



# Dakotas - Manitoba - Minnesota District

## DMM District Dispatch

Issue 18.19.03 December 2018

### *Dreamin' with Gov. Dave . . .*

*It's that special, magical time of year . . . when we give more thought and are more concerned about the welfare of others than we are about our own needs and wants - at least that's the way it's supposed to be.*

*And as most of you know by now - I'm a dreamer - and an eternal optimist and Optimist, so I get kind of wrapped up in thinking about what could be - what should be. Think of a world at peace, where everyone got along with each other, where no one ever went hungry or ever went without a bed to sleep in and everyone had a roof over their heads.*

*I wish I could make it all happen, but I can't - but "we" can certainly make life a litter brighter and a litter easier for a lot of people in our communities - especially the kids.*

*Think what it would be like if every community had a Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter that made bunk beds for kids who have never had a bed (like we helped build in Brookings at the 1st Quarter gathering), or if every community had a vibrant, growing Junior Optimist Club which could mentor*



*(Continued on page 2)*



*International President  
Rebecca Butler Mona's Theme*

### 2018-2019 Officers

**DMM Governor  
Dave Martin**  
[Gov@Optimist-DMM.org](mailto:Gov@Optimist-DMM.org)

**DMM Secretary/Treas.  
Greg Honl**  
[ST@Optimist-DMM.org](mailto:ST@Optimist-DMM.org)

**International President  
Rebecca Butler Mona**

**Great Plains Region VP  
Edie Harris**

**DMM Governor Elect  
Sally Damm Norby**

**DMM Governor Candidate  
Carmen Bakken**

**DMM Immediate Past Governor  
Kevin Hammell**

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## The Optimist Creed

### **Promise Yourself**

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

## *Dreamin' with Gov. Dave . . .*

*(Continued from page 1)*

*and be role models for the "little kids", or if we had a group of members who made warm mittens, hats and scarfs for kids all year long, or if we had made, built, volunteered \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank).*

*Think what we could do if we had a few more members who had a new, bright idea, and more energy, and a special talent or two to share. Think how many more children we could positively impact and really make a difference in their lives.*

*Think about it and then let's do it - because **Together we Can Make a Difference.***

*May you all have a wonderful, joyous and meaningful holiday season with your families, friends and fellow Optimists.*

**Your dreamin' Optimistic Governor, Dave**

*Dave Martin*

DMM Governor

[DMMGov@Optimist-DMM.org](mailto:DMMGov@Optimist-DMM.org)

## **Remember the DMM recruitment incentives**

- 1<sup>st</sup> new member – special thank you message from Gov. Dave
- 2<sup>nd</sup> member before April 1 – sponsor and new member each receive \$10 off 3<sup>rd</sup> Q registration
- 3<sup>rd</sup> member before June 30 – sponsor's name in drawing for \$100 cash
- 3<sup>rd</sup> member before Sept. 30 – sponsor's name in drawing for \$200 cash drawing at 1<sup>st</sup> Q in Bismarck
- 5<sup>th</sup> member - \$25 gift card
- 10<sup>th</sup> member – embossed leather portfolio notebook

But the best incentive is knowing that you are sharing the joy and satisfaction a person gets when they see the positive impact and smiles on the faces of children we serve – that is priceless!

**Editor:** Curt Sandberg

**THANKS** to everyone that submitted articles for this newsletter. For those who wish to submit articles for future issues, please email them to me at [dmmdispatch@midco.net](mailto:dmmdispatch@midco.net) by the 27th of each month. Thank you!



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## OI President's Centennial Pin

During this Optimist Centennial Year, President Rebecca has had a special "Promise Yourself" pin designed which she will send to all members who do the following: 1) recruit one new member, 2) participate in one club service project and 3) submit your brief Optimist Story (written story or a 90-second video).



Here's how to obtain this limited edition, collector's pin for your very own:

Once those three requirements have been fulfilled, complete a simple form, have it certified by your club president or secretary/treasurer and email it to [leadership@optimist.org](mailto:leadership@optimist.org).

To find the form, go to [www.optimist.org/centennial](http://www.optimist.org/centennial) and scroll down to Centennial Awards and click on "Promise Yourself" Member Award. There is even a box where you can drop your saved video and send it off.

