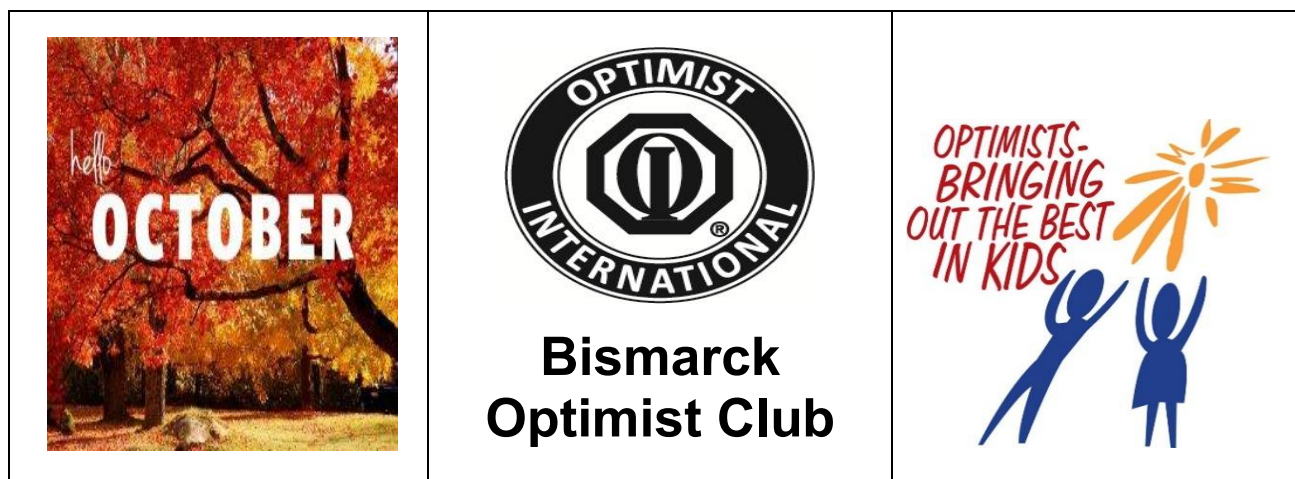


The Optimist Outlook – October 2026



A Look Ahead to...

October 1st is the start of our new Optimist Year

A big “thank you for your service” to outgoing board member Julie Jeske!
A list of the 2026-27 Board of Directors is located at the end of this newsletter.

October Programs, Sarah Rooney, Chair

- October 5th** – Caring for Kids Backpacks
- October 6th** – Soul 57, Kris Dirk, Program Director
- October 8th** – Board of Directors meeting
- October 10th** – Optimist Bowling Tournament
- October 13th** – Bismarck Mandan Young Life, Medora Lauf
- October 20th** – Critical response canine team, Renee Murrish and Java, her golden retriever
- October 27th** – To be announced

Recap of 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
- 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

Upcoming Program Chair:

November – open – how about you?

December – Mary Reiser

Contact: Rob Koppinger at robk@kirkwoodbank.com for more information

Member Anniversaries

Kurt Weinberg – 1 year	Ron Walters – 2 years	Tami Emter – 7 years
Michelle Walker – 8 years	Brooks Grotte – 9 years	
Ashley Baksen - 9 years	Wayne Narum – 14 years	Duane Sandvig – 41 years

Our **12th Annual Optimist Bowling Tournament** is now only a few days away! It is not too late to get a team together as you will just need to register by October 8th. Don't miss out on this afternoon of fun as we help raise some funds for this year's charity-Soul 57.

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.

Our bowling committee has come up with some really cool prizes for this year's team awards:

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

Along with the Battle of the Banks competition, we will also have a competition between the top bank team vs the top non-bank team. The winner will be awarded our grand champion trophy!

If you aren't on a bowling team, please consider stopping by Midway Lanes to check out all the silent auction items. We guarantee that you will also get a good laugh at some of the team costumes!

Hope to see you at Midway Lanes on October 10!

