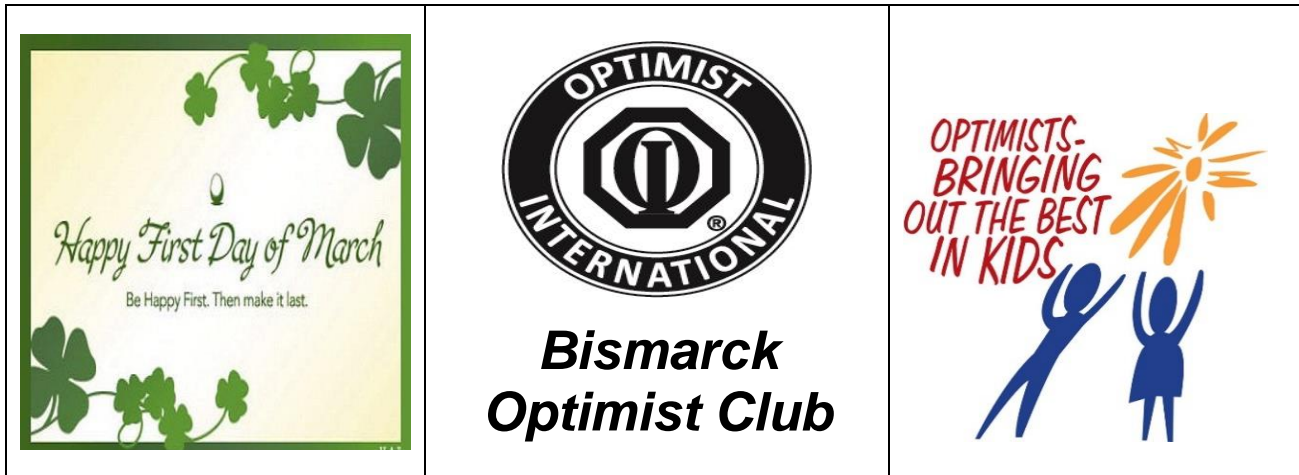


The Optimist Outlook – March 2025



A Look Ahead to...

March Programs, Kyle Debertin, Chair

March 3rd – Fill Caring for Kids Backpacks

March 4th – Mark Ehrmantraut, The God's Child Community Engagement Coordinator

March 6th - Board of Directors meeting

March 11th - Shannon Straight, Executive Director of The Badlands Conservation Alliance

March 18th - Kendra Bachmeier, Cross Training

March 25th - Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Bismarck Public Schools Superintendent

Recap of February Programs, Kent Belland, Program Chair

February 3rd – Filled 40 Caring for Kids Backpacks

February 4th – Kelly Thomas, Mandan Parks & Recreation Foundation

Raising funds to cover recreational fees incurred by financially disadvantaged youth

February 6th - Board of Directors meeting

February 11th - Cody Sletten, Sources of Strength, youth focused suicide prevention program efforts

February 18th - Gary Gorosky, Spirit of Life Food Pantry, efforts to service the Mandan Community

February 25th – New Member Induction at noon meeting

February 25th - Madison Milbrath, State Historical Society of ND, Junior Historians Program

Upcoming Program Chairs:

April: Brooks Grotte
May: Jerry Haas
June: Think about volunteering!

Contact Julie jjeske@bravera.bank for more information

Welcome New Members

Kim Bahm Erica Becker

Member Anniversaries

Jenny Hettich – 7 years

14th Annual Funds for the Future Grant Kickoff

This grant provides funds to Bismarck and Mandan elementary schools to help with a specified project they plan to complete in the near future. This year's grant amount will be up to \$5,000 each for **two** schools.

Grant applications were sent to all Bismarck and Mandan Elementary schools on February 14th. The completed application package is due by April 14, 2025.

The unique application process involves the students as well as staff and PTO. There will be a celebration in the spring for the school(s) selected!

