# The Midday Messenger

June 12, 2026

Newsletter of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club

**Club Luncheon Meetings**

We gather at noon on Fridays to connect with members and guests, enjoy a delicious lunch, and hear from engaging speakers who share programs and initiatives shaping our local community. See our upcoming events.

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**Location**

River Center, North Building, Iowa/Illinois Rooms, 136 E 3rd St, Davenport, IA

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**Board of Directors**

President, Roland Lamantia

President-Elect, Brian Baxter

First Vice President, Mauricio Diaz

Second Vice President, Karen Roebuck

Third Vice President, Tom Redington

Past President, Joseph Obelton

Secretary, Paul Neuharth

Treasurer, Stan Mohr

## Annual Miss Iowa Luncheon

– By Paul Neuharth

We were once again honored and privileged to have 31 beautiful and talented pageant princesses along with their chaperone sponsors, and a number of special young lady guests visiting us from The Friendly House (plus one apparent photo bombing “Kat”) to enjoy the world-famous, highly anticipated, club-sponsored **Miss Iowa Taco Bar Luncheon**! The reigning Miss Iowa, **Lydia Fisher**, shared her talent by entertaining attendees, and introducing each of the contestants vying for her crown.

The Miss Iowa Scholarship Organization is a volunteer-run, non-profit program that provides young women in Iowa with scholarship opportunities, personal development, and a pathway to compete in the Miss America Scholarship Competition. The organization awards over $50,000 in scholarships at both local and state-level competitions to young women pursuing higher education. Winners of the Miss Iowa title advance to the Miss America Scholarship Competition, where they compete for additional scholarships and the national title.

# President's Perspective

– By Roland Lamantia

Greetings, Fellow Optimists!

As we look across the Quad Cities this month, it is impossible not to feel an overwhelming sense of pride in what our club is accomplishing. Thanks to **Jim Matthys**, we recently wrapped up our 2026 **Promise Awards**, where we had the absolute privilege of recognizing 12 incredible graduating seniors from Davenport West, North, Central, and Assumption High Schools.

In total, our club awarded **$18,000** in scholarships this year. Combined with our ongoing collaboration with Friendly House, we provided **$22,500** in critical financial assistance to help the leaders of tomorrow continue their education or vocational training. Seeing the determination in these young people reminds us exactly why we do what we do. They truly embody the principles of our Optimist Creed.

As the weather warms up, our calendar is packed, and our signature **Avenue of Flags** program is in full swing. Thank you to **Tom Redington** and the Flag Committee members for everything they do to help plant patriotism across our Quad City neighborhoods. Your dedication fuels our youth programs.

Let's keep pressing onward to the "greater achievements of the future". See you all this Friday at noon!

Yours in Optimism,

Roland

# Welcome to our Newest Optimists!

Please help give a warm welcome and introduce yourself to our newest Optimist members this month.

**Krishna Smit**, Development Director, Quad City Arts. Sponsor, Mauricio Diaz.

**Shawn Snaith**, Snaith Family ASD. Sponsor, Roland Lamantia

**Kelly Airey**, Cardiologist/Electrophysiologist. Sponsor, Paul Neuharth

# Upcoming Events

**June 14th**
**Flag Day**/Avenue of Flags
Happy Birthday to **Brian Baxter!**

**June 15th**
Happy Birthday to **Jenny Schnauber!**

**June 19th**
Club Luncheon | Kids for Vets | Emma Folland

**June 21st**
Wishing **Bernie Mack** a Happy Birthday!

**June 23rd**
Wishing a Happy Birthday to **Ramsey Blakey!**

**June 26th**
Club Luncheon | Promise Awards | **Jim Mathys**

**July 3rd**
Independence Day (Observed) | **No Meeting Today**

The John Deere Classic Golf Tournament is just a few weeks away, making now the perfect time to submit your Birdies pledge and support our Foundation scholarship program. We need every member to "chip in" and help make this our strongest Birdies campaign yet. Scan the **bar cod**e above, visit **www.birdiesforcharity.com**, or download the form from **www.davenportnoonoptimists.com** to donate today.

# Miss Iowa Luncheon

– Photos by Jenny Dun-Schnauber

Enjoy these additional photos from our annual Miss Iowa and Miss Teen Iowa Optimist-hosted Luncheon. If you could not attend, we hope this gives you a glimpse of what you missed!

Miss Iowa Org