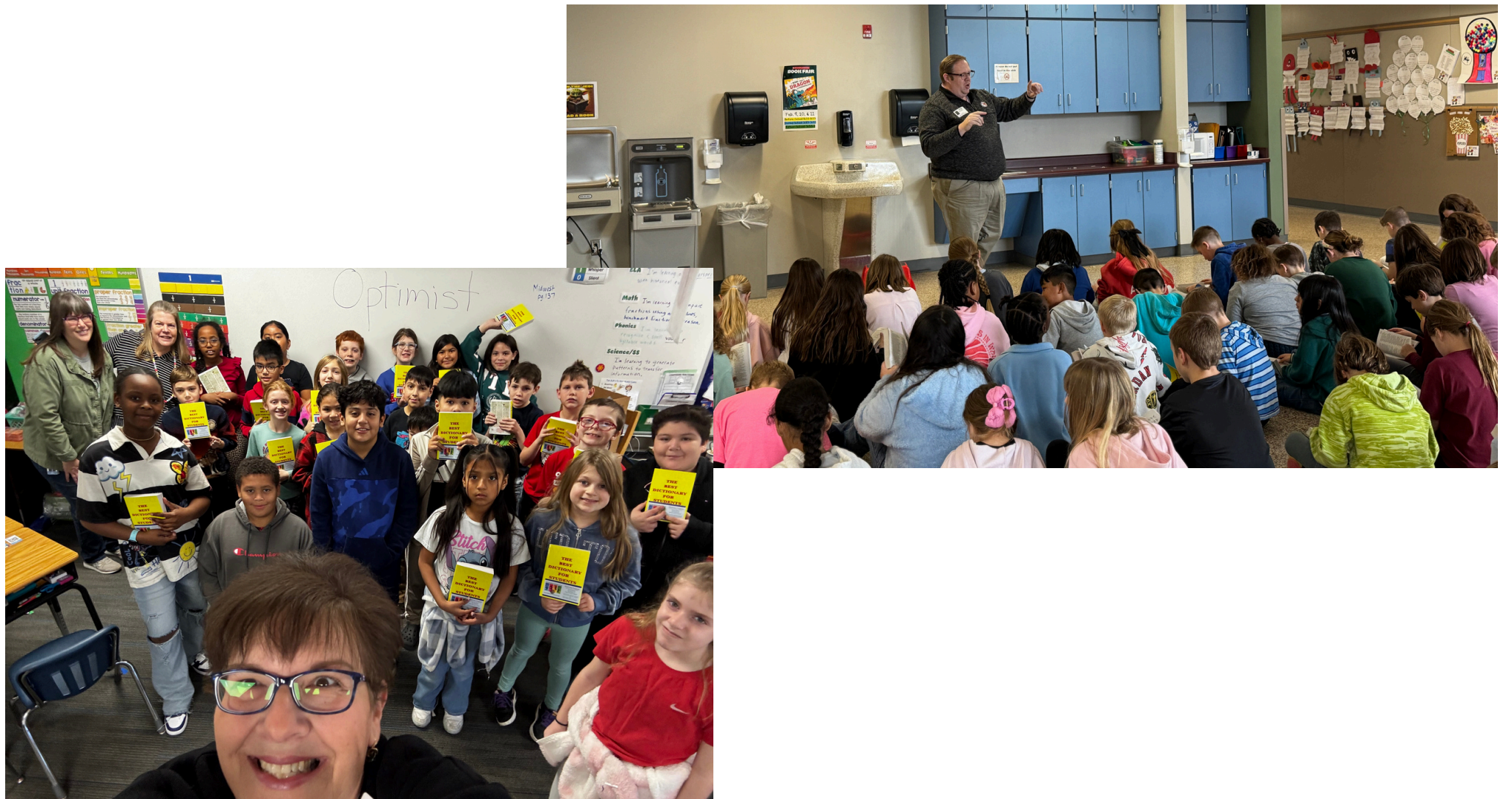


To raise funds for their youth programs the **Sunrise Optimist Club of North Topeka** held a very successful Pancake Breakfast last month.