There are also special awards for club presidents and Lt. Governors if 20% of their members/clubs earn the individual member award.

## DMM / OI Gatherings

**2nd Qtr Conference Call**  
7 PM, CST, Sunday, February 10

**3rd Qtr DMM Gathering**  
May 3 & 4, 2019  
Watertown Event Center  
Watertown, SD  
605-886-8011

**Optimist International Conv.**  
July 1-3, 2019  
Louisville, KY

**4th Qtr DMM Convention**  
August 8-10, 2019  
Ramada Inn  
Grand Forks, ND  
701-775-3951

## Don't Drop Yet!

### Before you drop, give them a second chance

With the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter sneaking up quickly, it's time to double check our rosters.

If you have members who haven't paid their dues yet, please don't drop them before you have a personal visit and see if can make a payment plan that would help them out. And if they have "lost interest", ask them about becoming a Friend of Optimist, so they could still support your programs and projects.

And of course, if the member must be deleted, then replace them with a new member as soon as possible. We all need the new ideas and energy new members bring. And remember – get them involved and mentor them. We can't afford to leak members out the "back door" faster than we can replace them.

Here's a great idea to strengthen your club – when you lose a member, add two!

## Club Anniversaries

*During December*

December 5, 1924  
St Paul

December 12, 1950  
Glen Lake

December 16, 1961  
Rapid City

December 2, 1976  
Yankton

**THANKS** to Tim Goetz / **MARCO** for printing many of the handouts for our quarterly gatherings and annual conventions. **PLEASE** consider **MARCO** for your technology needs.



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## Club News

*from club bulletins*

**ROSEVILLE** — is looking forward to hearing from one of their members as a speaker in December; Robert Veninga, Ph. D. Author and Professor Emeritus at UofM School of Public Health whose topic will be “What my students have taught me; lessons from over-achievers, under achievers, and young people who will change the world.”

**ROCHESTER** — is again teaming up with the Marines during their annual Toys for Tots project.

**RICHFIELD** — their flag program is now at 450!, they were visited by Lt Gov Ryan Affolter, and heard from a speaker about Diabetes Prevention. They served spaghetti to 185 on Election Day, are prepping for their Dec 1 Breakfast With Santa For Kids, and are selling nuts and cookies for a fundraiser.

**RUSHMORE NOON** — participated in the Festival of Lights, and held a club ‘Hoptimist’ social at a local winery. Rapid City Harmony Bridge is moving forward with the order of 450 music books, plus the club held their monthly Children’s Society birthday party.

**WATERTOWN** — gave 60 hockey sticks to the first time skaters, a.k.a. Wee Wobblers, were visited by DMM Gov Dave and OI Director of Strategic Growth, Jim Boyd, as well as a speaker from Terex Utilities — producers of non-conducting boom products — that is constructing a 10 acre building in Watertown to be completed in 2020. AND, of course their Winter

Wonderland is now in full swing! **SOUTH WINNIPEG** — was visited by Lt Gov Marty Doyle, and continue to support Frontenac School with a donation of 200 mitts, financial support, and active involvement with their students’ families both in the school as well as in their homes since many of them are immigrants that are adjusting to learning English and life in Canada.

**PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE** — held their Youth Appreciation event in November, will soon be collecting books for a book drive, and encouraged members to donate toiletries, hand warmers and granola bars for Junior Optimist Love in a GloveBox.

**DEVILS LAKE** — members read to kids at St Josephs School, had a booth at the city Halloween event, are promoting the OI Essay Contest, and are considering involvement in December Tailgate event.

**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN** — increasing prices have discouraged the club from conducting the annual nut sales, but are busy signing up for Salvation Army bell ringing.

**WORTHINGTON** — 34 youth participated in their volleyball event, and they voted to financially support the YMCA Toy Donation and future NCHS/Pioneer Village Youth events.

**GRAND FORKS** — 3 members had successful election results; a ND House of Representative, a GF County Commissioner, and the GF County Sheriff.

**VERMILLION** — Participated in the Standstill Parade of Lights. Nearly 1,000 TLC Toys were given away to the children that attended the event in front of Expert Approach business.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Save These Dates!

