

# GATEway News



SERVING OPTIMIST CLUBS IN GEORGIA AND TENNESSEE

Volume 2

Issue 1

November, 2022





Conference and Convention Sites  
**GATEway District Optimist International 2022-2023**



**GATEway First Quarter Conference – November 4-6, 2022**

**Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel & Conference Center**  
 2443 Highway 54 West  
 Peachtree City, GA 30269  
 770-487-2000  
 RATE: \$139.00 + tax



*2022-2023 GATEway District Kick-Off*

**GATEway Second Quarter Conference – January 20-22, 2023**

**Hotel Indigo Athens**  
 500 College Avenue  
 Athens, GA 30601  
 1-866-808-1483  
 RATE: \$129.00 + tax + \$5.00 parking fee per night



*GATEway District Hall of Fame Recognition  
 2021-2022 Awards and Recognition Banquet*

**GATEway Third Quarter One-Day Conference – April 22, 2023**

**Tellus Science Museum (Location of Event)**  
 100 Tellus Drive  
 Cartersville, GA 30120



**Hampton Inn Cartersville (for Accommodations)**  
 5600 Highway 20 SE  
 Cartersville, GA 30121  
 770-382-8999  
 RATE: \$105.00 + tax



*GATEway District Scholarship Contests*

**GATEway District Convention – August 3-6, 2023**

**Hilton Atlanta Northeast**  
 5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard  
 Peachtree Corners, GA 30092  
 1-800-678-4120  
 RATE: \$129.00 (King) or \$139.00 (Queen) + tax



*Lieutenant Governor-Elect Training  
 Officer-Elect Training  
 District Governor Election  
 GATEway District Optimist of the Year Recognition*



**Governor**

**Bruce Peace**

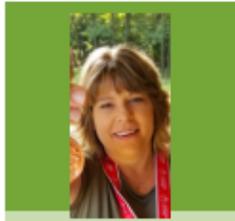
**1958 Little Texas**

**Valley Road**

**Rome, GA 30165**

**706-676-4656**

**BPeace4@  
comcast.net**



**Secretary**

**Amy Myers**

**100 Percheron Dr.**

**Canton, GA 30114**

**765-227-0006**

**yellowtigerw@  
Gmail.com**



**Treasurer**

**Dianna Johnson**

**PO Box 1160**

**Carrollton, GA  
30112**

**770-355-0474**

**ddjohnson@  
Juno.com**



**Immediate**

**Past Governor**

**Gerald Johnson**

**PO Box 1160**

**Carrollton, GA  
30112**

**770-437-0000**

**geraldjohnson@  
Juno.com**



**Governor Elect**

**Kathy Forster**

**PO Box 6032**

**Cleveland, GA  
30528**

**256-371-0062**

**kforster428@  
Yahoo.com**

## News Stories Needed !

Do you have local club news? Do you have committee news? Do you have other Optimist news? Send stories and photos to Dianna Johnson at [ddjohnson@juno.com](mailto:ddjohnson@juno.com) or Gerald Johnson at [geraldjohnson@juno.com](mailto:geraldjohnson@juno.com) Next issue deadline is December 30, 2022..

# How Bright is your Light?

Greetings, fellow Optimist! Our GATEway District is off to a great start this year. I hope you are excited about our opportunities to share an optimistic outlook on life with others. I want to propose this question, where does Optimism reside in you? Are you just a member of the Optimist Organization, or do you subscribe to Optimism as a philosophy? Why is being more than an Optimist important?

As Optimist Members, we place high importance on what we do. Our clubs throughout the district are serving the youth and our communities in a multitude of different ways. Community service is an essential part of our mission. Through our engagement, we impact others. This impact can be a life-changing impact on the lives of others. But what about ourselves?

We have chosen “Be the Light” as this year's district theme. We should focus on brightening our light to broaden our reach to others. Others will see the Optimism in us if our light is shining. We must first ensure that our light is the brightest that we can make it.

