



Nebraska District Optimists



Sandra Allen, Governor
November, 2020
OI 1st Quarter Theme:
“Resilience”

Mark Your Calendars!

November 14, 2020

1st Quarter Conference
Zoom event

November 16, 2020

OI Webinar 7 p.m.
“Planning Online Events”

December 12, 2020

Coffee with the Governor
Zoom Event 9:30 a.m.

December 21, 2020

OI Webinar
“Getting Started with Instagram
for Your Club”

January 9, 2021

Coffee with the Governor
Zoom Event 9:30 a.m.

January 18, 2021

OI Webinar
“Effective & Fun Meetings –
Online, In Person or Hybrid”

February 15, 2021

Deadline for Clubs to
File Form 990-N

OI Webinar

“Club Facebook Basics”

February 26-27, 2021

2nd Quarter Conference
Norfolk

February 28, 2021

Essays Due to District Chair,
Lana Urban



Sandra Allen, Governor

Nebraska Optimists District Goals for 2020-21

1. To develop a culture of empowerment and engagement, as evidenced by sharing of ideas, delegation of responsibilities and the development of new leaders.
2. To develop a District succession plan for potential Governors-Elect and Lieutenant Governors.
3. To establish a 1, 3 and 5-year strategic plan.
4. To retain at least 80% of individuals who are members on October 1, 2020.
5. To add 250 *new* club members to the Nebraska District.
6. To build at least 3 new clubs within the District and at

least two international clubs.

7. To have a Club Foundation Representative for each club and each club to make a financial contribution to the Optimist International Foundation during the 2020-21 Optimist year.

8. To have *active* committees that collaborate with each other and serve as useful resources to our local clubs.

9. To have at least 50% of club presidents, 50% of club secretaries and treasurers, and 50% of club foundation reps complete the OI Learning Management System online training module for his/her respective office.

10. To bring *fun* back!
Sandra Allen, Governor

Correction

In the October issue, I incorrectly noted that Governor-Elect Cindy Von Fange was an OI Certified Trainer. She has notified me that she is not a Certified Trainer, but is working on becoming certified. I am sorry for the misinformation and any confusion that may have resulted from it.

Betty Totten, District Newsletter Ed.

Membership Growth During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Really??

The answer is a strong YES, as we are Optimists. Optimists care. Optimists give hope. Optimists give a smile to everyone they meet. Many Optimist Clubs become stronger during crisis. Our Optimist Creed calls on us “to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.”

Growth is possible, even during a pandemic! David Catalan of the Miracle Hills Optimist Club has recruited three new members in the 2020–2021 Optimist Year, and one of his new recruits wants to start a new Optimist club in the Omaha area. David has the inner passion and desire to share his Optimism. He uses a simple three letter word with passion - “ASK” - as he truly knows and believes in the benefits of being an Optimist.

I believe each of you know the benefits of being an Optimist and we need to share these benefits with others. Becoming a member of the Optimist organization opens the door for opportunities to serve and develop a more positive fulfilling outlook on life! Membership provides each person with access to an organization dedicated to helping each person become a better person.

As Optimists, we understand that while unexpected hardships like COVID-19 come into our lives, we also understand our ability to overcome these obstacles. Consider the following ideas as we grow our clubs during the pandemic.

- ◆ Choose a specific activity to engage friends, family members, and co-workers.

- ◆ Send letters or make personal contact with local businesses to build engagement and/or financial assistance.

- ◆ Hand out Optimist balloons and coloring books to children with parents outside grocery stores on weekends. Bring along Optimist brochures and information, an outgoing attitude, and a short Optimist elevator speech.

- ◆ Seek out service projects that are needed for the youth of the community. Reach out to community leaders – ask and listen.

- ◆ Promote your club by publicizing club activities and individual member’s accomplishments and contributions to the community. Help the Optimist candle shine bright!

- ◆ Practice developing a one minute Optimist elevator speech during a club meeting.

