

Illinois District Optimist Land of Lincoln Bulletin

August 2024

I hope this finds all of you well and that you are enjoying your summer as an Illinois Optimist Member.

As the saying goes, 'You miss a day, you miss a lot.' This rings true with the recent developments in our District. While we're doing well in membership retention and recruiting, we're falling short of building new clubs across our state. This is a critical issue that demands our focus.



In early June, despite continuous work by the Leadership committee, my replacement hadn't been found. Then, demonstrating exceptional commitment, Mark Cappel from the Alton Optimist Club and chair of the Membership Growth Committee, stepped forward and agreed to accept the Governor's position for our District, effective 10/01/24.

Shortly thereafter, the current Lt. Governor of Zone 1, Nancy Roach-Wilder, agreed to be Marks's Governor-Elect. Thus, she will assume the role of our Governor, effective 10/01/2025.

Your presence at our August Convention on the weekend of August 16-17th is crucial. This is a unique opportunity to meet and interact with the future leaders of our district. Both Mark and Nancy will be in attendance, and your input and suggestions will be highly valued as they share their plans for making our district better.

I will also touch upon some of our great accomplishments this year and each District committee chair will give a brief presentation of all District projects and/or programs conducted during the 2023-24 club year. The agenda, meeting registration and hotel information can be found on pages three through five of this newsletter.

I'm eagerly looking forward to seeing all of you in attendance when the convention kicks off in Room 609 --the hospitality suite at the beautiful East Peoria Holiday Inn and Suites. Your presence will make this event even more exciting and engaging

Yours in Optimism,

Governor John



Way to go Moline-Breakfast and Highland for bringing in 25 new members! Since the beginning of the 2023-24 club year Illinois District has welcomed 70 new members.

New Member

Elizabeth Reitz
Dana Jackson
Scott Ronnebeck
Pam Galvin
Martin Sandoval
Michael Simons
Ted Prickett
Michael Brozovich
Mark Esposito
Brian Layer
Mark Mahieu
Jeremy Thomas
Chris Van Speybroeck
Jeff Wigand
Larry Sandefur
Bill Bittorf
Julie Archer
Adam Adrian
Marshall Grimsley
Linda Grimsley
Durwin D. Nigus
Bruce Blanshan
Brandi Bruley
Frank X. Heilegenstein
Elizabeth Biermann
Henry Dillenberger
Kyle Osterhage
Logan Kelling
Tony Cain
Maria Milford
Christ Milford
Lolita Cross
Andres Hellmann
Keith Frank
Nick Duncan
Carl Lammers
Mark Ferrell
Jared Fenton
Kyle Emig
Denzil Randant
David Harling
Craig Wieseman
Andrew Hellmann

Club

Sponsor

Philip Fine
Bob Moore
Thomas Reagan
Patrick Jensen
Joe Moreno
John Zelnio
Patrick Wendt
John Zelnio
John Castree
Patrick Wendt
Patrick Jensen
Thomas Reagan
Victor Moreno
Bob Schwieder
Leroy Trout
Tricia Vorhees
C.E. Archer
Matt Schmidt
Aiden Trautvetter
Dennis Zapletal
Jaclyn Taylor
Adam Vocks
Adam Vocks
Rita Baker
Audrey Beyer
Chad Dillinberger
Anthony Biffar
Justin Riebeling
Mark Cappel
Craig Rathgeb
Craig Rathgeb
Angela Kuchnicki
Craig Wieseman
Scott Geest
Darrell Luitjohan
Terry Lammers
Marshall Rinderer
Craig Loyet
Nicholas Sparlin
Kevin Dewaele
Ryan Goodwin
Dereck Driemeyer
Craig Wieseman



Illinois Optimist Convention

Tentative Schedule
Holiday Inn & Suites
East Peoria, IL.
August 16-17, 2024

Friday, August 16

5pm-10pm Hospitality Room Open -- Room 609

5pm- 7:30pm Registration in Hospitality Room

Saturday, August 17

7am – 8:45 am Continental breakfast available – Best Room

7:45 am – 8:15 am Registration in meeting room area

8 am -8:45 am Past Governors Association (PGA) (Location to be announced)

9 am-10:10am. **Opening Session** Governor John Good

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Meet your Governor-Elect Mark Cappel