You are the lighthouse keeper of your light. Like the duties of the lighthouse keeper, there are tasks we must do daily to tend to our light. Each day we need to recharge our Optimism. We are fortunate in that we have our Optimist Creed to guide us. Set some time daily to reflect on your Optimism through the Creed. Think ahead of opportunities to share your Optimism, even if it is just one person for that day. You see, we can change the world one life at a time.

Our Optimist organization is no different from many other service organizations in that we must attract new members to continue to exist. Historically we lose 20 percent of our members annually. There are many reasons for member attrition, such as death, relocation, change in family status, and perhaps the most disturbing loss of interest. Our district must replace 350 members yearly to remain at our current membership levels. We have several tools that our clubs can use to recruit new members. Our traditional NOW and WOW events are a template for membership growth. This year President Bob McFadyen introduced the Just Invite recruitment program in his monthly "Just 3 - Things" email. The objective is to ask others to come to an informative club meeting or attend a project or event the club is doing so that the prospective member can SEE what we do. What's that saying? A picture is worth a thousand words. We need to think about long-term relationships when we bring in new members. Our goal should be to share Optimism and encourage others to help us serve. Sometimes we get caught up on the numbers when we promote membership growth. The numbers should measure our success and not our reason growth is essential. Yes, we want membership growth but let's make that healthy membership growth where we bring in new Optimists who are committed to our mission and will be with us for years.

So in closing, how do "Be the light" and membership growth tie together? It is simple, just like our "Just Invite" program. If your light is shining bright enough for others to see, you will have the opportunity to show, as an example, the value of Optimism. Just invite them to come and see in person how being an Optimist will make a difference in the lives of others and, most importantly themselves.

At our recent district conference, we closed the meeting, as always, with the Creed. Before we closed, we sang, yes sang, "This Little Light of Mine."

*This little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

Let your light shine this month; it begins with tending your light!

Yours in Optimism!  
Bruce Peace, Governor  
GATEway District, Optimist International



# Notes From A first Timer

## By Darin Rhines

My name is Darrin Rhines. I am the president of the Optimist Club of Knoxville in Knoxville, Tennessee. I have been in the Optimist Club for about seven years now. I was brought into the club through a contractor that worked for my organization.

This was the first quarterly meeting that I've attended in person. During Covid I did sit in on one session online. It was a pleasure to actually get to meet people in person.

I wanted to attend to better understand what goes on at the GATEway District level. I also wanted to meet people from other clubs and share ( translate shamelessly steal) ideas.

I was blown away with the friendliness of the people I encountered at the meetings. Everyone was encouraging, kind, and engaging.

I found the training helpful and interesting and plan to apply several concepts, particularly those related to marketing our club and communicating activities, immediately.

I was very impressed with the leadership represented at the meeting. Governor Bruce Peace and Vice President Gwen Gable were Very welcoming and warm in the first timers meeting and throughout the rest of the event. It was clear to me that people were excited to be there, were motivated by the vision and the mission, and we're ready to get going this club year.

This year's theme, Be the Light, resonated for me on several levels. First of all, holistically I think it is important that we show that optimism in our community to show how much we care. On another level, we should be the light with our GATEway District friends and also with our own club members. And lastly being the light should clearly translate in our work places, places of worship, and with the people we encounter every day when using their services- like at the barber shop or the grocery store or the pharmacy. Being the light will enable us to make new friends and to perhaps recruit new Optimists to brighten the very light we share!

Two quotes come to my mind that are important to me. John Bunyan once said, **You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.** **And Charlie Brown once said,** “Let your smile change the world, but don’t let the world change your smile.”

I was born in Knoxville Tennessee but grew up and finished high school in Albany, Georgia. I’m married to the lovely and talented Marion Rhines, a writer and Library assistant. We have five children - two natural and three adopted, ages 12 to 25.

I recently retired as a communications and government relations manager for Knoxville Utilities Board after 29 years. Now I want to pivot and start my own business. But the devil is in the details!

I love the mission of the Optimist to change our world by loving on children and others in our community. The Optimist Club of Knoxville has been a great inspiration to me personally. The members of the club areas fun and unique as snowflakes.