- ◆ Invite a prospective member to a virtual cup of coffee and create a dialog about supporting community youth activities. ASK questions and be a good listener. Make the prospective member feel that she/he is important. Don’t try to sign up the prospective member at this meeting. The MOST important agenda for this first meeting is to develop a relationship. Asking the prospective member to become a member will come at a later activity, or the second or third coffee.

In summary, I ask each of you, “Why did you become an Optimist?” Many, if not all of you, have built a legacy by serving the youth in your community. Through your efforts and passion to help the youth, you not only left an imprint on their lives, but you also touched the lives of your fellow Optimists. As Optimists, we should want and strive for our

legacy to continue. To do so we must reach out to others and ask them to be members so they can realize the benefits of being an Optimist and continue the Optimist legacy in our communities.

Marvin Wastell
District Growth Chair

October Shines with Nine New Members Gretna

Linda Noonan

Judy Bergman, sponsor

Lincoln Friends
Deborah Reding

Angela Tintori, sponsor

Lincoln Sunrise
David Emery

Leroy Sievers, sponsor

Lincoln West
Cheryl Eldridge

Judith Winkler, sponsor

North Omaha
Quinton Anderson

Felicia Carroll, sponsor

North Platte
Justin Thompson

David Thelen, sponsor

Omaha Miracle Hills
Kimara Snipe

David Catalan, sponsor

Paxton

Josh Dack

Del Dack, sponsor

West Point
Blake Denton

Nadine Hagedorn, sponsor

Sponsors, Thank You for sharing your passion for helping youth and asking a friend, family member, co-worker, or neighbor to join our organization. New members, Thank You for saying “Yes.” Welcome to the Nebraska District!

6,550 Miles, No Problem for North Platte!

The North Platte Optimists are co-sponsoring the 2nd Optimist Club in Beirut, Lebanon with the 1st Optimist Club of Beirut. They have 16 members that have indicated they will join. They are calling their club the Beirut Family Optimists. We will be keeping in touch with the Beirut club through text and Zoom meetings, so it will be a new experience. We are excited to be on the edge of the international club building program.

To be a part of this club building program we needed to form a team of our club members to communicate with the new Beirut Optimist club and commit to helping the new club with \$225.00 a year. They ask we keep in contact with the new club every month to help with planning projects, leadership, and trouble shooting.

Sponsoring an international club counts the same as sponsoring a new club for awards as for clubs here. More important we help spread the ideals of Optimism to other countries.

David Thelen
President, North Platte O. C.

6,324 Miles No Problem for Norfolk Noon Either!

The Norfolk Noon Optimist Club Board of Directors has voted to sponsor a newly forming international Optimist Club. The Trinity Optimist Club of Accra, Ghana, will be organized during November via Zoom.

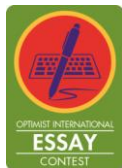
Mark Claussen
President, Norfolk Noon O.C.

Editor's Note: The December issue will have follow-up articles about the two new clubs.

Clubs! District Essay Contest Details

Official Topic: "Reaching your Dreams by Choosing Optimism"

The Nebraska District Optimist Essay Contest gives our Nebraska youth a chance to express themselves and fine tune their writing skills, plus the additional bonus of being in the running for a \$2500 Optimist International scholarship. Local club level essay participants will also receive local club perks and recognition. All youth participating at the district level receive a certificate, with the top three receiving medallions, and the winner a \$2500 scholarship.



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So, Optimist Clubs: Get a hold of a student who likes challenges and represent him/her, run an essay contest with your local English teacher, contact your nearby schools for students interested in writing, advertise in your local newspaper or through the media. Contact Lana Urban of your club's interest in sponsoring a student who would like to participate. The possibilities are endless.

Great Club Essay Contest Information

nebraskaoptimists.org

Click... *Youth Programs* in yellow

Click.... *District Programs* and scroll to Essay Contest.

