



Bee the Change

ISSUE

01

November
2025

Optimist Kindness Week

Let's start off November with a week of Optimistic Kindness. Here are some suggested opportunities to share a little kindness and your optimistic attitude with your family, co-workers, friends and neighbors.

Monday – Say hello to someone that you have not talked to recently.

Tuesday – Give a compliment to at least one person.

Wednesday – Give someone a copy of our Optimist Creed or a friendly smile.

Thursday – Share something positive with a friend or family member.

Friday – Offer to help someone without being asked.

Saturday – Send or text a note of kindness or encouragement to a friend.

Sunday – Be thankful for the wonderful world in which we live and love.

Try it – we know that you will have a great week and so will your friends, neighbors, and family members. Share your OPTIMISM and your kindness. It's contagious!

Our YAOC is also celebrating kindness week.



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL

Dakotas – Manitoba –
Minnesota District

**What is the mission of
DMM Optimists?**

**By providing hope and positive vision,
Optimists bring out the best in youth,
our communities and ourselves**

A note from your DMM Governor...

It is truly an honor to serve as your DMM Governor for the 2025-26 Optimist year. My theme for the Optimist year is Share your Optimism, Promote Growth. BEE the Change!

Sharing Optimism:

Optimism isn't meant to be kept inside—it's meant to be shared, and when you share your optimism, you create ripple effects to those around you. The truth is, you never know how far your optimism will go, and the impact you can make on the people that are involved in your projects or events in the DMM, it can change someone's life.

Promoting Growth:

When we share optimism, we promote growth. Growth doesn't happen in isolation; it happens in community. Optimism is the seed from which that growth begins.

As DMM Optimists, we have the unique opportunity to plant seeds. Seeds of confidence in youth and ourselves. Seeds of encouragement to those who are struggling. Seeds of leadership in our clubs and communities. So, let's plant seeds with optimism throughout the DMM.

A Personal Challenge:

Think about how you can promote growth, not just your own growth, by engaging in the Optimist Institute, but the growth of those around you. Growth of our clubs by getting more people to join our clubs and expanding our projects and outreach, the growth of our communities, and the growth of the next generation of leaders.

Together, let's share optimism. Together, let's promote growth. And together, let's keep proving that Optimists truly do bring out the best in youth, in our communities, and in ourselves.

I am looking forward to working with you and for you this Optimist year. I welcome the opportunity to visit your clubs and participate in your projects – please let me know!

Optimistically - Governor Cricket

Where do I find?...

Governor:

Kristi "Cricket" Palmer
605-490-3424
dmmcricketpalmer@gmail.com

Secretary:

Don Berger
Dberger0632@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Chuck Gitzen
Cfgitzen@usfamily.net

DMM Website:

www.optimist-dmm.org

Facebook: DMM District
Optimist Members

Optimist International:
www.optimist.org

Optimist Institute:
<https://optimist.tovuti.io>

Signature DMM Chairs:

Oratorical Contest:
Linnea Solem
linneasolem@comcast.net

Essay Contest:
Bruce Balfanz
babalfanz@msn.com

**Communication Contest for
Deaf & Hard of Hearing:**
Jeri Gorman
jeri.gorman@gmail.com

Junior Golf :
Steve Lindgren
stevelindgren07@comcast.net

JOI Clubs:
Dan Steger
dpsteger@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
Wanita Parker
Wanita1110@yahoo.com

Review of the Dakota, Manitoba, Minnesota Optimist Foundation for 2024-2025

From Don Berger:

Thank You for your
2024-25 OIF Financial
Support

Our (OIF) Optimist
International Foundation
had a very successful
year with a 32% increase
in total OIF contribu-
tions. Our DMM
members contributed the
second highest ever total
OIF donations in the
amount of \$33, 783.03 –
ranking FOURTH in all
the OI Districts. The
DMM had a 65.3%
increase in the number of
members who donated to
Dime-a-Day (or \$36.50
per year)! We also had an
increase in President's
Club members and
Women's Philanthropic
Society member
donations.

Thank you for your
incredible support of our
OIF! It was a great honor
to represent our DMM
District as your OIF
representative for
2024-25.

Putting Fun in Fundraising

by Susan Fix & Mark Kline

Why Fun? Why Games?

Fundraising game benefits include: Everyone, Boost
Excitement, Increased Engagement, Higher Revenue, More
Social Interactions, Memorable Experience and Building
Friendships/Engaging New Members. Fundraising events
thrive when supporters are engaged, entertained and inspired to
give.

Being Mindful: Play with Fairness and Rules – be sure to
familiarize yourself with the rules that govern fundraising
games. Check your state (province's) raffle licensing laws
before running your event.

Games your club can play...

Heads & Tails – a simple and fast game where participants
guess whether a coin flip will land on heads or tails. Before the
flip, simply ask your participants to place their hand on their
head or their tail. (butox)

Silent Auction – Ask Members to donate baskets with items
that they feel people will enjoy bidding on. Highest bid wins
(pay at the end)

Raffle Basket – Sell tickets for a set amount throughout the
event. The participant keeps one-half of the ticket, the other
half can be put into any container. Pull the winning number
from each container.

Wall of Wine – Have 12 different bottles of wine – sell
chances. Put slips into a container. Draw one slip out – winner
gets the wine. Or, charge a \$1.00 for three rings to try and get
the ring on the bottle of wine.

52-Card Pick – Sell chances to win a prize by purchasing a
playing card. The prize is awarded to the holder of the winning
card drawn. Display a deck of cards. Sell each card. (Write
name on a piece of paper next to the card identified). Once all
cards are sold. They are shuffled by several people. A card will
be drawn to determine the winner. Example: 52 cards @5.00
= \$260. Winner gets \$50 – Club gains \$210.

