

Nebraska District Optimists

Carla Gries, District Governor



Choose Optimism

SEPTEMBER 2023

Keynote Speakers Enrich and Motivate Us All

What a magnificent conference we had in Lincoln last month! Several first-timers were overheard saying they had a great time. Many thanks to Ardis Moody, Betty Totten, Wendy Townley, and many others who put it all together and kept things rolling!

Our two guest speakers were very positive & encouraging. Van Deeb, a highly successful realtor from Omaha, stressed how much the traits described in our Optimist Creed align with his values and business policies. He encouraged us to strive to become the best version of ourselves, and to work together toward club goals, saying, "One spoke out of a wheel still makes the wheel wobble." When we get up in the morning, it is up to us to determine how we're going to live that day.



DeMoine Adams, CEO of the TeamMates Mentoring Program (and a former Husker football player, told of how he overcame a stuttering problem as a child, when a teacher supported and encouraged him. She taught him to focus on his strengths, rather than his weaknesses. We all have that one person in our lives who showed us they truly cared. Their support of our endeavors was critical to our success.

DeMoine stressed the importance of completing what we have started. It may not be as wonderful as we envisioned it to be, but what we learn from doing it the first time helps us do even better the next time. Be like the cheerleaders, who cheer unconditionally – whether the team is winning or not!

Think of a person in your life who could really use your encouragement and support right now . . . then be there for them!

Honoring Many Years of Combined Service

A Sunday morning Memorial Service was held in honor of those Nebraska Optimists who have passed away in the last year. Many kind words about each of them were shared in memory of the work they had contributed to their clubs and the friend-ships they had made. Words such as: kind-hearted, full of energy, always pleasant, eager worker, always there to help – were heard repeatedly in describing these fellow Optimists. We certainly can use them as role models in our continued work. They will be missed in many ways.

Omaha Club

Dr. Jeffrey Deeths
Gary “Lee” Frantz, PhD.

Papillion-LaVista Club

E. Keith Childress
Charles “Chuck” Mansfield

Lincoln Evening Club

Clifford “Cliff” Sibley

Lincoln West Club

Daniel “Dan” Cuba
Margaret “Peg” Reynolds
Steven “Steve” Shaw

York Club

John “Jack” Vincent



District 10 Upcoming Dates of Importance



Join us for
Wine Splash



Sunday, September 17 – MAYF Wine Splash Event from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at Bella Terre Vineyards in Glenwood, Iowa. This is a major fundraiser for MAYF, an organization that helps families of children suffering with cancer. See the article in this newsletter for more information.

October 1, 2023 is the start of a new calendar year for all Optimist Clubs.

- New leaders, new goals, new plans, what fun!
- Annual reports are due to OI. See the OI website for guidance on this.



Lincoln Friends Club Exudes Friendship & Joy

The Lincoln Friends Optimist Club (LFOC) members have attended several conferences this year, and their participation makes everyone around them happy! This group of young people was the brainchild of Angela Tinter Driver, a member of the Lincoln Evening Club. The club members enjoy doing lots of activities that involve other young people. As an example, they are planning a Trunk or Treat event this fall, so that youngsters can trick or treat in a safe way and have lots of fun! When they heard that the Lincoln JOI club is also planning to do a Trunk or Treat event, they offered to team up with the Lincoln JOI Club and work together on this community project! That's just how friendly they are!

Other recent projects include:

- A Veteran's Celebration honoring Vets who are friends and family of club members.
- A celebration of the club's five-year anniversary
- A Friends outing to the Lincoln Children's Zoo
- An Easter egg hunt and Park trash pickup day

The LFOC has been in existence for over five years, and stayed active throughout COVID. Their Club is always front and center at any conference they attend, and their enthusiasm is indeed contagious! They remind the rest of us to be joyful and enjoy the opportunity to just be together!



Friends Club members (in gray shirts) and sponsors having fun at the Lincoln Children's Zoo.



The Lincoln Friends Club celebrates their five year anniversary with friends and cake!



Angela Tintori Driver leads an LFOC meeting.

New JOI Club Strives to Bring Joy to Others

Those who attended the 4th Quarter Conference were fortunate to meet many members of a young JOI Club sponsored by the Lincoln West Club. They were there to be awarded their club charter. The students in the club come from several different high schools in the Lincoln area. Their mentor is Ron Kalhoff, and his son Lane is the current President of the club. Several of the club members are seniors in high school and will be leaving the club at the end of this current school year. Therefore, there is much mentoring being done with other members to prepare them to fill key roles next year.

