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Dear Optimist Friend(s),

Thank you for registering for the 2025 Optimist International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri!

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of historic Union Station, enjoy the breathtaking view from the top of the Gateway Arch, and savor the flavors of St. Louis, from mouthwatering barbecue to gooey butter cake.

The convention kicks off Sunday evening, with a full day of events to follow on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Club Presidents-Elect and Lt. Governors-Elect are invited to join our 2025-2026 International President Tom Kendo for breakfast on Thursday morning (for an additional fee), and everyone will want to explore the Gateway to the West by signing up for off-site tours and activities on Thursday afternoon. Members of the International Convention Committee are busy planning a day full of fun, so keep an eye out for group tour information coming soon.

Schedule Overview:

- The convention will be held at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, a Curio Collection by Hilton, 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri
- Sunday, June 29: Registration opens at 3 p.m. and the Opening Ceremony (Welcoming Remarks, Parade of Flags, Entertainment) will be held in the evening
- Monday, June 30: General Session, Heritage Brunch, District Chair Training, workshops, and Trivia Night
- Tuesday, July 1: General Session, Workshops, and District Dinners
- Wednesday, July 2: General Session, Town Hall, Annual Business Meeting (voting), Closing Session, and President's Gala
- Thursday, July 3: Club President-Elect & Lt. Governor-Elect Breakfast in the morning and Off-site tours in the afternoon

Please use the link at the bottom of the registration confirmation to make any changes to your registration, to book your hotel room and more visit optimist.org/convention, and **plan to arrive on or before Sunday, June 29, and stay through Thursday, July 3.**

If you are interested in volunteering at the convention, please email a description of your skillset to convention@optimist.org so that we can place you where you will be most comfortable and successful.

If you would like to contribute to youth activities, please send donations to Convention Donation, c/o Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108.

We look forward to meeting you in St. Louis!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Oord Graves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan Oord Graves
2024-2025 International President
Optimist International