# The Benefits of an Optimist Membership

I learned a long time ago Optimists are special people. They care and are driven to become the light for service in their community, to make a difference, and to be a face of positive change.

Optimists know there is great power in helping or doing for others. An Optimist membership gives a person the opportunity to become engaged in many worthwhile endeavors, make connections with other like-minded individuals, and work together in the Optimist mission of serving for the good of our children, our community, ourselves, and our fellow human beings.

Optimism is a calling! A calling we have to share our philosophy of life and the tenets of our Optimist Creed with others. It is our willingness to serve others, to strive to be the best we can be, to have a positive outlook, to make a difference, and to be a face of positive change in the world around us.

Optimists are winners and they strive to produce winners! They work daily to make the most of the gifts and opportunities they are given. Optimists live by the words of Harry Firestone, who said, “You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself.”

An Optimist membership adds value to a person’s life. People want to feel worthwhile in life. Optimism makes people feel special, helping them to become winners in life.

Studies show the higher one’s level of service and helpfulness to others, the greater well-being a person will experience! Optimists are healthier, happier, and live more productive lives.

Together Optimists are a powerful and positive force in their communities. In the book of Galatians, Paul tells us we were never meant to journey through this life alone. We are encouraged to embrace others in our daily lives and endeavors and help them with their burdens. Optimists inspire, help and give comfort to those around them and in doing so, they themselves become better people.

Optimists by being together and working together make each other better. Proverbs 27:17 tells us as iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. There’s an old saying, “Help a person and you make their day; teach a person to help others and you change their life”. Optimists change people’s lives every day.

When you take the light of Optimism out into your community looking for people to become involved in your club, share with them the great things Optimism can do for them. Invite them to participate in the things you love and are passionate about. Plant a seed by showing them what Optimism does for others and what it can do for them. Then ask them to join the movement to help make the world a better place. And once they join, nurture them and help them become the person they were meant to be.

## Be the Light for Retention

Every year Optimist Clubs lose members. Some of these losses are due to natural attrition – caused, for example by death, business transfers, or other unavoidable relocation or health problems. Such losses are to be expected, however, studies show that most Optimists leave our organization without giving a reason, which most likely means they did not receive from us what they were looking for and were not experiencing the benefits Optimism offered them. If your Club is steadily losing members now is the time to take a stand and reverse this trend, to find out what is wrong and fix it.

Member retention starts the very moment a new member walks in the door, not when they have one foot out the door. It is imperative your Club embrace and welcome new members, helping them feel they are an integral part of your Club and the Optimist movement. Be ever vigilant in knowing what your members want and what they need. Every member comes to Optimism looking for something and asking the question, “What’s in it for me?” Your Club must answer that question and keep on answering it as long as that member is part of your Club. Research indicates most volunteers leave their organizations because they feel they are not valued and the work they do is not valued.

Studies also show many younger members leave their Clubs because they feel an incompatibility and lack of belonging due to age and philosophy differences. To counteract this problem, we must change our Club model, looking for new ways to draw members to our organization and keep them engaged. A member, young or old, must feel comfortable with his or her peers and be engaged and involved in Club activities that encourage solid relationships, comradery, and loyalty to the Optimist cause.

Continued on next page.



FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Members must feel they are valued and their work is valued. If they become disenfranchised, feel they are taken for granted, and are uninformed, it gives them the justification to leave your Club. Make sure your Club conducts an exit interview with members who leave to find out why and what your Club might change to make it a more worthwhile experience for your members. Remember, most people choose to spend their time on activities they find the most rewarding.

Studies have shown most Optimists who are heavily involved in their Club's activities and given responsibilities within their Clubs are more likely to maintain their membership. Involving Club members in the operation of your Club and keeping them engaged is one of the most successful retention tools you can implore to keep your members happy and content. It must begin the moment a member is inducted. Make sure new members as well as older members are nurtured, kept engaged, and given leadership and service opportunities.

