The Midday Messenger

Newsletter of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club | September 25, 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
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Mauricio Diaz
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Pictured; Megan Tarasi

Lead(h)er connects Quad Cities women with mentors and opportunity

– By Bernie Mack

Lead(h)er board member and events committee chair Megan Tarasi described how mentoring can help women move forward in their careers—and how the Quad Cities community can support that work.

Founded in 2016, Lead(h)er is a local mentoring network for women at different stages of their working lives. Its free Strike a Match program connects mentees with mentors through an application and matching process. A committee meets monthly to find connections based on each person's goals, experience and needs.

Mentoring can mean having someone to talk through a workplace challenge with, help set career goals, or offer advice on what a next step might look like. Lead(h)er's website notes that women are less likely than men to receive advice from senior leaders and says women with mentors are five times more likely to be promoted. The program aims to make those kinds of guidance and connections easier to access.

Lead(h)er also brings people together through four community events each year. Some focus on social connection; others offer professional development on topics such as imposter syndrome and women's health and wellness. Participants can attend with a mentor

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New Member SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Greenwald, Professor, St. Ambrose University

Preferred Nickname: Jess

What do you do for fun when you aren't being an Optimist? Sail, spend time with my two teenagers, and play volleyball.

When you think "Optimism," what's the first word or image that pops into your mind? Positivity

Which line of the Optimist Creed resonates with you the most? To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

What is one thing that never fails to put a smile on your face? Puppies

What is your "superpower" in everyday life? To be caring

What community causes or youth projects are you most passionate about? Mental health and family activities my teenagers want to do.

Do you have a favorite local charity or organization you already support? Not presently. Have supported Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and United Way.

Think back to a coach, teacher, or mentor who impacted your youth. What did they do that you want to pay forward? Believed in me.

What unique skills, hobbies, or professional talents do you love sharing? Sailing

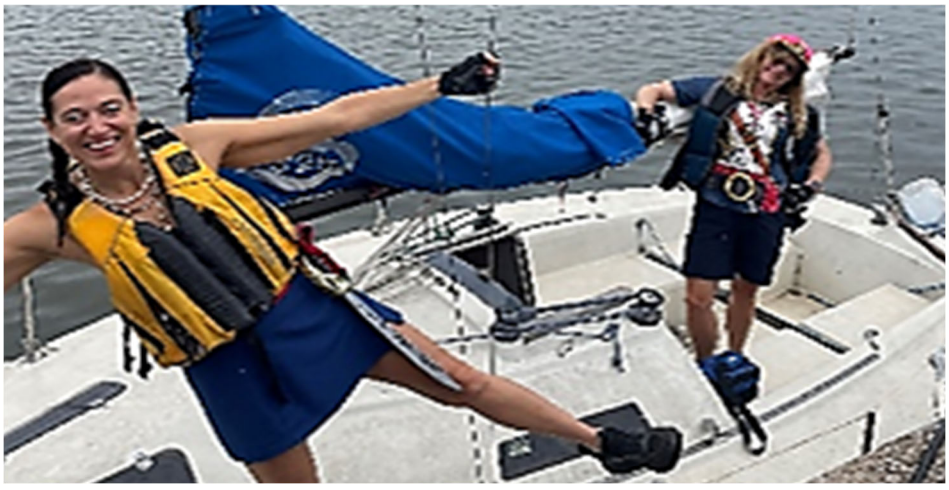
Are you a "big picture brainstormer" or a "detail-oriented executor"? Big picture

Is there a specific club committee or role you are curious about learning more or becoming involved with? Opportunities to volunteer with my children.

What is a fun or surprising fact about you that most people don't know? I am from a town of 500 people, and I am getting married in November to a man who was in my kindergarten class.

If you could write a headline for the local newspaper about a major positive change in our community, what would it say? QCA has stronger sense of community compared to other municipalities.

What are your favorite ways to recharge your batteries when you need a boost? Massage and vacation.



Pictured L to R; Jess Greenwald and Kelly Airey

Mark Your Calendar — Dates to Remember

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

Oct 9th
Club Luncheon **| Medicare 101 | Karen Roebuck** | 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.

SUNSHINE NEWS.

Oct 25th
Happy Birthday wishes to **Roland Lamantia**!!!

Welcome back to **Steve Goldermann** who rejoined the club as a Friend of Optimists and made a club visit Friday!

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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or mentee, or come on their own to meet others in the community.

The results are adding up. During the presentation, Tarasi shared that Lead(h)er had matched 1,466 individuals over its first ten years. She also described a largely volunteer-powered organization, with 17 board members and 66 active committee volunteers supporting its work.

Community members can help by becoming mentors, recommending someone who would benefit from a match, attending an event or supporting Lead(h)er's fundraisers. Tarasi highlighted the organization's upcoming October 8th gala at Old Oaks Winery and a November 5th Fall Huddle focused on women's wellness.

Lead(h)er's work rests on a simple idea: when people share experience, encouragement and connections, more women can build fulfilling careers—and the whole region benefits. Learn more about the program and ways to get involved at leadherqc.org.

Photos by Jeff Waller