

Sept. 1, 2025



Hello, Fellow Optimist!

We are kicking off the 2025-2026 Optimist year in a big way! We will be having a joint first-quarter conference with East Missouri, October 3rd and 4th at The Capital Plaza Hotel, 415 West McCarty Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101. This will be an exciting conference with a fun reception on Friday evening, "FOR" you! We want to celebrate you, our Optimist members. Please call the hotel at 573-635-1234 by September 23rd to reserve your room at a rate of \$105/night

Make sure Charlie Jerman receives your Convention registration with your \$75 payment by September 23rd (late fee is \$100). First timers, please note on the form that this is your first time, as I will be covering your registration fees. Your registration fee includes Friday evening reception, Saturday lunch, and dinner.

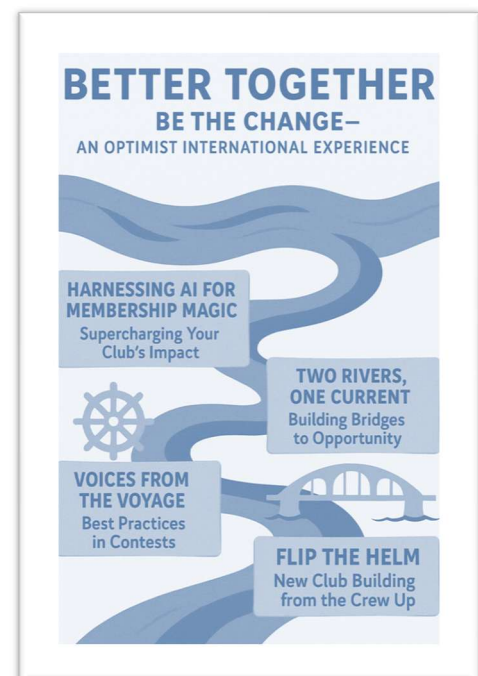
Our Theme for this year is "FOR" you, our local clubs and members, and you will see that in action at this conference! We have a lot going on at this Conference that you will not want to miss. You will learn about new zone alignments to better serve you, as well as new contests and programs that every club can participate in. We will have the opportunity to meet Optimist International President-Elect Tom Kendo and his wife, Jennifer, as well as Middle America Vice President Liz Christman and Optimist International Foundation Director Craig Boring.

We have an agenda that is focused on you! We will be reaching out to local club leaders as well as Optimist International leaders to share and facilitate best practices discussions regarding club grants, Optimist International contests to help your club shine, Member engagement and reaching younger club members, exciting tools for new club building, and using AI effectively to engage your club and community. We will roll out our new Awards and Achievement program to recognize clubs of all levels and to highlight the great things you do to promote Optimism in your communities. At our Saturday Luncheon and Dinner, we will hear from our Optimist International leadership and have a great time of entertainment and fun.

We will have our Hall of Optimism, where you can have fun and learn about and support the different programs of Optimist International Foundation, and as always, a great hospitality room to get better acquainted with your fellow optimists and have a good time. I encourage you to come on Friday evening and stay for the entire conference. This will be a great conference, and everyone who attends will receive a special commemorative gift. So come, enjoy the activities, and let's all have some fun and start the year strong. Looking forward to seeing you in Jefferson City!!!

Brian Mills

2025-26 Governor, West Missouri District



MEET OUR LEADERSHIP

Eastern Missouri Governor: Jennifer Bagwell

Western Missouri Governor: Brian Mills

President, Optimist International: Tom Kendo and First Lady, Jennifer Kendo

Middle America Vice President: Liz Chrisman

FRIDAY EVENING

7:30 – 9:00pm Welcome Reception

- Get to Know You Bingo
- VIP Introductions

9:00pm – Districts Take Flight!!!

OIF Funraiser: Paper Airplane build & fly!

Gold (EMO) and Blue (WEMO) Districts compete, and planes take flights! Winners from each district. The Winners wear captain hats for the conference and wings on their name badges.

The Hospitality Room is open until 11:00 each evening.



BETTER TOGETHER

BE THE CHANGE – AN OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

October 3-4th, 2025
Capital Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

***TWO DISTRICTS, ONE
CURRENT. ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES***



WELCOME

Members of the Eastern Missouri (EMO) and Western Missouri (WEMO) Districts! We are going to chart a course together toward stronger clubs, greater impact, and lasting friendships.

CONFERENCE THEME

Better Together reflects our belief that when two currents merge, they create a stronger flow.

Be the Change, reminds us that transformation starts with each of us. Like a river journey, our sessions will take you from first steps to powerful collaborations that carry optimism forward.

MORNING EXCURSIONS

7:00-8:00am Past Governors Breakfast

8:15-8:50 Executive Committee Meetings##

8:30-9:00am Charting Your Course: From New Face to New Force (First-time Attendees)

8:50-9:30am Board of Directors##

9:45-10:45am General Session##

11:00-11:50am Be the Change, Making the Most of the 25-26 year – Keynote by OI President Tom Kendo & First Lady Jennifer

12:00-1:30pm-Lunch Keynote: Middle America VP – Liz Christman and Craig Boring OIF Executive Director – Your Host is EMO Governor – Jennifer Bagwell

Means two separate meetings, EMO will use Jefferson Room; WEMO will use the Truman Room

AFTERNOON ADVENTURES

1:45-2:15pm Adventure Choices: (choose one)

- *Harnessing AI for Membership Magic*
- *Two Rivers, One Current: Building Bridges to Opportunity (Grants & Programs)*
- *Stronger Currents: Community Partnerships*

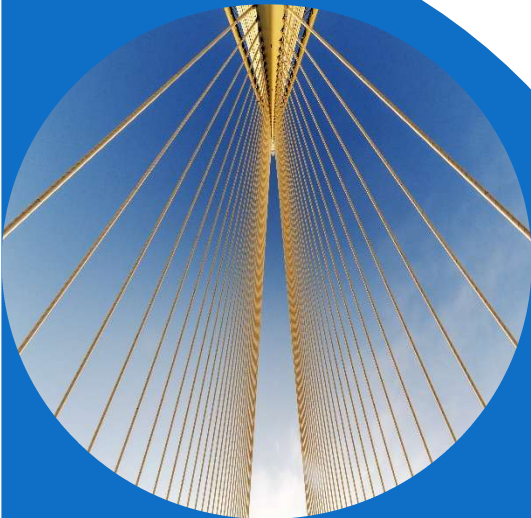
2:30-3:45pm Navigation Choices: (choose one)

- *Voices from the Voyage: Best Practices in Contests (Oratorical, Essay, Poster)*
- *Flip the Helm: New Club Building from the Crew Up*
- *From Source to Sea: Engaging Every Age Group*

4:00-4:30pm ##Governor's Team Meetings

4:00-6:00pm Hall of Optimism

6:30-8:15pm Dinner: Tom Kendo – WEMO Governor Brian Mills Hosts Awards & Prizes from raffle drawings



**WEST MISSOURI DISTRICT
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
OCTOBER 3-4**

CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL

415 west McCARTY, JEFFERSON CITY, MO

Use this link to reserve a room: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/13414?groupID=4483206>

Or call 573-638-2309

Hotel Room Reservation Cut-Off Date is SEPTEMBER 23

Advance Registration is **\$75.00** per person and due by **September 23rd**.

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

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 ST TIMER	LT.GOV		PASTGOV	GUEST		I.		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.