The Year in Review

Contests

Oratorical: Sam Meier

Essay: Aiden McDonnell

Junior Golf: Bill Wagner

Poster: Charles Mayhew

OI Foundation: Sandi Schmidt

Special Areas

Member Retention Survey Review Governor-elect Mark Cappel

Membership Engagement Carol Schlitt

10:10 – 10:30 am **Break and Checkout**

10:30 am – 12:00 am **District Board meeting and Convention**

Call to Order:	Governor John Good
Additional agenda Items:	Governor John Good
Minutes of Previous Board Meeting:	Charles Mayhew
Financial Report:	Charles Mayhew
Junior Golf Finances (included)	
International Convention:	Governor John Good and others
New Business:	Governor John Good
Zone Reports:	Lt. Governors

Board meeting Adjournment with motion to move into Convention

District Convention

Call to Order:	Mark Cappel
Credentials Report:	Charles Mayhew
Approval of Convention Rules:	Mark Cappel
Candidate Qualifications Report:	Bill Wagner
Lt. Governor Appointments:	Mark Cappel
Policy Review with modifications:	Sandi Schmidt
Other Business:	Mark Cappel
Adjourn Convention:	Mark Cappel

12:00-12:45 pm **Lunch – Board Room**

12:45-1:00 pm Memorial Service Carol Schlitt

1:05 -2:05 pm Afternoon Session #1

Meet Governor- Elect	Nancy Roach Wilder
Working Session for the year ahead	Mark Cappel

2:05-2:15 pm **Break**

Afternoon Session #2

2:15-2:30 pm	Fun time	Governor-Designate Mark Cappel
2:30-3:00 pm	Club Brags	Governor John Good
3:00-3:15 pm	Governor's remarks	Governor John Good
3:15 pm	Optimist Creed	TBD

Adjourn Governor John Good



Illinois Optimist Conference Registration

4th Quarter Conference – August 16 & 17, 2024
Holiday Inn & Suites, East Peoria, IL

Please complete a separate registration form for each Optimist member:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Club _____ Club-Position _____

District-Position _____

Guest name for nametag _____

Registration plus Breakfast, Lunch and Breaks \$65.00

Registration only \$20.00

Guest Breakfast, Lunch and Breaks \$50.00

Total enclosed \$ _____

Special dietary requirement(s) _____

Please return completed conference registration form and check payable to **Illinois District – Optimist International** by **Monday, August 12th** to:

Charles Mayhew
Illinois Optimist Secretary-Treasurer
423 South Douglas Avenue
Belleville, IL 62220-3709

charles.c.mayhew01@gmail.com
618-806-5145

Hotel information: Holiday Inn & Suites
101 Holiday Street
East Peoria, IL. 61611
855-797-6733



Apply NOW for a Grant from the Optimist International Foundation

The Optimist International Foundation (OIF) wants to give your club money for one of your projects that directly affects children! (This is not a grant for fund-raising projects.)

OIF's Childhood Health and Wellness Grants are available for new or ongoing club projects that fit into one of these categories:

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Chronic Diseases
- Mental Health
- Disabilities – Physical, Intellectual & Developmental

Matching grants will be awarded for \$250-\$1000, and the **next application deadline is August 23, 2024**. Please go to https://www.oifoundation.org/Childhood_Health_Wellness.html to check out all the details and to complete your application.

If you have any questions, please contact OIF (800-500-8130 or info@oifoundation.org).

Good luck! I look forward to hearing that your club has been awarded a Childhood Health & Wellness Grant.

Sandi Schmidt
District Foundation Rep
309-236-1342
schmidtsandi@gmail.com



Your Support is Needed for the Optimist International Foundation

Brother, can you spare a dime? Well, really, a dime a day - to support the Optimist International Foundation (OIF). The Foundation provides support for Optimist Clubs and the programs we participate in: Oratorical, Essay, and Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing scholarships; Optimist International Junior Golf; Junior Optimist International; and so much more. But they can only do that with OUR SUPPORT.

You can become a Dime-A-Day member and receive the annual Dime-A-Day pin by making your contribution of just \$36.50 to OIF. You can complete the form below and mail it to with your donation to the address shown on the form. Or, if you prefer, you can donate online at <https://www.oifoundation.org/us-canada-donate.cfm>.

Every little bit helps, and OIF is counting on your support!

Building a future where every kid counts Can you spare a **dime a day?**

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. (Enclose check, payable to Optimist International Foundation, referencing "Dime-A-Day" in the memo section.)

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. Charge my MC Visa Discover American Express

Account # _____ Exp. _____ Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

Sign me up! Please deduct \$3.05 per month from my checking account.

Checking account number: _____ (Please include a copy of a voided check)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Club Number: _____ Member Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____



Please return to: Optimist International Foundation • Dime-A-Day Campaign • P.O. Box 952126 • St. Louis, MO 63195

Club Bylaws Review Required by September 30, 2024



Changes were made in the Standard Club Bylaws effective October 1, 2023, and all Optimist Clubs are required to review and approve their bylaws no later than September 30, 2024.

