

Nebraska District Optimists

Carla Gries, District Governor



Choose Optimism

March 2023

Contest Season Is Here!

It's "contest season" and Optimist clubs around the world are holding competitions from oratorical to golfing to batting! Pictured below are the three recent winners of the Gretna Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. The theme for this year's contest is "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times."

If your club is planning to host any competitions, be sure to look up when the contests are to happen and stay on top of due dates! As an example, the competitors for the Oratorical Zone Contests are due to Gloria Epps by March 31, and the District Contest will be held on April 22 (at our upcoming conference). Details can be found on the Nebr. District web site.

Bob Grundman has also sent info regarding the Pitch, Hit Run competition. I have attached it to the back of this newsletter, but please not that dues dates are soon!

Best wishes to all upcoming competitors!

Pictured are the three winners of the Gretna Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. They will compete at the upcoming district competition. From left: Eathan Wegner, first place; Kate Cogswell, third place; and Bailey Stender, second place.

COURTESY GRETNA OPTIMIST CLUB

District 10 Upcoming Dates



**April 21-22 Nebr. Optimists
3rd Quarter Conference in
Columbus, NE** - Please plan to
join us at the River's Edge and
Ramada. Details forthcoming.

**August 18-19-20
Lincoln, NE Optimists 4th
Quarter Conference** at the
Graduate Hotel in the Lincoln
Haymarket – A Celebration of
Our Nebraska Heritage



The 2nd Quarter Conference Little Engine That Could!

With a District Governor in the hospital, it might have seemed like the upcoming 2nd Quarter Conference might not happen. But with a lot of teamwork from several district Optimists, this conference became the Little Engine That Could! From the Presentation of Colors by Scout Troops 14 and 114, to the awards ceremony on Saturday evening, it was a conference to be remembered! Thanks to Ardis Moody and Wendy Townley, Cindy Von Fange and Kailen Kluge, Betty Totten and Sharon Flinn, Paul and Karen Keller – as well as many other behind-the-scenes players, everything came together to make it a very worthwhile event.



Our guest speaker from OI was Mike Boles from the St. Louis area. He gave us much to think about in respect to developing and promoting leadership among our members. Not only was he informative, but he was quite entertaining, too.

We also had a visit from two Jefferson Elementary School students and their principal, Sheree Stockwell. They told us about their school's Gents and Gems Club for fourth- and fifth-graders. The goal is to teach students positive social skills, manners, and self-confidence. The two representatives they sent said it is quite popular at their school. We want to thank them for spending their time with us. What a great way to reach kids!

We even had a much-needed “recess” break thanks to Beryl Lantz, who provided two corn hole games. Participants got to blow off some steam, and they had a fun time doing it!

After our great dinner on Saturday night, we had an awards ceremony that was top notch. Cindy Von Fange used old Optimist tee shirts and colorful fabric to make some gorgeous pillows and quilts which were awarded to many of the honorees.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that a lieutenant governor fell down some stairs and managed to break her shoulder! That was not a planned event. But aside from that, it was a very worthwhile conference.



Al Penner from the Omaha Miracle Hills Club received an award from District Secretary Betty Totten for being an Honor Club President last year.

NEBRASKA DISTRICT PITCH, HIT, & RUN PROPOSAL

Will your club participate??

The Major League Baseball (MLB) Pitch, Hit, & Run Contest is changing its progression of winners. ALL participants must use the unique URL of a local contest to register if they wish to be eligible to advance to the next level (Team) of competition and the National Finals during the World Series. Clubs are to submit the combined scores of both the baseball and softball winners in each of the four (7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14) age groups by August 1. MLB will select the top three scorers in each in each age group to advance to the Team contest. This means that a regional (District) contest will not need to be held. Just as we operated a District Punt, Pass, & Kick contest simultaneously with NFL contests, Lincoln's Star City Optimist Youth Foundation (SCOYF) proposes to host a District PHR contest separate from the MLB contest without interfering with the opportunity for a participant to compete in both.

PROPOSAL

1. SCOYF will host a District PHR Contest beginning at 6:00 pm on Fri. May 19, 2023 providing at least 10 Optimist Clubs register to participate **at a cost of \$40 each by March 10, 2023** (Yes, they would need to decide prior to hosting a contest) and host contests by April 30.
2. Each club will be allowed to send the winner of four baseball and four softball age categories. No refunds if any fewer are sent.
3. The \$40 cost will be used to purchase 5 trophies in each of the eight categories plus field rentals and administration costs.
4. District winners may advance to the Team contest based on District scores only if your club is not registered as a local host.
5. SCOYF will provide winner registration and reporting sheets plus all contest instructions to local participating clubs after March 10.
6. If not enough clubs commit to a District Contest, the checks of those who have will be destroyed.
7. Clubs will not be required to participate in the MLB contest. QUESTIONS???

Bob Grundman 402-489-9171 or bobdianegrundman@gmail.com

DISTRICT PITCH, HIT, & RUN PARTICIPATION FORM

Optimist Club _____

Contest Coordinator _____

Email address _____ Telephone _____

_____ We agree to host our local contest no later than April 30.

_____ \$40 check payable to SCOYF is included. (If not enough clubs agree to participate, your check will be destroyed.)

MAIL this form and your check to: Bob Grundman, 7412 Karl Drive Lincoln, NE 68516

Deadline – March 10, 2023