KANSAS CLUB ACTIVITIES

Members of the **Olathe Noon Club** have been busy presenting dictionaries to all the fourth graders in the Olathe School System.



The **Olathe Noon Club** celebrated Valentine's Day and being an Honor Club for 2024-2025 with lunch at J's Smokehouse and Barbecue and cookies baked by club member Diane Gossage.





Kansas District 37 – Optimist International
3rd Quarter District Conference
April 25, 2026



Meeting Place:
 Olathe School District
 Technology Support Center
 14250 S. Black Bob Road
 Olathe, KS 66062

CONFERENCE FEES:	Quantity	Cost	Total
The Olathe Club is covering the cost of all meals.		\$0.00	
You must still register so we know how many meals we need!			
TOTAL Conference Fees:		\$ 0.00	

Member Name: _____ Club Name: _____

Club Number: _____ Club or District Position: _____

Member Name: _____ Club Name: _____

Club Number: _____ Club or District Position: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Please provide a phone number: _____

Please note any special dietary or physical needs: _____

Please check if you will be attending your FIRST District Meeting:

Please return Registration Forms to:

Kansas District Optimist
6119 Noland Road
Shawnee, Kansas 66216

Please return this form by: April 18, 2026

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE! *** IMPORTANT NOTICE! *****

Due to the FIFA World Cup, we do not have a block of rooms.
If you wish to stay Friday you will have to find your own Hotel room.

MAPLE HILL OPTIMIST

1 5^{T H} A N N U A L

BUD SEITTER MEMORIAL

Player Appreciation

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY JUNE 6TH, 2026

Shotgun Start at 7:30am

Oak Country Golf Course

8800 Scott Drive, Desoto, Kansas

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

\$80.00 PER PERSON ENTRY FEE INCLUDES CART, GREEN FEES, 4 MULLIGANS/TEAM, GOODIE BAG PLUS LUNCH AFTERWARDS, PREPARED BY A LOCAL BBQ RESTAURANT.

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE -- \$100.00

PLEASE CONTACT TOM TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.

913-709-6214

"MAPLE HILL OPTIMIST"

5112 KIMBALL

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66104

All proceeds go towards operation of the Charles Couets Youth C





The Bob Cutter/Alan Rose Golf Classic

is FORE-TEE and still ON-PAR!

Host: Sunrise Optimist Club of North Topeka

Save the Date and help us celebrate!

When: Friday, July 31, 2026

Where: Lake Perry County Club

Format: 4-person scramble



How to Join the Par-Tee!

Be a Sponsor!!

- \$725-Platinum:(Team, Food/Beverage, T-Box, Cart)
- \$535-Gold: (Team, T-Box, Cart)
- \$495-Silver:(Team, T-Box)
- \$365-Bronze:(Food/Beverage, Cart, T-Box)
- \$200-Food & Beverage Sponsor
- \$125-T-Box Sponsor
- \$50-Cart Sponsor

Enter a Team!!

(\$400 per team/\$100 per person)

Team Entry Includes:

- Round of Golf with Cart
- Prizes on every hole
- Mulligans
- Cash Prizes for 1st 2nd
- Skins Game
- Free Lunch
- Free Soda & Water
- Fun while helping over 1400 kids!

Donate!!

- Items for Silent Auction
- Items for Player Gift Bags
- Items for Hole Prizes
- Monetary Donations

Being a Sponsor or Donating is a great way to advertise your business!

ALL Sponsorships & Donations are publicized!

Look for additional details closer to the date of the tournament!



Call or Text:

Theresa Rose: 785.633.7535
Dan Lill: 785.414.0018
Scott Souther: 785.250.8102

Purposes of an Optimist Club:

To aid and encourage the development of youth in the belief that the giving of oneself in service to others will advance the well-being of people, the community and the world.