

# Optimism reimagined

The logo for Optimism International Ohio District features a circular emblem with a stylized 'O' and 'I' in the center. The words 'OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL' are written around the top inner edge of the circle, and 'OHIO DISTRICT' is at the bottom. The emblem is set against a background of radiating yellow lines, resembling a sun, and is accented with blue wavy lines at the bottom.

**September 1, 2022 Edition**



**2021-2022 Ohio  
District Governor - Greg Griffin  
And  
First Lady - Evelyn Griffin**

# Hello Fellow Optimists,

I have two (more) exciting things to share with you this month:

First, our 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio District Optimist Convention was held on August 11-13 at Embassy Suites in Dublin Ohio.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND HELPED MAKE THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION ONE OF OUR BEST EVER!** (And this is not just the leadership team saying this was an excellent convention, it was feedback from the convention surveys completed by the attendees – fantastic!

Some of the highlights:

- The members elected our Ohio District Governor for the 2023-2024 Optimist Year – Tom Kennedy – Lt. Governor for Zone 5, and member of the Troy Noon Optimist Club
- Bill Stone – our Governor for the 2022-2023 Optimist Year – which starts in just under 30 days, and his leadership team were officially installed
- The Convention delegates approved the 2023 Ohio District Convention Location – Dayton, Ohio – our 75<sup>th</sup> Convention
- Spouses and Guests of Lt. Governors (and others) in the Friday Training Session had a fun time in Dublin creating a painting to take home, enjoying lunch, and topping it all off with Graeter's Ice Cream
- We reimagined Convention Friday Night as a pizza and subs party and everyone had a wonderful experience. (BTW Tommy's Pizza in the Columbus Area is to die for)
- Saturday Evening, we had a delicious Governor's Banquet with our Optimist International Dignitaries – our dear friends Bob and Penny McFadyen, and our very special guest, Optimist International Foundation President Marc Katz.
- To cap off a wonderful banquet and installation ceremony, we were treated to a Blues Brother's tribute show that was simply astounding. Everyone who attended the show eve received a pair of sunglasses to get in the spirit of the evening and boy did they ever!

Governor Designate Bill Stone and his team are planning an even bigger and better convention for 2023 – so **do not miss out – come join us – you will be glad you did.**

Second, we **STILL** have a terrific Fourth Quarter Membership Incentive to reward clubs for bringing in new members in the 4th quarter. For each new member added in Q4 (July 1 – September 30) the club will earn \$25 from the district to spend any way they wish. The only stipulation for the \$25 award to be paid is that the club must be +1 in members for the period of Q4. Put a different way – if a club starts the fourth quarter with, say, 15 members, adds 2, which means they end at 17 (+2 for the quarter they earn \$25 x 2 or \$50). Pretty easy. On the other hand, if a club starts with 15 members on July 1, loses 3 members, adds 2 members the net for Q4 is -1. In this event no incentive for the 2 added members will be paid.

I sound like a broken record I know – but.... WHO DO YOU – YES, YOU – KNOW THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM SERVING THE COMMUNITY AND SPECIFICALLY KIDS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HAVING FUN DOING IT? Invite them TO A MEETING OR A CLUB EVENT TO SEE US IN ACTION!!!!

It's been a joy for us to serve as Governor and First Lady in the BEST DISTRICT in all of Optimist International. As we wind down our year, we are SO EXCITED about the future with two wonderful Governors on the horizon – Bill Stone and Tom Kennedy. “The Best is Yet to Be”.

Yours in Optimism and THANK YOU for your support this past year,  
Greg and Evelyn





# The Ohio District 74<sup>th</sup> Convention

## Our Special Optimist International Guests



**Bob McFadyen**  
**2022-2023 Optimist International**  
**President-Elect**



**Marc Katz**  
**2021-2022 International Foundation**  
**President**



**Tom Kennedy was elected to the office of the 2022-2023 Governor-Elect at the convention.**

**Tom joined the Troy Noon Optimist Club on April 6, 2016. He is currently Lt Governor of Zone 5 and acting Lt Governor of Zone 1.**



**Club Pride Reports: MUST** be submitted to Optimist International by midnight 9-30-22. If you mail hard copy, it must be **at** the Optimist International headquarters by midnight 9-30-22, **not post marked**. The system will reject any who submit after that time. I encourage all clubs to **START NOW**, if your club has not been doing this all year and saving. They can access the reports on their Club Leaders site. Fill in the blanks, save and submit. **Caution**; once you submit report, it is final, and cannot be changed. Please let Optimist International know if your club needs help with your password.

