



OptiViews

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
- Helen Keller



Share optimism. joinanoptimistclub.org

Better Together

**Important
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"Optimism is the foundation of COURAGE"

IMPORTANT DATES

First Quarter Conference

November 11-12

Grand Rapids, Mi

Michigan Mondays

Zoom meetings on the

2nd and 4th Mondays

**NOV 7 Michigan Monday
Kick-Off to 22-23 with Gov.
Pam NOV 21 MI Understanding and OIF Grants
DEC. 12 Contests: Essay,
Oratorical CCDHH, Kids**



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL

Michigan District

Speak Out

Dan Mills

Immediate Past Governor
MI District Optimists

WANT TO BE FEATURED?

Do you have a story to be featured in future OptiViews? Reach out to mmyerssomi@att.net for a submission form.

Deadline for next OptiViews edition: **February 1**

Once you get the submission form, some things of note:

- Keep your submission in Word format and email back as a working Word or Google Doc file. Please do not send PDFs.
- Attach any images you have to be included to your submission email. We will do our best to include them in the OptiViews.
- The Communication Committee reserves the right to accept/decline and edit your content to follow OI Brand Guidelines and/or for OptiViews' spacing requirements.
- Committee members needed!

PAST GOVERNOR'S THOUGHTS

I was listening to the radio the other day. The song, *I Hope You Dance* by Lee Ann Womack was playing. The lyrics were written by Sanders Mark Daniel and Sillers Tia Maria. The lyrics struck me as very optimistic. I submit the following lines rewritten with the Optimist Creed in mind.

Promise yourself...

To never lose your sense of wonder

To never take a single breath for granted

To open another door when one door closes

To give Optimism a fighting chance

And, when you get the choice to sit or dance – Dance

Dance with Optimism!

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Choose Optimism Now!

As we enter the new Optimist year, I am looking forward to serving you as governor and to working with you to grow your clubs and to grow optimism for you individually. I see the great opportunities before us, and I am both encouraged and excited about our future in the Mighty Michigan District!

As we enter the new year, there will be some changes and some things will remain as we are accustomed to experiencing them. One of the challenges of transition for each of us is facing the unknown. Be assured that the Michigan District will continue to be a leader in membership, new club building, leadership development, youth programs, and support of the Optimist International Foundation.

The future of the Optimist organization rests on our shoulders and in our actions. Promise yourself to support the success of our members, our clubs, our leaders, and our Mighty Michigan District.

Our world needs Optimism and it needs it now. Choose Optimism NOW!



Pamela Batcho

Sean Mueller—Leadership Development Chair

Linda Thompson, Governor Elect



Governor
Pam Batcho
pmbatcho@gmail.com
(248)954-6149

IMPORTANT DATES

CONTINUED

2nd Q Conference
Feb 19 Via Zoom at
9am-1pm

3rd Q Conference
Livonia, MI
May 12-13



CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Roxanne Fitzpatrick
Chair of CCDHH
rfitz@kw.com
(248)-470-3584



The Mighty Michigan District had four clubs earn \$500 grants this past Optimist year! Congratulations to **Central Macomb, Southfield Lathrup Village, Mecosta County & Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo!** Way to go to all of you! Updates as to how their projects are going will come as the new Optimist year moves ahead.

Is your club looking for funds for a Childhood Health and Wellness initiative? I hope so! We want to give out more grants! But to give out more grants we need to raise more \$\$\$.

Here are some fundraising ideas:

How about a Valentine Dinner- bring your sweetie for a delicious five course dinner with wine to compliment each course! More to come on this idea in the near future!

Newest fundraiser-CURLING! Big announcement at the first quarter conference. See you there!

Fun walk and Run? A bike event in your area? How about a bottle drive, or sell a cookbook with your club's favorite recipes, sell cookie dough, host a dance.

Include your JOI clubs in your fundraising! No one can resist helping a child.

I am glad to help you promote a fundraiser for CHW.

Optimist friends, I am asking for help & support! I have lots of ideas and lots of goals for CHW for the 2022-2023 year, BUT I can't do it without you. Please join my committee. Call me, text me, email me!

Remember - this is for the children.



Bob McFadyen and Dan Mills

DISTRICT SECRETARY MESSAGE

I am honored to serve as the Michigan District Optimist Secretary for the 2022-2023 Optimist year under Governor, Pamela Batcho. I joined Central Macomb Optimist Club in 2005 and I am also the club's current president. Over the years, I have been Assistant Governor, Lt. Governor for zone 15 as well as chairperson of the NOW (New Optimists Welcome) committee, the membership committee, leadership development, the club fitness committee and I am a proud builder of excellence. I have also served on many committees over the years.

In October, your club will receive their 1st quarter dues statement from Optimist International for both your district and your international dues. The dues that your club pays each quarter helps to ensure that we can bring training and other programs to our quarterly conferences and helps support many other programs.

