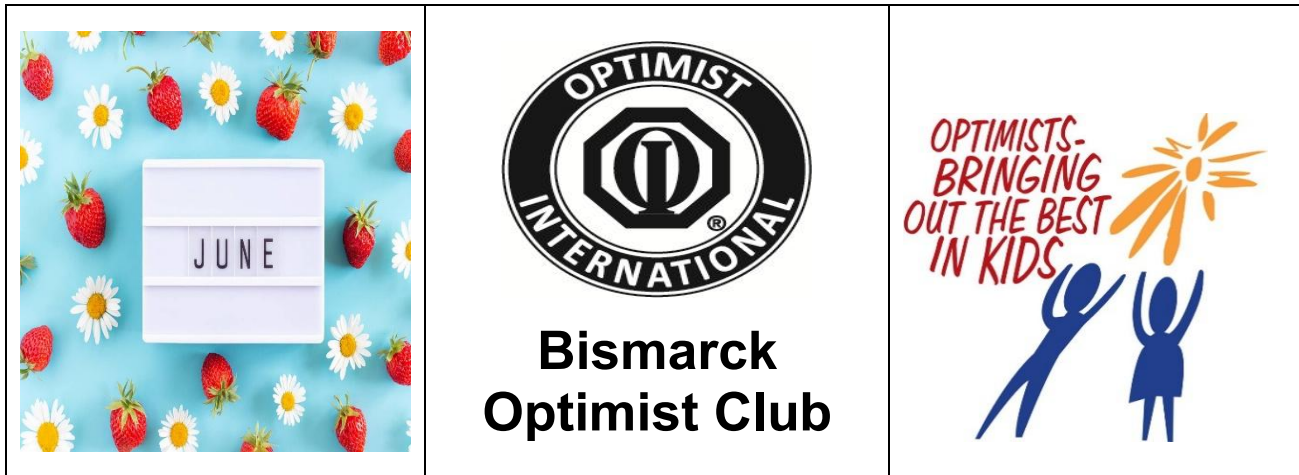


The Optimist Outlook – June 2026



A Look Ahead to...

June Programs, Jerry Haas, Chair

June 1st – Fill Caring for Kids Backpacks

June 2nd – Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Bismarck Public Schools Superintendent

June 4th – Board of Directors Meeting

June 9th – Sarah Flesberg, Alzheimers Association and Walk to End Alzheimers

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

Recap of May Programs, Rob Koppinger, Chair

May 2nd – Keep Bismarck Beautiful event at Optimist Park

May 4th – Filled 30 Caring for Kids Backpacks

May 5th – Bismarck Arts and Gallery Association

May 7th – Board of Directors Meeting

May 12th – Furry Friends

May 19th – Dakota Zoo

May 25th – Avenue of Flags – Memorial Day

May 26th – Soul57

Upcoming Program Chairs:

July: Brent Helm
August: Mary Reiser
September: Cindy Clairmont

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

Member Anniversaries

Kaitlin Diede – 2 years Jackson Lofgren - 9 years
Alicia Vollmers – 9 years Michael Place – 13 years

Flag Day Picnic and Ceremony

On Tuesday, June 16, 2026, the Bismarck Optimist Club will host a Flag Day picnic for members and those entities supporting Optimist Park and Avenue of Flags. The picnic will take place at Optimist Park, located at Spalding Avenue and 16th Street. Lunch will be served at 12:00.

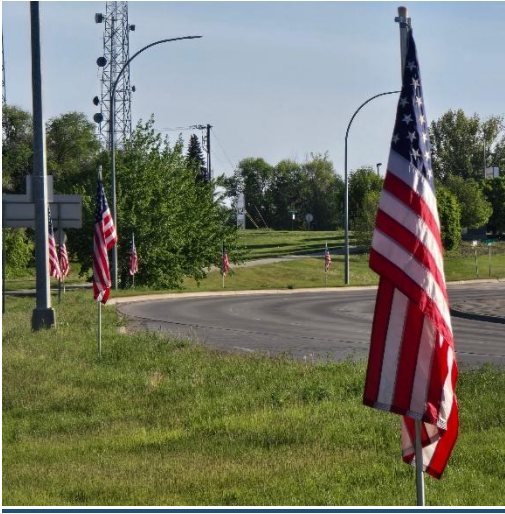
After lunch, a short program will take place to recognize our guests and their important contributions. The event will be concluded with a flag raising conducted by the AMVETS Honor Guard.