**Celebrate Community**, an annual joint initiative from the service organizations Kiwanis International, Lions International, Optimist International, and Rotary International, **will take place the week of September 11-17, 2022.**

We encourage clubs and youth programs around the world to work together on projects during September 11-17. Share photos in the event page discussion and on your social channels with the hashtag [#CelebrateCommunity](https://twitter.com/CelebrateCommunity).

**Together, we can do more good!**

To get started, find a club in your area:

Kiwanis International

<https://locator.kiwanis.org/findaclub>

Lions Clubs International

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/.../start-our.../club-locator>

Optimist International

<https://www.optimist.org/join.cfm>

Rotary International

<https://my.rotary.org/en/club-search>



## **New Optimists Wanted – Who Do YOU Know?**

**Hello fellow Optimists...**I want to share some exciting news with each of you and then I have a **BIG ASK**.

As the pandemic seems to finally be waning, our District is alive and well. Nearly each week, we see clubs adding new Optimists to help us in our mission to serve youth and that is exciting. Also, I am happy to report that our East Dayton Optimist Club has built a “club within a club” adding 16 new Optimists to their roster – which translates into an additional 560 kids being served by their efforts.

**FANTASTIC!**

We started our Optimist year down 72 members and now, through the efforts of many folks and clubs’ s bringing in new members, we are down only 30 members. We are in the final quarter of our Optimist Year and it’s time to give “one degree more” and get us to our goal of ending the year at **+25 members**.

**WE CAN DO THIS** - one new member at a time.

You ask – how can I help? What can I do to grow membership?

**“JUST INVITE”** someone to visit your club meeting and to participate in club activities so they can join you in service to your community. Share information about your favorite activities with co-workers, relatives, and friends. Stress the benefits of membership such as the friendships you develop with fellow optimists, personal growth and development and the fun and fellowship within your club. You may be surprised at who is interested in joining your club in “Bringing Out the Best in Youth, Our Communities and Ourselves.”

Now is the time to add new members to your club. We have an exciting and rewarding 4th quarter membership incentive for **ALL CLUBS**.

## OHIO DISTRICT Q4 2022 NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE

- **\$25 dues refund** from the Ohio District for each new member added between July 1, 2022, and September 30, 2022.
- The Ohio District will pay a refund to the clubs for the first 150 new members added throughout the Ohio District.
- To receive the incentive your club's total number of members on October 1, 2022, must be greater than your club's July 1, 2022, total number of members. This incentive is to create positive growth within your club.
- The Ohio District will pay the dues refunds to your club in November 2022. The refunds will be in the form of a check and can be spent any way the club decides.
- This incentive is for adding new members to your existing club and does not include new club building.

It's our **FINAL PUSH** for membership recruitment. Your club has an opportunity to save \$25 on each new member added between July 1, 2022, and September 30, 2022. Now is the time to add **NEW Members!!**

Yours in Optimism,

Greg Griffin – Ohio District Governor 2021-2022

Sue Labatzky – Ohio District Membership Chair





# **“CLUB NEWS”** from around the OHIO DISTRICT

## **Lebanon Optimist Club**



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that Tuesday, August 9, 2022, has been declared as honorary Dolly Parton Day in Ohio. Parton made a visit to Columbus on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, to celebrate early literacy and the success of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.

Optimist Club President, Arla Tannehill visited Columbus Tuesday, August 9, 2022 to celebrate the success of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio (here pictured with Dolly Parton).

## **Dor-Wood Optimist Club**



Special guest at the club's meeting on August 11, 2022 was our 2022-23 Optimist International President-Elect, Bob McFadyen (guest of Tom Kendo). Bob McFadyen is in the second row - 4th in from right.



**TOP SECRET**

Please share the information in the email below with the Ohio District Optimists so **Arlene Akerman** has a fantastic **95th birthday celebration**.

## **Ohio District Optimists**

**On Sunday, August 21, 2022, 10:39 AM, Sandie Grindel <sandiegrindel@gmail.com> wrote:**

In a little less than a month, on **September 19**, **my mom will be turning 95**. I would like to do something **special** for her to celebrate this birthday.

When dad died (Jack Akerman), we had people write their favorite memory or how they knew dad or just something special on a card and mail it to our home. Mom loved reading those cards and re-reading them and had wished that dad had had a chance to see the impact he had made on people. **I want to do the same type of thing while mom is still living.**

So, I was wondering if you could help me get the word out to the Optimist members that can do this for mom. **I would like for people to send their notes to me however, so I can collect them and present them to her on her birthday.**

My address is:  
Sandie Grindel  
Attn: 95  
450 Island Lake Court  
Dayton Ohio 45458

Please mark, Attn: 95 (This is important that's how I'll know it's for mom). People can also email me at [sandiegrindel@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegrindel@gmail.com) and put 95 in the subject line.

