The Midday Messenger

August 14, 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

Roland Lamantia
President

Brian Baxter
President-Elect

Mauricio Diaz
First Vice President

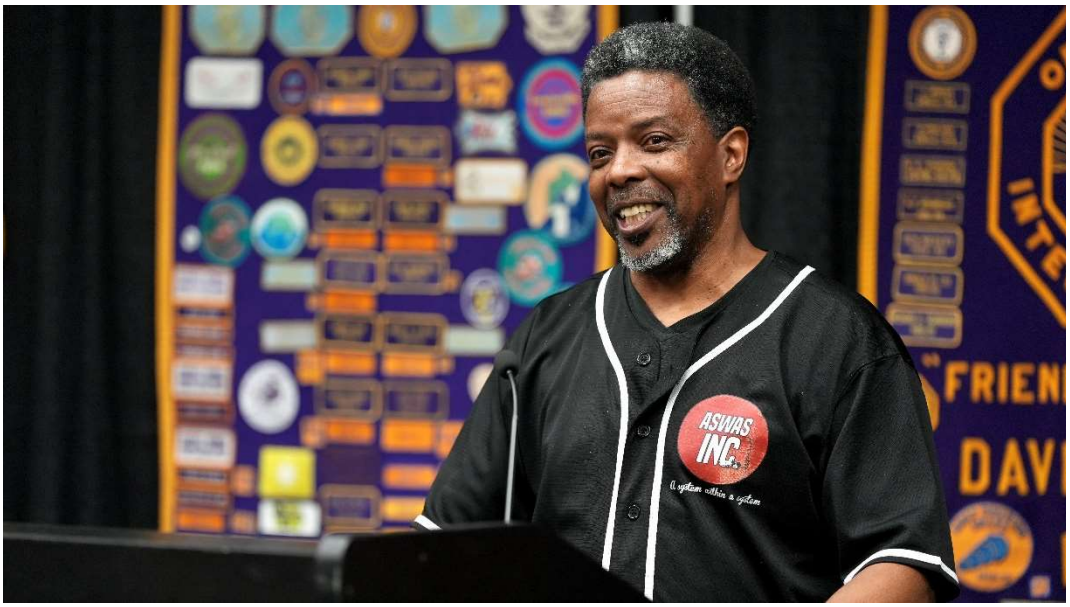
Karen Roebuck
Second Vice President

Tom Redington
Third Vice President

Joseph Obelton
Past President

Paul Neuharth
Secretary

Stan Mohr
Treasurer



Empowering Students Through Knowledge: A System Within A System

– By Terry Hendershott

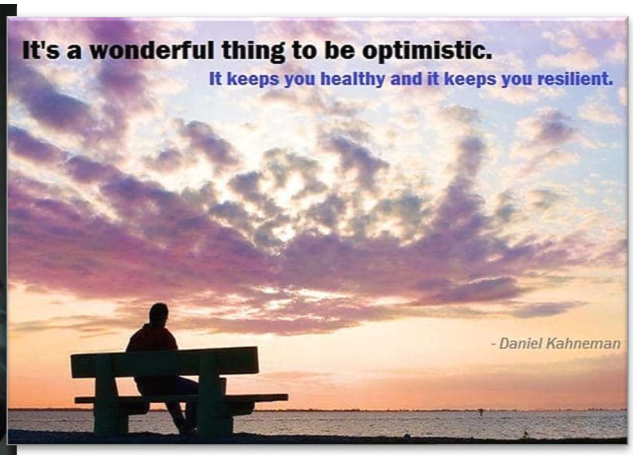
Sherwin Robinson Sr., CEO and founder of A System Within A System (ASWAS), shared the vision behind a platform created to help individuals and families make informed decisions, recognize opportunity, and build stronger futures.

ASWAS—short for A System Within A System—provides valuable information, resources, and guidance in the areas that shape everyday life: economics, education, the judiciary system, financial literacy, health and wellness, and real estate.

ASWAS is especially grateful for its collaboration with local schools and the opportunity to help students discover the many paths available to them. The organization is proud to encourage young people to believe in themselves while also helping them prepare to be their absolute best—financially, educationally, mentally, and physically.

Through information, practical skills, and useful tools, ASWAS works to help students develop and strengthen the life skills they will need beyond the classroom. The goal is not simply to share knowledge, but to help students retain it, apply it in future decision-making, and confidently use these systems as they transition from youth to adulthood.

At the heart of ASWAS is a commitment to empowerment. When students and community members are equipped with knowledge and resources, they are better positioned to create opportunities, make sound choices, and improve their lives.



President's Perspective

– By Roland Lamantia

Dear Club Members,

We are in a strong position to become one of a select few distinguished Optimist clubs this year. My main focus is welcoming visitors and inviting them to become members.

We are just three members away from reaching our goal. Because we may lose a few members in the coming months, adding six new members would be a wonderful way to close out the year.

Please continue inviting friends, family, and acquaintances to join us. Our club does meaningful work for children and families throughout our community, and every new member helps us expand that impact.

