



# Optimist Roundup – Rooted in Fire, Rising Together!

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter WEMO Conference

February 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Best Western, Sedalia MO

January 5th, 2026

Greetings, Optimists!

Get ready to saddle up your horses and show your Optimist spirit – Western style! Our second-quarter WEMO Roundup is headed for Sedalia, Missouri, on February 20th and 21st at the Best Western, 3120 South Limit Avenue. Registration opens at 6:00 p.m., and even latecomers will arrive just in time to join the fun with a Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser for OI and a Pulled Pork Chuckwagon Fundraiser supporting our Hospitality Room. **Please call the hotel at 660-826-6100 by February 9th to reserve your room at the special rate of \$82 per night.**

**Be sure to send your convention registration and \$80 payment to Charlie Jerman by February 9th (late registration is \$100).** First-timers, please mark your form accordingly—your registration fee is covered, so there is no need to mail a check. Your registration includes Saturday lunch and dinner.

We're going to forge a trail together toward stronger clubs, greater community impact, and lasting friendships. Our *Trailhead Decisions* will guide us as we focus on rising stars and develop leadership skills through Optimist International's DREAM Program, Parts 1 and 2. We'll help you discover your True North and build the leadership tools you need for the trail ahead. Our *Pathway Pursuits* will highlight how clubs across the district have blazed new trails with creative ideas that inspire others to forge ahead and celebrate optimism in all we do.

Our Keynote Luncheon features a familiar face to Midwesterners: Matt Stewart, journalist and anchor for WDAF Fox 4 TV. Matt and his wife both bravely battled cancer, and he will share powerful insights on resilience—both from the frontlines of journalism and from the challenges of fighting cancer.

Throughout the day, you'll also be able to explore our Hall of Optimism, where you can learn about and support the many programs of the Optimist International Foundation. And of course, our Hospitality Room will be open for fellowship, laughter, and good company. Be sure to bring your creativity along the trail—this year we're inviting everyone to decorate their own Cowboy Hat for our friendly competition. Whether you go classic, clever, or downright wild, we can't wait to see your Western flair on display.

As the sun sets on Saturday, we'll gather for our Roundup Roast & Recognition Gala, a celebration of the incredible work our clubs and members have accomplished. We'll honor achievements, share stories from the trail, and enjoy a night of camaraderie. After the awards, the fun continues with Cowboy Karaoke, where you can take the stage, cheer on your fellow Optimists, and end the evening with plenty of smiles.

So, saddle up, join the festivities, and let's start the year strong together. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the trailhead in Sedalia, Missouri.

Brian Mills

2025-26 Governor, West Missouri District

# WEMO DISTRICT 2<sup>ND</sup> QTR CONFERENCE AGENDA

## *OPTIMIST ROUNDUP – ROOTED IN FIRE, RISING TOGETHER!*

Location: BEST WESTERN-SEDALIA  
3120 South Limit Ave, Sedalia, MO  
Date: February 20-21, 2026

Call 660-826-6100 before Feb 9th to reserve room for \$82.00

### Agenda Items

#### Friday 2/20

Begins 6pm	Registration	
8:00-8:45pm	Trail Leaders: Executive Committee (Lt Governor's brief reports)	Conference Room
9:00 – End	Corn Hole Toss -OI Fundraiser	Hall of Optimism
9:00 – End	Chuckwagon Pulled Pork Social – Hospitality Room Fundraiser	Hospitality Room

#### Saturday 2/21

7:00 – 8:00 am	Gathering the Guard: Past Governor's Meeting/Executive	Executive Room II
8:00 – 8:15 am	Trailblazer Tracks - First Timers Meeting	Executive Room I
8:20 -8:30 am	Board of Director's Roundup	Executive Room I
8:30 – 9:45am	Morning Muster: General Session	Executive Room I
9:45 – 11:15	Catch a Rising Star-DREAM Part 1: Finding Your True North	
11:30 - Noon	Substance Abuse Judged/Hall of Optimism	Hall of Optimism
Noon – 1:30	Keynote Luncheon – Matt Stewart, Reporter/Anchor, WDAF-TV: Resilience on the Trail	Ball Room
1:45 – 3:00pm	DREAM Part 2 – Leadership Tools for the Trail Ahead	
4:45 – 5:30pm	Trail Talk: Hats Contest, Highlights, and How We Celebrate Optimism	
5:00 – 5:30pm	Governor's Team Roundtable	
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Roundup Roast and Recognition Gala	
	Cowboy Karaoke and Hospitality!	

### Additional information

**Saturday:** Hall of Optimism opens with breakfast 8:00 – Noon; 1:30pm – 4:00pm, Fundraising activities for JOI, Childhood Health & Wellness, Missouri Leadership, Jr. Golf, OI Foundation,

**Hospitality Room Hours:** in addition, fundraising to support Hospitality Room which is not included in District Budget

Substance Abuse Posters are due by 9:30 am, Place posters in appropriate age categories

**DREAM** = District Resources for the Engagement and Achievement of Members. DREAM is designed to encourage personal and professional leadership growth of Optimist Members. There are 4 parts that identify, support, and educate members on leadership competencies and capabilities.

**Cowboy Karaoke** – Saddle up and join us for a rootin'-tootin' good time! Pick your favorite country or western song and come sing with us. All Optimist members are welcome-whether you are a star singer or just love to have fun. So, grab your boots or Cowboy hat, follow the Happy Trails and let's make some music together (and raise funds for OI Foundation too).

**Cowboy Hat Contest** – You didn't think we would have a roundup without hats, did you? Draw a chair up to the table and do your best!

**Our Keynote Speaker:** Matt Stewart is an Emmy-award winning reporter and anchor at WDAF Fox 4. A graduate of Northwestern University, Matt has spent the past 29 years working as a broadcast journalist at television stations in Omaha, Nebraska; Sioux City, Iowa; Kearney, Nebraska; Dayton, Ohio; and Kansas City. Matt is also the author of six books. You can learn more about them on his website, [mattstewartbooks.com](http://mattstewartbooks.com). For the past year and a half, Matt has been battling colorectal cancer. His wife is also battling cancer, and they've been very open about their journey on social media. Matt is married with three children and two dogs.



### Childsafe Central Midwest, Child Advocacy Center

Childsafehouse.org

**Bring items with you and leave them in designated area for Childsafe.**

- New Blankets
- Individually Wrapped Snacks and Drinks
- New Stuffed Animals
- Gift cards to gas stations and fast food (families in need of travel to KC for medical appointments)
- Disinfectant wipes
- Coloring books/small fidgets for kids



WEST MISSOURI DISTRICT  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

February 20-21, 2025

BEST WESTERN-SEDALIA

3120 South Limit Ave Sedalia, MO

**Call 660-826-6100 before February 9 to reserve room for \$82.00**

Advance Registration is \$80.00 per person and due by Feb 9, 2026

Late & Onsite registration is \$100.00. Make checks payable to WEMO Convention

**\*Mark 1<sup>st</sup> Timer for a person that has never attended a WEMO Conference/Convention before but DO NOT send payment for them since their registration will be at no charge.**

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:

Charlie Jerman

7509 Tara Lane

Rogersville, MO. 65742

MARK ONLY ONE

NAME PLEASE PRINT	MEMBER	PRESIDENT	PRES ELECT	SEC/TREAS		1 <sup>ST</sup> TIMER	LT.GOV		PAST GOV	GUEST			SAT. Lunch	SAT. Dinner

Special Dietary needs must be ordered in advance: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Refunds will be issued according to the West Missouri District policy published in the district directory. Registration may not be refunded if the meal is guaranteed.