

The Optimist Outlook – July 2026



A Look Ahead to...

July Programs, Brent Helm, Chair

- July 4th** – Avenue of Flags, Independence Day
- July 6th** – Fill Caring for Kids Backpacks
- July 7th** – Sleepy Hollow Theater and Arts – Brenda Lundberg
- July 14th** – Bismarck Youth Baseball – Skylar Strand and Andrew Feist
- July 21st** – Mandan Hockey Club – Matt Stockert and Chris Reiser
- June 28th** – Ronald McDonald House – Brent Kleinjen
- July 29th** – Bismarck Larks Service Club Night

Recap of June Programs, Jerry Haas, Chair

- June 1st** – Filled 30 Caring for Kids Backpacks
- June 2nd** – Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Bismarck Public Schools Superintendent
- June 4th** – Board of Directors Meeting
- June 9th** – Renda Hanson, Alzheimer's Association
- June 14th** – Avenue of Flags, Flag Day
- June 16th** – Flag Day Picnic, Optimist Park at noon
- June 23rd** – Rooftop Social, 4:30-7:00, 1st International Bank – NO noon meeting
- June 30th** – Destiny Voth, Rebuilding Together

Upcoming Program Chairs:

August: Mary Reiser
September: Cindy Clairmont

Contact: jillian.lagasse@hotmail.com for more information

Member Anniversaries

Wayne Munson - 16 years Sylvia Burgess – 20 years
Mert Johnsrud – Charter Member 55 years!
Jack Neumann – Charter Member 55 years!

Flag Day Picnic and Ceremony



Optimist Park Committee Chair Kent Belland introducing the AMVETS Honor Guard

On June 16, the Bismarck Optimist Club hosted a Flag Day picnic at Optimist Park for members, and entities supporting Optimist Park and Avenue of Flags. The AMVETS Honor Guard conducted a flag retirement and raising.



The new flag raised

Flag Day Avenue of Flags

Setup Crew:

Tonya Holmstrom, Tami Emter, Laurie Swank, Kaitlin Diede, Jackson Lofgren, Jim Leier



Photos by Rob Koppinger, Committee Chair



Take down Crew:

Mary Reiser, Jerry Haas, Alicia Vollmers, Kent Belland, Brent Helm

Applications are open for the 2026 **Optimist Impact Grant!** The Bismarck Optimist Club will award a **\$5,000 grant** to a local nonprofit organization for a project or initiative that makes a direct and lasting impact on youth in the Bismarck-Mandan community.

Applications are due by July 5, 2026, and the recipient will be announced in September. Additional details and the application are attached - please feel free to forward on to local non-profits you know! It is also posted to our website and social media pages. The grant is available for project-based initiatives and is intended to create meaningful opportunities for local youth.



2026 Optimist
Impact Grant Applic

Committee Chair: Jillian Lagasse

Club Dues Reminder

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we'd like to encourage members to move to **annual dues payments instead of quarterly payments**. If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to **Treasurer Tami Emter**. Thank you for considering this option as it helps greatly simplify club operations! If you want to keep quarterly dues payments, that's okay too! We are just happy you are a member, either way.

Bismarck Larks Service Club Night

 Wednesday, July 29 at 6:35 p.m.

 Bismarck Municipal Ballpark

Who's ready for a summer evening of baseball, fellowship, and fun? Our Bismarck Optimist Club has been invited to participate in a special Service Club Night with the Bismarck Larks, and we've been given 25 FREE tickets for club members!

This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow Optimists and enjoy America's favorite pastime together. All Optimist members will be seated together, so come ready for plenty of laughs, conversation, and maybe a little friendly baseball commentary.

 Tickets are FREE - food and beverages are available for purchase at the ballpark but are not included.

 To reserve your ticket, please email or call Jerry Haas (701-527-9675 or jerry_r_haas@yahoo.com) by July 15. Reservations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

⚡ Energize Your Optimism Membership Drive Continues Through September 30!

The energy is building!

Our **Energize Your Optimism** membership drive has been extended through **September 30**, giving everyone a little extra time to invite new members and grow the impact of the Bismarck Optimist Club. Remember! Any new guest at a meeting gets to **draw a prize from our fun "energy" themed box!** And any new member earns the recruiting member an instant **\$25 gift card!**

And speaking of impact...



Darryl currently holds the GOAT Trophy as our Greatest Optimist of All Time Recruiter! The trophy is with him—for now—but there's still plenty of time for someone else to earn the bragging rights before the membership drive wraps up. The most recruits between now and Sept. 30 gets to own the traveling GOAT trophy!

Remember, every new member means more hands serving our community, more ideas and friendships, more opportunities to support local youth, and an even stronger Optimist Club.

Think about your coworkers, neighbors, friends, family members, or fellow volunteers. Who do you know that would enjoy making a positive difference in Bismarck-Mandan? Invite them to lunch, bring them to a meeting, or have them join you at one of our upcoming events.

Let's keep the momentum going and see who can take the GOAT Trophy from Darryl before September 30!

Who will be our next GOAT? 🐐 ⚡



Happy 250th Birthday, USA!



Sarah Rooney

Hometown

- I grew up in Cooperstown, ND – small town - population of 900

Family

- Husband: TJ Rooney, President at Security First Bank
- KIDS:
 - Kenady – Freshman at Duke University – Durham, NC (Go Blue Devils)
 - Macy – Junior at Century High School
 - Kade – Freshman at Century High School
 - 2 dogs – French Brittanys – Briggs & Chief

Career

- Financial Advisor with Legacy Financial Partners for 20 years
- I help my clients build personalized financial roadmaps for investments, taxes, retirement, and estate planning.
- I absolutely love my job. It is so rewarding to see my clients achieve their dreams.

Education

- Finance Degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead

Free time

- In my spare time, I enjoy cheering on Kade & his hockey team.
- Drink Coffee, Go on walks, Read, & Golf

Favorite things about Optimists

- Being apart of a positive & uplifting group – I love our creed.
- Support the kids in our community

Favorite book: The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon

- Powerful but simple message - It teaches that attitude and positive mindset drive success at home and at work



2025-26 Board of Directors:

President: Jillian Lagasse, email: jillian.lagasse@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Rob Koppinger, email: robk@kirkwoodbank.com

Secretary: Sylvia Burgess, email: sylvia.sturn.burgess@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tami Emter, email: tamiemter@hotmail.com

Past President: Julie Jeske, email: jjeske@bravera.bank

Director: Cindy Clairmont (2 years remaining) email: c_clairmont@hotmail.com

Director: Laurie Hatzenbuhler (2 years remaining) email: laurieh@bis.midco.net

Director: Brent Helm (2 years remaining) email: brenth701@aol.com

Director: Sarah Miller (1 year remaining) email: sarahm@kirkwoodbank.com

Director: Maddie Berger (1 year remaining), email: mberger@bravera.bank

Director: Jerry Haas (1 year remaining) email: jerry_r_haas@yahoo.com

Optimist Resources:

Email: bis.optimist@gmail.com

Website: www.optimistbismarck.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/optimistclubofbismarck

Twitter Handle: @optimistbis; <https://twitter.com/OptimistBis>

DMM: www.optimist-dmm.org

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 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 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 & too happy to permit the presence of trouble.