

Nebraska District Optimists

Carla Gries, District Governor



Choose Optimism

FEBRUARY 2023

Second Quarter Conference – Grand Island

Please plan to join us for the Second Quarter Nebraska District Conference this Feb. 24-25 in Grand Island at the Boarders Inn & Suites.

There will be guest presenters, plenty of learning opportunities, recognition of successful Optimists, social opportunities & entertainment! Something for everyone!

To book a room at the special \$110 room rate reserved for Optimists, you must book by Friday, Feb. 10. Call **308-384-5150** – ask about the Optimist block of rooms.

Conference registration is \$75 and includes lunch & dinner meals on Saturday, plus refreshments. To register, go to: www.nebraskaoptimists.org

IMPORTANT February Dates

Please put these on your calendar!



Feb. 2nd Celebrate Optimism Day

Feb. 17-18 Academic Decathlon State Finals at

Bellevue University – Optimist volunteers are still needed. Contact Vicki at (531) 239-0037 denistonreed@gmail.com

Feb. 24-25 Second Quarter District Conference in Grand Island (registration info to the left)



Celebrate Optimist Day!

Make Optimism Contagious!

Hey, area clubs! Optimist Day is Thursday, February 2nd! Even if it too late to plan something as a club, plan to do something that day to look on the bright side of things, and prompt others to do the same!

One suggestion is to keep a Gratitude Journal, and write down all the things in life for which you are grateful! Another idea is to think of one thing every day – when you first get up – for which you are thankful.

The Nebraska Academic Decathlon Promotes Achievement & Cooperation

With the State Finals of the Nebraska Academic Decathlon just around the corner, we should take a closer look at the person who makes it all happen, Vicki Deniston Reed. Vicki has been good enough to take on this behemoth of an annual project when the previous director, John Anstey could no longer do so. This is her third year of coordinating the Decathlon throughout the state.



Vicki's family moved to Omaha when she was in fifth grade. She ended up staying to attend UNO. Her first degree was in Criminal Justice, but she was not compelled to work in that realm, so she returned to UNO for a teaching degree. She taught at Lewis and Clark for seven years and then moved to Central High where she taught social studies, (mostly history) for 24 years. She also coached Academic Decathlon there for 18 years after earning a master's degree in history. While contemplating retirement in 2019-2020, she applied for the job of Executive Director for Nebraska Academic Decathlon. She started in that position and finished her last quarter of teaching as the Covid shutdowns were in place. She also substitute teaches in OPS.

Her hobbies include reading, cooking, and gardening. She truly loves to travel, and has been to Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, and the Balkans, all on her own. She has also chaperoned Academic Decathlon trips here in the U.S., as well as to England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Poland. One of the great opportunities for social studies teachers is being selected to participate in seminars and study tours. These have allowed her to visit China, Japan, Germany, and Turkey. She and a colleague were able to design our own study-tour of the memorialization of the Holocaust. They spent over two weeks in Central Europe at sites, museums, and conducting interviews.

The Last Three Year's Winners in Nebraska

Year	Nebraska State Champion	Score	Nationals	Score at Nationals
2022	Mount Michael Benedictine School	38,204.9	15th of 45 teams	36,475.6
2021	Bellevue East High School	40,493.1	15th of 41 teams	38,609.7
2020	Lincoln Pius X High School	41,966.3	did not compete	NA



Last Year's winning team from Mount Michael School in Elkhorn. To find out more about Nebraska Academic Decathlon, go to : www.ne-ad.org