Mark your calendars for 2019-2020

- 1st Qtr DMM Assembly
- \* October 25 and 26, 2019
- \* Bismarck ND
- \* (NOTE CHANGE OF DATES)
  
- 2nd Qtr DMM Conference Call
- \* February 27, 2020
- \* 7 pm-8 pm CST
  
- 3rd Qtr DMM Gathering
- \* May 1 and 2, 2020
- \* Watertown, SD
  
- 4th Qtr DMM Convention
- \* August 6,7,8,2020
- \* Brandon, SD

## Governor Candidate Bakken

Carmen Bakken has been appointed to the new DMM position of Governor Candidate for this current year. She was recommended by the Candidate Qualifications Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. She will now be nominated for the position of Governor-Elect at the DMM Convention in August 2019 in Grand Forks.

Carmen currently serves as the DMM Club Fitness Chair and is a member of the District Policy Review Committee. She is also a former Lt. Governor (several times) and has served several terms as the DMM OI Foundation Chair, as well as the chair of the host Watertown OC 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Gathering for the past several years.

Welcome aboard Carmen!



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## Growth / Membership

### December Growth Target: Family Members



**Family members** Optimist Clubs frequently forget to look for Members right under their own roofs! December was chosen since many families gather together for the holidays. Share the gift of Optimism with your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, cousins, etc. Create your legacy of Optimism!

Last month we were able to bring in 17 new members across our district - thank you to everyone for your recruitment efforts!

The targeted recruitment group for the month of December happens to be family members. What better way to talk about all of the great things that our Optimist Clubs are doing than to share it with our families over the holidays and encourage them to attend one of our club meetings! Let's continue to reach out to others in our community as well as we strive to build up our clubs and serve more youth across our district. Have a Merry Christmas!

### Welcome to the following new members in our district who joined Optimist in the month of November!

<u>Club</u>	<u>New Member</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Bloomington Breakfast	Robert Gaertner	Luanne Lind
Dickinson	Allison Roper	Brian Fisher
Dickinson	April Grant	Jason Kraft
Dickinson	Debra Kern	Jason Kraft
Dickinson	Sarah Lund	Tami Hilton
Dickinson	Susie Lefor	Tami Hilton
Dickinson	Tanner Steffan	Michael Peters
Dickinson	Terri Stevenson	Kristina Steckler
Minot	Sara Shubra	Terri Phillion
New Ulm	Katie O'Connor	Betty Uehling
Rochester	Mark St. Peter	William Reilly
Rochester	Teresa Kossakowski	Kevin Hammell
Roseville Area	Douglas Root	Donald Salverda
Roseville Area	Patrick Sheedy	James Lemke
South Winnipeg	Ashley Farkus	Margaret Lapenskie
St. Cloud	Jacqueline Walz	Renee Dingmann
Yankton Morning	Jeffrey Otterman	David Spencer

*Jerry Haas*  
DMM Growth/Membership Chair  
[jerry\\_r\\_haas@yahoo.com](mailto:jerry_r_haas@yahoo.com)

Find the DMM on Facebook! Just search "Optimistdmm" and click the "Like" button.

<https://www.facebook.com/optimistdmm>





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## 2018 – 2019 DMM ORATORICAL CONTEST INFORMATION

The title of the Oratorical talk is:

### “Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Realty?”



**Club Presidents and Chairpersons:** As soon as you know whether you are having a Club Contest or not, please tell your Lt. Governor.

#### All levels of the Oratorical Contest are to be Combined Gender Contests.

Deadline for Lt Governor’s to submit contestant names competing in the District Contest is **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>!**

The Lt. Gov. is responsible to set the date for the **Zone** Contest to meet the District Submittal deadline. Club Contests must be completed before the Zone Contest date.

#### Date for the District Contest: Friday and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

District Contestant Entry Fee is \$100 per contestant. It may be paid in advance or at the contest.

**Location of District Contest:** Ramkota Hotel and Event Center, Watertown, SD at 3rd Quarter District Meeting.

**OI Regional and World Competition:** Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, to be held in St Louis.

Club Chairs, you will want the Club Planning Guide: Download at <http://optimist.org>; Scholarship Contest; Club Planning Guide. Lt. Governors: Same drop down box but, print the District Planning Guide.