Click... "*more details*" in red.

View and print the links: "*club planning guide*," "*application*," "*information*"

See sample winning student essays for examples.

Ol Website:
optimist.org

Click *Member Resources* and scroll down to Programs

Click *Scholarship Contests*
Click *Essay Contest*: see links such as certificates, application, press releases, planning guide

Club Essay Deadline Discretion of the Club District Essay Contest Deadline

**Sunday, February 28, 2021
Allow for Mail Time**

Mail the following five items for your entry by February. 28, 2021, to Lana Urban.

- 1.) **Application Fee: \$10.00 Per Essay** – Make Check payable to Nebraska District Optimists
- 2.) **Birth Certificate or Passport** – Copy Only
- 3.) **Typed Essay with Title Page (See Application Rules** – Page 3 of Club Planning Guide)
- 4.) **Application Form** with signatures (Page 3 of Club Planning Guide)
- 5.) **District Essay Contest Entry Form** (Page 12 of Club Planning Guide)

Contact Lana Urban, District Essay Chair with your interest or questions at:

famofurbs@gmail.com

Text/Cell: (402) 641-3099

Land line: (402) 643-3964

Leave message

If your club is interested in supporting this contest, please send any donation amount to:

Lana Urban

1717 Eastridge Avenue

Seward, NE 68434.

Please make checks payable to: Nebraska District Optimists, and thanks for your support!!

Lana Urban

District Essay Chair

Keep on reading.
There are
2 more
pages!

“Kids Speak Out” and Gain Experience!

When you were a kid, did you want to be heard, to have a voice? With the “Kids Speak Out” program, we can give kids, up to and including age 11, a chance to “Speak Out” and be heard. The Optimist International “Kids Speak Out!” program has only one level of competition, the club level, and the boys and girls compete together.



The purpose of “Kids Speak Out” is to ultimately provide a larger pool of Oratorical contestants that are better prepared to compete at the District and International levels. The more experience children have in organizing their thoughts into a logical presentation and the more experience they have in speaking in front of groups, the more proficient and comfortable they become.

More information can be found on the Optimist International website under “Member Resources,” “Programs,” “Community Activities.” The rules are addressed as though the contest is in a school setting, but if that is not feasible in your community or for your club, the rules can be adapted. If a club is unable to work with the schools, you might contact home school groups, church groups, or other organizations.

Why not give kids in your community an opportunity to “Speak Out” and gain oratorical experience. Who knows, maybe in a few years one of them will win a \$2,500 District scholarship, maybe even a Regional \$5,000 scholarship and possibly even win the Optimist International World Championship Contest and win a \$15,000 scholarship!!

Wanted! Guest Editorials

You are being offered the opportunity to share your optimistic thoughts and observations with the Nebraska District via the monthly District newsletter. If you have something you would like to share about Optimism, about the Creed, about your Club, about how you have received unexpected benefits from being an Optimist, or something else, take advantage of this opportunity.

Our goal is to have a Guest Editorial in the District Newsletter each month. Unfortunately, we did not receive any editorials for this issue.

The editorial should be 425 words or less and sent by email to neoptimists@gmail.com. Please type “Guest Editorial” in the subject line.

If you have a picture that goes along with your theme, please include it with your email. It will be used if space permits.

The writer’s name and club will be published with the editorial. The decision to publish any submitted editorial will be determined by Governor Sandra Allen, Betty Totten District Newsletter Editor, and Marketing & Communications Chair Diane Siefkes. Due to space limitations, there will be a limit of one editorial in each issue. If multiple editorials are received, the ones not used will be considered for publication at a later date. We are waiting to hear from you!



