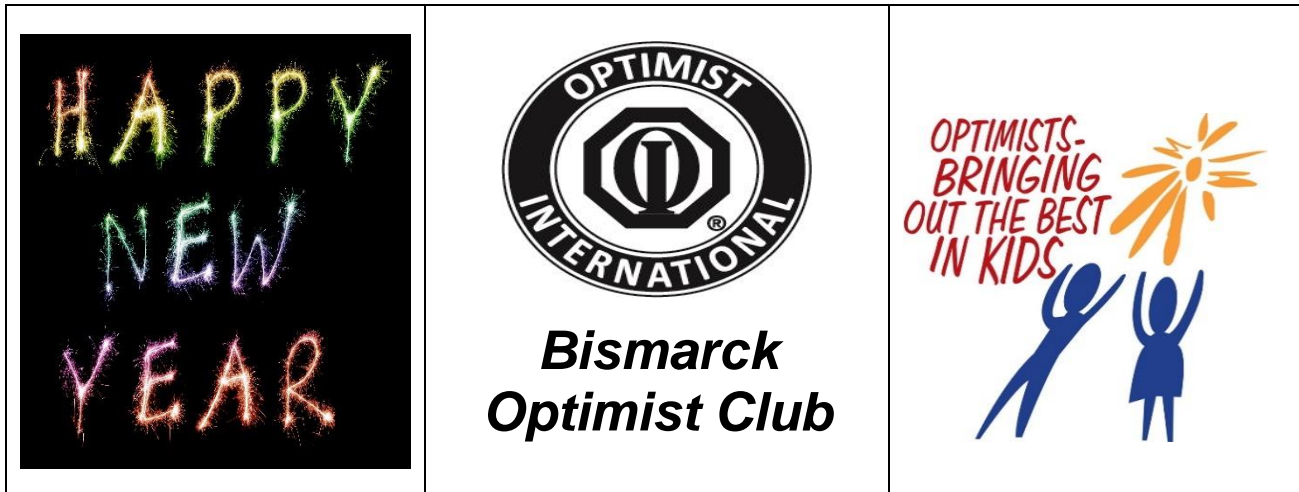


The Optimist Outlook – January 2025



A Look Ahead to...

January Programs, Rob Koppinger, Program Chair

January 6th – Fill Caring for Kids backpacks

January 7th – Judy Daniels, Sanford Home Health & Hospice

January 9th – Board of Directors meeting

January 14th – Joan Klein, North Dakota Asian-American Arts & Cultural Initiative

January 21st – Club social at Laughing Sun beginning at 4:00

January 28th – Kari Knudson, Bismarck State College Foundation

Recap of December Programs, Jillian Lagasse, Program Chair:

December 2nd – Filled 35 Caring for Kids Backpacks

December 3rd – Ben Sand from Capital Curling Club

December 5th – Board of Directors meeting

December 10th – Dr. Mike Bitz and Ryan Lagasse, update on new Mandan High School

December 17th – Matt Schanandore from Mandan Holiday Lights on Main

December 24th – No noon meeting - Merry Christmas!

December 31st – No noon meeting – Happy New Year!

Upcoming Program Chairs:

February: Kent Belland
March: Kyle Debertin
April: Brooks Grotte
May: Jerry Haas
June: Think about volunteering!

Contact Julie jjeske@bravera.bank for more information

Welcome New Members

Ryan Lagasse

Member Anniversaries

Chad Johnson – 8 years

Keith Magnusson - 46 years

Committee Feature – Toy Drive

The 6th annual Optimist Toy Drive wrapped up December 13th when 177 donated toys were delivered to Abused Adult Resource Center. These toys will be distributed to children served by the agency. Thank you to our drop off location sponsors: Bravera Bank, Bismarck Event Center, Capital Credit Union, First International Bank & Trust (2 locations), Gate City Bank (4 locations), Kirkwood Bank & Trust, Security First Bank and Starion Bank. What a great way for us to give back to kids during the Christmas season!