*Club Chairpersons: If one of your contestants wins your Zone Contest and are moving on to the District Contest, Club Chairs or LT. Gov’s are responsible to make hotel room reservations in Watertown for contestants, and parents for Friday night, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. If additional rooms are required, Clubs or the guests must make reservations.*

Dennis V. Steffen  
DMM Oratorical Chair  
605-760-3034  
[dennisbigd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:dennisbigd2000@yahoo.com)

## Club News

(Continued from page 4)

The Club raises funds popping popcorn for USD events and State High School playoffs! The Club worked the student section concession stand for a USD football game. They will help wrap gifts for the needy children selected by the Police Department after they shop at Walmart on December 15th. The Club is working on a December date to do a Hyvee round-up to raise money for the Youth in the Community.

**WEST ST PAUL** — invited members and guests to a Thanksgiving Eve taco feed at Dunhams Food and Drink.

**EDEN PRAIRIE** — collected donations for the People Reaching Out to People Food Shelf and are setup for their annual Christmas Tree sales. Recent speakers included a Women’s Pro Tackle Football player, a D.A.R.E. representative, MN Sings, and a STRIVE mentoring program rep.

**ST PAUL** — one of the students honored during their Youth Appreciation event was featured in a St Paul Pioneer Press article.



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## 2018 – 2019 DMM ORATORICAL CONTEST INFORMATION

- The following items are required to be sent by email to Dennis V. Steffen at [dennisbigd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:dennisbigd2000@yahoo.com) by Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> - see the check-off list on page 18 of the Club Chair Planning Guide.
  - Zone/District/Regional/District Entry Form. (Page 17 in Planning Guide)
  - Student Application for 2018-2019 Contest. (Between Pages 5 & 6 in Planning Guide)
  - Legible copy of Birth Certificate or Passport
  - Electronic Copy of speech in "Word" format.**
  - Electronic Copy of Student Evaluation. (Page 12 in Planning Guide)
- The \$100 entry fee (Paid to DMM) for the contestant includes: Contest Entry fee, Friday night Pizza Party and Saturday noon Awards Luncheon.
- Check-in for the District Contest in Watertown, SD is Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> between 4 and 5 pm.
- 4. Friday Contest will start at 6 pm.**
- Pizza Party will follow the completion of the Friday night contest with food arriving around 8 pm. (All contestants, Optimists, and guests are welcome. There is a fee for the food, and guest reservations must be made by Saturday, April 27th.
- Saturday Luncheon:
  - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place District winners will be announced.
  - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive plaques, and the 1st Place winner will give their speech to the attendees at lunch.
  - Note: if the contestant and all their guests choose to leave before the luncheon, the Club is liable for meal payment. There are no refunds as reservations were made earlier.
  - 1st Place winner will receive a \$2,500 Scholarship to the college, university or trade school of their choice; the 2nd Place winner will receive a \$1,500 Scholarship to the college, university or trade school of their choice, and the 3rd Place winner will receive a \$1,000 Scholarship to the college, university of trade school of their choice. All scholarships will be awarded by Optimist International.
- The 1st place Winner shall compete at the World Oratorical Championships in person July 18-20, at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. If the winner is unable to attend in person, the next available runner-up would be allowed to compete for the World Oratorical Scholarships in the amounts of \$15,000, \$10,000, \$5,000 will be given to the first, second, and third place World Champions, respectively. The first place World Champion will present his/her speech to the delegates at the Optimist International Convention in Louisville, KY, July 3-4.



Please call, text, or email me with your questions and I will help you in any way I can.

