

Optimist Club of the Westbank -- Fall 2021 News

JULY

- The new **Optimist Club of Metry** was chartered on July 24th. Louisiana District Governor Les Lowery and New Club Building Chair Lenor Cox were there to oversee the ceremony. The Optimist Club of the Westbank – Gretna was the sponsoring club, Kurt Gassen and Billy Staehle both past Governors were in attendance. We welcome our 25 new Optimist neighbors and promise to guide & support them in their Optimistic growth. Congratulations to our new Optimists!



AUGUST

- Our team of Westbank Optimists also participated in the **John Combel Golf Tournament** honoring former Police Officer Bobby Verret on August 7th.



- The **Louisiana District 4th Quarter Convention** themed "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" was planned for August 13-15 in New Iberia, Louisiana. We were all looking forward to the gathering for renewed friendships and camaraderie. Unfortunately, as the new COVID Deviant increased a spike in COVID cases, it was decided that the Convention be held virtually via Zoom to keep everyone safe. On August 14th, the Louisiana District successfully held a Zoom Convention with Governor Les Lowery leading the group. Discussions and training sessions were held covering various topics. The Optimist Club of the Westbank had several members participate.
- August 29th **Hurricane Ida** made landfall near the Houma-Thibodeaux area and devastated the area of southeastern Louisiana with extreme winds, flooding along with power and fuel outages. Evacuated club members returned to the area as quickly as they could, while other member chose to ride out the storm at home. The Westbank Optimist Club wasted no time getting together to purchase and distribute food to help feed the storm victims. Optimist members Chris Breaux, Mike Hymel & Tom Verret traveled to distribute food and supplies to Luling & Houma for local service clubs to cook for the Hurricane Ida victims.



SEPTEMBER

- The Optimist Club of the Westbank donated funds for food and supplies to the people of the Lafitte, Barataria & Lower Jefferson Parish areas – one of the hardest hit areas for flooding and wind damage due to Hurricane Ida. Many members also volunteered time to cook and serve the Hurricane Ida victims, contractors, utility workers and others. Club VP Kevin Avery organized support from members of the Optimist Club of the Westbank (including President Tom Verret & LA District Governor Les Lowery), The Optimist Club of Metry (Sal Larock & others), Westbank Rotary Club, Lions Club of Louisiana, Knights of Columbus (Archbishop Blenk) The Westbank Kiwanis Club and other Civic, Government and Church organizations. A truly collaborative effort of these major service organizations joining hands to serve our community in this time of need. We look forward to continuing to serve and support each other and our community.





Special Celebrity Volunteers US District Court Judge Wendy Vitter and Singer/Composer/Actor Harry Connick, Jr supported the efforts.