Jerry Haas & Amanda Yellow
Optimist Bowling Committee Co-Chairs

12TH ANNUAL

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

come dressed in your favorite sports team attire

Saturday

OCTOBER 10, 2026
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 _____

Labor Day Avenue of Flags



Setup crew (l to r) Jackson, Wes, Laurie, Rhonda, Alisha, Keith and his son, Julius



Take down crew (l to r) Brent, Mary, Wes, Ashley, Christa, Afton (Kathy's daughter), Kathy



Christa (back) and Ashley (front)



Kathy

Photos by Rob Koppinger, Committee Chair



BISMARCK OPTIMIST CLUB

2025-26 YEAR IN REVIEW

Bringing Out the Best in Kids - and in our community

780

kids at record
Easter Egg Hunt

12,000

Easter eggs

\$21,967

Gift Wrap
gross proceeds

\$6,004

Bowling net
proceeds

\$10,000

two major grant
commitments

550

toys delivered

A RECORD DAY FOR KIDS

780 children joined our 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt - our largest ever. Volunteers prepared 12,000 eggs, three golden-ticket grand prizes and 43 additional prizes.

WRAPPING GIFTS, RAISING FUNDS

Gift Wrap 2025 generated \$21,967.52 in gross proceeds through wrapping, donations and sponsorships - a tremendous effort by members and community partners.

BOWLING FOR A CAUSE

The 11th Annual Bowling Tournament brought together 19 teams and a 60-item silent auction. Net proceeds totaled \$6,004.60, split between the Club and Foster Hope.

INVESTING IN LOCAL YOUTH

Funds for the Future awarded \$5,000 to Solheim Elementary to help replace six playground basketball hoops. We also committed a \$5,000 Optimist Impact Grant.

NEW: UPWARD & ONWARD SCHOLARSHIP

We created the brand-new Upward & Onward Scholarship, giving our club another way to invest directly in local young people as they take their next step after high school.

CELEBRATING YOUNG LEADERS

Paige Njos earned our \$500 Essay Contest scholarship and then a \$2,500 District scholarship. Kendall Jones won our local Oratorical Contest, and we continued the Visual Arts program.

SERVICE THAT ADDS UP

Volunteers kept filling 30 Caring for Kids backpacks at a time, delivered about 550 toys to the Closet of Caring, and collected six boxes of socks and underwear for Closet 701.

SHOWING UP FOR BISMARCK

Members maintained the Avenue of Flags, celebrated Flag Day at Optimist Park, volunteered during Keep Bismarck Beautiful, and gathered for socials, the Past Presidents Picnic and Larika Service Club Night.

ENERGIZING OUR CLUB

Energize Your Optimism welcomed at least eight new members by May and introduced the traveling GOAT Trophy - building a stronger club and more hands to serve.

THE BIGGEST WIN: OUR MEMBERS KEPT SHOWING UP.

You stuffed eggs. Wrapped presents. Filled backpacks. Put up flags. Raised money. Recruited members. Supported young people. And week after week, you showed up.

Optimist Club Awards Presented for 2025-26



Jillian Lagasse was awarded the Optimist of the Year



Jerry Haas was awarded the Spark Plug



Jillian's last meeting as President, handing over the reins to incoming President, Rob Koppinger



Mary Reiser was awarded the Rookie of the Biennium

Congratulations and thank you for all that you do with the Bismarck Optimist Club!

2026-27 Board of Directors:

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

Vice-President: Mary Reiser, email: maryreiser85@gmail.com

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

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

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

Director: Cindy Clairmont (1 year remaining) email: c_clairmont@hotmail.com

Director: Laurie Hatzenbuhler (1 year remaining) email: laurieh@bis.midco.net

Director: Brent Helm (1 year remaining) email: brenth701@aol.com

Director: Sarah Miller (2 years remaining) email: sarahm@kirkwoodbank.com

Director: Maddie Berger (2 years remaining), email: mberger@bravera.bank

Director: Jerry Haas (2 years 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.