Let's finish the year strong, enjoy the months ahead, and have some fun along the way. Thank you for your support and the valuable time you give to our club.

Sincerely,

Roland K. Lamantia
President, 2025–2026
Davenport Noon Optimist Club
563-210-0852

As we plan for the 2026–27 fiscal year, which starts October 1st, we're looking for members to fill important club leadership and support roles. Volunteering is a wonderful way to contribute, build connections, and learn more about the opportunities within our club. We need volunteers for:

Junior Golf Chair | Newsletter Support | Avenue of Flags Support | Christmas Tree Sales Support | Essay Contest Chair | Oratorical Contest Chair | Member Social Events Chairs | Tri-Star Sports Chairs | Support on any other club activity or event!

To volunteer or learn more, please contact **Brian Baxter** at btbaxt@gmail.com or 630-677-0332. Your time and support would be greatly appreciated!

Mark Your Calendar — Dates to Remember

Aug 21st
Club Luncheon | **Respect for Law Program** | 11:30AM | River Center | RSVP closed

Aug 28th
Club Luncheon | **Community Action of Eastern Iowa** | River Center

Aug 28th-30th
Iowa District Convention | Grand Harbor Resort | Dubuque

Aug 31st
Receive Annual Dues Invoice

Sept 3rd

Board Meeting | Rudy's Tacos | Davenport East Village

To see the **full calendar** of events, visit Davenport Noon Optimist Club - HOME

SUNSHINE NEWS.

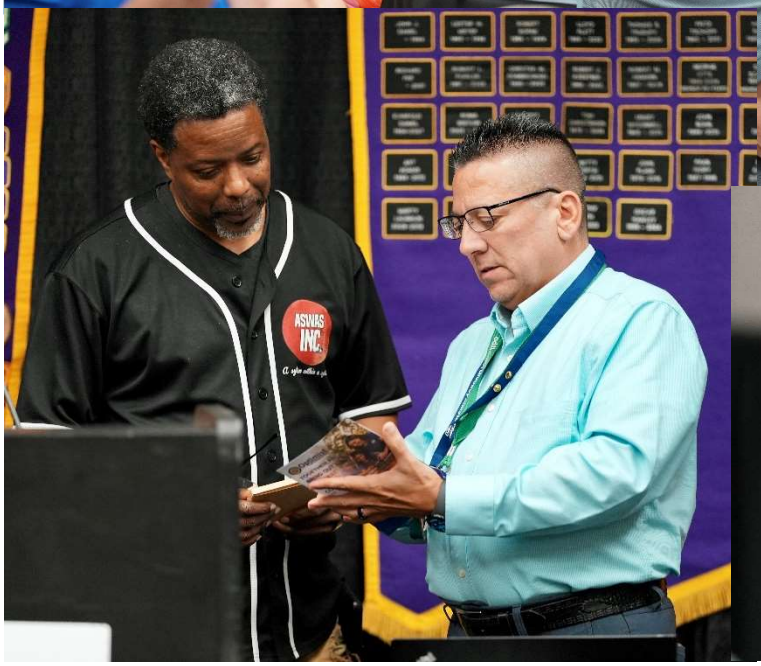
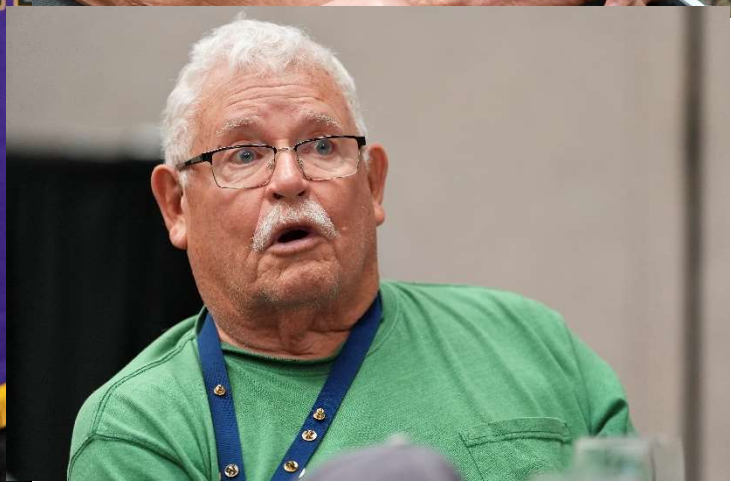
A warm welcome to **Jeff Waller**. We are so glad to see him back!

Our club has been recognized by Optimist International as **"Back in Balance,"** meaning we currently are at the same number of members as we started the year with. We need three new members to become a distinguished club.

Please keep **Jim Matthys** in your thoughts and prayers as he is in the ICU in Peoria.

We'd love to celebrate with you! Please send your **Sunshine** notifications, birthdays, and special announcements to:

Davenport.Noon.Optimists.Club@gmail.com.

More Meeting Moments…

Photos courtesy of Jeff Waller