

Club members, Jr. Optimist leaders and District Officers are bcc'd this note. Editor, Tom Neal

Sunnyside Newsletter Jan. 5, 2024

Farmington Hills Breakfast Optimist Club

"We provide hope and a positive vision, as we bring out the best in our youth, our communities, and ourselves."

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## Happy New Year

### Next Wednesday, Jan. 10, Is Monthly Business Meeting

See you at First Presbyterian Church, 11 Mile & Farmington at 7:30am. Come celebrate the new year with friends and discuss what we have on tap for our projects to bring out the best in youth, our community and ourselves.

### January Board Meeting Highlights

- **Finances** – Club balance is \$19,500 not counting JOI fees.
- **Essay Contest** is on track for this month
- **Jr. Optimists** launched a video contest for Middle & High school JOI clubs
- **Leadership awards** – Terry Tipton is looking for a new chairperson for next year. Contact Terry to learn what is involved. Still need help in contacting high schools to arrange selection of winners, see Terry.
- **New Member Orientation** zoom is Weds., Jan.17, 6:30pm
- **District Zone 12 Zoom** on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. All members welcome. More info to follow from Lt. Gov. Cathy Neal.
- **To send PR info to District Marketing**, contact Tom Neal with pictures and a brief description. He will forward info to Michelle Myers, MI District Marketing Manager.

### New Member Orientation – Weds. Jan. 17 @ 6:30pm

If you are a new member, please attend the zoom session to learn about our club history and projects. If you know of a potential new member, invite them to join this zoom session.

Here is zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88526330682>

## Farmington/Farmington Hills Breakfast Optimist Club

### Optimist Essay Contest for 2023-2024

Students sharpen their writing skills by expressing their views on the topic: **"Optimism: How It Connects Us"**. Who can enter? Students in 6, 7 & 8th grades and 9-12th grades (2 separate contests.) Winners of each contest receive \$250 for 1st, \$200 for 2nd and \$150 for 3rd. Attached is the information about the contest and application. Anna Durham and Dan Mosher chair this project.

### Like or Comment on FFH Optimist Facebook Page

Alvin requests we invite our readers/members to like, comment, and share our Facebook page. This is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/FarmingtonFarmingtonHillsOptimistClub/> which is direct to our page. **Like, Comment, and Share** with your friends. If you haven't visited our website lately, give it a look and let editor know what you think.

### Club Member and Friends Joys and Concerns

- ❖ *Prayers are working for Jim Walker as he heals from his surgery and cancer treatments.*
- ❖ *Member Doug Edwards was engaged last month, congratulations Doug!*
- ❖ *If you have joys or concerns to share with the club, please let Editor Tom know.*

### FPS Jr. Optimists

Registration through 12/28/23: Total **212**

|               |    |                     |    |
|---------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Farmington HS | 30 | North Farmington HS | 21 |
| Power MS      | 10 | Beechview           | 47 |
| STEAM Academy | 11 | Hillside            | 8  |
| Gill ES       | 27 | Forest              | 5  |
| Warner        | 2  | Longacre            | 26 |
| Lanigan       | 21 | East                | 4  |

### Optimist International Foundation

*It's the new year and you can make a tax-deductible donation.* What better way to help our students experience

## Farmington/Farmington Hills Breakfast Optimist Club

progress and to prosper through programs provided by our area Optimist Clubs! The Foundation is an excellent way to help get the action going, providing support for scholarships, programs and activities for youth. A great first step for each and every Optimist club member is to commit to the Dime-A-Day program – a simple \$36.50 a year donation to the Foundation provides great support in many ways. Surely you can afford a Dime A Day for the kids!

### **Swimming Might Help You Live Longer** by Elaine Howley, Jan. 2 USMS

Benefits of swimming:

- It supports good cardiovascular health
- It builds strong, healthy lungs
- It builds muscle strength and tone while being gentle on joints
- It can help you maintain your ideal weight
- It supports good cognitive and mental health

**Website:** [f2hoptimists.org](http://f2hoptimists.org) [new members can join on front page of website.] Contact Club President, Alvin Lynn: [lynnalvin256@gmail.com](mailto:lynnalvin256@gmail.com) with suggestions.

**Facebook:** Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

### **Calendar**

|         |                                                   |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 10* | Business Meeting                                  |
| Jan 17* | DTE Speaker: Ann-Marie Morris                     |
| Jan 17  | New Member Orientation Zoom                       |
| Jan 21  | Jr. Optimist Team Building @ Costick Gym          |
| Jan 24* | Karen Mondora, FH new Asst. City Manager          |
| Jan 31* | Rebecca Baizas, YMCA LiveStrong Program           |
| Feb 1   | National Optimist Day, Post online to celebrate!! |
| Feb 7   | Board Meeting via Zoom                            |
| Feb 14* | Essay Awards program                              |
| Feb 21* | Business Meeting                                  |
| Feb 28* | Dan Layman, Blood Cancer Foundation               |

\* 7:30am-8:30am at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

**SNOW/INCLEMENT WEATHER MEETING POLICY:** Current Club policy is if the schools are closed, there is NO IN-PERSON MEETING: If schools are closed, Tom

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Neal will email members with link for zoom meeting that will replace the in-person meeting.

### **Birthdays**

#### **January**

- 01 – Besman Jamil
- 07 – Richard Burrous
- 11 – Mona Ahuja
- 12 – Anil Kandamala
- 16 – Laura Stewart
- 20 – Dan Fantore
- 20 – Ken Massey
- 20 – Anne Sebesta
- 29 – Betty Santo
- 30 – Joanne Wiegand

#### **Attachments:**

- Newsletter PDF
- Essay Contest Flyer
- Essay Contest Application
- Dime-A-Day Application





## The Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

### LESLIE REBTOY OPTIMIST ESSAY CONTEST

#### Optimist Essay Contest for 2023 - 2024

Use your writing skills to express your views to the world around you and for a chance to win a college scholarship.