Also, make fellowship a reality for everyone. I am sure most of us feel the fellowship in our Clubs is strong, but the question we should ask ourselves is does everyone feel that way? Over time as members become friends and enjoy each other's company, it is normal for strong relationships and cliques to form. The key to maintaining a strong Club is to realize this and make sure you include others, especially new members, in your group. Everyone wants to be accepted and feel they are part of a group. Develop an atmosphere that is inviting, friendly, and inclusive of everyone.

Another retention tool is to keep your members well-informed about what is going on in your Club, Zone, District, and International organization. Knowledge is power and sharing it helps your members feel more a part of your Club and the Optimist movement. Make sure all your Club members are kept abreast of the changes and events taking place throughout Optimist International. Helping them become involved in an Optimist activity or program may be the catalyst that sparks a lifelong commitment to your Club and the movement. This may also encourage them to expand their involvement by attending District conferences and the Optimist International Convention, giving them the opportunity to meet other Optimists and learn more about the Optimist movement around the world.

Last but not least, constantly evaluate your Club's service projects and activities to make sure they are still relative and retain the interest of your members as well as potential members. If your Club offers lively, meaningful, and interesting programs and activities, it will encourage more members to participate and serve as a draw for new members. Change is sometimes a bitter pill to swallow, but having the courage to replace or augment some of your Club's programs or activities makes your Club more appealing not only to your existing members but potential members as well.

Remember, "Be the Light" for Optimism. Plant the seed of service by inviting a person to participate in a service project or activity you love and enjoy. Once they become involved and see what Optimists do, ask them to join your Club and the movement. When they join be sure to guide and nurture them until their roots are strong and they become committed to the Optimist mission.



**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**  
F O U N D A T I O N

# Dime-A-Day

**O**ptimist 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



Have Questions about Optimist International Foundation? Call Kathy Forster at 256-371-0062.

# 2022 GATEway Conference Peachtree City





# Local Club News .....



**Sarah D. Moore**  
1 min · 🌐

Winner of the Larry Dodson framed print at the Dade Expo is Michele Durham Holland! Congratulations! The print was donated to the club by Optimist member Stacy Prater. The Georgia bag was made by Villete... [More](#)



**Donna Johnson** ▶ **Optimist Club Of Temple Ga.** ...  
2 hrs · 🌐

The Optimist Club of Temple was honored to prepare and serve the community today at the City of Temple Thanksgiving lunch. We were blessed to have many volunteers from our community to help serve 325 plates. Thank you to all those who donated there time and monies to help make this a very successful event!!



**East Ridge Optimist Club** updated their cover photo.  
31 mins · 🌐



👍 You and 3 others



**East Ridge Optimist Club**  
31 mins · Facebook for Android · 🌐

East Ridge Optimists enjoyed spreading Christmas cheer in the East Ridge Christmas Parade tonight. Member Amanda Davis did a phenomenal job on the Optimist float. Thanks Amanda!



👍👍 Anita Bailey Still and 7 others    2 Comments    1 Share



### Canton Optimist Club

Yesterday at 4:46 PM · 🌐

Shout out to the Malon D Mimm's Boys and Girls Club for speaking to our club today. Check out the link if you would like to donate a toy to the kids from the amazon wish list 🙏  
<https://a.co/2BqxXJ2>

#bethelight



👍 Rebekah Gibson and 8 others

4 Shares



### Noon Optimist Club of Rome

13 hrs · 🌐

Our first two customers of the day.



👍❤️ 26

2 Comments 1 Share

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



**Donna Johnson**

3 hrs · 🌐

The Optimist Club would also like to thank Mrs. Shivers and the Sr. Beta's, as well as, Kyrie Adkins and the PEARLS for their service to our community youth! These students ROCKED this JAM!



### Optimist Club of Knoxville is at The Foundry on the Fair Site.

10 hrs · Knoxville, TN · 🌐

Congratulations to the 2022 honorees 🎉 Optimist Club of Knoxville's Youth Appreciation Week, The Robert H. Leonard Service to Humanity Awards recognizing outstanding youth, one representative from each of the Knox County High Schools.

