

Nebraska District Optimists

October 2023

Wendy Townley, District Governor



Choose Optimism

And So... We Begin a New Year

Nebraska District Optimists are off to a new start with fresh leadership, ambitious plans, and optimism to spare! That's because our new president, Wendy Townley, is full of optimism and a can-do attitude! District leaders met with her on Saturday, Sept. 16th to be inspired and plan for the year ahead. It was a very productive workshop!

Omaha native Wendy Townley is this year's governor of the Nebraska District of Optimist International. She joined the Optimists in 2016, and is a member of the Optimist Club of Omaha. She is a past secretary and president of her club.

Since 2014, Townley has served as executive director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation. She raises private dollars each year for Omaha Public Library programs, services, technology, collections, and more. A two-time graduate of UNO, Townley holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in communication.

Wendy and her husband, Matt Tompkins, have been married since 2012. Townley is a member of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Omaha, where she is also a lector.



District 10 Upcoming Dates

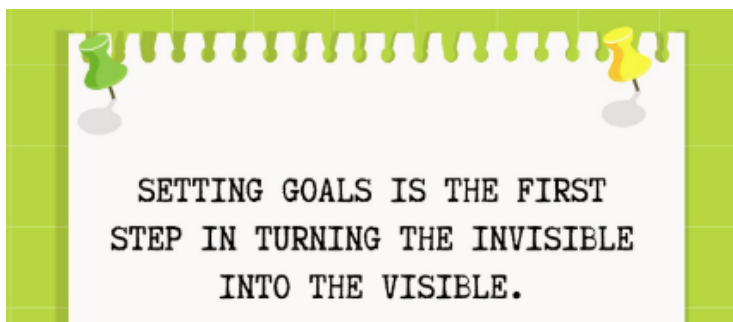


Oct. 1 – Beatrice Optimists Punt, Pass, & Kick Contest – High School Football Field @ 6:00 PM

Oct. 3 – Deadline for submitting Punt, Pass, & Kick results

Nov. 17 & 18 in Blair, Nebraska ...
District First Quarter Conference:
more info published soon!

Dec. 31 – Nebraska District PPK Contest in Lincoln (details forthcoming)





A Few Words from Our New Great Plains Vice President

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

It is a true honor to team up with you as the Great Plains Vice-President during our 2023-2024 Optimist International year. I look forward to working closely with each of you in growing our region. The Great Plains Region has a strong tradition of excellence, and I am confident that we will continue this tradition and have a fantastic year.

My focus this year is on us as Optimists. How we got here and why we are still here. Think about your Optimist club, the great members, projects, and the kids you helped along the way. As Optimists, we work together to serve more youth and communities, and grow personally through our service. As our Mission statement says - By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

We plan to continue growing the Great Plains region by supporting our Governors. Thank you in advance to all Club Presidents and district team members for stepping up and just saying YES when the Governor calls for help.

Just like any task in life, sometimes it takes perseverance. Visualize the perfect outcome. Remember the purpose of an Optimist Club- Work with the belief that giving of ourselves in service to others will advance the well- being of youth, our communities and ourselves.

Thank you in advance for all your hard work, great ideas, and fun times in helping us grow the Great Plains Region. We will be making a difference in the lives of our kids. It will be a Great Year!

Yours in Optimism,
Mark Feilmann (and Ann)



MAYF Wine Event a Huge Success!

The MAYF Board of Directors once again hosted a fabulous Wine Splash event on Sept. 17th at Bella Terre Vineyards in Glenwood, Iowa. Their initial assessment of the funds brought in by this Metro Area Youth Foundation (MAYF) fundraiser has the proceeds at a little over \$80,000. That will certainly help a lot of families that are enduring the challenge of a child with cancer!

Below are a few highlights . . .

Thank you, Hank and Sharon, for a last-minute donation of their condo in the Ozarks, that brought in \$1,300. In total the Not-So-Silent Stash Auction brought in \$4,800.



Those with a sweet tooth were awed by all the beautiful (and delicious) choices. The big winners of the Dessert Dash were “Marty’s Chocolate Ganache Cake” and “Chuck & Connie’s Mini Creme Brulees” at \$1,200 for each.



This year the big winner was the Call for Cash, that currently stands at \$18,850.

The Hope Center for Kids

Supported Area Youth

This Summer

The Omaha Metro Area Optimist Clubs and the Metro Area Youth Foundation collaborated with the Hope Center for Kids to sponsor a “Summer of Growth & Opportunity” for inner city youth. The Hope Center for Kids, located at 2200 No. 20th St. in Omaha, provides social, personal and career training, safe after school activities, summer developmental programs, tutoring, and counseling during the week.



The support staff at The Hope Center.

Their “Summer of Growth & Opportunity” provided participants with field trips and fun activities that participants earn by demonstrating excellence and positive achievements. This summer’s field trips for those who demonstrated growth were:

- Glacier Creek Preserve
- A tour of Omaha with pizza at the newly renovated Gene Leahy Mall.
- DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge
- Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum, and Zorinsky Water Park.

Their summer season ends with an awards ceremony and pizza party with root beer floats!

If you or your club are interested in donating to the activities at The Hope Center, you can make a general donation or sponsor a specific event for youth. General donations pass through the Metro Area Youth Foundation, so they are tax deductible. If interested in giving, please make checks payable to the Metro Area Youth Foundation or MAYF. Their address is P.O. Box 540772, Omaha, NE 68154. Please indicate in the Memo of your check, that your donation is for the Hope Center Project, and if you intend for it to go for a particular purpose! Find out more about all the activities and services at The Hope Center or donate online at: <http://www.hopecenterforkids.com/>

