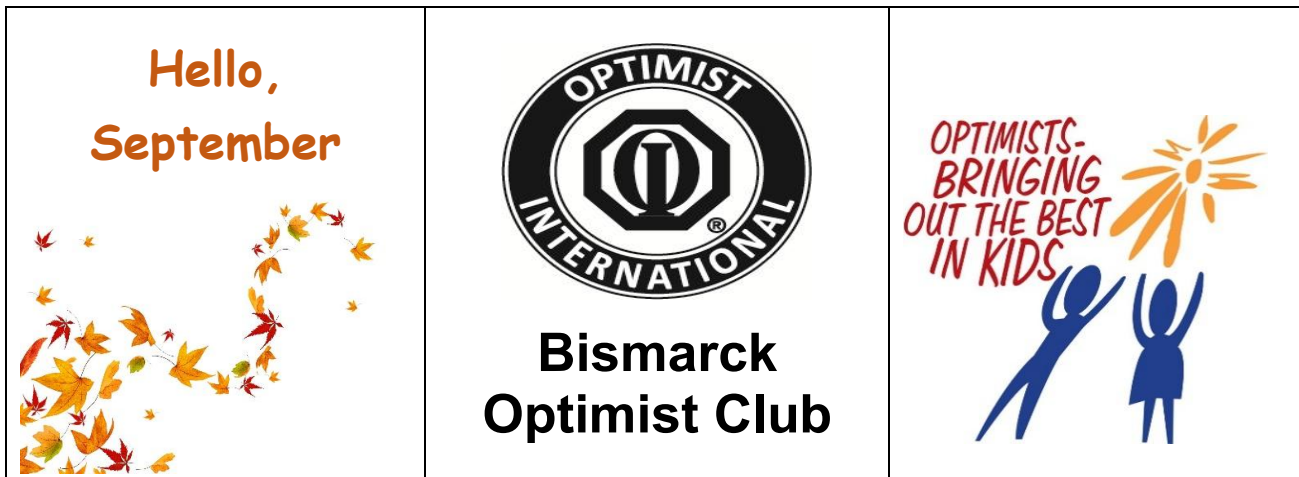


The Optimist Outlook – September 2026



A Look Ahead to...

September Programs, Cindy Clairmont, Chair

September 1st – Scott Norton, Hunter Safety for kids

September 3rd – Board of Directors meeting

September 7th – Labor Day Avenue of Flags

September 8th – Past Presidents' Picnic at Optimist Park – NO noon meeting

September 15th – Jane Link, The Children's Advocacy Center

September 22nd - Chris Reiser, Mandan Youth Hockey

September 29th - Heather Lang, Agriculture for kids in the classroom

Recap of August Programs, Mary Reiser, Chair

August 3rd – Filled 30 Caring for Kids Backpacks

August 4th - Julie Jeske, Capital City Christmas

August 6th – Board of Directors Meeting

August 11th – Dennis Aune, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

August 18th – Dave Weiler, John Weis Foundation/Prom-O-Ween

August 25th – Carrie Cappellino, Carrie's Kids

Upcoming Program Chair:

Next fiscal year, beginning in October, is open for you to claim your favorite month!

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

Member Anniversaries

Mary Reiser - 1 year	Brent Helm – 4 years	Madison Berger – 6 years
Lacey Fercho - 10 years	Jena Gullo – 10 years	Amanda Yellow – 17 years
Kristi Kraft – 18 years	Howard Malloy – 39 years	Larry Klemin – 43 years
	Russ Harkness – 46 years	

Our **12th Annual Optimist Bowling Tournament** is set to take place at Midway Lanes on October 10th from 1:30-4:30pm. This will be a fun-filled afternoon where teams are encouraged to dress up as their favorite sports teams. You won't want to miss out!

All you need to do is get a team of 4 together, get a check for \$150 for registration, come up with a creative team name and get ready to support a great cause in our community! This year's charity is Soul 57, a local non-profit that provides support and resources for children that are dealing with grief over the loss of a loved one. Our Optimist Club is focused on making an impact in the lives of children and this is another way that we are able to do just that by raising some funds for Soul 57 through this event!

