

# PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

## 2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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### **ISSUE 1: DUES AND FEES**

*(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)*

**EXPLANATION:** The current Bylaws paragraph on dues is complex, dated and confusing. The goal is to restructure the Bylaws paragraph to make it more reader friendly and concise. **This proposal in no way changes the dues amounts due and notes that any increase in the base dues must be approved by the delegates at an annual meeting.** The proposal does simplify the 3 Tier structure, allowing for only 2 classes of countries, “developed” and “developing: as determined by the United Nations. This change would not negatively impact any country. The Master Schedule of Dues and Fees will be updated and posted on the website for all Clubs and members for reference to dues/fees calculations.

#### **CURRENT:**

Bylaws Article VIII, Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

- B. *Annual Dues.* Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2010, each Club shall pay to Optimist International for each of its members, except Life Members and College Members, enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June, as annual dues, the sum of \$59.62 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$44.12 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$31.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of \$14.90 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$11.03 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$7.75 for Clubs Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. The billing cycles for College Clubs shall be 1 October through 28 February and 1 March through 30 September. For each College Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, a Club shall pay annual dues of \$22.50 per member in Tier 1, \$19.50 in Tier 2, and \$13.50 in Tier 3. Dues are payable in halves on 1 October and 1 March based on members enrolled in Optimist International 30 September and 28 February. For each Life Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September 2004, a Club (without regard to Tiers) shall pay annual dues of \$26.00. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant an extension of time for payment of obligations to Optimist International when, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, circumstances indicate such extension would best serve the interests of the organization. Effective October 1, 2005, and each year thereafter, a cost of living adjustment of no more than 4% of Base Dues (as hereafter defined) may be made by the Board of Directors based on the yearly change in the December CPI-U. Base dues is defined as follows: Tier 1 \$43.62; Tier 2 \$32.21; Tier 3 \$22.63; College Members \$5 (College Member status to be reviewed after five years) (without regard to tiers). Tier 1 shall be defined as High Income Economies; Tier 2 shall be defined as Upper Middle Income Economies; Tier 3 shall be defined as Lower Middle and Low Income Economies. The terms High Income Economies, Upper Middle Income Economies and Low Middle and Lower Income Economies shall have the definitions established from time to time by the World Bank’s published statistics. (The countries of Jamaica and Suriname will be considered Tier 3 Countries until September 30, 2018 and until further review by the World Bank.) Clubs in countries (no matter the Tier) whose currencies are not exchangeable on the international currency market (Associate Clubs) shall be required to pay to Optimist International annual dues of a minimum of \$1.00 per member. College Clubs shall pay to Optimist International all applicable dues and fees on 1 October and 1 March beginning 1 October, 2016..
- C. *Annual Dues for New Clubs.* Annual dues shall commence on the first day of the third month following that month in which such Club is officially organized, with such initial payments based on the number of Members enrolled in the International Office by the Club on that date.
- D. *Processing Fees.*
1. Except as to a former Member or new College Member, upon enrollment of each new Member by a Club, the Club shall pay to Optimist International a fee of \$15.00. Upon enrollment of each new College Member by a Club, the Club shall pay to Optimist International a fee of \$5.00.
  2. Upon enrollment of each new Member by an Associate Club, the Club shall pay to Optimist International an affiliation fee of a minimum of \$1.00.
  3. Upon enrollment of a former Member of an Optimist Club, JOI or Collegiate Club, by a Club, the Club shall pay to Optimist International a fee of \$5.00. For purposes of this section, a former Member shall mean a person

who was a Member of an Optimist Club, JOI or Collegiate Club (other than the Club to which he/she is seeking enrollment) within one (1) year of the date of proposed enrollment as a Member of a Club. Enrollment as a former member is not available to existing Members of an Optimist Club. Upon submission of enrollment of the former Member, the submitting Club must provide Optimist International with the former Member's former District, Club and Member number. If the latter information is not provided, the submitting Club will be required to pay the regular new Member processing fee. The procedures set forth in this paragraph shall not apply to chartering Clubs. Notwithstanding the above, as to a person who has ceased being a Member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.

- E. *JOI Dues.* Fees and dues for JOI Clubs are to be determined by the JOI delegates under the supervision of the Optimist International Board of Directors.
- F. *Friend of Optimist.* Members recognized as Friend of Optimist would be required to pay a membership fee to Optimist International as set forth by the International Board of Directors. Optimist International will receive 60 percent of the fee and 40 percent of the fee will be sent to the Sponsoring Club where the Member resides or to the District if there is no Sponsoring Club. The Member shall be billed directly and payment will be sent to Optimist International for distribution to either the Club or District.

