

Nebraska District Optimists

Carla Gries, District Governor



Choose Optimism

May 2023

A Celebration of True Optimism

The Nebraska Third Quarter Festival was held last weekend in Columbus, and it was an inspiring event! Billed as a “Celebration of Kindness, Caring, and Cooperation,” it definitely lived up to its name!

Special moments during the conference were:

- Having Governor Carla Gries back with us again – in person! She has been recuperating from some health issues since January. It was great to see her smiling face.
- Listening to our OI special guest, Rod McKendrick from Regina, Saskatchewan. His words were indeed encouraging and inspiring!
- Celebrating the Columbus, Nebraska Optimist Club’s 70 years of service!
- Watching inspiring videos from CBS’s Steve Hartman. Titled “Kindness 101,” the videos were hosted by Hartman and his two children, and focused on topics such as: listening, respect, and compassion. (Thanks to Betty Totten for sharing these with us.)
- Listening to six Oratorical Contest Finalists give amazing speeches about the optimism inside them. Dr. Gloria Epps had a stellar crew of judges on hand to determine the winners, which would not have been an easy task!

District 10 Upcoming Dates



May 6 – Sixth Annual Pitch, Hit, & Run Contest from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the Blair Little League Fields

May 6 – Washington County Bike Rodeo hosted by the Blair Optimists 11:00 to 1:00

May 20 – Your Club Report is Due! More info on page 2.

June 1 – Nebr. Optimist Jr. Golf Qualifier at York Country Club – more info on page 4.

June 3 – Omaha Miracle Hills Optimists hosting a social event for all Optimists, their friends, & families! Reserved seat tickets behind home plate, reserved parking, & tail-gating before the game. More info in this newsletter.



The Miracle Hills Optimist Club welcomes you to join us at a social event for Optimists, their friends, & families. On Saturday night, June 3 we will be attending the Omaha Storm Chasers v. Memphis Redbirds baseball game at Werner Park in Papillion. We have reserved seats (behind home plate), reserved parking, and will be tail-gating from 5:30 – 7:00 - fried chicken & sides. Tickets are \$18 per person; parking is \$5 per

vehicle. Chicken is \$4 per person. This is not a fundraising event – just a chance to meet up with other Optimists and have some fun!

For more information, or to order your reserved seat tickets & parking, contact Carol Sorensen: casrn@gmail.com **Hoping you can join us!**



Club Officer-Elect Report

Due:
May 20

All Clubs should be aware that your Club Officer-Elect Report is due to OI no later than May 20. This report gives the names (and other pertinent info) of officers who will represent your club in the 2023-24 year. You can access this report and even complete it online using this link:

[https://www.optimist.org/Forms/Club Officer-Elect Report.pdf](https://www.optimist.org/Forms/Club%20Officer-Elect%20Report.pdf)



If your club is interested in sharing the Kindness 101 videos that are presented by CBS news, featuring traveling reporter Steve Hartman and two of his children, you can access them via this link:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Kindness+101>

District 10 Third Quarter Conference Highlights



Conference attendees were delighted to join the Columbus Optimist Club in celebrating their 70 years of service to the Columbus community. Several members of the club talked about the various projects in their community which are sponsored by the Club. We even met two Santas!

Here, Columbus Club members are showing off the 70th Anniversary cake prior to our enjoying it for dessert at the banquet.



Pictured below is Columbus Optimist Club member Judith Kluge, awarding the winner certificate of the Nebraska Optimist Essay Contest. The winner's name is Kailin Elliott, and she is from Norfolk Junior High. Kailin is also a JOI club member for Norfolk. She read her essay, entitled "Bringing Out the Optimist in Me," to those of us at conference.

Third Quarter Conference attendees were fortunate to hear the Nebraska Oratorical Contest finalists give their speeches. This year's theme was, "Bringing Out the Optimist in Me," and all of the speeches were excellent.

Pictured here are the 3 contest winners: (Left to Right) Third place winner Asher Hock who is home-schooled and only 12 years old (Omaha Breakfast Club); Avalon Morgan, a junior at Blair High School (Blair Optimist Club) took second place; and Avery Stephany, our contest winner! Avery is a senior at Gretna High and will attend Kansas State University in the fall. She was sponsored by the North Omaha Optimist Club.

Many thanks to Dr. Gloria Epps for coordinating this event each year.



Our 2023 Nebraska Optimist Junior Golf Qualifier event is fast approaching. It will be held on June 1st at the beautiful York Country Club in York, NE. Both Girl & Boy Golfers may participate in one of three female age classifications and four male age categories ranging in ages from 10 to 18.



Up to 15 Nebraska youth may qualify to participate in "THE OPTIMIST" -- the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. This year's event will be at the Doral Resort & Spa in Miami, FL. The Doral is the home of major PGA tournaments for over 55 years! It has recently undergone a \$200 million renovation. It's a destination course for every avid golfer.

Optimist Junior Golf is one of the largest and most prestigious junior golf programs in the world. Over 6,000 kids from the U.S., Canada, and 28 other countries compete at the local level with 690 youth advancing to the finals at the Doral.

This is an outstanding opportunity for Nebraska youth! Recent qualifiers include Univ. of Nebraska Golf Team members Megan Whittaker, Hannah & Lindsey Thiele, Caleb Badura, and Reed Malleck. Over 30 college coaches generally scout at "The Optimist".