By now, your club officers should have completed their training during the leadership development training and on the Optimist Institute website. However, if you have any questions, or need any additional help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Elaine Lyon
Michigan District Secretary
elainelyon1@yahoo.com
(586) 201-2662

Bob McFadyen, Pam Batcho, Linda Thompson



PRESIDENT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Bob McFadyen
Optimist International
President
presidentbob@optimist.org
519-500-9458



Happy Optimistic New Year!

Thank you so much for being an Optimist and making a positive difference within your community.

A brief introduction: I am Bob McFadyen, 2022-2023 OI President. I live in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada and am a Member of the Kitchener West Optimist Club. I have been a Member for 29 years and one of my favorite Club projects is our Children's Christmas Party. My goal as President is to connect with you and grow our impact (of course). Every month I will send an email with "Just 3 Things" - my own message, something I'd like to spotlight, and a list of the upcoming activities in the Optimist world. Just 3 Things.

To open the lines of communication so we can learn and grow together, I'd love to hear from you directly! Please reach out to me with any issues or concerns. You can reply to this email or send one directly to me at: presidentbob@optimist.org. Or call me - my cell phone is: 519-500-9458. I'd also love to hear YOUR stories! What activity do you really enjoy. The big and small ways your Club makes a difference in your community. And why you and your Club keep doing what you're doing.

There are changes happening with the future direction of our organization and I will share those changes with you as I am able. Look for two membership initiatives that I am introducing next month, "Just Invite" and "Partners in Optimism" program.

A new Optimist year brings renewed energy and enthusiasm. We need to work together to strengthen our organization so that we can continue to bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

"I believe any success in life is made by going into an area with a blind, furious optimism." - Sylvester Stallone.

Let's keep moving forward together with blind, furious optimism!



DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Good news for the 2023 Optimist International Convention!!! It's not far away! YAY! YOU can get there – YOU can fly, YOU can drive, YOU can hop on a train or a bus or YOU can carpool there!

The 2023 Convention will be in Arlington, Virginia (Washington DC) at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City from July 2-5. *Just think – Fireworks on the Fourth of July in our nation's capital!* Online registration will be available at optimist.org, in early 2023 and there is always an “Early Bird” Discount.

There will be an Expo Display at the Michigan District 1st and 3rd Quarter conferences, and I am available to answer your questions. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. See you in DC!



Brighter Days Club of Battle Creek

Right– Margaret Rollinger,
Linda Ingersoll, Theresa Jarratt

Debra J. Berry
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Waterford MI 48327

BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

Mishelle Myers
Club Advisor
mmyerssomi@att.net

The Brighter Days Optimist Club of Battle Creek recently celebrated their 1st birthday celebration. This club is the first special needs Optimist club in the Michigan District. This club is primarily made up of club members from Kambly Living Center a non-profit Adult Foster Care home that was interested in providing inclusion and the ability to give back to their community. The club is composed of 17 members and 10 Opti-mentors. "We have been very busy this past year." stated club president Fred Clary.

Pictured on page 7 are club members with the Food bank of SW Michigan. The club held a pop can drive and raised \$125.00 for the agency. Also pictured are members and mentors on our birthday celebration.

ESSAY CONTEST

OI Essay Contest Topic for the 2022-23 School Year is:

"Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?"

Essay is the FIRST event of the Optimist new year, and NOW is the perfect time to start planning your contest. One of Michigan's kids will win a \$2,500 scholarship, and the 2nd and 3rd place finishers will also receive scholarships of \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively!

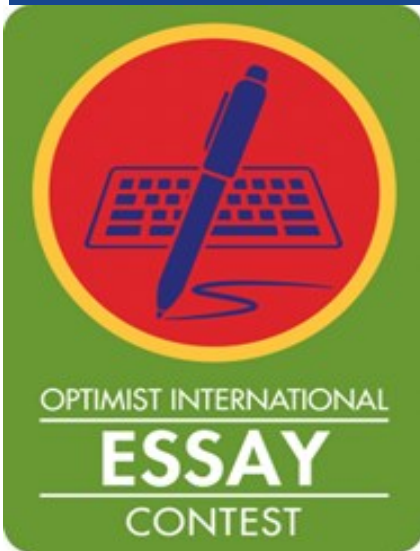
If you didn't host an essay contest last year but would like to do so, please note these important changes:

1. YOU MUST CONFIRM BY DEC 1st IF YOUR CLUB IS HOLDING AN ESSAY CONTEST.

☑ Send your club name, city/town, chairperson's name, email and phone number to sregiani@comcast.net Please put "ESSAY" in the subject line.

☑ *If you do NOT confirm you are holding an essay contest and decide later to sneak one in, your winner's essay cannot advance to the District Scholarship Competition judging. Sorry, that is the only way to be fair to all our Michigan District students.*

2. Your Club deadline should be set no later than Feb 1st. This gives sufficient time for judging and time to get the winner's paperwork to be by the official deadline of Feb 28.