#### **PROPOSED:**

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues

- B. ***Annual Dues and Fees.*** Countries shall be defined as developed or developing in accordance with the designation of the United Nations. Clubs in developed countries shall pay dues as published by Optimist International prior to next fiscal year. Clubs in developing countries shall pay a reduced amount of dues as published by Optimist International prior to next fiscal year. A cost of living adjustment of no more than 4% of previously published dues may be made by the Board of Directors based on the yearly change in the December CPI-U (Consumer Price Index-Cost of Living). Increases in dues or fees above the CPI-U is subject to the approval of the delegates at an Optimist International Convention. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant an extension of time for payment of obligations to Optimist International when, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, circumstances indicate such extension would best serve the interest of the organization.
  - 1. **General Membership.** Each Club shall pay dues, as published by Optimist International, to Optimist International for each of its members, except Friend of Optimists, enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June.
  - 2. **Life Membership.** Each Club shall pay dues, as published by Optimist International, to Optimist International for each of its life members enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September. (new wording)
  - 3. **College Members (not in College Clubs - amendment).** Each Club shall pay dues, as published by Optimist International, to Optimist International for each of its college members, enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June.
  - 4. **College Clubs.** Each college club shall pay dues and fees to Optimist International as determined and published by the Optimist International Board of Directors.
  - 5. **Friends of Optimist.** Members recognized as "Friend of Optimist" ~~would~~ **will** be required to pay an annual membership fee to Optimist Internationals set by the International Board of Directors. Optimist International will receive 60 percent of the fee and 40 percent of the fee will be sent to the Sponsoring Club where the member resides or to the District if there is no Sponsoring Club. The member shall be billed directly by Optimist International and payment will be sent to Optimist International for distribution either the Club or District. (No change in wording)
  - 6. **Junior Optimist Members** ~~JOI Dues.~~ Fees and dues for JOI clubs are to be determined by the JOI delegates under the supervision of the Optimist International Board of Directors. (no change in wording)

## **ISSUE 2: RESERVE MEMBERSHIP**

*(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)*

**EXPLANATION:** It is noted that “Reserve Membership” is not currently used by Clubs and Optimist International has no record of any member in that category. Therefore, it is felt that the bylaw should be removed.

**CURRENT:**

Bylaws Article III. Membership  
Section 1. Clubs.

1. Membership in Optimist Clubs.

A. Optimist Club Structure

1. Membership in Optimist Clubs.

- a. *General.* Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18. Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as reserve membership, college membership, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable. As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.
- b. *Life Membership.* same wording.
- c. *Reserve Membership.* Any individual who is a Member in good standing of one or more Optimist Clubs and who is no longer able to maintain active participation, or a Life Member, or a Member of a Club who shall have been retired from active business, shall be elected to reserve membership upon his/her written application to his/her Club. A reserve member may pay annual dues and shall have the same rights and privileges as any Member of a Club, except that such Reserve Member shall be ineligible to hold elective office in Club, Zone, District or International.
- d. *College Membership.* Any Member in a post-secondary educational institution who is enrolled as a full time student may be classified as a College Member. A College Member shall pay annual dues as set forth in these bylaws and shall have the same rights and privileges as any Member of a Club.

**PROPOSED:**

Bylaws Article III. Membership  
Section 1. Clubs.

1. Membership in Optimist Clubs.

A. Optimist Club Structure

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- a. *General.* Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18. Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as ~~reserve membership~~, college membership, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable. As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.
- b. *Life Membership.* same wording.
- e. ~~Reserve Membership.~~ Any individual who is a Member in good standing of one or more Optimist Clubs and who is no longer able to maintain active participation, or a Life Member, or a Member of a Club who shall have been retired from active business, shall be elected to reserve membership upon his/her written application to his/her Club. A ~~reserve member may pay annual dues and shall have the same rights and privileges as any Member of a Club, except that such Reserve Member shall be ineligible to hold elective office in Club, Zone, District or International.~~
- d.c. *College Membership.* Any Member in a post-secondary educational institution who is enrolled as a full time student may be classified as a College Member. A College Member shall pay annual dues as set forth in these bylaws and shall have the same rights and privileges as any Member of a Club.

