The Midday Messenger

Newsletter of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club | September 11, 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; Eric Pobanz of Argrow's House

Building Community Through Service, Support, and Connection

– By Paul Neuharth

We were welcomed by two special guests— Jess Greenwald, friend and guest of Kelly Airey; and Jeremy Bordon, friend and guest of Paul Neuhath. We hope they will return to visit us again soon!

Our club continues to make a meaningful impact across the community through thoughtful giving, active service, and strong partnerships. Members today approved a $2,500 grant in funding for ASWAS whom presented to our club recently. We look forward to learning more about ASWAS's work and the ways this support will benefit those it serves.

Planning is underway for the Annual Awards Dinner on October 1st. Please RSVP through the club website by September 22nd so we can finalize plans and headcount. This is always a special opportunity to celebrate the year's accomplishments and connect with fellow members.

The club's flag program remains a powerful example of service in action. With more than 26 flag routes throughout the community, the program raises over $140,000 each year by

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The President's Perspective

– By Roland Lamantia

As we observe the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, we pause to remember the lives lost, the families forever changed, and the courage that emerged on a day our nation will never forget.

That morning called forth extraordinary service from ordinary people. First responders ran toward danger to protect strangers. Service members answered a nation's call in the years that followed. Communities came together with compassion, resilience, and a determination to care for one another.

On behalf of our Optimist Club, I offer our heartfelt thanks to the veterans and first responders among our membership and Optimists everywhere. Your service, sacrifice, and steady commitment to others reflect the very best of our community. We are grateful not only for what you have done, but for the example you continue to set through your character, leadership, and care for our neighbors.

As Optimists, we believe in bringing out the best in kids, in ourselves, and in our communities. This anniversary reminds us that hope is not passive—it is something we put into action through service, kindness, and unity.

May we remember with respect, honor those who served, and continue building a brighter future together.

With gratitude,

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 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

Oct 1st
Board Meeting | 4 PM | The Outing Club **|** Davenport

Oct 1st
Annual Awards Dinner | 5:30 PM | The Outing Club **|** Davenport

Oct 2nd
No meeting today

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.

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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placing over 3,200 flags to support more than 30 local organizations. Special thanks to **Tom Redington** and the Flags Committee for all their hard work and efforts!

We were honored to hear from Eric Pobanz of Argro's House, an organization helping survivors of abuse rebuild their lives through safe housing, therapy, financial-wellness resources, and workforce development. Its social enterprises—including a café, food truck, and bath-product business—direct all profits back into residential programming. Recent graduates have gone on to employment both within the organization and in the broader community.

Argro's House also offers an inviting event venue, with café space that can accommodate approximately 200 to 245 guests. The club is exploring the possibility of holding a future off-site meeting there.

Looking ahead, members were reminded to promptly pay their renewal dues and reminded that personal invitations from current members will be key to welcoming new people into our club and strengthening the service we provide together.

The meeting concluded with a special thank you to **John Lester** for placing thirty flags at Lindquist Ford in honor of the 9/11 25th Anniversary today.

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.