Sherry Regiani
District Essay Chair
sregiani@comcast.net

DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE

We are embarking on a new Optimist year with a theme of Hearts United in Optimism established by Optimist International Foundation (OIF) President Debra Merritt. Debra has established Regional Teams and we will be working under OIF President-elect Teri Davis on the Northeast & Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic Regional Team. Of course, we will be in competition with the other teams to raise the most support for the many programs of OIF. Our Michigan District is in a great position to lead this effort as we were #1 in financial support last fiscal year. That also means we need to move ahead quickly to lead by example for the other Districts on our Team.

Our Foundation provides the financial support we need to bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves. Specifically, in 2021, OIF

- Contributed \$85,000 to support the JOI programs
- Provided 120 college scholarships totaling \$244,500
- Awarded \$97,054 to Childhood Health and Wellness Programs including the Childhood Cancer Campaign
- Provided \$86,039 in interest to clubs utilizing the Club Campaign funds
- Helped OI provide the first post pandemic convention in Atlanta, GA
- Helped clubs receive \$226,228 in charitable contributions through the Pass-Through Grant Program
- Worked with OI to launch and fund the first Musical Happiness Contest
- Supported the OI Oratorical World Championship Contest with \$65,000 in funding for the US and International Regional winners and the first-place winner
- Assisted Optimists to help 29,927 children and their families through 20 Club Grants
- Paid out \$129,534 on endowments for community projects and scholarships

We will be working together to assure this level of funding continues and I'm counting on each of you to help. If you can spare only 10 cents every day, you can be part of this fantastic financial support. And there will be prizes awarded to the clubs and zones with the most "Dime a Day" contributors each quarter. Club Foundation Representatives will be working with me to assure everyone has an opportunity to help the Michigan District remain #1 in financial support of OIF.

Be sure to contact me if you have any questions or would like a presentation to your club about the Foundation, and the work of your Club and District Foundation Representatives.

Past Governor
Pam Barckholtz
District Foundation Rep
optimistpam@gmail.com

M.I.UNDERSTANDING START THE DISCUSSION

Governor
Pam Batcho
pmbatcho@gmail.com
(248)954-6149

The Michigan District Childhood Health & Wellness program is proud to announce their partnership with the M.I.understanding program. This Optimist year we will be launching the program across the district and we need your help and support to get the word out.

Our MI District Optimist clubs will be encouraged to create relationships with locations in your community to distribute information regarding this valuable family resource.

How can you help?

1. Join the new MI Healthy Families Optimist Club. The leadership team has determined that a club should be formed to support the program and assist the district with fundraising and program event resources for the clubs. The goal is to have club members from across the district participating virtually and in person at district events. Please email Governor Pamela Batcho if you are interested.
2. Request print materials that can be given to libraries, physician's offices, day care facilities, senior and family centers, schools and other places where families gather.
3. Donate a program. Each program costs \$60 per family. Families are not charged for the resource. We recruit donors to assist financially in order to ensure that every family has access no matter their financial status.

Project Overview:

M.I.understanding is looking to change the way we think about mental health in kids. 70% of childhood mental health can be treated if caught early and yet most families are embarrassed or unaware their child needs help. Many kids suffering with mental health issues are labeled as naughty or difficult. Empathy and understanding will go a long way to helping these children develop the tools they need to deal with mental health issues as teenagers.

This project consists of a series of videos along with accompanying resources on a website channel dedicated specifically to childhood mental health. The concept is endorsed by Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre, (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program) as well as the Thames Valley District School Board (Mental Health Strategic Planning Committee).

The goal of M.I.understanding is to create a community of support. We believe in the art of storytelling to start a conversation.

Working with community partners, the stories have been developed to increase awareness and understanding, and give families, schools and caregivers the tools to comfort, encourage and support children struggling with anxiety.

START THE DISCUSSION CONTINUED

#

M.I.understanding:

We are not a mental health organization. M.I.understanding is a communication tool designed to educate families and connect them to the resources available to support children who are experiencing mental health issues. Our videos are designed to start a conversation. Watch as a group, as a family, or send to a friend. Early intervention is the key. Through storytelling, M.I.understanding's goal is to help build empathy, understanding, and resiliency. Let's start a conversation that makes everyone feel supported

What Does M.I. stand for?

M.I. (Am I) or M.I. (My) is a play on words- Ask yourself, M.I.understanding, or recognizing and respecting that everyone has their own unique (My) understanding. This is the first step in bridging the gap to bringing everyone closer together. Because everything starts with a better understanding!

OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself!

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your
optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to
expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater
achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give
every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to
criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy
to permit the presence of trouble.

OUR MIGHTY MIGHIGAN DISTRICT AT A GLANCE



Michigan District
Optimists
Secretary/Treasurer
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Clinton Township, MI
48035

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



