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# HOTLINE

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## Dear Optimists,

It is estimated that Optimists help millions of children each year. It's an impressive number. Think of the population of your city or town and compare that to the millions of kids served by Optimists. That's a huge impact.

But as Optimists, we're always looking to reach the next step. I would love to see that number go up. To reach more children, we need more Members. One way to boost membership numbers is to build New Clubs.

We recently discovered that approximately 300 Clubs are responsible for sponsoring more than 2,400 New Clubs. That means that 10 percent of our Optimist Clubs have been actively involved in forming New Clubs.

When this newsletter went to press, the following Districts had already welcomed New Clubs this year:

Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan  
and Northern Wyoming

Caribbean  
Georgia

Oklahoma  
Quebec Center

Alabama–Louisiana–Mississippi

Iowa

South Texas

Capital–Virginia

Kentucky–West Virginia (3 Clubs)

Tennessee

I know that by the end of this year, every District of Optimist International can be on this list. We just need the perfect location – any area without an Optimist Club nearby sounds like a good place to start! We need Optimists who are going to bring excitement to the project – I've met my fair share of Optimists over the years, and I know they are motivators and can accomplish big things when they put their heart into it! And we need the support of each other – we can't rely on those 300 Optimist Clubs forever. Help make it happen. If you're new to the idea, there are plenty of resources – seasoned Optimists who have built plenty of Clubs, tons of online reading material and Certified Club Builders and staff members waiting to help you. Now let's go build some Clubs and watch those numbers jump!

*Don Sievers*

Don Sievers

President, Optimist International



## All-Star Outing

Each year the Optimist Club of Las Cruces, New Mexico, helps bring together young and talented baseball players for some friendly competition. The top senior baseball players from the northern part of the state compete against the top senior baseball players from the southern part of the state in an all-star game. The Optimist Club has been involved in the game for 32 years. The Club provides lodging for the players, takes on all jobs at the baseball field and makes sure the players are well-fed.



*An Optimist helps out with the players during mealtime.*

## Deadline is Fast Approaching for 2007-2008 District CPA Winners

District Chairs should be sure to meet all of their Community Projects Awards deadlines, with the final deadline coming up in just two short weeks!

The District-winning books and the First Place Entry Form must be submitted to the Programs Department by December 15, 2008. Please remove the District evaluation sheets before sending the books to the International Office.

The District Entry Form was due to the International Office by October 20, 2008. This form should list the names and Club numbers of all submitting Clubs along with the categories in which they entered their CPA books. The form must be signed by the District Activities Chair and the District Governor. If your District has not yet submitted this form, please do so as soon as possible.

If the District winning books and all paperwork are not submitted by the December 15 deadline, the entries may not be judged at the International level.

If you need either of the District CPA forms, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via e-mail at [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).

## Become a Lucky Duck Before It's Too Late

The presale for the 2009 CCC Duck Race has already begun and sales are off to a fast waddle. More than 50 ducks have already been purchased!

There's still time to reserve your duck for the race at the International Convention in Florida. Members can purchase a ticket for a rubber duck for only \$10 US/CN. Every Member can participate, even those who will not be attending the Convention. District CCC Chairs have order forms that must be filled out and submitted to Optimist International with a check, money order or credit card information. There is no limit to the number of ducks each person can buy. Checks should be made payable to "OIF-CCC."

The presale is for a limited time only and all order forms must be submitted to Optimist International by June 19, 2009. After that date, ducks can be purchased in the House of Optimism at Convention during the normal hours of operation.

The ducks will be racing through the convention center in support of the Optimist International Research Fund in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology and the Canadian Childhood Cancer Campaign. In addition to supporting the CCC, the first three ducks across the finish line will earn cash prizes for their owners. The first duck to cross the finish line wins its owner the grand prize of \$100 US. The second-place finisher receives \$50 US and the third duck across the line gets \$25 US.

If you have questions or would like to purchase your ducks today, contact your District CCC Chair. You can also request an order form by contacting the Programs Department at [ccc@optimist.org](mailto:ccc@optimist.org) or (800) 500-8130.



## Up to the Challenge

For the third year, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Optimist Club of North Carolina teamed up with the Carolina Panthers and Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department to run a Challenger League for more than 70 children and young adults with disabilities. The young athletes played flag football each Saturday this fall and had a great time learning the sport and competing. The Challenger League is part of the larger Pop Warner Little Panthers Football and Cheerleading Program that this 20-Member Optimist Club sponsors.



## Fourth Annual Tournament of Champions Celebrates with Four New Champs



The 2008 Champions are (from left) Quinlan Prchal, Andrew Cho, Annie Park and Katlyn Kennedy.

Four junior golfers walked away with the title of champion at this year's Optimist International Tournament of Champions. On a windy and cool November day in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 90 golfers from 20 states, three Canadian provinces and seven other countries took on PGA National Resort and Spa's Champion course, home of the PGA TOUR's Honda Classic.

In the boys 16-18 division, a fantastic finish by Andrew Cho of Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, helped him take the title with a total score of 72-74—146, 2 over par. Cho outlasted Daniel Berger (Jupiter, Florida) who took second with a score of 73-75—148 and Nicolas Reach (Moscow, Pennsylvania) who finished third with a 6-over 74-76—150.