Knox County Schools, Hardin Valley Academy Farragut High School Karns High School halls high school Christian Academy of Knoxville (TN) Bearden High School West High School (Knoxville, Tennessee) Knoxville Catholic Austin East Magnet High School Carter High School (Knoxville, Tennessee)Fulton High School Gibbs High School (Corryton, Tennessee) Grace Christian Academy Knoxville Powell High School South-Doyle High School Webb School of Knoxville



👍🙏👍 Sandi Schmidt and 14 others

5 Shares



**Born to Shine Optimist Club, Cherokee County GA** ...  
 Yesterday at 9:42 AM · 🌐

HUGS IN A BLANKET. Born to Shine collected blankets and socks for the Cherokee Recreation and Parks program to benefit seniors in need

#bethelight  
 #gatewayoptimist  
 #BeAnOptimist  
 #PlayCherokee  
 #hugsinablanket



👍❤️ Rebekah Gibson and 8 others 1 Share



**Optimist Club of Jasper, GA** September 30 at 8:40 AM ·  
 Facebook for Android · 🌐

Reeder Burch was recognized by Anita Walker with The Presidents Citation. Reeder has been a club member since the early 80's!! Reeder also is the co-chair of our golf tournament as well as Project Leader for the STAR Banquet/Recognitions and Von Hinton Memorial Citizenship Awards and more!! Thanks, Reeder, for all you do!!

← Optimist Club of Carrollton,... - Optimist Cl...



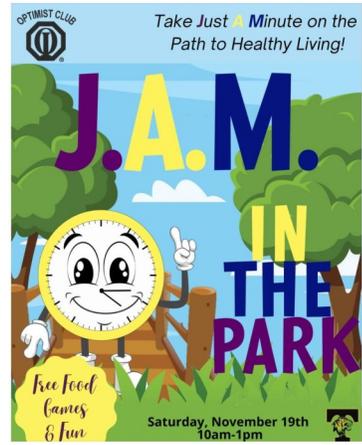
**Optimist Club of Carrollton, Inc.**

Mobile uploads · Nov 19, 2021 · 🌐

[View Full Size](#) · [More Options](#)

← Optimist Club of Carrollton,... - Optimist Cl...







### Gilmer County Optimist Club

4 hrs · 🌐



If you are hungry for pancakes and sausage, what does one do? Well, you head to Rome for breakfast! Congratulations to the Noon Optimist Club of Rome for a successful pancake fundraiser!



👍❤️ 8

1 Comment



### Noon Optimist Club of Rome

8 hrs · 🌐



It's 6 am and we have "Flippin'" started. Come join us for a GREAT \$8 breakfast.



👍❤️ 19

4 Comments 1 Share

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share





**Born to Shine Optimist Club, Cherokee County GA** ...  
40 mins · 🌐

Had a great time with our friends from Circle of Friends!



👍❤️ You, Elyse Wall Greeson and 3 others



Like



Comment



Share



**Cedartown Optimist Club** ...  
29 mins · 🌐

Congratulations to Cedartown Optimist Club member, Lacey Tuck.



**Polk School District** November 1 at 7:10 PM · 🌐

DAY 1 - GOLDEN SHOES AWARD RECIPIENT

Mrs. Lacey Tuck

Mrs. Tuck is the Wrap-Around Services Coordinator at our District Office. She is continuously working to serve the students and families of Polk County. We could not be more #PSDProud to recognize her dedication and the work she does on a daily basis. Thank you for making a difference in Polk County! 🧡❤️🧡 #yourshoesarehardtobfill #youcanmakeadifference #YouBelongHere #psdthelacetobe #youmatter



**Optimist Club of Jasper, GA** ...  
4 hrs · Facebook for Android · 🌐

Last of the pecans can be found today and tomorrow at Community Bank of Pickens County on Cove Road. More pecans are still available at Garner Ace Hardware in Jasper and Foothills Ace Hardware in eastern Pickens County. Get them before they are gone!



