# The Midday Messenger

August 21, 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

*Pictured L to R, Aaron Gunnare, Detective Aric Robinson, and Chief Greg Benning*

## Detective Aric Robinson Receives Sergeant Kevin Marxen Respect for Law Award

– By Paul Neuharth

The Davenport Noon Optimist Club, represented by Aaron Gunnare, Davenport Chief of Police Greg Benning, and Davenport Mayor Pro Tem Kyle Gripp proudly presented Detective Aric Robinson with its 2026 Sergeant Kevin Marxen Respect for Law Award during the club's 47th annual Respect for Law Award Luncheon. Honored guests attending the luncheon included many past award recipients, members of Kevin Marxen's family, Aric Robinson's family, and Optimist Iowa District Governor Jane Schmidt.

The award honors a Davenport Police Department officer selected by peers for exemplary service, dedication to law enforcement and commitment to the community. It was renamed in memory of past recipient Sergeant Kevin Marxen, whose life and service reflected the Optimist Creed and the highest ideals of public service.

Detective Robinson joined the Davenport Police Department in 2001 and has served in patrol, the NETS unit, and the Criminal Investigation Division. Since beginning his investigative career in 2011, he has worked assignments in property crimes, personal crimes, the Juvenile Section, Special Victims Unit, the Gun Investigative Unit and, currently, the

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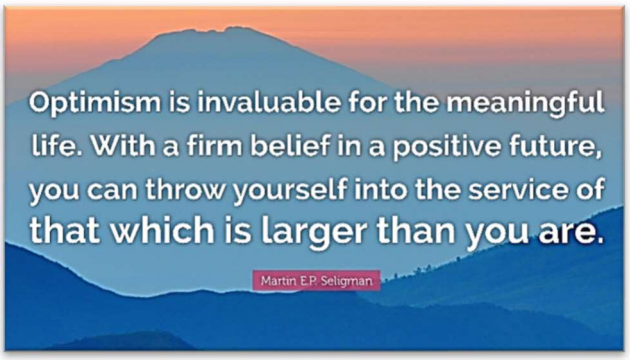


# President's Perspective

– By Roland Lamantia

Dear Davenport Noon Optimist Members,

"Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. Give so much time to the improvement of yourself, that you have no time to criticize others."

Let's keep these words in mind when the pressures of professional and personal life get the better of us.

Please do your best to communicate with fellow members in a timely and friendly manner. Let's always treat each other like family and remember that life can be overwhelming at times. Please also be mindful of others' time and hard work for the betterment of our club. We are all working towards the same goal: helping kids and making our community a better place to live.

Keep your focus on bringing in new members, welcoming them as they join, and being the best Optimist you can be.

Let's have a great end of August and finish the fiscal year strong with many new members.

Sincerely,

Roland K Lamantia
President
Davenport Noon Optimist Club

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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 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** | QC Symphony Orchestra | 327 N Brady St | Davenport

**Sept 4th**
Club Luncheon | **Business Meeting** | River Center

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

## Stay Current with All Things Optimist!

Want to stay up to date on club activities and events? Visit our website Davenport Noon Optimist Club - HOME, scroll to the club calendar, and click "**Subscribe**" in the upper-right corner. Choose your personal calendar format and follow the prompts. Once connected, your calendar will automatically reflect our Optimist events and any future updates.

## SUNSHINE NEWS.

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

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

# NOW is the Time!

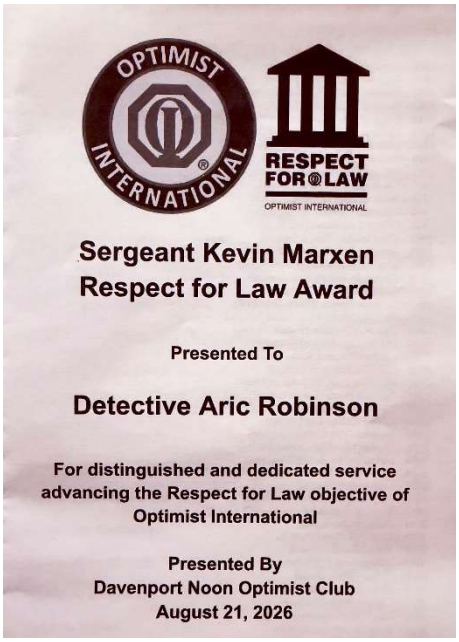
Who do you know that shares your commitment to Optimism and making a positive impact on the youth in our community? Most of us became Optimists because someone invited us to a meeting. A simple invitation can help others discover our club, our mission, and the positive impact we make together.

Make sure to invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family to join us as our guests next Friday for a delicious lunch and enlightening program.

## Have you got something to say?

Send your notes, articles, announcements, activities, and other items of interest to: Davenport.Noon.Optimist.Club@gmail.com.

Submissions are due by Friday for each weekly issue.

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Major Case Unit.

Over the course of his career, Robinson has handled more than 800 investigations involving serious and complex offenses, including assaults, robberies, weapons offenses, death investigations, and homicides. He has served as lead detective on 17 homicide investigations, 14 of which resulted in criminal charges, including cases involving multiple victims.

Chief Benning noted that Robinson is among the department's most relied-upon detectives. His calm demeanor, professionalism, and ability to analyze complex situations make him a trusted resource for fellow investigators seeking guidance on interviews, case strategy, documentation, and case management. His influence extends beyond his own work, reflecting leadership through service, mentoring, and example.

Robinson is also known for his commitment to victims and their families, frequently responding outside scheduled hours, staying late, and returning with little rest to keep investigations moving forward and help families find answers. In accepting the award, he expressed humility and gratitude, recognizing the support of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club, city leadership, police department colleagues and, especially, his family.

The Davenport Noon Optimist Club congratulates Detective Robinson on joining the distinguished class of Sergeant Kevin Marxen Respect for Law Award recipients. His dedication to justice, fellow officers and the people of Davenport embodies the spirit of this meaningful recognition.

The Respect for Law program was established in July 1965 following a discussion between Past Optimist International President Carl Bowen and former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. It is one of Optimist International's most popular initiatives, with over 1,500 clubs participating annually and more than a quarter of a million law enforcement officers honored worldwide over the past 60 years.

*Pictured L to R, Aaron Gunnare, Chief Greg Benning, Detective Aric Robinson and family, and Mayor Pro Tem Kyle Gripp*

*Photos courtesy of Jeff Waller*