The girls 14-18 division included a trio of talented junior golfers taking on the difficult Champion course. Starting three strokes back for the day, Annie Park (Levittown, New York) knew what she needed to do. She finished the tournament at 7 over par with 77-74—151, one stroke ahead of second-place finisher Stephanie Meadow of Jordantown, Ireland, with 75-77—152. Round one leader Suzie Lee of East Northport, New York, claimed third place with 74-79—153.

Competition was close in the boys 14-15 division as well. After two rounds, two golfers were tied for the lead – Quinlan Prchal (Glenview, Illinois) with 73-77—150 and Clancy Waugh (North Palm Beach, Florida) with 75-75—150. The boys moved on to a sudden-death playoff. Both players made pars on holes 10, 17 and 18, but Prchal broke through on the par-five 10th by sinking a 5-foot birdie putt to take the boys 14-15 title. Both players finished the Tournament of Champions at 6 over par while Lucas Kim (Toronto, Ontario) finished three back with 75-78—153.

Katlyn Kennedy (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) improved 15 shots from round 1 to finish 96-81—177 in the girls 13 and under division. Samantha Spencer (Georgetown, Ontario) finished in second with a 94-93—187.

## NO GUTTER BALLS HERE!

Several months into the school year, Youth Appreciation projects are in full swing. Optimists can always score big with an event to honor kids.

The Optimist Club of Jackson and the Jackson Noon Optimist Club in East Missouri recently teamed up to do two Youth Appreciation nights at the local bowling alley. The first night was for kindergarten through second grade and the second night was for third through fifth grade. More than 100 kids attended each evening and all received free bowling, a drink and 50 cents to play a video game. Everyone had a great time, including International President and Jackson native Don Sievers!

## SEEK OUT THOSE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Most Club Members have e-mail addresses these days, but is your Club or District keeping track?

Clubs and Districts can save a lot in funds by reaching out to Members through e-mail rather than mail.

Club Secretaries should actively seek out Member e-mail addresses. Because e-mail addresses change often, Members should review the Club's list quarterly to make updates.

With approval by the Member, pass e-mail addresses along to the District for District-level communication. This small effort can save a lot in postage and paper costs and the savings can be redirected to Club projects.

## Community Projects Awards Get a New Look for the Year

In order to better service the needs of Optimist Clubs, major changes were made to the official CPA rules, Project Story and judging sheet for the 2008-2009 year.

The judging criteria was modified to meet the objectives of the awards program. The overall quality of the project, including uniqueness and creativity, will count for 50 percent of the score. A detailed step-by-step explanation of the project in order for another Club to be able to successfully run a similar activity from planning to completion will make up 45 percent of the total score. The final 5 percent will be based on the organization of the entry, documentation and compliance with the official contest rules.

Clubs will still be able to submit entries in two categories – Community Service and Fundraising. The official 2008-2009 Project Story form must be utilized or Clubs will be penalized. The first page of the story must be filled out on the form. The second page consists of a list of 14 questions about the project, which may be submitted typewritten on unlined paper. Clubs should use as many pages as necessary to provide complete and detailed answers to each of the questions. The third page of the Project Story is the budget, which should also be completed on the official form provided by the International Office. The budget line items should be modified to fit the expenses and income from the project.

Clubs must provide current contact information for a project representative on the Project Story and grant permission to Optimist International to publish a project summary and the accompanying contact information. This can include the use of photos, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. If a District-winning entry does not provide this information, the entry will not be entered in the International judging.

The Reference Section of the book should include contact information for all the resources utilized during the project and should be three pages maximum. The Publicity section should include press releases, newspaper articles, magazine clippings, Club and District bulletins, correspondence, programs and flyers used to promote the activity. The properly identified photos section should include action photographs whenever possible and not exceed 12 photos. A page restriction of 30 one-sided pages must be adhered to for sections 2, 3 and 4 of the CPA entry.

The judging sheet was revised to evaluate the entry on the new criteria of adherence to rules, quality of the project and repeatability. The same judging sheet will be utilized during the District- and International-level judging.

Once a project has been named a District winner, it is not eligible to be resubmitted for a period of three years. Once a project has been named an International winner, the project is no longer eligible to be submitted as a CPA entry. The criteria will go into effect with the winners from the 2008-2009 year.

In the International-level competition, two award winners will be chosen – Best Overall Community Service Project and Best Overall Fundraising Project. Every entry submitted for International competition that is not based on a current Optimist International program is eligible to be considered for the Future of Optimism award. All International winners will receive a leather-bound version of the entry, paid registration to the annual Convention for two Members of the winning Club, recognition at the Convention and a profile of their project in *The Optimist* magazine.

If you have any questions about the changes to the CPA program, contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via e-mail at [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).



Plans for the 2009 Convention in Central Florida are well under way. Check out [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) to learn about all of the Convention details, from the fabulous local attractions and the fun events planned just for the kids (it involves alligators!) to the exciting news about new meal vouchers. While you're there, check out the latest issue of the *Convention Planner*, an Optimist newsletter that is 100 percent Convention!

# Thank You

The 2008 Optimist International Convention Committee would like to thank the following supporters for a successful event in Grapevine, Texas!

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