## **ISSUE 3: FRIEND OF OPTIMIST**

*(Submitted by the Optimist Club of North Wichita, KS)*

**EXPLANATION:** On September 30, 2016, the Board of Directors of Optimist Club of North Wichita, Kansas transmitted a message terminating seven individuals from 37155 roster effective September 30, 2016. No action was taken. OI Executive Director maintained that since individuals had annual prepaid membership they could not be terminated by the Club regardless of the authority in OI directed club bylaws that states “it shall be the prerogative of the Board of Directors to confirm any termination of membership on behalf of the Club.” This proposed amendment clarifies the member status of Friend of Optimist and their exempt status from their club’s bylaws.

*Clarification on the Executive Director’s ruling: Friends of Optimist are not exempt from Club bylaws, as Clubs shall have the right to dismiss any officer or member (Friend of Optimist) for cause or conduct unbecoming. Friends of Optimist pay for a 12-month membership (not quarterly) and Clubs shall honor their 12-month membership term, regardless of a Clubs intent to clean it’s rolls on September 30<sup>th</sup>.*

### **CURRENT:**

Bylaws Article III. Membership  
Section 1. Clubs

#### A. Optimist Club Structure

##### 1. Membership in Optimist clubs

- a. General. Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18. Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as reserve membership, college membership, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable. As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.

Section 2. *Friend of Optimist Member.* Any Member, due to relocations, and potential Members to areas where there are no Optimist Clubs convenient for them to join, may remain as Members or become Members of the organization. The Friend of Optimist Member shall pay annual dues set forth in these Bylaws and shall have the same privileges as any Member of a Club, except that such Friend of Optimist Member shall be ineligible to vote at International and District Conventions.

### **PROPOSED:**

Bylaws Article III. Membership  
Section 1. Clubs

#### A. Optimist Club Structure

##### 1. Membership in Optimist clubs

- a. General. Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18. Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as reserve membership, college membership, **Friend of Optimist**, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable. As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.

Section 2. *Friend of Optimist Member.* Any Member, due to relocations, and potential Members to areas where there are no Optimist Clubs convenient for them to join, may remain as Members or become Members of the organization. The Friend of Optimist Member shall pay annual dues set forth in these Bylaws and shall have the same privileges as any Member of a Club, except that such Friend of Optimist Member shall be ineligible to vote at International and District Conventions **and shall be exempt from any action by the Optimist Club’s Board of Directors under Club Bylaw Article V – Termination of Membership.**

## **ISSUE 4: DISTRICT SECRETARY TREASURER TERM LIMIT**

*(Submitted by the Optimist Club of Stroudsburg-Stroudsburgs, PA)*

**EXPLANATION:** The Optimist Club of the Stroudsburgs believes the last sentence, restricting the term of office, to be too restrictive and may impede the District in completing their duties. The District Secretary-Treasurer plays a vital role in the health of the District. Each District should be encouraged to fill the position with qualified candidate(s) and their length of tenure should not influence this appointment. District Policy, which is authorized by the International Board of Directors and must be approved annually by the District Board of Directors, should govern the term of this office. While the office is an appointment by the Governor-Elect, the appointment would have to be within policy or the District Board of Directors would have to approve an exception. We believe these two governing factors, the approval of district policies and any exceptions to policy must be approved by the District Board of Directors, provides sufficient oversight to avoid improper use or abuse of office. Therefore we request that the last sentence, imposing a time limit, be removed from this section of Optimist International By-laws.

### **CURRENT:**

Bylaws Article VII

Section 6. Election of Officers and Governor-Elect, District; Secretary-Treasurer.

- D. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed for a term of one year by the Governor-Elect. The appointment of the Secretary-Treasurer designate shall be confirmed by the District's Board of Directors, and shall take office 1 October next following confirmation. A District Secretary-Treasurer, District Secretary, District Treasurer, or any combination thereof, shall not serve more than three consecutive years.

### **PROPOSED:**

Bylaws Article VII

Section 6. Election of Officers and Governor-Elect, District; Secretary-Treasurer.

- D. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed for a term of one year by the Governor-Elect. The appointment of the Secretary-Treasurer designate shall be confirmed by the District's Board of Directors, and shall take office 1 October next following confirmation. ~~A District Secretary-Treasurer, District Secretary, District Treasurer, or any combination thereof, shall not serve more than three consecutive years.~~