Guess the Weight of the Cake – Bake or buy a cake – make a
secret note of its weight. Sell tickets for participants to guess
the weight. Have participants write their name on one half of
the ticket. Participants keep the other half of the ticket. The
winner of the game will win the cake. Example: Tickets are
\$5.00 each x 50 people = \$250.00 for the club.

More games will be shared next time!

BE A SUPERHERO



OI Presidential Incentive Club Recognition Program 2025-2026

Merit Club:

- Grow Club by Net +0 members (Maintain beginning October 1 membership count)
- Make a non-restricted contribution to the OIF or CCOF of at least \$100.00
- Be current on District and International dues and fees

Honor Club:

- Meet Merit Club Requirements plus Grow Club by Net +3 members

Distinguished Club:

- Meet Honor Club Requirements plus one of the following:
 - Grow Club by Net +15 members
 - Charter one or more new Clubs

Completing the Club Project Impact Report Online

Please Note: ALL Club Project Impact Reports must be completed online!

1. On the Optimist International website (<https://www.optimist.org>), click Optimist Leaders - Login (in the top left corner).
2. Enter your email and password. **click Login.**
3. Once you are logged in, scroll down the page until you see the box to enter your Club Number. Enter your 5-digit Club Number and **click Submit.**
4. Once on your Club's page, scroll down under the membership roster and **click Club Project Impact Report.** Once on the Club Project Impact page, scroll down and **click Start New Project Report.**
5. Select the Project Type and **click Next.** Note: Optimist International Signature Program Project includes: Junior Optimist, Junior Golf, Essay, Oratorical, Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), Optimist Day, and OWLS (projects in schools). All other projects would be considered a Community Project.
6. Select the Program Type and **click Next.** Note: The **Signature Program** list will fully appear on the screen and selection is made by clicking the corresponding dot. The **Community Project** selection is a dropdown list.
7. Select the group(s) of people served and **click Next.** Then select the approximate number of youth served from the dropdown list and **click Next.** Enter the number of volunteers and **click Next.**
8. Enter the number of volunteer hours per person and **click Next.** Then, select the approximate cost of the project from the dropdown list and **click Next.** Select if you collaborated with another organization and **click Next.**
9. Enter any additional information about the program and **click Next.** Review and confirm the information that has been entered and **click Submit Report.**

Questions about submitting the Club Project Impact Report? Email: programs@optimist.org



Where in the DMM is Governor Cricket?

Please share the dates of your upcoming events/projects or special meetings. – Governor Cricket would welcome the opportunity to see firsthand the amazing things that are happening in the DMM.

“Write it on your heart - that every day is the best day in the year.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Optimist Institute Website

Professional Development

The Optimist Institute website is a valuable resource offering a variety of professional development and personal growth courses for members. If you choose to complete these courses which include mandatory videos and tests that must be completed in full — you can't skip ahead — but they are designed to help build your skills and mindset as an Optimist.

Additionally, the site features inspirational videos perfect for starting your day with positivity.

To register, visit [this link](#) and select “Member Registration” (free for club members). When prompted, enter the passcode: **member2526**



Upcoming Events

Second Quarter DMM Conference:
January 24, 2026 via ZOOM

Third Quarter DMM Conference:
May 1-2, 2026 - Watertown, SD.

Fourth Quarter Convention:
August 21-22, 2026 - Rapid City, SD

Optimist International Convention:
June 28–July 2, 2026 - Jacksonville, FL

DMM Annual Awards Given by Past Governor Gary Lambert

Gary Lambert announced the winners of two DMM annual awards at our First Quarter meeting in Watertown. The **Roger Haas Memorial Optimist of the Year Award** was presented to Doug Waller, a member of the Richfield Optimist Club.

The **Jack Dyvig Memorial Member Sponsorship Award** was presented to Terry Gorman of the Saint Paul and Roseville clubs. Terry has personally sponsored 70 members including six new members last year and he has already sponsored one new member since October 1, 2025!

Congratulations to Doug and Terry for their support of their local clubs and the DMM.

NEW MEMBER RETENTION TIPS Reflect... 1. *Why did you join your Optimist club?* #1 answer - to serve children and make a difference. 2. *Why do you remain a member of your Optimist club?* #1 answer – fellowship, to make new friends and have fun new members join for the same reasons. They are looking for the same things. Recruitment is not enough. We must follow up by inducting them in our club as soon as possible and involve them in our activities. We must review our club meetings. Are they fun and interesting? Do you have a member of the month program? Are members asked to share their experiences and the things that they are thankful for? Do you recognize their achievements and those of their families? Do you have guest speakers that can add value to your meetings? Today more than ever, if we expect people to invest their time in another meeting, we must ensure that their investment of time is worth their while. The key to successful membership recruitment and retention is to keep the current members happy and fulfilled with meaningful activities and meetings that are worthwhile. ***Happy members recruit new members!***

Great Plains Young Adult Optimist Club (YAOC) chartered in the DMM

The DMM chartered a YAOC on September 28, 2025 – one of two YAOCs that were chartered in all of OI last year. A YAOC is an adult club with members between the ages of 18 to 25. These clubs meet virtually – usually once a month and help expand membership of Optimist International and our DMM District.

YAOC members have access to all the leadership training and skill building of our OI Institute. Many YAOC members are in college and are often required to perform “service hours” while attending school. Our Great Plains YAOC’s first service project will be an “Optimist Kindness Week” in which members are encouraged to do at least one “act of kindness” each day of the week and then share what happened at their next club meeting. What FUN!

If you know anyone between the ages of 18-25 that wants to become more OPTIMISTIC and wants to expand his/her circle of friends and wants to enhance their leadership skills, have them contact our DMM Governor – Kristi “Cricket” Palmer. We have an exciting adventure available for them!

