



COWBELL

MEETS FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS NOON AT 4055 INTERNATIONAL PLAZA

Affiliated with OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL, TEXHOMA DISTRICT,

ZONE 5, CLUB # 38170

VOLUME·LXXXVI, #10, 2025–2026

September 28, 2026

SEPTEMBER '26 – FINAL EDITION

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

By Steve McCoy

September Edition

Dear Fellow Optimists,

So here we are nearing the end of our 91st year as the Optimist Club of Fort Worth. And what a challenging year it has been. I say challenging due to the many issues and uncertainties that we had to overcome throughout the year.

First, FWISD decided to standardize field rentals through a new software system, providing very little guidance or training for coaches on how to use it. One school was able to navigate the system successfully and allowed us to use its fields for flag football at a minimal cost. Unfortunately, the other school we normally relied on struggled with the process, which resulted in us paying higher rental fees for their field.

These challenges continued throughout the soccer season and became even more difficult during softball season when we lost access to one of our fields. Thanks to the persistence and dedication of our co-directors, Nick and Chris, we were able to connect with other coaches who generously allowed us to use their fields at a minimal cost.

Despite these obstacles, our players thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Jr. Optimist sports programs. I personally heard many words of appreciation from parents, teachers, and principals who recognized the positive impact these programs had on our youth. Great job, Nick and Chris! Your hard work, determination, and commitment helped make the season a success.

Second the YMCA changed field management again and rented one of our key fields to another team preventing us from playing our home baseball games at their location. Our baseball president, Anthony and I met with the FWISD Facilities department and were led to believe we were going to be able to use their fields at Herman Clark only to find out later that the Athletic Director's staff decided to rent the fields to someone else. But this did not deter Anthony, and he found the baseball director from another city who would allow us to play our home games on their fields. Problem solved.

Finally, we learned that FWISD had issued bids for the sale of Farrington Field and the surrounding properties, including the lot where we have sold Christmas trees for more than 70 years. This development had the potential to significantly impact our fundraising efforts, as we faced the possibility of losing our longtime sales location without a suitable alternative in place. We were particularly concerned because deposits had already been made for the upcoming tree inventory. Fortunately, after contacting the FWISD Facilities Department, we were informed that the sale would not take place this year. Additionally, they assured us that when the sale does move forward, they will work with us to identify a new location. With that reassurance, our immediate concerns were put to rest.

Overcoming these challenges is what our club is all about. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Here's wishing Jeff and his team the best of luck as they endeavor to carry on the important traditions of our club.

With appreciation,
Your President,

Steve McCoy

***OPTIMIST CLUB INSTALLATION BANQUET
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026
RIDGLEA COUNTRY CLUB***

Friday evening, members and guests of the Optimist Club of Fort Worth celebrated the 92nd installation of officers. Ol TexHoma District Governor '26-'27 Tasha Sheehan installed the new officers and challenged each to further the spirit of Optimism and helping our youth. Jeff Norman was honored as Optimist of the Year for his exceptional efforts and ongoing contributions to the Optimist Club, the community and the youth of Fort Worth. (If you don't know Jeff...he is the big guy you see at the tree lot nearly every day and night during tree sales!)

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board – Steve McCoy

Club Officers

Youth Activity Chair – David Robinson

President – Jeff Norman
President-Elect – Faten Awde
Secretary-Judi Janes
Treasurer -Ron Gamill

Youth Activity Chair-Elect – Johnny Elliott
Program Chair – Ron Traver
Community Service Chair – Stephanie Sullivan
Social Media Chair – Faten Awde
Chaplain – Harriet Hunt
Sergeant-at-Arms – Terry Headrick



TERRY

RON T.

FATEN

STEPHANIE

JEFF

RON G.

STEVE

JUDI



RON G. PINS STEVE WITH PAST PRESIDENT'S PIN



STEVE PINS JEFF WITH PRESIDENT'S PIN



JEFF NORMAN – OPTIMIST OF THE YEAR



ALISON, JEFF AND CONNIE NORMAN



TASHA AND BYRON SHEEHAN



PAUL AND SANDY BOUDLOCHE



BILL AND LINDA LOUGHRY



DEBBIE AND STEVE McCOY



JUDI AND TOMMY JANES



DARRYL, HARRIET AND NEIL HUNT



STEPHANIE SULLIVAN & FATEN AWDE

NEWS & NOTES

YOUTH INCENTIVE TRUST FUND: The Youth Incentive Trust Fund was set up in 1946 as an irrevocable trust. Since that time, the Optimist Club of Fort Worth has been able to withdraw only the income and interest from the trust. On Tuesday, August 18, 2026, twelve members of the Optimist Club of Fort Worth met at International Plaza in Fort Worth, Texas with Attorney Joe Breshears. Optimists present were Steve McCoy, Ron Gamill, Jeff Norman, Judi Janes, Tommy Janes, Terry Headrick, Faten Awde, Ron Traver, Paul Boudloche, Fred Antonini, Neil Hunt and Craig Verwers. After lengthy discussion, Terry Headrick made a motion to hire Joe Breshears at a retainer fee of \$5000 to reform the trust which would allow the Optimist Club of Fort Worth to pull assets from growth and investments thus regaining purchasing power. Ron Gamill seconded. Motion passed.

DON STEGALL: Don is now living at Mirabella, an assisted living facility on Bryant Irvin. He is in apartment 101. Tommy Janes talked to his son Robert who said Don would welcome guests but may not remember you at first due to having some slight dementia. By the way, Don is now 94 years old and is both our senior member in age and years of membership, having joined the OCFW in 1970. (Tommy Janes and Neil Hunt joined one year later in 1971.)

OCTOBER SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026 NOON LUNCHEON, International Plaza, Program: President Jeff Norman will review OI Convention. NEW YEAR, NEW PRESIDENT, NEW ENTHUSIASM....

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026 NOON LUNCHEON, International Plaza , **BOARD MEETING during the luncheon**. All board members as well as all others are encouraged to attend to discuss some important changes.

OCTOBER 30-31, 2026 – TEXHOMA 1ST DISTRICT MEETING '26-'27, PARIS, TEXAS

JUNIOR OPTIMIST FLAG FOOTBALL: Flag football will begin in late October due to scheduling issues. A schedule will be provided when available . Plan to go out and support our coaches, kids and parents. Remember: Optimists Bringing Out the Best in Kids!

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 of 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, 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.



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Club of Fort Worth
Texas

CLUB OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board	Jimmy Henderson
President	Steve McCoy
President-Elect	Jeff Norman
Secretary	Judi Janes
Treasurer	Ron Gamil
Board Secretary	Judi Janes
Youth Activity Chair	Terry Headrick
Youth Activity Chair Elect	Jimmy Henderson
Program Chair	Ron Traver
Member at Large	Tommy Janes
Member at Larger	Neil Hunt
Member at Largest	Craig Verwers
Chaplain	Harriet Hunt
Sargeant-at-Arms	Terry Headrick

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Judi Janes, Editor

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