👍 Rebekah Gibson and 1 other



**David Grant** ...  
2 hrs · 🌐



**Kennesaw Parks & Recreation** Yesterday at 10:02 AM · 🌐

Do not miss out on Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 3. The event is hosted in partnership with the Kennesaw-Acworth Optimist Club. There will be an "all-you-care-to-eat" breakfast complete with pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee and visits from Santa! There will be two seatings at 8 AM & 10 AM. Tickets are only \$6 per person. Visit [www.kennesawparksandrec.org](http://www.kennesawparksandrec.org) to register.



**Donna Johnson**

4 hrs · 🌐



Awesome! We can't wait to read them!



**Temple High School** 6 hrs · 🌐

Several students participated in an essay workshop today for the Optimist Club. The students brainstormed, outlined, and developed their ideas about everyday heroes who inspire optimism.

👍👍 You, Dianna Day Johnson and 7 others · 1 Comment



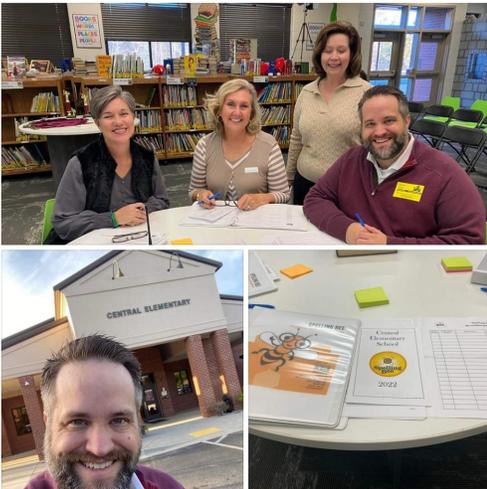
**Kevin Bush** is with **Angie Hawkesworth** and **Megan Foster** at **Central Elementary School**.

1 hr · Carrollton · 🌐



Had a blast participating in one of my favorite events every year, judging the Central Elementary School Spelling Bee! This was one of the most exciting bees I've ever been part of! 124 total words! 9 rounds of back and forth between the final 2 contestants Congratulations to Luke Conaway for winning on the final word, "pistons."

There were honestly a couple of words I probably would have missed! So proud of all these kiddos! Thanks so much for having me!



👍👍 You, Mayor Pro Tem Bridges and 22 others



**Rufus Clemmons**

12 hrs · 🌐



**Fuller Chapel United Methodist Church** 12 hrs · 🌐

Hope 4 Tomorrow Optimist Club and Fuller Chapel United Methodist Church would like to thank all donors and participants in today's Winter Coat Drive. We look forward to serving the community next year. God Bless!

👍👍 Rebekah Gibson and 17 others

2 Comments



**Sally Yarber**

1 hr · 🌐



They asked us to give them a "crazy shot"



👍👍👍 Vicki Sewell and 12 others

2 Comments



**Gwen L. Gable** is in North Decatur, Georgia. September 30 at 10:03 AM · North Decatur · 🌐

Congrats to Emory Decatur Optimist Club member Alex Wittig! Alex was awarded the President's Citation for serving the club and community with continued commitment throughout 2021-22! Thank you Alex for all you do to support the Emory Decatur Optimist Club and our surrounding community! 🙌🌟🙌

👍 You, Mary Forster Still and 1 other



The Optimist Club of the Year is the highest achievement an Optimist Club can attain in the Optimist organization. The recipient of this prestigious award will be chosen regardless of number of members, or region and will be known as the "Best Overall Club" in Optimist International.

The Optimist Club of the year award is presented annually to the most outstanding Club in the organization based on the following criteria:

	<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>
Service Projects Sponsored by the Club	<b>30 Points</b>
Member Development Programs a Year i.e. PGI Program, Optimist International Conventions and Summit, etc.	<b>25 Points</b>
Club Growth and Increased Community Awareness Campaigns i.e. NOW Program, Marketing Campaign, etc.	<b>25 Points</b>
Increased Volunteer Member Base	<b>10 Points</b>
New Community Efforts	<b>10 Points</b>

Points in each category will be awarded by independent judges based upon community outreach, impact on children and Members, new and innovative ideas; and benefits to the individual Club Members.