We know that not all Nebraska Junior Golfers can shoot a qualifying score, so we make the Nebraska Optimist Tournament a fun and satisfying day for a wide variety of skill levels. Our Nebraska Junior Golf Qualifier is totally funded by entry fees, contributions & sponsorships. None of your dues are used to supplement the program. Therefore, it is incumbent upon Clubs and Leaders like you to support the program both financially and through your leadership and promotional energy.

There are several ways you can support the program:

1. Promote and encourage Junior Golfers to enter the event. Give the flyer to high school coaches, golf pros, bulletin boards, and youth that you think might be interested. They can register on line at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/neoptimistgolf/tournament-information>

You can print off the flyer, paper entry form, and additional information there, as well.

2. Entry fees are \$65 per golfer. Many clubs sponsor youth in the tournament.
3. Sponsor a hole for \$100. We will put your sign next to the hole. The sponsor can be a club, a business, or an individual. It's impressive to see hole sponsor signs from clubs, businesses, and leaders from across the state. Let us know and we will have a sign made for you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns, or opportunities.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully,

Richard (Dick) Raasch, CFPÒ
Nebraska Optimist Jr Golf Co-Chair
Telephone: (402) 681-9438

Email Address: RWRaasch@cox.net

Kerianne Kluge
Nebraska Optimist Jr Golf Co-Chair
(502) 550-8940

KKluge1Optimist@yahoo.com

Optimist Golf Mission: To provide positive values in young people through golf.

Our Optimist Mission: By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in our youth, our communities, and ourselves.

Golfer application form on the last page.

THE OPTIMIST

International Junior Golf Championships



One of the top premier Junior Golf Tournaments in the world. A unique opportunity for junior golfers from around the globe. The Optimist is unique from all tournaments. Junior golfers and family enjoy golf, parent-child tournament, off-course activities, meals and housing all on one property.

More than 50 qualifying tournaments, Optimists reach out into their own communities to involve children in the game of golf. Each year 5,000 junior golfers, ages 10-18, participate in Optimist sponsored events. The top 700 junior golfers advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship each summer.



Doral Resort and Spa (Miami, FL) - legendary resort and world-class destination is conveniently 8 miles from Miami International Airport. The prestigious resort boasts four championship golf courses – the legendary Blue Monster, Gold Palm, Red Tiger and Silver Fox.

Local Qualifier Information

NE Optimist Junior Golf Championship, June 1, 2023
York Country Club, York, NE 9:30 AM Start \$65 Entry

Divns: Girls (10-12) (13-14) (15-18) Boys (10-11) (12-13) (14-15) (16-18)
 Contact: Karianne Kluge, (502) 550-8940 KKluge1Optimist@Yahoo.com
 Or Richard Raasch, (402) 681-9438 RWRaasch@cox.net

<https://sites.google.com/site/neoptimistgolf/home>

Nationally ranked by the Junior Golf Scoreboard and Golfweek, World Amateur Golf and included in the AJGA Performance Based Entry Process and attracts over 30 College coaches each year.



Contact the Optimist Junior Golf Office for information on qualifying tournaments in your area.
 (800) 500-8130 ext. 207 • golf@optimist.org • www.optimist.org/golf • www.facebook.com/optimist.golf

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

District: Nebraska
Tournament Date: June 1, 2023 9:30 AM Shotgun Start
Location: York Country Club (York, NE)
Divisions Offered: Boys 10-11 Boys 12-13 Boys 14-15 Boys 16-18 Girls 10-12 Girls 13-14 Girls 15-18
Entry Fee: \$65.00
Contact Person: Kerianne Kluge kkluge1optimist@yahoo.com 502-550-8948
Richard Raasch RWRaasch@cox.net 402-681-9438
Notes:

Qualifying Information:

A limited number of golfers in each division will advance to the international championships provided they shoot the minimum qualifying score. If a golfer who lives outside of the District qualifies, his/her participation will not eliminate a District resident from qualifying. Optimist Districts and Clubs provide financial support for winners to attend the international championships. The amount of financial support provided and the age divisions covered varies by District. There is no guarantee that financial support will be provided to golfers who travel outside of their home District. Please check with the District Chair for details.

Age Eligibility Information:

In order to be eligible, a golfer must not turn 19 on or before July 28, 2023. Golfers must be enrolled in high school or must be a 2023 high school graduate to be eligible. Any golfer who has attended college is no longer considered a "junior golfer" and is not eligible to participate.

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GOLFER INFORMATION (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY)

Golfer's name: _____ Birthday (Cannot turn 19 before July 28) _____
Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
Parent(s) Name(s): _____ Home Phone: _____
Parent Work/Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Division Applying For—determined by golfer's age on (Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12 - July 18, 2023), (Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14 - July 23, 2023) and (Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18 July 28, 2023).

Circle one: Boys 10-11 Boys 12-13 Boys 14-15 Boys 16-18 Girls 10-12 Girls 13-14 Girls 15-18

WAIVER STATEMENTS

I certify that I am an amateur player according to the rules of the USGA and that all of the information furnished is true to the best of my knowledge.

Golfer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

In consideration of my child's participation in the Optimist Junior Golf qualifying tournament, I hereby release the sponsor from any and all liability resulting from any accidents that might occur while he/she is participating and recognize that pictures may be used by the sponsor.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN INFORMATION

Registration deadline is 05/25/2023. Please complete this form in its entirety, enclose a check payable to Nebraska Optimists for \$65.00. You may also register on line and pay by Pay Pal. See website below.

Return to: Richard Raasch
Nebraska Optimists
5734 N 78th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68134

For additional information or to register on line:

<https://sites.google.com/site/neoptimistgolf/tournament-information>