Among the projects they have undertaken in the last year are a Lake Day with students from other schools, filling Christmas stockings for Veterans, and helping out with a Foster Family Movie Night. While there speaking with us, the Lincoln Friends Club invited them to help out with a Trunk or Treat event this fall! What a great way to serve many families in the Lincoln area!

This JOI Club has also assisted with several fundraising projects hosted by their sponsor, the Lincoln West Club; and the proceeds from these events have been shared with the younger group (to help them build up their treasury). Their enthusiasm and motivation was inspiring and gave us much hope for the future of Optimists in our area.



Lincoln JOI Club President Lane Kalhoff accepts their club charter. His father Ron is on the right.



Annual Wine Splash Event is a Fundraiser for MAYF

The Metro Area Youth Foundation is an organization with a heart of gold! Their main purpose is to support families of children with cancer. As they put it, “We believe families should focus on healing, strengthening family bonds, and savoring every moment with each other. It is our hope that we lessen their worries over unpaid bills and ease their stresses of increased bills by helping where we can.”

Hospital social workers refer families needing help to MAYF. Their bills are then covered for them. The money does not go to the family, rather MAYF contacts the company and pays the bill(s) for them. This is a huge relief for families dealing with such a horrible diagnosis of a loved-one.

Every year MAYF hosts a Wine Splash event at Bella Terre Vineyards in Glenwood, Iowa. The Wine Splash is one of the Metro Area Youth Foundation’s biggest fundraisers. All proceeds from fundraising events go back to the families of Nebraska and Western Iowa who have a child fighting cancer.

This year’s event will be held on **Sunday, Sept. 17 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM**. There will be food and beverages, games & prizes, and lots of ways to purchase or win wine – all in a beautiful setting! And don’t forget desserts galore to be won!

Please consider joining in the fun and helping families through MAYF. Tickets are \$110 per person; \$200 per couple; \$800 for a table of eight. You can learn more about this event and purchase tickets at the web site below. We hope to see you there!

www.metroareayouthfoundation.org/wine_splash



Annual Punt, Pass, and Kick Competition Coming Up in October



The 2023 District Tri-Star Football Punt, Pass, & Kick Contest will be held at Nebraska Wesleyan on Sunday October 15. This competition is open to the winners of local club contests. Registration and warm-up (participants need to bring their own footballs) begins at 11:15 AM and the contest for all ages begins at Noon.

The contest will again have 20 gender/age categories for participants ages 6-15. The District Contest will then be held on December 31, 2023. For just \$80, clubs may send their first place winners to the District Finals where each will compete for one of five trophies.

Attached you will find a copy of the Official Rules, a local scoresheet you can adapt for your own contest, if desired, and a 2022 Local Results Form we're reusing. It is for sending your winners names to the District contest. There is an October 3rd deadline for receiving your Local Results Form in one of 3 ways:

- By mail (Bob Grundman, 7412 Karl Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516)
- By email (bobdianegrundman@gmail.com) or
- By FAX (419-821-1953)

**PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE: your \$80 check payable to SCOYF.
ALL of this is due no later than Tuesday October 3rd.**

Why Is This Such a Great Club Event?

1. It's easy. All you need are score sheets, a couple of footballs and a kicking tee, a minimum 200' measuring tape, a string to calculate deviation from the straight line, and at least 5 volunteers.

2. It's economical. It costs only \$80 to advance your 1st place winners (up to 20 contestants) to the District Contest. Local costs may include ribbons or certificates for your local winners.

3. It's not exclusive. Prior to the NFL Punt, Pass, & Kick demise, a participant could compete in only one local contest. Now, they can compete in a Jaycee or local school event AND your local Optimist contest. PLUS, the Optimist Contest may be the only one offering advancement to a state level competition.



**If you have any questions,
please contact Bob Grundman
(402-489-9171).**



PUNT, PASS &



KICK CONTEST

Sunday, October 1

6:00 p.m.

High School Football Field

FREE Registration – on site

BOYS & GIRLS

Ages 6-15

Separate gender and age divisions

Winners advance to State Finals

at Nebraska Wesleyan on Oct. 15

No cleats, football or turf shoes, or bare feet

Athletes participating in Grades 9-12 inter-school football competition during fall are not eligible according to NSAA rules



**Sponsored by
Beatrice Optimist Club**

**For more information call/text Robert Kluge
203-767-0852 or**

Dick Timmerman 402-806-3337 or Chad Omar 402-806-3560