

# Nebraska District Optimists

November 2023

Wendy Townley, District Governor



Choose Optimism

## Is Your Life Full of Luxuries?

It sure seems, anymore, that people have a great deal to complain about. A neighborhood web site that I frequent seems to have nothing but complaints posted, thereby giving every reader a reason to complain about their similar situation. I read (and hear) complaints about weather, city services, those committing crimes and vandalism in neighborhoods, self-checkouts, a neighbor who parks his car in front of my house, how bad life has become, inflation, etc., etc.

But if we take a moment to think about what we DO have – in comparison to others in the world – we truly do NOT have all that much about which to complain. We can go to sleep at night knowing that our house will not be bombed overnight, that we are safe within our homes, that we can wake up to a good breakfast, and (perhaps) drive a car to a job that pays us well enough to get by. Although it sounds odd to call them luxuries, many around the world do not have these benefits, rights, safety, support, whatever you do want to call them. Our families – our most valued treasure – are there for us, even if we're far apart, thanks to technology. We have access to great healthcare, stores, libraries, parks, and other recreation. Many around the world do not have these things.

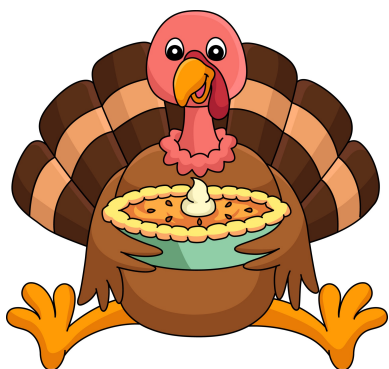
So this November, take time to make an ongoing list of all the things you are fortunate to have, experience, and enjoy.

I'm starting my "Thankful List" today: . . .

- health,
- family (nearby & further away),
- a warm house in the cold weather,
- nutritious food,
- etc. . . .

Happy Thanksgiving to each one of you! Thanks for the work you do for others in your community!

*Your Newsletter Editor*



**First Quarter District Conference**

**November 17 - 18 in Blair, NE**

Details on pg. 2

Register @ [nebraskadistrictoptimists.org](http://nebraskadistrictoptimists.org)

**First-Quarter Conference in Blair**  
**Saturday, November 18, 2023 - 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM**  
**Blair Public Library & Technology Center**  
**2233 Civic Drivet Blair, NE**

Join your fellow Nebraska Optimists as we kick off a new year together! Our first-quarter conference at the Blair Public Library will feature a visit from our Great Plains Vice President, Mark Feilmann, as well as a presentation by Omaha-area motivational speaker Sandy Spady, a service project, and more.

Tickets are \$75 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch, an afternoon snack, and your conference ticket. Registration closes Mon., Nov. 13.

Use this link to register: [First Quarter Conference Registration](#)

The Holiday Inn Express in Blair is offering a reduced room rate of \$150/night. Click the link below to make your reservation by Mon., Nov.13. [Holiday Inn Express](#)

**Tentative Conference Agenda – Saturday, November 18, 2023**

**8:30 am** Registration and breakfast

**9:00 am** Welcome; Optimist Creed; National Anthem performance: Don Eveland, Lincoln Evening Optimist Club

**9:30 am** Club & Community Success for our Clubs: Jordan Rishel, Washington County Community Foundation; and Linda Wheeler, Blair Optimist Club

**10:30 am** Break

**11:00 am** An Overview of Community Service: Blair Public Library

**Noon Lunch**

**1:00 pm** An Update from Optimist International: Mark Feilmann, OI Great Plains Region Vice President

**2:00 pm** Serving Others, Bettering Ourselves: Sandy Spady, motivational speaker and leadership coach

**3:00 pm** Break

**4:30 pm** On-site service project

**3:30 pm** Business session

**5:30 pm** Adjourn; dinner options in Blair



# 2023 TRI-STAR PPK CHAMPIONS

Local winners of PPK traveled to Abel Stadium at Nebraska Wesleyan University on October 15th to compete in the Nebraska Optimist Tri Star Punt, Pass, and Kick Finals. Thanks to the many Optimist clubs that hosted competitions in their communities.

There were 159 eligible winners from 15 local contests in the state. They competed for five trophies in each of 10 age divisions for both boys & girls. The following clubs sent participants: Beatrice, Columbus, David City, Denton, Holdrege, Kearney, Lincoln, Lincoln Evening, Lincoln Sunrise, Lincoln West, McCook, Minden, Norfolk Noon, Papillion-LaVista, and Paxton. The winners are listed below.