While many of the changes to the Standard Club Bylaws were cleanup of language and elimination of redundant language, there are two required changes you should be aware of:

- The Club may publish directory information on the Club website and to Club membership. Such information shall be password protected on the website and restricted to Club use if printed. Its use is restricted to Club business by an authorized representative of the Club. Directory information or Membership lists will not be shared with any party outside of the Club.
- The Club is responsible for obtaining permission from its members to use their likeness and/or image in Optimist publications.

All clubs must file their Club Bylaws online at www.optimistleaders.org. The Club can choose to adopt the Standard Club Bylaws or customize Bylaws specifically for their club. Please be certain to follow the procedure as detailed in your Club's Bylaws for modifying and approving the revised Bylaws.

Need to know more? Review the webinar "Updating Bylaws in Optimist Leaders" which can be found at this link:

<https://optimist.tovuti.io/component/axs/?view=video&id=136> You can also contact leadership@optimist.org with your questions.



Attention all club officers....

You must report your club officers for the 2024-25 club year on the OI website. Even if your officers are the same as the 2023-24 club year, please go in and update your officer listing ASAP.

It's really important that both OI and the IL District have the listing of 2024-25 officers so that timely emails and correspondence goes to the correct officers. In addition, the IL District uses the 2024-25 club officers listing in preparation of the IL District Directory which each club President and Treasurer will receive in early October.



If you've not updated your officer listing....do so today!

In addition...please make sure all of your club member's email addresses are correct. The last Land of Lincoln Bulletin that was emailed out to all Illinois District Optimists in March had 48 email addresses that bounced as undeliverable. Land of Lincoln Bulletin editor, Carol Schlitt, will be contacting each club with bounced emails to help them in cleaning up their membership emails. Members with bounced emails are missing out on correspondence from both Optimist International and the Illinois District.





Illinois District Golf Report

June 10-12
Red Tail Run Golf Club
Decatur, IL.

***The Illinois District Golf Tournament
experienced the largest participation
in six years***

Eighty-four golfers from throughout the state of Illinois converged upon Red Tail Run golf club competing to qualify for an opportunity to represent Illinois in “the Optimist” at Doral golf club near Miami Florida in July. To qualify for “the Optimist” a golfer must not only win or finish second in their age division but must also shoot a qualifying score to advance. This year 28 golfers (33%) shot scores that met the minimum scores in the various age divisions. The division winners and their hometown are listed below. (*Represents the number of golfers in each age division that completed the 36-hole tournament.)

Girls 10-12	Wakana Hill	Flossmoor, IL.	3*
Girls 13-14	Miranda Kennard	Mount Carmel, IL.	5
Girls 15-18	Catalina Easley	Cantrall, IL.	23
Boys 10-11	Hayden Hogg	Champaign, IL.	8
Boys 12-13	Drew Peters	Decatur, IL	6
Boys 14-15	Maddox Rakers	Aviston, IL.	9
Boys 16-18	Jacob Hall	Columbia, IL	29

As in years past the Alton Optimist Club sponsored the skills challenge during the practice round and awarded \$50 certificates to be used in Red Tail's pro shop during the tournament.

Each year on the evening of the practice round a banquet is held where golfers are treated to a meal an opportunity to choose golf related door prizes, and to listen to a speaker related to golf. This year's speaker was Karen Kelsey, the girls golf coach from Mt. Carmel IL. Karen's girls' golf teams have won the Illinois High School Class A state tournament three years in a row. Her topic was "The 5 A's of Golf." Karen is also this year's Illinois High School girl's coach of the year. In all 124 attended the banquet.



I personally want to thank your Illinois District Golf committee for their many evenings on Zoom planning the golf tournament. Those members and their clubs are as follows: Nancy Roach-Wilder (Fox Valley), Mark Cappel (Alton), Adam Vocks (Taylorville), Scott Novak (Highland), and Shaun Grant (Chillicothe).

Also a big thank you to all of the Illinois District Optimist clubs who were hole sponsors and to all businesses and individuals who supported this golf tournament. We couldn't have put on a tournament of this size and quality without your assistance.

