# The Midday Messenger

Newsletter of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club | September 4, 2026

**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; Roland Lamantia*

## September Business Meeting Highlights

*– By Paul Neuharth*

Club members gathered for the September Business Meeting, welcoming guest Ruben Moore, president of the Davenport Morning Optimist Club. The meeting included club updates, reflections on recent Optimist activities, and a look ahead at important fall events.

Our Club President, Roland Lamantia along with his sidekick Jim King, attended the recent Iowa District Convention in Dubuque, shared highlights from the day, including the opportunity to hear from Optimist International President Tom Kendo, and an inspiring presentation by the International Oratorical Contest winner Jordyn Velitchkov who represented the Iowa District at the international competition. The visit reinforced the impact Optimist Clubs have on young people and communities across the region.

Congratulations to **Mauricio Diaz, Jeff Waller, and Roland** for each sponsoring at least two new club members this fiscal year. In recognition of this achievement, each received a hand-carved Optimist pen from Carl McCarthy of the Dubuque Club during the convention.

Roland also discussed membership goals for the balance of the fiscal year. Having supported formation of the new DeWitt Optimist Club, our club is close to earning Distinguished Club recognition, which is one of the highest honors a club can achieve. Members are encouraged to invite prospective members and help the club continue its positive momentum. We need to add at least three new members before the end of September to achieve Distinguished Club honors.

Plans are underway for the Annual Awards Appreciation & Celebration Dinner on October

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# The President's Perspective

*– By Roland Lamantia*

One of the greatest strengths of our club is not simply what we accomplish—it is the spirit we bring to every project, meeting, and act of service. Through our shared optimism, we create opportunities for young people, strengthen our community, and remind others that positive change begins with people who choose to care.

That is why I am asking each of you to help us grow our Optimist family. Think about the people in your life who would be a wonderful fit: a neighbor who loves volunteering, a colleague who cares about youth, a friend looking for meaningful connections, or a community leader with a generous heart. Many people are looking for a way to make a difference; they may simply need an invitation.

Please consider bringing a guest to our next meeting. Share what first drew you to this club, the friendships you have made, or a moment when our work made you proud. Your personal story is our most powerful invitation.

Every new member brings fresh ideas, new energy, and more hands to serve our community. More importantly, each new Optimist helps us extend our mission: bringing out the best in kids, in our community, and in ourselves.

Let's make a point this month to invite someone to experience the Optimist spirit firsthand. A simple conversation could be the beginning of a new friendship, a new volunteer journey, and an even stronger club.

Thank you for all you do—and for helping us share optimism with even more people.

Roland K Lamantia
President

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!

**Sept 11th**
Club Luncheon | **Argrow's House of Healing & Hope** | River Center

**Sept 15th**
**Your Annual Membership Dues Payment is Due**

**Sept 18th**
Club Luncheon | **Quad City Arts** | River Center

**Sept 25th**
Club Luncheon | **Lead(h)er** | 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 www.davenportnoonoptimist.com, 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.

**Jim Matthys** is heading home from the hospital! Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he works on recovery.

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?**

**Say it in the Midday Messenger!**

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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1st at The Outing Club. Members will celebrate the year's accomplishments, recognize volunteers, welcome the incoming leadership team, induct the new board, and hear Terry's Top Ten annual awards. Please RSVP through the club website calendar. There will be no regular business meeting on Friday, October 2nd, so all members are encouraged to attend the October 1st celebration, which also marks Optimist New Year's Day.

Other updates included the purchase of 350 Christmas trees for the upcoming sales season, and a Board approved funding award of $2,500 to ASWAS whom presented to the club several weeks back. We forgot to ask for a membership vote on funding this non-budgeted grant, so we will be voting on this at next Friday's meeting.

An initial discussion of ways the club might help bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library back to the Davenport area. The program provides children from birth to age five with a monthly book, and members will continue exploring possible partnerships and funding options.

Stan Mohr announced that annual membership dues notices went out, and askes all if they could promptly pay before September 15 so that we can follow up on any non-renewals.

The meeting concluded with fines and the foundation bucket cash drawing with **John Lester & Quinn O'Brian's** names drawn but unfortunately were not present to win. The cash rolls over to the next business meeting.

The Davenport Noon Optimists

# 2025-26 Annual Awards Appreciation & Celebration

Thursday, October 1, 2026

The Outing Club
2109 Brady St, Davenport, IA

5:30 PM Cocktails 6:30 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Program

Attire: Business Casual $25 Per Person $45 Per Couple Cash Bar

Reservations Required: RSVP on our website at www.davenportnoonoptimists.com , scroll down to our calendar, select the event, select RSVP no later than Tuesday, September 22nd.

## Dinner Menu

- Mixed Green Salad Buffet
- Pasta Bar Buffet
- Cookies and Brownies Buffet

Contact Sara at The Outing Club sara@theoutingclub.com (563) 324-5284 by Tuesday, September 22nd for any special dietary needs.

Cash Bar available. There is a 4% courtesy fee if paying by credit card.

Outing Club Dress Code: Dresses, skirts, suits, coats, and casual business attire are always appropriate. Collared shirts are required. Denim is acceptable throughout the club. Denim with holes, cut-off shorts, short shorts, tee shirts, and baseball caps are strictly prohibited in the clubhouse.