## BOYS FINALS

Age	Name	Club
6	1. Harley McCoy (123'2")	Kearney
	2. Greyson Randolph	McCook
	3. Camden Erickson	Papillion-LaVista
	4. Jaxson Doles	Columbus
	5. Van Newby	Lincoln West

Age	Name	Club
7	1. Easton Petersen (139'11")	Norfolk Noon
	2. Logan Brown	Minden
	3. Lucas Jensen	Columbus
	4. Brooks Osterbohr	Holdrege
	5. Kyler McCoy	Lincoln Evening

Age	Name	Club
8	1. Barrett Schulz (147'10")	Norfolk Noon
	2. Barker Brandt	Kearney
	3. Barron Hernandez	Lincoln
	4. Laylen Andersen	Lincoln West
	5. Danny Hamilton	Papillion-LaVista

Age	Name	Club
9	1. Ryker Havlicek (170' 4")	McCook
	2. Braxton Erickson	PapillionLaVista
	3. Ian Sobota	David City
	4. Taben Tessendorf	Lincoln West
	5. Landon Alfredson	Denton

Age	Name	Club
10	1. Jayden Fitzgerald (219'9")	Lincoln
	2. Evan Woehres	Columbus
	3. Malik Ziga	Lincoln West
	4. Landon Donahue	Lincoln Sunrise
	5. Clyde Rogge	Paxton

## GIRLS FINALS

Age	Name	Club
6	1. Aurora Garcia (50' 8")	Lincoln
	2. Macic Sobota	David City

Age	Name	Club
7	1. Hannah Bowman (80' 11")	Kearney
	2. Brooklyn Ferris	Lincoln Evening
	3. Della Gropp	Denton
	4. Claire Becerra	Papillion-LaVista
	5. Lillie Becker	Lincoln

Age	Name	Club
8	1. Blakely Himmelberg (74'2")	Lincoln West
	2. Ellie Golliglee	Lincoln Evening
	3. Ellison Ream	Papillion-LaVista

Age	Name	Club
9	1. Brooklyn Fitzgerald (137'0")	Lincoln West
	2. Madisyn Vancura	Lincoln
	3. Casey Fitzgerald	Lincoln Evening
	4. Bentley Potter	Paxton
	5. Aniston Ream	Papillion-LaVista West

Age	Name	Club
10	1. Emery Most (117' 11")	Minden
	2. Belle Wilkinson	Lincoln Sunrise
	3. Eva Lewis	Papillion-LaVista
	4. Payton Connot	Holdrege
	5. Ellie Hartwell	McCoo

**Both Boys Finals & Girls Finals  
Continued on the next page**

## 2023 TRI-STAR FOOTBALL PPK CHAMPIONS – CONTINUED

### Boys Finals (continued)

Age	Name	Club
11	1. Perry Dotson (185'0")	Lincoln
	2. Truman Grams	Papillion LaVista
	3. Bram Salistean	Denton
	4. Talon Hubbard	Lincoln Sunrise
	5. Carson Keifer	Lincoln West
12	1. Keegan Florom (236'5")	Paxton
	2. Khyler Rivers	Papillion LaVista
	3. Shane Emmons	Lincoln Sunrise
	4. Keegan McGinnis	Lincoln Evening
	5. Charles Byrd III	Lincoln
13	1. Gus Smith (246'10")	McCook
	2. Jacob Schmidt	Kearney
	3. Camron Michan	Lincoln Sunrise
	4. Archer Heath	Denton
14	1. Jesse Connick (170'7")	Paxton

### Girls Finals (continued)

Age	Name	Club
11	1. Jaylee Costillo (121'9")	McCook
	2. Izzy Heath	Denton
	3. Skylar Kuntz	Kearney
	4. Brooklyn Donner	Columbus
12	1. Leyton Michaelis (146'9")	Lincoln West
13	1. Alice Wiemer(178'7")	McCook
	2. Danica Romshek	David City
15	1. Laini Michaelis (151'8")	Lincoln Sunrise
	2. Kaytlin Reichel	Lincoln Evenin

**If your club is interested in hosting a local PPK competition next year, please contact Bob Grundman: 402-489-9171 or email: grundman@inetnebr.com**



## Kearney Optimists Host Local PPK

Sixty-nine children participated in the Kearney Optimist Club's "Punt, Pass, & Kick" competition held on Saturday, Sept. 30. The winners - and the age division which they won are listed below. Congrats to all the winners, who went on to the State Finals in Lincoln.

### **Boys Division:**

Harley McCoy (6)  
 Leo Miller (7)  
 Barker Brandt (8)  
 Cole Carlson (9)  
 Collin George (10)  
 Braxton Schroeder (11)  
 Jacob Schmidt (13)

### **Girls Division:**

Hannah Bowman (7)  
 Hadlee Ahrens (8)  
 Clare Lacy (9)  
 Harper Hetel (10)  
 Skyler Kuntz (11)

## More Seemingly Small Things We Should Be Thankful For . . .

- Your pets
- A good night's sleep
- The seasons
- Financial savings
- Weekends
- Fresh air
- Transportation
- Clean water
- Technology
- A good book
- Modern healthcare
- Music
- Graduations
- Colors
- Giving gifts
- Receiving gifts
- Indoor plumbing
- Wi-Fi
- Happy hours
- Netflix
- Fuzzy socks
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Duct tape
- Good hair days
- Your celebrity crush
- The five second rule
- Bacon
- Cat videos
- Inside jokes
- GPS
- Auto save
- Spellcheck
- Chapstick



- The ability to Google any question
- Fortune cookies with perfectly timed fortunes
- Food delivery services
- Clothes fresh out of the dryer
- Getting everyone in the family photo to smile

***And while you're at it, don't forget to thank a fellow Optimist for what they do. It might make their day!***