# 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/





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: <a href="mailto:yukonquestm@gmail.com">yukonquestm@gmail.com</a> 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 7<sup>th</sup>



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





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



Awards Dinner & Celebration, August 2nd





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



### The 15th Annual Tom McCurdy Optimist-Hope Center Youth Program 2023

The	Hope	Center	for	Kids'	Missior

The Hope Center for Kids faithfully inspires hope in the lives of youth and children through education, employability, faith, & collaboration. The Hope Center for Kids is located at 2200 North 20th Street, Omaha. It provides programming and nutrition, as well as a safe place for fun & relationship building. The Hope Center for Kids serves over 2,700 youth, children and families. Your support of its mission is an investment in the next generation of our community.

#### Last Year's Supporting Organizations

Blair Optimist Club
Breakfast Omaha Optimist Club
Gretna Optimist Club
Miracle Hills Omaha Optimist Club
North Omaha Optimist Club
Omaha Optimist Club
Papillion-LaVista Optimist Club
Plattsmouth Optimist Club
Ralston Optimist Club
South Omaha Optimists
Southwest Omaha Optimist Club
Norfolk JOI Clubs

Scheels Sporting, AJ's Café, Runza Hy-Vee, Vic's Popcorn Costco, Wal-Mart Arby's, McDonald's, Jimmy Johns Metro Area Youth Foundation

#### Optimist Volunteers Needed

Glacier Creek, Zorinski Water Pk 9+ Each DeSoto Bend, Gene Leahy Mall 9+ Each Awards Dinner & Celebration 20+

Planning Committee
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Michael McKee	(402) 201-3518			
Ivan Wineglass	(803) 319-8610			
Bob Karcher	(402) 657-2417			
Hope Cntr	(402) 341-4673			
Hope Cntr- Ms T	(531) 232-5262			
Linda Wheeler	(402) 933-3481			
Beryle Lantz	(402) 578-3116			
Dick Raasch	(402) 681-9438			
Al & Sue Penner	(402) 510-0913			
Fred Uhe	(402) 332-5999			
Mark Krzemien	(402) 331-0520			
Carla Gries	(402) 658-2321			

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

McCurdy Optimist-Hope Center Youth Program 2023							
	Sponsorship Level	Price	Pledge	Sponsored By:			
	General Donations			Omaha Breakfast Opt Club			
				Miracle Hills Opt Club			
			\$100.00	Southwest Omaha Opt Club			
				Plattsmouth Opt Club			
				Blair Optimist Club			
٠				Omaha Optimist Club			
				Gretna Optimist Club			
				Ralston Optimist Club			
	Sponsorship Items						
	Bus - Glacier Creek Preserve	\$190	\$190.00	Ron Rosberg			
		\$190					
	Bus - Tour Omaha/Leahy Mall	\$200					
	Pizza & Goodies at Leahy Mall	\$250					
		4					
	Bus - SAC Museum	\$280					
	Bus - DeSoto Bend	\$280					
	Burn Tordaylanday Maria Santa	****					
	Bus - Zorinsky Water Park	\$190					
		\$190					
	Clarica Carala Danasa A Mar	ćano					
	Glacier Creek Preserve Misc	\$200					
	SAC Museum Admision	\$418	4222.22				
	DeSoto Bend Wildlife Refuge	\$200	\$200.00	Linda Wheeler			
	Zorinsky Water Park Admission	\$380					
	Ade Clabortion & Dinner						
	Awards Clebration & Dinner	ćero.					
	Pizza	\$550	£100.00	Dah 8 Hallis Karahas			
	Root Beer Floats	\$100		Bob & Hollis Karcher			
	Apples	\$75 \$75		Vern & Shari Dolleck Vern & Shari Dolleck			
	Bananas Vic's Popcorn	\$100					
	Award Frames	\$150		Vic's Popcorn Ivan Wineglass			
	Award Certificates	\$150		Dick & Marilyn Raasch			
	Award Certificates	\$150	\$150.00	DICK & WISHING RESCH			
	Game & Drawing Prizes						
	Scheels Sporting Goods	\$100					
	Wal-Mart Gift Cards	\$100					
	Wal-Mart Gift Cards	\$50					
	Runza Gift Cards	\$100	\$100.00	Steve Howard			
	Arby's Gift Cards	\$100	\$100.00	ottor i i origina			
	McDonald's Gift Cards	\$100	\$100.00	Sherryl Longacre			
	McDonald's Gift Cards	\$25	\$100.00	Sherryr congocre			
	Sporting Goods	\$50					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$60					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$30					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$100					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$100					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$100					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$100					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$50					
	Other Gifts & Awards	\$30					
ľ	Other Gifts & Awards	\$30					
				Remaining Sponsorships			
	06/19/23			Needed as of June 12th:			
	Miscellaneous						
	Total	\$5,393	\$3,090.00	\$2,303.00			