Committee Chair: Sylvia Burgess

Winners from our Super Bowl Board Game

First Qtr. - Jillian Lagasse \$150
Second Qtr. – Kristin Oban \$150
Third Qtr. – Brent Helm \$150
Final score – Jen Clouten \$300

Thank you for your support of the Bismarck Optimist Club! The \$1250 proceeds from the game will be used to support kids' programs in our area.

Committee Chair: Wes

Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Committee Chair: Kyle Debertin



Bismarck Optimist Club
Annual Oratorical/Speech Contest
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1
Bismarck Public Library Room B

*Attention students under the age of 19
as of October 1, 2025*

Bismarck Optimist Club is offering you the chance to speak to the world. Winner at the local level is awarded \$500 and represents our club at the District Oratorical Competition where additional scholarships, up to \$2,500, are awarded!

The theme for this year's contest:
How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times.

Speeches should be four to five minutes in length. All applications and speeches must be submitted by Monday, March 31, 2025.

If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Tana Sukauskas at tana.sukauskas@gmail.com.



12,000 Eggs to Appear Once Again at the Optimist Easter Egg Hunt!

The 8th annual Optimist Easter Egg Hunt is now just 6 weeks away! This fun filled community event sponsored by our Bismarck Optimist Club will take place on April 13th at the ND Capitol Grounds. It is free and open to all kids age 9 & under.

Along with 12,000 Easter Eggs, there will also be opportunities for kids to win prizes and get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. We will once again have several prizes including 3 AWESOME grand prizes, one for each age group. The Optimist Motto is "Friend of Youth" and this event is one of the best ways that we can make an egg-cellent impact for hundreds of kids!

We will once again have plenty of volunteer opportunities, whether it is stuffing the Easter eggs or helping out at the Egg Hunt, our Egg Hunt planning committee could not do this without your help and support. Many hands make light work and teamwork makes the dream work!

Please stay tuned as we will soon have the volunteer sign-ups out online and at Optimist Club meetings.

All of your support as Optimists in making this event happen for the kids in our community is very much appreciated!

Jerry Haas & Amanda Yellow
Easter Egg Hunt
committee co-chairs



8TH ANNUAL
OPTIMIST CLUB OF BISMARCK
EASTER
EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
1:30 PM - 3 & UNDER
2 PM - 4-6 YEAR OLDS
2:30 PM - 7-9 YEAR OLDS
Please arrive 30 min. prior to your hunt to register

FREE AND OPEN TO KIDS 9 & UNDER
ND CAPITOL GROUNDS LAWN
EASTER BAGS WILL BE PROVIDED

12,000 Eggs!

 **Optimist Club of Bismarck**
FRIEND OF YOUTH



Morgan Bruhn's journey began in Southeastern Florida, where she grew up before enrolling at North Dakota State University. Morgan majored in Crop and Weed Science and minored in Biology and her summers were spent exploring every corner of the state through internships with various agricultural companies.

After college, Morgan's career took her to Missouri and Texas, but the call of North Dakota was too strong to resist. In the winter of 2022, she moved back and joined the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation as a Development Assistant. Morgan's favorite part of the job is creating fun events for kids and loves meeting new people in Medora.

When summer rolls around, Morgan always looks forward to bringing her family to enjoy a round of golf at Bully Pulpit Golf Course (though she admits she prefers driving the golf cart only!). In her free time, Morgan is an avid reader and is always on the lookout for fun local events. She's especially excited for the return of BisMarket at Kiwanis Park Saturday mornings in the summer!

Morgan's journey with the Optimist Club began after volunteering with fellow member, Laurie Hatzenbuhler, at the Christmas Gift Wrap and Easter Egg Hunt. Officially joining in December 2024, Morgan is eager to volunteer more and loves learning about different organizations and their causes each week. Her favorite part of being an Optimist is giving back to the community.

