



COWBELL

MEETS FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS NOON AT 4055 INTERNATIONAL PLAZA

Affiliated with OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL, TEXHOMA DISTRICT,

ZONE 5, CLUB # 38170

VOLUME:LXXXVI, #4, 2025-2026

January 15, 2026

JANUARY 2026

Friday, January 9, 2026, NOON LUNCHOEN, International Plaza, Program: Matthew Vereecke, CEO of the Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation

Saturday, January 17, 2026 – Arlington Optimist Club Legacy and Charity Gala Casino Night, Globe Life Field, Celebration of 80 years serving the youth of Arlington. Our OCFW sponsored the Arlington club.

Monday, January 19, 2026 – Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM – EVENING BOARD MEETING, Pulido's Kitchen & Cantina, 2900 Pulido St., Ft.W.

Friday, January 23, 2026 - NOON LUNCHEON, International Plaza, Program: Rebeca Adorno, Director of the TCU College Advising Corp.

February 2026

Friday, February 6, 2026 – NOON LUNCHEON, International Plaza, Program: TBD

Saturday, February 14, 2026 – Happy Valentine's Day!

Monday, February 16, 2026 – President's Day, FWISD District Holiday

Friday, February 20, 2026 – NOON LUNCHEON, International Plaza, Program: TBD

Saturday, February 21, 2026 – TexHoma 2nd Quarter District Meeting

SAVE THE DATES

The following dates have been set for upcoming youth programs. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

ESSAY CONTEST: Jeff Norman, Chairperson

- *Essay topic and directions are available on the Optimist Club of Fort Worth website under "Scholarships and Awards", section Essay Contest.*
- *Deadline: 9:00 PM, Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – Entries emailed to jnorm1000@hotmail.com*
- *Saturday, February 28, 2026 – Club winning essays due to district.*
- *Friday, March 6, 2026 – Club level winners will read essays at OCFW luncheon.*

TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: Steve McCoy, Chairperson

- *TCC scholarship information and application documents should be available on the Optimist Club of Fort Worth website soon.*
- *Friday, April 10, 2026 – Winners will be presented at noon luncheon.*

SCHOLARSHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATHLETICS (SSA) SCHOLARSHIPS: Tommy and Judi Janes, Co-chairs

- *Applications and directions will be given directly to liaisons.*
- *Friday, May 8, 2026 – Winners will be presented at noon luncheon.*

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

By President Steve McCoy

New Year's Edition

Dear Fellow Optimists,

As we welcome a new year, I'm reminded of the strength and spirit that define our club. Each of you brings hope to our community through your service, your generosity, and your belief in the potential of every young person we reach.

This year, we'll focus on three simple but powerful goals: renewing our commitment to service, strengthening our fellowship, and leading with optimism in all we do. When we work together with purpose and heart, there's no limit to the good we can create.

For those of you who were unable to attend our last meeting, let me once again commend all of those who volunteered at the Christmas Tree Lot. While the final figures are not all in, it looks as though we exceeded our \$56,000 budget by at around \$10,000! And I'd like to give a special shout out to Jeff Norman for the excellent job he did managing the event. He had a great idea listing the help of the young men and women of the Fort Worth 4-H club. Some of the best workers we have had in a long time. And the free advertising from WFAA didn't hurt.

I would also like to acknowledge Ron Travor for securing such engaging and insightful speakers throughout this year. For those who couldn't attend last meeting you really missed a somber but encouraging presentation on childhood suicide prevention. **And liaisons, please make an extra effort to attend this Friday's meeting.** Rebeca Adorno, Director of the TCU College Advising Corp. will be giving us more insight into the role of the GO Center folks at our high schools.

Thank you for the joy, dedication, and optimism you bring to Fort Worth. I'm grateful to serve alongside you, and I look forward to all we'll accomplish in the year ahead.

With gratitude and optimism,

Steve

NEWS & NOTES

NOON LUNCHEON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025 – HOLIDAY PARTY! *Optimist members gathered for the last meeting of 2025. Alison Norman, Jeff's daughter, and Tyler Moser, Tommy and Judi's grandson, joined in the festivities. Celebrations included the closing of the Christmas tree lot after three weekends and two full weeks with only 3 trees left on the lot at closing! According to Ron Gamill we sold 754 trees. Thanks to Jeff's leadership we had a very successful sales season. 2nd reason to celebrate: the JOC coordinators turned in \$21,600 in soccer fees for 16 teams. 3rd reason to celebrate: WFAA, Channel 8 was scheduled to air a story about the Little Christmas Tree at 10:00 PM on Christmas Eve. The story was filmed on our Christmas tree lot. Hopefully, you saw it. I am told that it is available on You Tube. They did an excellent job and provided special recognition of the Optimist Club.*

The fun began with the gift auction...numbers drawn, gifts unwrapped, gifts stolen, etc. And everyone ended up with a gift; some even traded. All in fun!

The three ladies from Plaza Café who prepare meals for us each meeting were presented with monetary gifts.

NOON LUNCHEON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026 - Program: Matthew Vereecke, CEO of Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation. Matthew is a former teacher and school administrator. The Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation was founded by the parents of Jordan Elizabeth who committed suicide. They looked for answers and wanted to provide services to assist others who might find themselves in a similar situation. The foundation works in 160 schools in the area providing services. Teachers, counselors and administrators are trained to work with young people who are in crisis. They have trained 45,00 adults in suicide prevention. More information can be found on their website: jordanelizabethharrisfoundation.org

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

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Judi Janes, Editor

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