Committee Chair: Lacey Fercho



Committee Feature – Gift Wrap

Gift wrap 2024 is officially "wrapped up!" Gross proceeds from sponsorships, wrapping and donations are **\$24,772.55!**

Thank you to all our members who participated to make this, our club's largest fundraiser, a success. It takes many Club members, friends, families, and employees of our sponsors to cover all of the shifts. A HUGE THANK YOU to the committee for coordinating all the pieces and parts to make it all happen!

Pay-It-Forward sponsors this year include Dakota Community Bank, First International Bank, First Western Bank, Choice Bank, Basin Electric, Bravera Bank, Kirkwood Bank & Trust, Gate City Bank, Capital Credit Union, Keith Magnusson, Bremer Bank, and a Secret Santa.

We also had a half-day sponsorship from Linda Fisher in memory of her mom, Loretta Wolff, who was an Optimist that wrapped presents along with Linda for years.

The Committee: Alicia Vollmers, Sarah Miller, Tami Emter, Shelly Lockard, Jerry Haas, Roger Anderson, and Brooks Grotte



Loretta Wolff



It is hard to believe that our **Energize your Optimism** campaign is coming to a close at the end of January. This month's celebrity spokesmen are Beavis and Butthead. So, you are probably wondering why in the world did we choose these 2 deranged morons for this month?! Is it because they wear a cheerful countenance at all times and greet every living creature with a smile? Or perhaps because they talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person they meet? HECK NO! Beavis and Butthead are the kind that would likely put the Optimist Creed through a shredder and be kicked out of an Optimist meeting within the first 2 minutes! The only reason we ended up selecting them because we needed to find a couple cartoon figures that started with the letter "B". So, there you have it!

As we head toward the finish line with this membership drive, please remember it is not too late to recruit! It could be a friend, co-worker, neighbor, family member- all you have to do is ask them to join you for lunch on Tuesdays at Noon. Plus, if you bring a guest in January, you will get your name in the drawing for a mysterious white elephant prize that starts with the letter "B." If you get someone to join our club, we will have a \$25 VISA gift card for you. Let's keep the membership momentum rolling for our Optimist Club as we kick off the new year!



Sara Pic



I was raised in northwestern Minnesota on our family farm with my Dad and two older brothers. I attended NDSU for college and graduated with a double major in Economics and Management with a minor in Psychology. College is also where I met my husband, Keith, and together we have two boys, Julius and Charlie. Since graduating college, I have

always held a career in insurance, working various positions on the carrier and agency side of the industry. Insurance inevitably moved our family to Bismarck in 2012 when my husband was hired to work at the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund.

In April of this year, I made the decision to take a step away from insurance and focus on our family. My plan was to spend the summer with our boys and head back to work in the Fall, but the timing just didn't feel right yet. In August, we moved my husband's Grandma to an assisted living facility here in Bismarck, and I've been able to manage the majority of her needs. God truly has perfect timing as it was a blessing to not have to worry about work this Fall and Winter as Grandma continues to settle into her new place.

What drew me to the Optimist Club was its kid-focused mission. I have also always appreciated and admired the Avenue of Flags, and I wanted to be a part of that. In addition to the Optimist Club, I volunteer as a Wish Granter for Make-A-Wish North Dakota. I also stay involved with our church, the Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary's, serving as a member on our finance council and volunteering for other Bible studies and events that come up. In my free time, you can find me outdoors (in the warmer months), reading (anything by Kristin Hannah, mindset or motivational), or organizing (give me your junk drawers and messy closets!).

A Favorite Quote: "We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." -a portion of "Prophets of a Future Not Our Own" by Bishop Ken Untener

Committee Feature – Super Bowl Squares

We are heading into year two of the Super Bowl fundraiser board game and I know how much you enjoyed it last year!

See the information sheet so we can start selling the 100 board spaces. The deadline for all spaces to be sold is January 31.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Committee Chair: Wes Engbrecht



The Bismarck Optimist Club's Super Bowl board contest!