All Clubs wishing to participate, will submit an application to Optimist International no later than 12/30/2021 for the Optimist year ending 9/30/2021.

The Club named Overall Optimist Club of the Year will receive one round-trip airline ticket to the Optimist Convention, a banner patch, an award, and a special article in *The Optimist* magazine and on the Optimist website.



1/1



**Gilmer County Optimist Club**

What a great night of celebrating "Living the Creed Since 2012." Our 10-Year banquet included local, regional and national Optimist Club dignitaries and more than 100 members and guests.

If you were, there share your photos and tag: #gilmercountyoptimist, #gilmeroptimist, #optimistintl,



North Perimeter Optimist Club September 21 at 10:23 PM ·  
 Facebook for Android · 🌐



## Optimist Kids' Day In The Park

Sponsored by North Perimeter Optimist Club with Optimist members from seven clubs joining together to serve the youth of Sandy Springs.....



# Installations Of 2022—2023 Club Officers



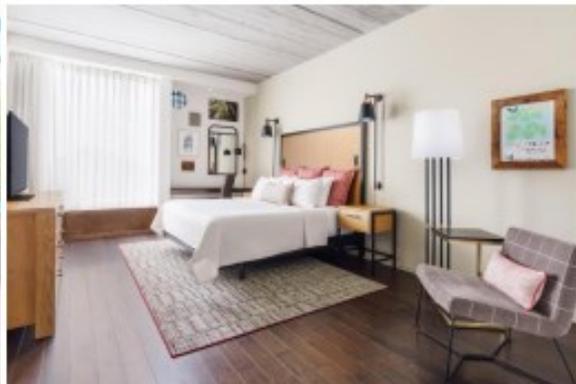






# GATEway News

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500 College Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601  
[www.indigoathens.com](http://www.indigoathens.com)  
706.546.0430

Complimentary WiFi for guests and meetings  
One block from downtown with 150+ dining, shopping, & entertainment venues  
24-hour fitness center  
Flat screen TV's; spa inspired showers with Aveda products  
Security on-site; dedicated parking lot with secure access to lobby & guest elevators  
Gallery @ Hotel Indigo-Athens featuring quarterly exhibits of artwork  
IHG Rewards Club points awarded for every stay  
Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Award-Winning Hotel  
Exceptional Rate @ \$129 per night/Onsite parking @ \$5.00 per night

Call the Hotel Indigo directly for reservations at 1-866-808-1483 & reference Gateway District Optimist International (block code: GDO). A booking link will also be provided. Hotel cut-off date is **December 21, 2022**.

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">GATEway Registration</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Second Quarter Conference, January 20-22, 2023</b>  <b>Hotel Indigo - Athens</b>  <b>300 College Avenue</b>  <b>Athens, GA 30601</b></p>	
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<u>Optimist's Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	
<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	
<u>City, State, Zip</u>	Is this your first District Meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Club Number</u>	<u>Zone Number</u>
<u>Club Office 2022-2023</u>	<u>District Office 2022-2023</u>	

Complete this section only if Spouse/Guest is registering:		
<u>Spouse/Guest Name</u>	Is this Spouse/Guest first District Meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Will your Spouse/Guest attend: <input type="checkbox"/> General Sessions    and/or <input type="checkbox"/> Meals		
<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Club Number</u>	<u>Zone Number</u>
<u>Club Office 2022-2023</u>	<u>District Office 2022-2023</u>	

**Additional Information about the Hotel:**

Hotel Indigo is the eco-friendly boutique hotel with sophisticated updated accommodations in the heart of historic Athens, GA., located one block from the vibrant downtown area where dining, shopping, and entertainment venues abound. **A parking fee will be charged for overnight guests. The parking rate is \$5 per night.**

**Additional Information about Spouse/Guest Activities and Children's Activities:**

**There will be no separate off-site activities planned for spouses/guests at this conference.** Guests are invited to attend General Session meetings and meal functions. **There are no special activities planned for children at this conference.**

