The Midday Messenger

Newsletter of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club | October 1, 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

Brian Baxter
President

Mauricio Diaz
President-Elect

Karen Roebuck
First Vice President

Open
Second Vice President

Beverly Woods
Third Vice President

Roland Lamantia
Past President

Paul Neuharth
Secretary

Stan Mohr
Treasurer

Welcoming a New Optimist Year and Celebrating a Year of Accomplishments

– By Paul Neuharth

Members of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club, along with spouses, significant others, and special guests, gathered at The Outing Club on October 1 to celebrate another outstanding year of bringing out the best in youth, our community, and ourselves.

The evening began with a happy-hour gathering, giving members—new and longtime—and guests a chance to connect and share stories. Everyone then enjoyed a pasta-bar buffet, followed by a test of their Iowa knowledge in a lively trivia contest.

Immediate Past President **Roland Lamantia** recapped the club's accomplishments from the past year. Through the Avenue of Flags program and annual Christmas tree sales, the club raised more than **$150,000**. Those funds help support more than **50 youth organizations, events, and activities** in the community.

Roland recognized the past presidents in attendance and those who could not join the celebration. He also presented several special awards. **Jenny Schnauber** and **Ramsey Blakey** shared the Optimist **"Rookie of the Year"** honors in recognition of their involvement in club activities, events, and programs.

For his contributions and support of club functions, **Brian Monroe** received Roland's **Presidential Award for Service**.

The **Davenport Noon Optimist of the Year** award went to **Tom Redington**. Tom has devoted countless hours to leading the Avenue of Flags program and has shared his time, talent, and leadership as a member of the Board of Directors.

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Roland also recognized the board members completing their service in 2025-26: **Joseph Obleton**, Past President, and **Jeff Waller**, who served as Club Secretary. **Tom Redington** also announced his retirement from the Board and was recognized for his years of service.

Roland introduced the 2026–27 Board of Directors: **Brian Baxter, Maricio Diaz, Karen Roebuck, Beverly Wood, Paul Neuharth, and Stan Mohr**, with Roland serving as Immediate Past President. He then passed the gavel to incoming President **Brian Baxter**.

Brian shared his goals for the new Optimist year: **Let's grow, volunteer, and share!**

First, Brian encouraged every member to invite at least one guest to a club meeting each month. By introducing friends, colleagues, and neighbors to the club and the Optimist spirit, he would like to see the club welcome at least one new member each month.

His second goal is to volunteer. The club thrives because members give their time and energy, and Brian challenged everyone to volunteer at least twice during the year in support of a Davenport Noon Optimist Club event or fundraiser. Opportunities include Christmas tree sales, Avenue of Flags, and other community efforts. He also encouraged members to consider taking on one of the many volunteer leadership roles that help make each year successful.

Brian's third goal is to share the club's story. Members do remarkable work for children throughout the year, and he hopes everyone will help spread the word. Whether in conversations with friends, on social media, through community groups, or in other ways, sharing the club's impact can inspire others to join in bringing out the best in kids.

Brian also recognized **Roland Lamantia** for his successful year as the club's 2025–26 president. The club thanked Roland for his leadership and service.

As always, the program concluded with a reading of the Optimist Creed. The evening wrapped up with more conversation, stories, and time together—a wonderful celebration of connection through Optimism.

Pictured L to R: Beverly Woods, Karen Roebuck, Mauricio Diaz, Stan Mohr, Brian Monroe, Paul Neuharth, and Roland Lamantia, 2026-27 DNOC Board of Directors.

Oct 9th
Club Luncheon **| Medicare 101 | Karen Roebuck** | River Center

Oct 16th
Club Luncheon **| Hand in Hand | Ashley Hicks** | River Center

Oct 16th
Safer Foundation Trivia Night | 6:30-9:00 PM | Columbus Club

Oct 23rd
Club Luncheon **| Treasure Box | Beverly Woods** | River Center

Oct 24th
Iowa District | 1st Quarter District Meeting | Ankeny, IA

Oct 30th
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 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.

More from the Annual Awards Dinner

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.

Photos Courtesy of Anne Meyer

And … Some More Annual Awards Dinner