Along with the bowling tournament, we will also have a silent auction which is always a big hit with our participants! If you are interested in donating an item for the silent auction, please reach out to Wes Engbrecht at wese@capitalelec.com.

Another important part of this tournament is the awards for the following:

- Best team spirit
- Best costumes
- Most creative team name
- Lowest team bowling score
- Highest team bowling score

Back by popular demand, we will be continuing with our Battle of the Banks competition where local banks/credit unions that sponsor a team will compete for the coveted Battle of the Banks trophy. We are also trying something new this year with a competition between bank sponsored teams and realtor sponsored teams. Stay tuned!

Did we mention that the afternoon of October 10th will be a blast?! We hope you can join us at Midway Lanes as we raise some funds for Soul 57 and our Bismarck Optimist Club!

Your Optimist Bowling Committee Members,

Jerry Haas
Amanda Yellow
Wes Engbrecht
Sarah Rooney
Brooks Grotte
Rhonda Krueger
Sylvia Burgess



The poster features a dark blue background with white stars. At the top, a yellow banner reads "12TH ANNUAL". Below it, the words "BOWLING" and "TOURNAMENT" are written in large, bold, white and yellow letters. To the left is a white bowling pin with red stripes, and to the right is a large yellow bowling ball. The text "come dressed in your favorite sports team attire" is written in a cursive font. Below this, the word "Saturday" is in large, bold, yellow letters, followed by the date "OCTOBER 10, 2026" and the time "1:30 - 4:30PM".

\$150 for 3 games (shoes extra)
4 players per team
Silent Auction
Forms due October 8th
Checks payable to Bismarck Optimist Club
PO Box 511 Bismarck, ND 58502
Email registration form to
bis.optimist@gmail.com

a portion of the proceeds benefits:

SOUL 57
YOUTH GRIEF SUPPORT

Optimist INTERNATIONAL
Optimist Club of
Bismarck, North Dakota

For more information contact
Jerry at 701-527-9675

Team Name _____

Team Members _____

Paid _____ **Contact Name** _____ **Contact Number** _____



Amy DeWitt



I was born in New Jersey and raised on a small island just off the coast of Atlantic City. I grew up with my mother, who is now a retired school librarian, so education and a love of learning have been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up in a small coastal community taught me to appreciate the importance of knowing your neighbors, supporting your community, and looking out for one another.

I'm recently engaged, and we live as a blended family with our three children and three dogs. Family is at the center of my life, and I love the organized chaos, laughter, and memories that come with having a full house.

I currently serve as the principal of a tribally controlled elementary school, with superintendent responsibilities as well. My career has been dedicated to education and creating opportunities for children to learn, grow, and succeed. I'm passionate about educational leadership, supporting teachers, and making sure every child has adults in their corner who believe in them.

I have an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, a Master's Degree in Human Services Administration, and a PhD in Higher Education Administration and Educational Leadership. I've always been a lifelong learner, and my educational journey has shaped both who I am personally and how I approach leadership professionally.

Professionally, I am a member of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), and the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL). I also serve as the PTO President for my son's school, which gives me the opportunity to be involved in his education from a parent's perspective as well as an educator's perspective.

When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, reading, and making memories with my children. You can usually find me in the basketball stands, football stands, or on the sidelines for soccer! I also enjoy creative projects and, of course, spending time with our three dogs. With a career in education and a busy family, I've learned to appreciate the simple moments when everyone is together and we can just enjoy each other.

I joined Optimists because I believe deeply in the mission of investing in young people and helping them see their own potential. As an educator and a parent, I see firsthand how much a positive adult influence, encouragement, and a strong community can mean to a child. One of my favorite things about Optimists is that it brings together people who genuinely want to make a difference in the lives of young people. It gives me another opportunity to serve children and my community outside of my professional role.

One quote that has always resonated with me is:

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.” — Booker T. Washington

I love this quote because accomplishments rarely tell the whole story. The challenges someone has overcome are often what make those accomplishments meaningful. I think that perspective is especially important when working with children—we should celebrate not only where they end up, but how far they've come.

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.