

Nebraska District Optimists

Carla Gries, District Governor



Choose Optimism

July 2023

Are Optimists More Patriotic?

by Rose de Fremery

It's the 4th of July here in the United States: a great moment to reflect on the promise of America. Many of us feel that American democratic institutions have taken a beating in recent months, and it is hard not to feel great concern about the future direction of our country, given the daily assault on decency, fairness, and justice that we are experiencing.

But we are also Americans—and therefore heirs to a rich legacy of bravery as well as an indomitable fighting spirit. As some people love to say, freedom isn't free. That's correct. It is not. But perhaps it is more helpful today to view that concept from a slightly different angle. **Patriotism requires optimism. We first have to believe in America if we are to defend it.**

This is what I will be reflecting on this Independence Day. I choose to re-affirm my commitment to this country that I love, this vibrant and messy work in progress that I still, at the end of the day, deeply believe in. It's only human to experience fear and uncertainty, but it's how we handle those feelings that defines us. And, perhaps more importantly, we should consciously reflect on what we believe because it's our beliefs that guide our actions.

I believe in America now, and I always will.
Happy Independence Day!

For the entire article, go to:

<https://rosedefremery.com/on-patriotism-and-optimism/>

District 10 Upcoming Dates



July 2 - 5 Optimist International Annual Convention in Arlington, VA. Visit the OI web site

July 4 Seward Optimist Club Annual Fun Run
Use this link for more info:
www.GetMeRegistered.com

August 19 - 20 District 4th Quarter Conference in Lincoln at the Downtown Graduate Hotel. Visit the District web site for more info

Sept. 17 – MAYF Wine Event Fundraiser at Belle Terre Vineyards in Glenwood, Iowa – more info coming in August newsletter

Giving Omaha Area Kids Hope and Support Through Field Trips

One of the major endeavors of the Omaha area clubs is assistance to the Hope Center for kids. We have worked with the Hope Center for over a decade, by providing transportation and admission for the kids to have field trip experiences with Optimist volunteers along for guidance.

Every year a committee of your peers (14 people) meets with the Hope Center to determine the best venues for the kids to visit. The best thing we get from the field trips is feedback from the kids about things they learned, things they experienced, or conversations they had with Optimist Volunteers.

This is an Omaha Metro project. We have sought support in the form of funds and volunteers from all the Metro Clubs, and this year is the same. Please make your club members aware of the many opportunities to join in on these field trips. Let them know they are welcome to help out.

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer of events for the 2023 season, showing the field trips we will be hosting. Four of the trips have already been completed. Admission fees for volunteers who come along, Hope Center Staff, and the kids is all covered.

Our next upcoming trip will be taking kids of all ages to Zorinsky Water Park. To end the Summer, there is a Rewards and Recognition Dinner at the Hope Center on August 2nd. Many of you came to help with this event last year, and the event went smoothly with so many helping hands.

Come out again this year! Put August 2nd, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM on your calendar.

Attached to this newsletter, is our budget sheet. Please consider giving from your club, and solicit your members to contribute as Individuals. You may pick a line item and give for that specific need, or donate an amount towards the overall project. Several clubs have already stepped up: Omaha Breakfast Optimist Club (\$1000) and the Miracle Hills Club (\$750). Can you match them, or can you out-donate them?

We have representatives from our Committee coming to your clubs to speak about this project. Thanks for all you do for area youth, the future leaders of Nebraska and the world.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael McKee, the Metro Optimists Hope Center 2023 Summer Events Chairman.

He can be reached at: yukonquestm@gmail.com
or by phone at 402-201-3518.

You can learn more about The Hope Center for Kids at their web site:

<http://www.hopecenterforkids.com/>





Summer Of Growth & Opportunity In 2023 For Hope Center Kids



**Tour Omaha & Enjoy Pizza at Leahy Mall
June 14th**



Study Plant & Insects At Glacier Creek Preserve, June 7th



**Study Aerospace At SAC Museum
June 28th**




**Discover Sunken Ship & Wild Life at Desoto Bend
June 21st**

HOPE CENTER KIDS

**Swim and Splash At Zorinsky Water Park
July 26th**



Awards Dinner & Celebration, August 2nd



The Optimist Creed

Promise yourself . . .

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism contagious.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International

The Omaha Metro Area Optimist Clubs & The Hope Center for Kids
Hereby Recognizes

Johnny Doe

For
His Outstanding Academics,
His Friendly, Caring Attitude,
& His Commitment to Excellence.

Nominated by The Hope Center Staff
August 10, 2018

Richard W. Rasick Corinne Westell, Chair
Past Optimist Governor Hope Center Council



**Please send checks to:
Metro Area Youth Foundation
P. O. Box 540772, Omaha, NE 68154**