**Registration Fees:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Registration for Member will include:</b> All meetings, breaks, Saturday lunch, Saturday night banquet, and Sunday breakfast</li> <li>• <b>Full Registration for Spouse/Guest will include:</b> All meetings, breaks, Saturday lunch, Saturday night banquet, and Sunday breakfast</li> </ul>			
		<u>Dietary Needs</u>	
Optimist	\$135.00 before 01/06/23, \$145.00 after 01/06/23 or on-site	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
Spouse/Guest	\$135.00 before 01/06/23, \$145.00 after 01/06/23 or on-site	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
One Day	\$40.00 (includes meetings and breaks only)	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<b>Individual tickets may be purchased for the following:</b>			
Saturday Lunch	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/> at \$40.00	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
Saturday Night Banquet	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/> at \$60.00	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
Sunday Breakfast	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/> at \$35.00	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<b>Total Enclosed:</b>			\$ <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>

**Notice:** When purchasing individual tickets, Optimist members must pay the \$40 Daily Registration fee in addition to the meal ticket price for each day registered.

Make checks payable to "GATEway District Optimist International" and send with registration form to: David Harter, 7616 Navarre Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Pre-registration must be postmarked no later than **Friday, January 6, 2023**. Cancellation, if necessary, must be made no later than **Friday, January 13, 2023**. You may reach David by email at davidhartertn@yahoo.com or by phone at 865-250-1511.

Make hotel accommodations by calling the Hotel Indigo-Athens directly at 1-866-808-1483 and reference Gateway District Optimist International (block code: GDO). Or use the following link: [GATEway District Conference January 20-22](#). From there select the room type (Rate \$129.00/Standard King or Standard Double Queen Beds). Hotel cut-off date is **December 21, 2022**. After that date, room rates may increase and reservations will depend on availability.



**Optimist International  
Board of Directors 2022-2023**



# Optimist Club scholarship contests underway

## GILMER COUNTY OPTIMIST CLUB

The Gilmer County Optimist Club is encouraging participation in two scholarship contests sponsored by Optimist International and an additional contest sponsored exclusively by the Gilmer Optimist Club.

Contest details and applications are available at both Gilmer High School and North Georgia Christian Academy, or by contacting Gilmer Optimist Club Director of Scholarships Jeanie Wiseley.

The Optimist International Essay Contest gives young people the opportunity to develop skills for written expression of their opinions regarding the world in which they live. This year's essay contest theme is "Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?" Deadline for entry is Dec. 15.

Established in 1928, the oratorical contest has become the longest running program of Optimist International. The contest

is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking. This year's oratorical contest theme is "Discovering the Optimism within Me." Entry deadline to be announced in January.

The Gilmer Optimist Club's Sally Daniels Servant Leadership Award will be granted to a graduating high school senior who has demonstrated the characteristics of selfless service to others as exemplified by Sally Daniels, a former Gilmer Optimist Club member and extraordinary citizen of Gilmer County. Applications for this award are to be submitted by school administration.

The Gilmer Optimist Club's scholarship team will judge the entries and determine winners. Top local winners of the essay and oratorical contests will receive awards and

be advanced to the next level where participants may compete for additional scholarship awards.

"Young students today have so many fresh ideas about the world and their future," said Gilmer Optimist Club President Martin. "As Optimists, it is our goal to encourage them and do what we can to bring out the best in each of them. These contests give them a wonderful opportunity to tap into their creativity and pursue possible scholarships at the same time."

The Gilmer Optimist Club has been participating in the Optimist International Essay and Oratorical Contests for several years and has been active in the community since 2012. Proceeds from events and activities of the club benefit local youth programs and initiatives.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### TO THE CITIZENS AND VOTERS OF GILMER COUNTY

Notice is hereby given by the Probate Judge of Gilmer County, as Election Superintendent, that the Logic and Accuracy Testing of the voting equipment to be used in the December 6, General

# The Optimist Creed

## Promise Yourself

GATEway Optimist  
P. O. Box 1160  
Carrollton, Georgia 30112

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 to 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 time 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,  
and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