If you plan to attend, **please contact Kent Belland by June 10th** by calling or texting 701-523-1473 or by emailing kent.a.belland@gmail.com.



Bismarck Optimist Club members helped clean up our Optimist Club Park on Saturday, May 2 as part of **Keep Bismarck Beautiful** event. (l to r) Kent Belland, Mary Reiser, Laurie Swank, Julie Jeske, Rob Koppinger, and Laurie Hatzenbuhler.

Memorial Day Avenue of Flags



Setup:

Keith & Sara Pic, Kaitlin Diede, Rhonda Kruger, Kurt Weinberg (front) Wes Engbrecht, Harrison & Jackson Lofgren (back)



Take down: Kent Belland, Brent Helm, Mary Reiser, Jerry Haas,

Wes Engbrecht, Ashley Backsen, Christa Schwarzenberger (above left)

Mary Reiser, Jerry Haas (bottom left)

Photos by Rob Koppinger, Committee Chair



Onward and Upward Scholarship Awarded

Shelby Kalvoda from New Salem-Almont High School, the winner of the first annual \$1,000 Scholarship, attended the noon meeting on May 26th to receive her check. The scholarship will assist in her pursuit of a post-secondary degree at Bismarck State College in the upcoming school year.

(l to r) Tim Kalvoda (her dad), Shelby, Sylvia Burgess and Laurie Hatzenbuhler, Committee Co-Chairs



Morgan and Sylva filled 30 **Caring for Kids Backpacks** on May 4th. Look for Morgan's video post on Optimist Club Facebook page, which explains this program.



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 Optimist Club Essay Contest Update

The winner of the Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota District essay contest, Paige Njos of Lincoln, received her plaque and \$2500 scholarship check on May 13th. She is pictured with her parents (left), and with Kristi "Cricket" Palmer (DMM Goverenor), her school principal and English teacher (right).

Paige won our Bismarck Optimist Club essay contest in February and was awarded a \$500 scholarship by us. A total of 180 essays were judged at club level around the District and 14 of these were submitted to the Distric contest.

Kathy Torske, Committee Chair





**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

Dime-A-Day

Optimist International and Optimist International Foundation coexist as two separate organizations that support each other. Optimist International Foundation is the fundraising arm of Optimist International, and works to develop funds to support the endeavors of Optimist International and its mission.

When Members and Clubs make a contribution to support Optimist International Foundation, they are, with that gift, supporting Optimist International itself and themselves as a Club as well.

With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children. Would you consider making a gift of just a dime a day to assist the charitable work of Optimist International?

The Dime-A-Day level is reached by a contribution of \$36.50 to the Foundation within one Optimist Year, and is recognized by the presentation of a pin.

Building a future where every kid counts
Can you spare a dime a day?

☐ Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. (Enclose check, payable to Optimist International Foundation, referencing "Dime-A-Day" in the memo section.)

☐ Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. Charge my ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Account # _____ Exp. ____/____ Signature: _____ Security Code _____

☐ Sign me up! Please deduct \$3.05 per month from my checking account.

Checking account number: _____ (Please include a copy of a voided check)

Name _____ Email _____

Club Number _____ Member Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please return to: Optimist International Foundation • Dime-A-Day Campaign • P.O. Box 952126 • St. Louis, MO 63195



This campaign will run through June. Please bring your contribution to a club meeting or send to our PO Box 511, Bismarck ND 58502. The Club and Member number will be entered for you.

Committee Chair: Kyle Debertin

Solheim Elementary Check Presentation May 11th

The 2026 **Funds for the Future Grant** was awarded to Solheim Elementary. They are replacing 6 basketball hoops on their playground, and the \$5000 grant is a part of the total funding needed. The students' creative contribution to the submitted application included designing the custom Solheim basketball shoes shown below.



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.