Thanks 

Of course, since this is

**TOP SECRET**

**DO NOT SEND to ARLENE.**



*The Ohio District is elated to help  
celebrate the following Club's  
Anniversary Date for the Month of  
**September***

<b>Club</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Charter Date</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Club#</b>	<b>Zone</b>
Bft Putnam County	Ottawa	<b>09/03/1991</b>	31	24313	4
Modern Optimist	Kettering	<b>09/13/2021</b>	1	24534	10
The Greene	Beavercreek	<b>09/12/2013</b>	9	24521	6
Huber Heights	Dayton	<b>09/17/1958</b>	64	24220	5
Brookville	Brookville	<b>09/19/1955</b>	67	24050	5
Springboro	Springboro	<b>09/19/2002</b>	20	24509	7
Toledo Westgate	Toledo	<b>09/23/1974</b>	58	24426	4
Hartfort Township	Hartfort	<b>09/26/1956</b>	66	24200	1
Troy Noon	Troy	<b>09/26/1956</b>	66	24385	5
Dayton UD Flyers	Dayton	<b>09/26/2005</b>	17	24516	10

*This is a total of **399** years of serving the young people of the Ohio District.*

*Please extend an Ohio Optimist*



*to the following **twenty-nine** new member, who have joined the Ohio District Optimist family in the month of **August – 2022***

<b>New Member</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Sponsored by</b>
<b>Rick Beaman</b>	Bellbrook-Sugar Creek	<b>JoEllen Fannin</b>
<b>Erin Laurito</b>	Centerville Noon	<b>Debe Dockins</b>
<b>Todd Muckerheide</b>	Centerville Noon	<b>Mike Bevis</b>
<b>Deb Graham</b>	Centerville Noon	<b>Mike Bevis</b>
<b>Luke Neff</b>	Centerville Noon	<b>Jesse Gaither</b>
<b>Courtney Downs</b>	Covington	<b>Bridgit Kerber</b>
<b>Joseph Hoelzle</b>	Covington	<b>Ronald L Schultz</b>
<b>Barbars A Nelson</b>	Dayton Riverdale	<b>Barbara G Layne</b>
<b>Brett Salimben</b>	Kenton Central Harding	<b>Tim Carrig</b>
<b>John Mcmanus</b>	Kettering Dor-Wood	<b>Jack E Steel</b>
<b>Jennifer A Smith</b>	Kettering Noon	<b>Tracy Goodpaster</b>
<b>Ashley Makley</b>	Kettering Noon	<b>Susan Armstrong</b>
<b>Regine Elliott</b>	Kettering Noon	<b>Christine Steel</b>
<b>Scott Webb</b>	Lebanon	<b>Tammy Webb</b>
<b>Jacob Webb</b>	Lebanon	<b>Tammy Webb</b>
<b>Roxanne Cash</b>	Lebanon	<b>Adrienne Mrozek</b>
<b>Britt Pitcher</b>	Lebanon	<b>Arla R Tannehill</b>
<b>Cheryl Jeffers</b>	Lebanon	<b>Arla R Tannehill</b>
<b>Victoria Schnorr</b>	Lebanon	<b>Arla R Tannehill</b>
<b>Michelle Schooley</b>	Lebanon	<b>Arla R Tannehill</b>
<b>Amy Zeidenstein</b>	Lebanon	<b>Arla R Tannehill</b>

<b>Karen Ervin</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Arla R Tannehill</b>
<b>Erin Underwood</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Lindsay Zirkle</b>
<b>Mandy Phillips</b>	<b>Toledo Westgate</b>	<b>Matthew A Meeker</b>
<b>Michael Heldwein</b>	<b>Van Wert</b>	<b>Bruce W Showalter</b>
<b>Zane Mcelroy</b>	<b>Wapakoneta Breakfast</b>	<b>Kyle Cutnaw</b>
<b>Treg Raines</b>	<b>Wapakoneta Breakfast</b>	<b>Brad Heckathorn</b>
<b>Ignatius Baran</b>	<b>Wapakoneta Breakfast</b>	<b>James W Smith</b>
<b>Zachary Chambers</b>	<b>Wapakoneta Breakfast</b>	<b>Drew Golden</b>

The Ohio District started the **2021-2022 Optimist year** with **2,154** members. As of September 1, 2022, we have **2,124** members. The clubs in the Ohio District have added **219** members, **BUT** we have lost **249** members. **(-30)**.

Our District goal is **+25**.

## **WE CAN DO IT - JUST ASK**

**ONE MONTH** left in our 2021-22 Optimist year. Wouldn't it be fantastic to start the 2022-23 Optimist year with some new members, new ideas, more help on projects, and more cash in the club's bank account with the District Membership incentive program?







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