**WHO CAN ENTER?** Students in 6, 7 & 8th grades and 9 - 12th grades. (2 contests)  
All students who enter must either go to school in or live within the Farmington/Farmington Hills boundaries.

**TOPIC: "Optimism: How It Connects Us"**

**PRIZES:** First place - \$250, 2nd place - \$200, 3rd place - \$150. All contestants at each level must show proof of age either with a copy of a birth certificate or passport.  
The high school winner's essay will advance to the state-wide District level in the Spring, where the overall winner receives a \$2,500 scholarship.

**ESSAY REQUIREMENT:** 700-800 Words

**WHEN: Submission Date - Friday January 19, 2023**

**AWARD BREAKFAST CEREMONY:** Winning students and their families are invited to a breakfast on **February 14 2023** at 7:30 am to be given their awards at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO INCLUDE:**

- Completed application
- Proof of age (copy of birth certificate, passport, or drivers license)
- Essay

**Mail/Email Completed application, proof of age and essay to:**

Costick Center, City of Farmington Hills, 28600 Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Attn: Anna Durham OR Email above to Adurham@fhgov.com

#### **TO GET AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE RULES GO TO:**

Optimist Club website at: <https://www.f2hoptimists.org> and search under Optimists - Events/Programs.

**Or**

Call Anna Durham at 248-892-2919 or email: adurham@fhgov.com

Optimist Club #17150

# Revised 2023-2024 Optimist International Essay Scholarship Competition Application

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age on Oct 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enter any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year?  Yes  No

**Contestant Agreement:** I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all the requirements. I understand entries will be run through plagiarism and AI detection software.

Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian Permission:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture or video of my son/daughter, for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo or video in any publication they see fit.

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this scholarship contest.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number \_\_\_\_\_

Language:  English, or if District language is different:  French or  Spanish

## Official Topic: "Optimism: How it Connects Us"

Each contestant must be given this copy of the rules and complete the entry form, above.

### Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay Contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club (preliminary contest) and District (scholarship competition). The winner of a local club contest advances to the District Scholarship Competition.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's Dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. All District-level contests must have a minimum of three (3) contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

### Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of **19** as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) **and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada.** There is no minimum age. Contestants must enter in the District in which they reside. United States contestants attending school on a military installation outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record. Contestants residing in non-Districted areas where there are no Optimist Clubs are not eligible for competition.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's essay contest during any given year. (October 1st - September 30th)
3. No individual having previously won a District Essay scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must provide proof of age and identification in the form of a copy of either their birth certificate or passport before participating. A copy of the Club winner's document will be submitted to the District contest.

### Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official contest topic for the current year.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. The official topic should be at the top of title page and at the top of page 1. (penalty of 3 points)
4. The word count must also be listed at the top of page 1 (penalty of 5 points)
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography, or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word. (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit – French essays will allow 50 words over/under before deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.



7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly, using a recognized citation format. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA, APA, Chicago style). Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No reference can be made in the essay that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)
9. An essay should be written in English, or it may be written in either French or Spanish if the language used is accepted by the District of entry.
10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

#### **Section IV – Judging**

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists. (Friends of Optimists are excluded and can be used as judges).
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be anonymized and assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essays bearing only the assigned numbers.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare the essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

#### **Section V – Scoring of Contest**

1. Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
2. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 30 points
3. Creativity: 15 points
4. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points

5. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
6. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in a proper format): 5 points

#### **Section VI – Penalties**

1. Failure to list official topic on the title page and at the top of page 1 of the essay: 3 points
2. Failure to identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay, doubled-spaced and single-sided: 5 pts. per infraction (15 pt. max)
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 words: 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit. French Essays will allow 50 words over/under for the deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction based on degree.

#### **Section VII - Awards**

1. Club level – official medallion and/or certificate
2. Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay contest in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.
3. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner.
  - A. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundations in the United States and Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada.
  - B. Scholarships awarded are for use only at a college, university, or trade school.
  - C. All scholarships will be payable only to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
  - D. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
  - E. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

The contest chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The District Chair is the final authority, and no appeals will be recognized.



#### **HOW TO ENTER:**

Students are to enter through a local Optimist Club in their area. Most local clubs run their Essay contest from October to the end of January. Judging at the local level is completed in February. Late entries are not accepted.

Once submitted, essays may not be returned. Standings are not reported to applicants. The sponsoring club will contact the winners.

Name of local Club:

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

How to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In-person to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions, if any:



# Dime-A-Day

**O**ptimist International and Optimist International Foundation coexist as two separate organizations that support each other. Optimist International Foundation is the fundraising arm of Optimist International, and works to develop funds to support the endeavors of Optimist International and its mission.

When Members and Clubs make a contribution to support Optimist International Foundation, they are, with that gift, supporting Optimist International itself and themselves as a Club as well.

With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children.

Would you consider making a gift of just a dime a day to assist the charitable work of Optimist International?

The Dime-A-Day level is reached by a contribution of \$36.50 to the Foundation within one Optimist Year, and is recognized by the presentation of a pin.

Building a future where every kid counts  
Can you spare a **dime a day?**

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation. *(Enclose check, payable to Optimist International Foundation, referencing "Dime-A-Day" in the memo section.)*

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation. Charge my  MC  Visa  Discover  American Express

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up! Please deduct \$3.05 per month from my checking account.

Checking account number: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Please include a copy of a voided check)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Club Number \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