*Dennis V. Steffen*

605-760-3034

[dennisbigd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:dennisbigd2000@yahoo.com)



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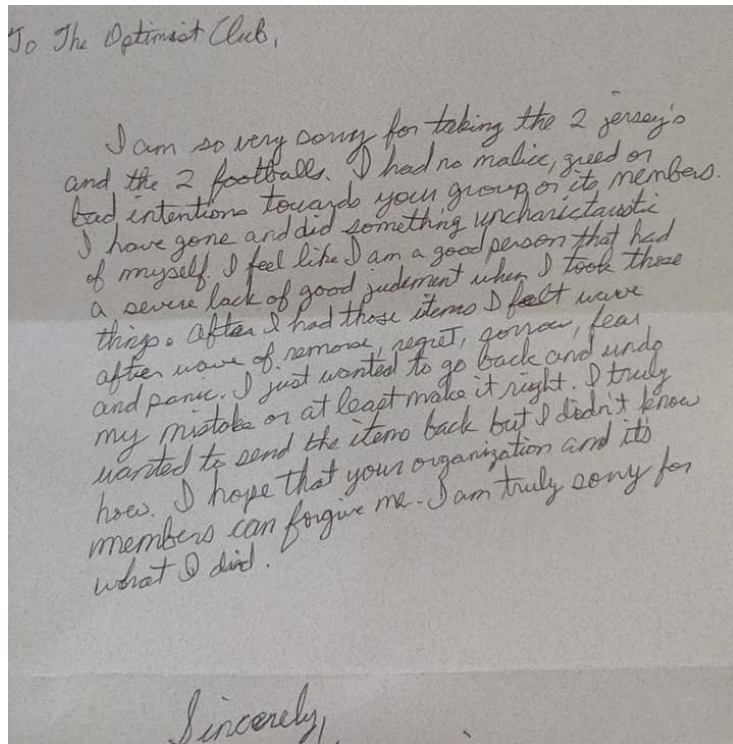
## Stolen auction items recovered; now on sale on eBay; thief apologizes

At the 1st Quarter Gathering in Brookings October 19 – 20, four items were stolen from the OI Foundation Silent Auction table. The following items were recovered with the assistance of the Brookings Police and the Econo Lodge staff:

- An NFL football autographed by Teddy Bridgewater, former quarterback of the Minnesota Vikings, who is now a backup quarterback for the New Orleans Saints.
- A signed Philadelphia Eagles football jersey by Dallas Goedert, a former SDSU All-American tight end who is now playing for the Eagles after being drafted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the NFL draft,
- An SDSU football jersey signed by Jackrabbit Coach John Stiegelmeier,
- An autographed football signed by SDSU Coach John Stiegelmeier,

All of these items are now up for bids on eBay. For details on the auction, please read the OIF article on the auction on the next page of this issue.

The following letter of apology was written by the person who stole the items.



Dave Martin, DMM Governor  
[DMMGov@Optimist-DMM.org](mailto:DMMGov@Optimist-DMM.org)

## DMM Quick Reference Guide

In follow up to the launch this year of the (" HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE CLUB OFFICER/MEMBER" for Optimists), quick reference guide, it is our hope that you have used and are finding it a handy and effective resource.

Our hope and expectation was to receive some feedback on it's accuracy and value, as a tool you can use to make you a more productive leader. Many volunteer hours were dedicated to identifying and testing the many dozens if not hundreds of links available to answer your questions.

If you have not taken advantage of this tool, please consider using it. Once you get the knack, we think you will wish you hadn't waited to start using it.

We are anxious for your feedback as to corrections or ideas on how it can be made more useful. Please forward your feedback to me. Thanks!

Don Stover  
DMM Leadership Chair  
[sewy@midco.net](mailto:sewy@midco.net)

BRINGING OUT THE BEST



INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

The **GO TO** place for DMM info:  
<http://www.optimist-dmm.org/>





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Do you have your Christmas shopping done? Stumped on what to give to that special friend or family member that already has everything? Save the time of going from store to store and cost of gift wrap. How much easier can it get! Let me give you a few ideas:

- Make a *Dime a Day* donation to the Optimist Foundation in their name?
- Purchase one of the autographed football memorabilia available to *bid on through Ebay*:



<https://www.ebay.com/itm/TEDDY-BRIDGEWATER-AUTOGRAPHED-NFL-FOOTBALL/392182784435> \*\*

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/DALLAS-GOEDERT-AUTOGRAPHED-NFL-EAGLES-JERSEY/392182795992>

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/SDSU-JACKRABBITS-JERSEY-SIGNED-BY-COACH-JOHN-STIEGELMEIER/392182805371>

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/SDSU-JACKRABBITS-FOOTBALL-SIGNED-BY-COACH-JON-STIEGELMEIER/392182811366>

\*\* A confirmed opening bid of \$400 has already been received.