Morgan's favorite quote, often heard at the foundation, is a call to action from the 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." This inspiring message reminds us all that we can take action now to better ourselves and community no matter the circumstances.

Caring for Kids Backpacks



Committee members Sara Pic and Sylvia Burgess filled 40 backpacks on February 3rd for area homeless youth served by United Way agencies.

Please gather your unused hotel toiletries as you travel and donate them for this program. We package and use them when we have sufficient supply in any given month.

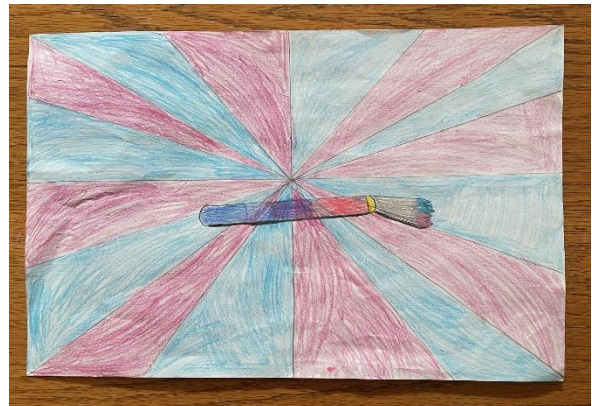


Board members Brooks Grotte (L) and Rob Koppinger (R) presented our Buddy Call funds.

Second Annual Visual Arts Contest

This contest is open to kids 11 years and younger. The 2025 topic chosen by Optimists International (OI), “**Bringing Out the Best**”, brought us 5 entries from 4 schools this year, compared to 4 entries from 2 schools last year. Out of all entries received by OI, 13 will be selected for publication on notecards later this year. All artists locally received a certificate of participation and those selected by OI will receive \$150.

Committee Chair: Sylvia Burgess



Why Do Optimists Do That?

Optimist Fun Facts in our Newsletter

Optimist Motto

From the beginning of Optimist International (OI) in the early 1900's, clubs directed their major efforts toward service to youth. Clubs were open to men only, as was the case for many fraternal organizations.

The first motto adopted in 1923 was "Friend of the Delinquent Boy" but that was changed to "Friend of the Boy" in 1924.

Still used today, "**Friend of Youth**", was adopted in 1972, since both boys and girls were being served by then. Women were first permitted to join OI in 1987.

Member Induction

Many members were formally inducted into the Bismarck Optimist Club at the noon meeting on February 25th. The group was large because, with the advent of COVID, new member packets weren't available for a couple of years from Optimists International. Now that we can, we did!



Jerry Haas, Shelly Lockard, Kaitlin Diede, Daryl Kerzman, Kent Belland, Amanda Yellow and Sarah Miller (left to right)



Julie Jeske, Maddie Berger, Cindy Clairmont, Daryl Kerzman, Sylvia Burgess, and Jerry Haas (left to right)



Keith Pic, Julie Jeske, Jean Ball, Laurie Hatzenbuhler, and Morgan Bruhn (left to right)



Kyle Debertin, Jillian Lagasse, Ryan "Mr. Jillian" Lagasse and Keith Pic (left to right)



Kyle Debertin, Optimist International Foundation Representative for Bismarck Optimist Club, kicked off the 2025 Dime-a-Day Campaign February 25th in true Kyle Style!

The following is a flyer regarding Optimist International Foundation's Dime-A-Day Campaign. Your support of OI's Foundation helps the foundation live its mission and it only costs \$36.50; however, you can always give more.

Please take a moment to read the flyer and consider making a gift. OI Foundation is a non-profit and you can potentially use this as a charitable donation.

If you decide to give, please mail the completed form to:

Bismarck Optimist Club
PO Box 511
Bismarck, ND 58502-0511

Bismarck Optimist Club number is 35014 but don't worry about adding your number as we will take care of that for you.

Your consideration and support of OI Foundation is greatly appreciated.



**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



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.