Rules of the game

- The game consists of a board with 100 squares.
- Each square is available for purchase at \$20.
- The purchased squares will be assigned with a random number generator.
- The top and side rows will correspond to numbers zero to nine which are picked randomly, with the rows assigned to one of the competing teams.
- If you have the box that corresponds to the matching second digit of the score, you win!
- Payouts will be \$150 for each of the first three quarters and \$300 for the final score. This is a fundraiser for the club, so we do keep some of the proceeds.
- If you have any questions regarding the game or the rules, please contact Wes Engbrecht at wese@capitalelec.com or (701) 400-2751.

Contest will be open until Jan. 31st

Super bowl is on Sunday, February 9th

Committee Feature – Optimist Essay Contest

Press release from Committee Chair, Kathy Torske



BISMARCK OPTIMIST CLUB

CONTACT
Kathy Torske,
Committee Chair
701-226-6285
ktorske@bravera.bank

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 19, 2024

Local Optimist Club to Sponsor Essay Contest for Students

BISMARCK, ND – The Optimist Club of Bismarck is encouraging area students to contemplate the phrase "**How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success**" as part of the Optimist International Essay Contest for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students' essays based on the theme of "**How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success**" and determine the winners. The top winner will receive \$500 and the winning essay will be sent to the district level where a \$2,500 college scholarship will be awarded to the winner.

Students wishing to participate in the essay contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club at 701-226-6285 or ktorske@bravera.bank. Essay submission deadline is February 10, 2025.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organization with 80,000 adult and youth members in 2,500 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and throughout the world. Carrying the motto "Friend of Youth," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. To learn more about Optimist International, please visit the organization's website at www.optimist.org.

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Second Annual Visual Arts Contest



This exciting competition is designed to encourage and celebrate youth visual art skills and gives the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity!

The topic for 2025 is “Bringing Out the Best”. Artwork should reflect **this topic**. The contest will be held at the Club level and then at the International level.

The project for the Visual Arts Competition shall be the creation of 12 Optimist notecards with envelopes. The notecards will be for sale after June 30, 2025.

Artists must be **age eleven or lower as of October 1, 2024**.

There are two age divisions: up to 7 years of age and 8-11 years of age. Art for six of the note cards will be selected from each age division. The art for the cover will be selected from either age division.

Each local artist will receive a personalized participation certificate.

There will be a monetary award for 13 Optimist International winners, one for the image selected to go on the cover and one image selected for each of the 12 notecards. At the International level, **the 12 winners** will receive **\$150**; **the winner of the cover** will receive an additional **\$100**.

Deadline for submissions is February 14, 2025. Selection(s) locally will be made by February 25, 2025, and by Optimist international in late March, 2025.

This information, along with necessary submission forms, will be emailed to Bismarck-Mandan elementary school secretaries the first week in January and they will share with classroom teachers.

Committee Chair: Sylvia Burgess

Monthly Caring for Kids Backpacks Committee

Committee members, Ashley Backsen and Sylvia Burgess packed these in December.

Monthly supplies are acquired from various sources:

- After holiday clearance, nonperishables
- After season clearance, like gloves and hats
- Back to school sales in late summer – enough for the whole year ahead
- Sam’s Club for bulk snacks and candy
- Garage sales and donations (as kids/grandkids outgrow them) for like new books, small toys, stuffed animals
- Wes Engbrecht orders the back packs as needed



2024-25 Board of Directors:

President: Julie Jeske, email: jjeske@bravera.bank

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

Secretary: Sylvia Burgess, email: sylvia.burgess@bis.midco.net

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

Past President: Brooks Grotte, email: b.grotte@bankwithchoice.com

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

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

Director: Kristin Oban, (1 year remaining) email: koban@c21morrison.com

Director: Rob Koppinger (2 years remaining), email: robk@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.bismarckoptimist.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.