1st Quarter Conference Is Almost Here – Virtually

The Conference officially begins at 9 a.m. on November 14th, via Zoom, but you can sign in as early as 8:30 a.m. for a virtual coffee with your Optimist friends. Essie Johnson, of Knoxville, Tennessee, who has been our District guest previously, will give a presentation on “Making Your Plan and Working Your Plan.” She will also facilitate an afternoon breakout session, “Resilience in Recruitment – How to Bring in New Members NOW!” Three other breakout sessions scheduled are: “Resilience by the Numbers – Growth Explosion!”, “Digital Resilience: Facebook and Zoom Q & A”, and “Resilience in Action – Optimist International Foundation”. Members can register for one morning breakout session and one afternoon session when registering for the Conference.

The 1st Quarter Conference will feature many of the usual events, such as recognizing the First Timers, a business session, and an address by the Governor. Governor Sandra’s address will feature the District’s goals for this Optimist year. One of the goals is to bring back the fun. To help reach that goal, time has been set aside for Trivia games. Plans are to have OI President Mark Weinsoff make an appearance by way of Zoom and talk about “Bringing Back the Fun.” During the lunch break, there will be a District powerpoint presentation.

Registration is now open. To register online, go to the Nebraska District website at nebraskoptimists.org. There is no registration fee for this virtual conference.

Optimist Resilience at Work

The "Autumn Smash" fundraiser, which took the place of the **Metro Area Youth Foundation's** annual "Summer Bash," kicked off in October. Teams of Optimists and area citizens are competing to raise money to #SmashOutStress for area families who are faced with the challenges of having a child diagnosed with cancer.

The **Lincoln Optimist Club** is getting close to completing their Purses with a Purpose project. With the help of a grant from the OI Foundation, they are able to purchase toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, feminine products, deodorants, and other supplies to fill 65 purses for girls at the F Street Community Center. The projected delivery date is no later than December 11th.



Kearney Optimists hung flags for their subscribed businesses on Columbus Day, and weather permitting they will again be out on Veterans Day! The flag project is not only a fundraiser, but a visual reminder of these very important days in our country's history.

South Sioux City Optimists had to cancel their planned Fall Fling Family Fun Friday on Oct. 23rd. The outdoor event wasn't cancelled because of the pandemic, but because of the weather! Sometimes a club just can't catch a break!! At least

neither the pandemic nor the weather interfered with honoring firemen and first responder crews. Recently the honorees were served lunch at the fire station.

Last month the **Norfolk Noon Club** met at the City Council Chambers to recognize an officer with the Norfolk Police Division and a trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol for their services as part of the Club's "**Respect for Law**" efforts. Earlier they recognized a local Firefighter/Paramedic for his service to the community during Fire Prevention Week.

Some changes are being made to the **Minden Optimist Tri-Star Volleyball** competition. Girls ages 8 - 13 will perform five different skills (passing to themselves, setting to themselves, a pass/set combination to themselves, serving, and attacking). They will then receive a rating of gold, silver or bronze depending on their numbers. Each girl will receive a certificate which will allow them to keep track of their progress. (From Facebook)

Did you see the picture and write up of the **Lincoln Friends Optimist Club** in the fall issue of "The Optimist" magazine? If not, check out the Club News page and see why this active club received the OI recognition they deserve!

October was a busy month for **Holdrege Optimists**. They hung flags across the community for Columbus Day as they do for each national holiday. On the 10th, the Club hosted their annual Breakfast of Champions for boys in all grades who are playing football. Following the breakfast and a talk from the High School football coach, the Tri-Star Football competition was held



for both boys and girls. If that isn't enough, the Club started a new winter soccer league program. It is open to boys and girls in grades 5-8.

Ogallala Optimists had a work day at Humphrey Pond. They cut trees, picked up trash and gave the pond a fall clean up! Fifteen members spent part of their weekend working on the pond. (From Facebook)



l to r: Steve Bristol, Tammy Bristol



l to r: Bud Morrell, Kendall Hickam

Blair Optimists may not be "dreaming of a white Christmas," but they have started the process of making days "merry and bright" for their less fortunate area residents. The Optimists, partnering with the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, are accepting applications from families in need.