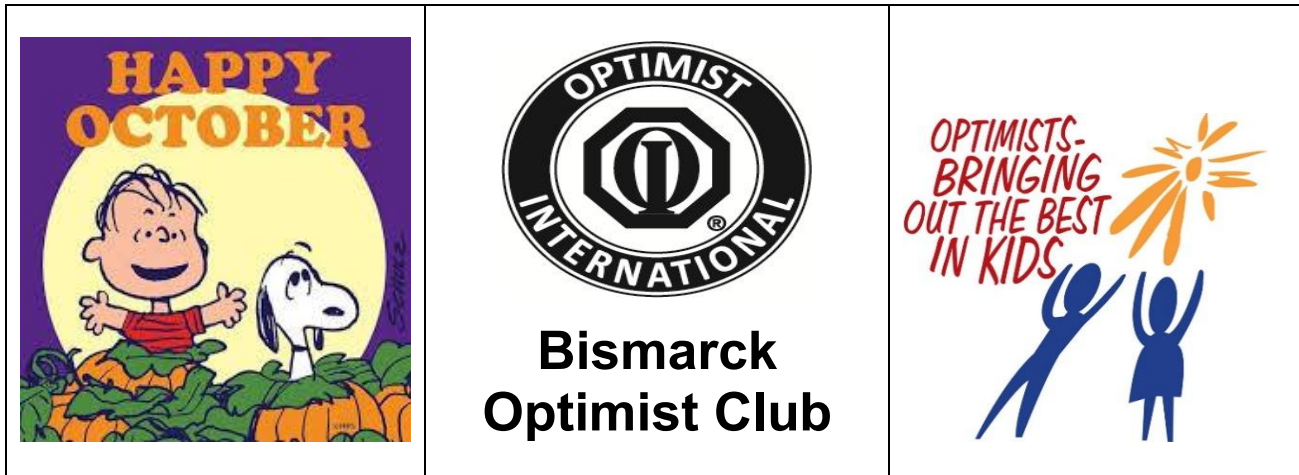


The Optimist Outlook – October 2025



A Look Ahead to...

October 1st is the start of our new Optimist Year

A big “thank you for your service” to outgoing board members Brooks Grotte and Kristin Oban!
A list of the 2025-26 Board of Directors is located at the end of this newsletter.

October Programs, Brent Helm, Chair – yes, two months in a row!

October 2nd – Board of Directors Meeting
October 6th – Fill Caring for Kids Backpacks
October 7th – Tracy’s Sanctuary House
October 11th – 11th Annual Optimist Bowling Tournament
October 14th – Birthday Beacon
October 21st – Jason Thoms, Dakota West Arts Council
October 28th – Kristen Dvorak, The Arc

Recap of September Programs, Brent Helm, Chair

September 1st – Labor Day Avenue of Flags
September 2nd – Theo Art School
September 5th – Board of Directors Meeting
September 8th – Filled 30 Caring for Kids Backpacks
September 9th – Northern Plains Dance
September 16th – Past Presidents Picnic
September 23rd – Burleigh County FFA
September 30th – Area 10 Special Olympics

Upcoming Program Chairs:

November: Jillian Lagasse
December: volunteer needed

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

Member Anniversaries

Ron Wlaters – 1 year

Ashley Backsen – 8 years

Bob Copenhaver – 38 years

Tami Emter – 6 years

Brooks Grotte – 8 years

Duane Sandvick – 40 years

Michelle Walker – 7 years

Wayne Narum – 13 years

Welcome New Member!

Mary Reiser

Caring for Kids Backpacks



Committee members Ashley Baksen and Sylvia Burgess filled 30 backpacks on September 8th.

Bismarck Optimist Bowling Tournament.

The 11th Annual Optimist Bowling Tournament is only a few weeks away! Just a reminder that this club fundraiser will take place on **October 11th at Midway Lanes**. The fun starts at 1:30pm with 3 games of bowling, a phenomenal silent auction, prizes and much more! We already have a fantastic lineup of silent auction items, but just a reminder that anyone can help out with a silent auction item or too – Gift Cards go really well!

We will once again have prizes for team spirit, most creative team name, highest bowling and best costumes. This year, we are encouraging teams to dress up as their favorite celebrities or movie characters to add a whole other level of awesomeness to this year's event.

The level of competition at this year's tournament is going to be truly EPIC as we will not only have our annual Battle of the Banks competition, but also a new division-Battle of the Realtors! Local banks and real estate companies are encouraged to sponsor teams, so please help us spread the word to your connections.