Bill Wagner, Illinois District Golf Chairman



Boys 16-18 L to R: Carson Oliver 3rd place, Tommy Whitley, 2nd place and Jacob Hall, 1st place; Bill Wagner



Figure 1Boys 14-15 L to R: William Stevens IV 2nd place, Maddox Rakers, 1st place, Bill Wagner



Boys 12-13 L to R: Bill Wagner, Mason Meyer 4th place, Zander Rutz 3rd place, Grady Burrell 2nd place; Drew Peters, 1st place



Boys 10-11 L to R: Brooks Niebrugge 3rd place, Manning Rakers, 2nd place, Hayden Hogg 1st place, Bill Wagner



Girls 10-12 Wakana Hill 1st place, Bill Wagner



Girls 13-14 Miranda Kennard 1st place, Bill Wagner





Girls 15-18 L to R: Milley Kennard 5th place, Blair Powers 4th place, Maira Kennard 3rd place, Zemme Moore 2nd place, Catalina Easley 1st place, Bill Wagner

CONGRATULATIONS
GOLFERS



L to R; Alan Mills, Officer of the Year, Taylorville PD; Tyler Mahan, finalist Kincaid PD; Adam Vincent, finalist, DOC/Taylorville Correctional Center

Taylorville Optimist Club's 9th Annual “Salute to Law Enforcement”

On Thursday, May 23, 2024, the Taylorville Optimist Club held its 9th Annual Salute to Law Enforcement breakfast. Approximately 100 officers and other related agencies gathered at the First United Methodist Church ministry center for a catered breakfast and a tribute to all law enforcement officers and agencies.

The meeting opened with the Presentation of the Colors by the Springfield PD Color Guard. Tawney Rogers of Taylorville then sang the National Anthem followed by club member Dan Raab leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Becky Lembke of the First United Methodist Church then gave the Invocation. John Berns then sang “God Bless the USA”. While pictures of the officers killed in the line of duty for the previous year were shown on the large projection wall, club member Pastor Steve Robinson gave a Prayer for the Fallen. Two buglers then played “Taps” followed by Tom Ogilvy played “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes.

The guest speaker for the day was Robert Moore of Springfield. Moore is a man of many talents. Raised in Mississippi, he served in the military, served as the Chief of Police in

Mackson, Mississippi, was appointed a US Marshal, led the way for the inclusion of African Americans to advance in law enforcement, and is a published author. Robert also is the founder of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement.

Next on the agenda was the presentation of a number of special awards. William and Evert Nation were honored along with their father Evert and Bill's wife (both deceased) for 102 years of combined service to the Taylorville PD over a total of 61 consecutive years. Next, Amy Winans, Christian County Coroner, was presented a "Distinguished Service" award by retired Judge John Coady. Amy ends her service to the people of Christian County after twenty years in office. Circuit Clerk Julie Mayer was next to present a "Lifetime Achievement" award to Michael Parkin. Mike has served in a number of capacities over his long career. He has been in the military, been a Chief of Police in Morrisonville, IL, a county deputy, a volunteer fireman (over 20 years as chief), a scout leader for cub scouts, boy scouts, Eagle scouts, American Legion Post Commander, and more. Mike still serves as court security at the Christian County Courthouse.

The highlight of the day was the announcement of the 2024 Officer of the Year. Sixteen nominations were received for this years' candidates. The field was reduced to just three finalists, and then only one would win the honor. Alan Mills, Taylorville PD, was selected for the honor as he is involved in the Christian County Crimestoppers and is the School Resource Officer among his other duties. The other finalists were Tyler Mahan of the Kincaid PD, and Adam Vincent of the DOC at the Taylorville Correction Center.

Overall, the morning was considered a great success and the club will look forward to the 10th Annual Salute to Law Enforcement in 2025.



L to R: William Nation, Evert Nation, Taylorville Police Chief Dwayne Wheeler and Taylorville Mayor, Bruce Barry. Mayor Barry is presenting a special award recognizing the 102 years of combined service of the Nation family to the Taylorville Police Department.

Granite City Optimist celebrate Optimist Day with Story Walk



The Granite City chapter of Optimist International sponsored a story walk through the Granite City Six Mile Regional Library in honor of Optimist Day, February 1, 2024. The book, *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff was disassembled and displayed, page by page, along a walkway in Granite City's Worthen Park.

Want to see your Optimist Club in the Land of Lincoln Bulletin? Send your information to Carol Schlitt at lolbulletin23@gmail.com Watch for my email announcing the deadline for the next issue but go ahead and send me your club's information ANY time. I can't wait to see what everyone has been up to!

Action pictures of your club's activates are more fun to share with your fellow Optimists around Illinois, so keep that in mind when sending your information. Always include captions or a story to explain what your club has done. We will also publish information about your upcoming events – you never know who might show up if they know you have an activity going on.