

Nebraska District Optimists

Carla Gries, District Governor



Choose Optimism

District 10
Upcoming
Dates



June 1 – Nebr. Optimist Jr. Golf Qualifier at York Country Club – more info in last month's newsletter

June 3 – Omaha Miracle Hills Optimists hosting a social event for all Optimists, their friends, & families! Reserved seat tickets behind home plate, reserved parking, & tailgating before the game. contact Carol Sorensen for more info:

casrnsn@gmail.com

July 2-5 – 105th Optimist Annual Convention in Arlington, VA. Visit the OI web site for more info.

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

June 2023

Run for Freedom Event in Seward

The Seward Optimist Club will be hosting their Annual 4th of July Freedom Run. You can register online for both the 10K–Run or the 2–mile walk:

www.GetMeRegistered.com



Registration fees are:

10K Race \$25 before June 20th; \$35 June 21 - July 3

2-mile Walk - \$15 before June 1; \$25 June 21 - July 3

Both races starts at 7:00 AM. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

10K Race - \$100.00 prize to male & female winners
\$ 50.00 to second place winners

2-Mile Walk - \$50.00 to male & female winners
\$25.00 to second place winners

Good luck to all those participating!

Remember Why You're an Optimist ...

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. -- Anne Frank

Some Thoughts on Patriotism & Optimism

With Independence Day approaching, I was curious about how living with optimism impacts us as American citizens – in other words, how do patriotism and optimism align? Are patriotic people also more optimistic? Are people who live life with optimism, by nature, more patriotic? I did some research and found an article by Rose De Femery that deals with this topic.

Rose says, “Our focus, today of all days, should be on ourselves and each other. How will we rise to this moment and follow in the footsteps of the patriots who won our country’s independence generations ago? ... 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.”



To read the entirety of Rose’s article entitled “On Patriotism and Optimism,” visit her web site: <https://rosedefemery.com/on-patriotism-and-optimism/>

Has Your Club Elected New Officers for Next Year?



Has your club returned your completed Club Officer-Elect Report yet? It was due to Optimist International by May 20th, and can be found on the OI web site.

Please focus on completing the nomination and election process for club officer positions. Then return the completed form for the Optimist 2023-2024 year.



Nebraska Optimists 2023 Pitch, Hit, & Run Competition

The Nebraska District Tri-Star Baseball Pitch Hit Run contest was hosted by the Star City Optimist Youth Foundation at the Optimist Youth Sports Complex on May 19. Winners of local contests were eligible to compete. Participants competed in either the baseball or softball division as they pitched 5 balls to hit a target, hit 5 balls off a tee for distance, and ran a 90-foot base path for speed.

Winners were determined by total accumulated points and are shown below. In addition to receiving trophies, they're eligible to advance to the Major League Baseball contests.

Ages 7 & 8 Baseball

- 1st** Hudson Hernandez – Lincoln
- 2nd** Breckham May-Hoffman – Lincoln West
- 3rd** Samuel Haden – Lincoln Sunrise
- 4th** Reid Carr – York
- 5th** Madoc Johnson – Lincoln Evening

Softball

- Zoey Newman - York
- Anna Hendricks - Lincoln Evening

Ages 9 & 10 Baseball

- 1st** Landon Donahue – Lincoln Evening
- 2nd** Kasen Makovicka – York
- 3rd** Fulton Hanley – Lincoln Sunrise
- 4th** Samuel Behrendt - Holdrege

Softball

- Brooklyn Campbell - York

Ages 11 & 12 Baseball

- 1st** Liam Escher – York
- 2nd** Race Ortgiesen – Holdrege
- 3rd** Konner Steinmetz - Holdrege
- 4th** Braylon Bartoo – Lincoln Evening
- 5th** Benjamin Loos – Lincoln

Softball

- MacKenzie Nelson – Lincoln Sunrise
- Eden Schroetlin - York
- Kyper Vaughn - Holdrege

Ages 13 & 14 Baseball

- 1st** Landon Powers - Holdrege
- 2nd** Alaric Mizner – York
- 3rd** William Erickson - Holdrege
- 4th** Connor Wade – Lincoln West

Softball

- Evelyn Ericksen - Holdrege

Winner photos on the next page.



Optimist Communication Contest for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students

The Nebraska District Communication Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) was held in the Auld Pavilion in Lincoln on Saturday, April 29th. Seven students competed for two \$2,500 college scholarships in what was the 25th year of a collaborative relationship between the Nebraska District Optimists and the Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing in Nebraska.

The winner of the Chet Arnett Memorial Scholarship was Lily Ardinger Stibal, a sophomore attending Lincoln East High School. This scholarship is provided annually to the Nebraska District by the Optimist International Foundation.

The winner of the Katie Gurnsey Remembrance Scholarship was Sydney Thompson, a Sophomore living in Denton and attending school at Milford Jr/Sr High School. This scholarship is made possible by donations for Optimist clubs across Nebraska, Hamilton Relay and the family of Katie Gurnsey. Participating clubs this year included Denton, Lincoln, Lincoln Evening, Lincoln Sunrise, Lincoln West, Miracle Hills, Norfolk Noon, Papillion-LaVista, South Sioux City and West Point.

Pictured (L to R: District Governor Carla Gries, Lily Ardinger Stibal (Chet Arnett Memorial Scholarship winner), Sydney Thompson (Katie Gurnsey Remembrance Scholarship winner), and CCDHH Chairman Mark Claussen.