One of the best parts of this bowling tournament is that 50% of the proceeds go towards helping a local non-profit that serves children in our community. Our bowling committee is excited to report that this year's charity is **Foster Hope**. This non-profit started up in 2023 and provides new and gently used clothing along with a new suitcase to kids that are going into foster care.

The bowling flyer/registration form with all the details is attached to the newsletter. Don't forget to get your team signed up or just come and join us for the silent auction – let's raise some money for Foster Hope!

Your Optimist Bowling Committee Members,

Jerry Haas

Amanda Yellow

Wes Engbrecht

Brooks Grotte

Sylvia Burgess

Rhonda Krueger



11TH ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

MIDWAY LANES
OCTOBER 11TH - 1:30-4:30PM
*teams encouraged to dress up as their
favorite movie stars or celebrities*



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL
Optimist Club of
Bismarck, North Dakota

- \$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
- For more information contact Jerry at 701-527-9675

a portion of the proceeds benefits:



Team Name _____

Team Members _____

Paid _____ Contact Name _____ Contact Number _____

Power Up Your Optimism!!!

It is that time of year again- time to launch a new membership drive for our Optimist Club! Over the past couple years, we have had Optimist Overdrive, Energize your Optimism....and now.... Power Up Your Optimism!

This campaign will run from September 9, 2025 through May 30, 2026 and we are encouraging ALL Optimist members to RECRUIT new members as we continue to grow our awesome Optimist Club! Please consider reaching out to your friends, co-workers and seriously anyone you know and ask them to join you for one of our Optimist meetings or upcoming events.

This membership drive will once again be incentive based, where if you recruit a new member- you will receive a \$25 gift card! Your guest will also get a chance to draw a “power” related item from our mystery bag, just by attending one of our weekly club meetings. It may be a different fun item every time!

A new feature for the Power Up Your Optimism membership drive will be a traveling trophy. The Optimist member that recruits the most new members from September through January will become the first recipient of this highly coveted trophy! At the end of May, the trophy will “travel” to the Optimist member who recruits the most members during the time period from February to the end of May.

There are lots of optimistic people out there in Bismarck-Mandan and lots of people who want to get more involved in the community. All we have to do is seek them out and just ASK!

Thank you for your support as we launch Power Up Your Optimism! Now, let's get ready to recruit some new Optimist members!



Labor Day Avenue of Flags



Set up crew: Shelly, Keith & son Julius, Roger, Julie, Tonya, Kaitlin and Rob. Photo by Mary Lindsey from Lady J's

Take down Crew: Brent, Rhonda, Christa, Ashely, Wes, Roger and Kent. Photo by Rob



Impact Grant Award



Pictured: Sarah, Jerry, Jillian (committee chair), Morgan, & Rob, along with four representatives from BSC Foundation and Mystic Smiles

The Bismarck Optimist Club is proud to announce that Mystic Smiles, a new pediatric dental clinic supported by the Bismarck State College (BSC) Foundation, has been selected as a recipient of the 2025 Optimist Impact Grant. Mystic Smiles will receive \$5,000 to transform its pediatric dental waiting area into a safe, engaging, and developmentally supportive space for local youth.

The Optimist Impact Grant awards up to two \$5,000 grants annually to local nonprofit initiatives that make a direct and lasting impact on local youth. This year, Mystic Smiles stood out for its focus on addressing disparities in children's oral health care access and creating a welcoming environment for patients. The \$5,000 check was presented to Mystic Smiles on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

The grant will fund the creation of a child-friendly waiting area, including an interactive light board, a sensory learning wall, tree bookshelves, and tooth stools. This space will help children—especially those from underserved backgrounds—form positive associations with dental care.

Mystic Smiles began serving patients in June 2025, working with referrals through partnerships with Bridging the Dental Gap, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, and Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health. In addition, Mystic Smiles will serve as a teaching clinic for dental assisting and dental hygiene students, giving them hands-on experience in trauma-informed, patient-centered care.

Optimist Club Awards Presented for 2024-25



Julie presented Shelly with the Rookie of the Biennium Award

Alisha was presented with the Optimist Service Award



Jillian presented Julie with the Spark Plug Award



Brooks presented Julie with the Optimist of the Year Award



Past recipients of the Optimist of the Year Award, Jack, Sylvia, Rob and Jerry, join in congratulating the newest recipient, Julie

Congratulations to all 2024-25 award recipients!

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.