Let's get this party started! Pass on the links via your social media outlets and let's show the world what OPTIMISTS do! **IT'S FOR THE KIDS!** Act fast before the listing expire and assure delivery before Christmas.

- Purchase raffle tickets to win a *\$1500 travel voucher* (drawing will be at the Annual Convention next August) 1/\$10 or 3/\$20

Gita Hendricks

DMM OIF Representative

[gita.hendricks@gmail.com](mailto:gita.hendricks@gmail.com)

605-359-6544



# DMM District Dispatch

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## Strategic Planning Committee Report

During the First Quarter Assembly the DMM strategic planning committee narrowed its focus to four committees. The goals for this year has been distributed to the committee chairs. The chairs have been seeking members within the proximity of their area. This will create a positive working environment to achieve the goals identified. The committee should be in the process of developing the steps needed to achieve the goals. These steps can be reported at the second quarter conference call.



This year DMM will focus on the following:

1. Recruitment, Mentoring Retention = Growth (Chair person Jerry Haas)
  - Goal 1: Develop a recruitment program that incorporates personal growth and value to members Using the web site: <https://www.optimist.org/member/membership4.cfm> as a guide.
  - Goal 2: Involve new Members in activities and ask them for their input
2. Leadership Development (Chair person Don Stover)
  - Goal 1: Create a leadership development program which will enable clubs to attain Honor Club status.
  - Goal 2: Teach club leaders how to develop goals and defined plans of action and how to follow through with that plan for meetings and activities.
  - Goal 3: Redesign leadership development and educational workshops to teach prospective district and club leaders.
3. Public Relations & Marketing (Chair person Rich Jensen)
  - Goal 1: Strengthen our communication tools for district and club leaders by enhancing our social media communication efforts
  - Goal 2: Develop a "how to" Media Guide that features OI Branding Guidelines available media outlets and how to use them
  - Goal 3: Incorporate social media messaging to club members for special events and Optimistic quotes or messages on a daily or weekly basis
4. New Club Development (Chair person Terry Gorman)
  - Goal 1: Develop a strong new building strategy featuring a strong mentoring and follow up program in close proximity.
  - Goal 2: Create a step by step guide for the sponsoring and mentoring a new club.

As the chairperson of the strategic planning committee I appreciate each committee's dedication to accomplishing the goals set forth. The strategic planning committee was established in 2017-2018 and is a 3 to 5 year plan. I look forward to the written reports each committee will be presenting as this 100 year of Optimism moves forward.

*Sally Damm Norby*  
DMM Governor Elect  
[sallyoptimist@gmail.com](mailto:sallyoptimist@gmail.com)



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## Mitchell's Halloween Movie Day

The Mitchell Optimist Club recently hosted our Annual Halloween Movie Day with over 550 participants attending the showing of Hotel Transylvania 3. We were able to fill 5 theaters full of Halloween movie goers! The day involved a movie showing, as well as drawings for movie theater gift cards.



Along with the movie we were collecting donations for our Weekend Snack Pack Program of soup and saltine crackers. The Mitchell Club plans to pack and donate 425 meals of soup, crackers, granola bar, peaches, and pudding to local students the week of November 26 through our Weekend Snack Pack Program.

At our upcoming meeting we will also be packing and donating 150 sets of hats and gloves to our local elementary schools for those students who do not have these everyday winter necessities.

*Kourtney Denne*  
Mitchell Optimist Club



## Mission, Vision & Purposes

**Mission:** By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

**Vision:** Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

**Purposes:** To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

## Memorial Photos

We would like to enhance the district's annual memorial announcements at the DMM Convention next August in Grand Forks by including pictures of each of the deceased Optimists. Typically the best source for such photos is the funeral home's obituary.

PLEASE forward the names of any member of your club that passed away between August 1, 2018 and August 1, 2019 AND the name of the funeral home that handled the arrangements to:

[dmmdispatch@midco.net](mailto:dmmdispatch@midco.net).

Rather than wait until late July to try to remember all the deceased members and/or the funeral home, please send the *Dispatch* editor, Curt Sandberg, that info via the email link above as they occur.

Thanks for your help.