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Denver in 2010 – Convention is closer than you think!

HOTLINE

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Fellow Optimists,

We are entering the holiday season, and for many it is a time of giving and receiving. It's a time when people feel that they should be giving more of their time and donating more to those in need. The holidays are a time when you appreciate all you have and have a strong desire to help make someone else's life a little brighter.

This holiday season, consider a few different ways to "give" to those around you. Each gift idea below is a way to say thanks to those who have helped you along the way, and each of these gifts costs little more than the effort they require.

When you became an Optimist, someone gave you the gift of membership. For most, that gift came from a Sponsor. For those who are proud Charter Members of their Clubs, that gift came from a Sponsor Club. Either way, it was a gift that you have grown to treasure. Now it's time to return that favor and give that same gift to someone else. Pass it along and ask someone to join you in Optimism.

When your Optimist Club was formed, the gift of a service club was given to your community. The kids in your area are stronger individuals and your community is a better place because your Club is in it. Now is the time to pass that gift along to another community. It's time to start a New Club. Which community will be the next to benefit from the service of dedicated Optimists?

Perhaps the simplest gift of all, but one that can have a profound impact, is the gift of the Optimist Creed. As Optimists, we strive for it in our daily lives. Some of us recite the Creed each morning to get the day started off right. Others focus on one particular tenet at a time. And still others pass the Creed along to inspire someone else. If you haven't shared the Optimist Creed with someone new lately, now is the time. This is the season to pass along good things. And with the craziness of the season, the shopping and baking and endless social engagements, people all around you could probably use a moment to stop and read what the Optimist Creed has to say.

Have a great holiday season, and thank you for passing the gift of Optimism along to someone else.

Promise yourself ... for the kids,



Mark Shriver

Optimist International President



Mark Shriver

GET THEM WHILE THEY'RE CHEAP

Right now, airfare rates are low, but no one knows what the next few months will hold. Consider taking advantage of fares and booking your tickets for Convention now!

The Convention will take place July 8-10, 2010, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, Colorado. The Convention is in the heart of the downtown area and just 22 miles from Denver International Airport.

Twenty major airlines and a number of others fly into Denver. In addition, Air Canada, American Airlines, Delta and Northwest are offering special deals just for Optimists. To find out more about these deals, go to www.optimist.org/convention and check out "Air Travel."



Meet Faux Paw, the Techno Cat



You might have already seen her on the Optimist website or in *The Optimist* magazine. Faux Paw is a cute, orange cat who is very curious about the internet. She is no ordinary cat though – her job is to educate children ages 6 to 10 about the dangers they may encounter while on the internet.

The Faux Paw program was developed by the iKeepSafe Coalition and specially tailored for the Optimist organization. The program features a PowerPoint presentation that includes a movie about Faux Paw's adventures on the internet, the script for the volunteer presenter, an internet safety quiz, coloring pages and discussion sheets. It can be used in schools, youth group meetings and even at Alpha Club events.

The Faux Paw program files are available on the Optimist website, www.optimist.org. The materials for the program are also included in the Internet Safety packet, which can be requested through Optimist International at (800) 500-8130 or via e-mail at programs@optimist.org. One program packet is offered to each Club at no charge.

If your Club has held a Faux Paw activity, please contact the Programs Department. Optimist International would like to hear feedback and any suggestions you may have after using the materials.

Three Reasons to Celebrate

In just one week, the Optimist Club of Grantham-St. Catharines, Ontario, will celebrate 55 years of "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" in the local area. Even more exciting, two of the Club's Charter Members are still active in the Club today. Optimists Ron French and Alex Mannell have been there since the beginning and will help the Club take a trip down memory lane this month as the Club celebrates its past as well as its promising future!

A Notice About Fax Numbers for IKeepSafe

If your Club has received its complimentary Internet Safety packet, please note that all completed scheduling agreements and two-minute evaluation forms for the Faux Paw program should be submitted to the IKeepSafe Coalition. The fax numbers on the printed materials are incorrect. The correct contact information for the IKeepSafe Coalition is:

Fax: (703) 852-7100

Alternate Fax: (703) 991-7113

Phone: (904) 881-0968

The scheduling agreement, presenter evaluation and two-minute evaluation forms for the Adult Education component of the Internet Safety program should be submitted to Optimist International via fax at (314) 371-6006.

If you have any questions or would like to request your Club's complimentary program packet, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via e-mail at programs@optimist.org.

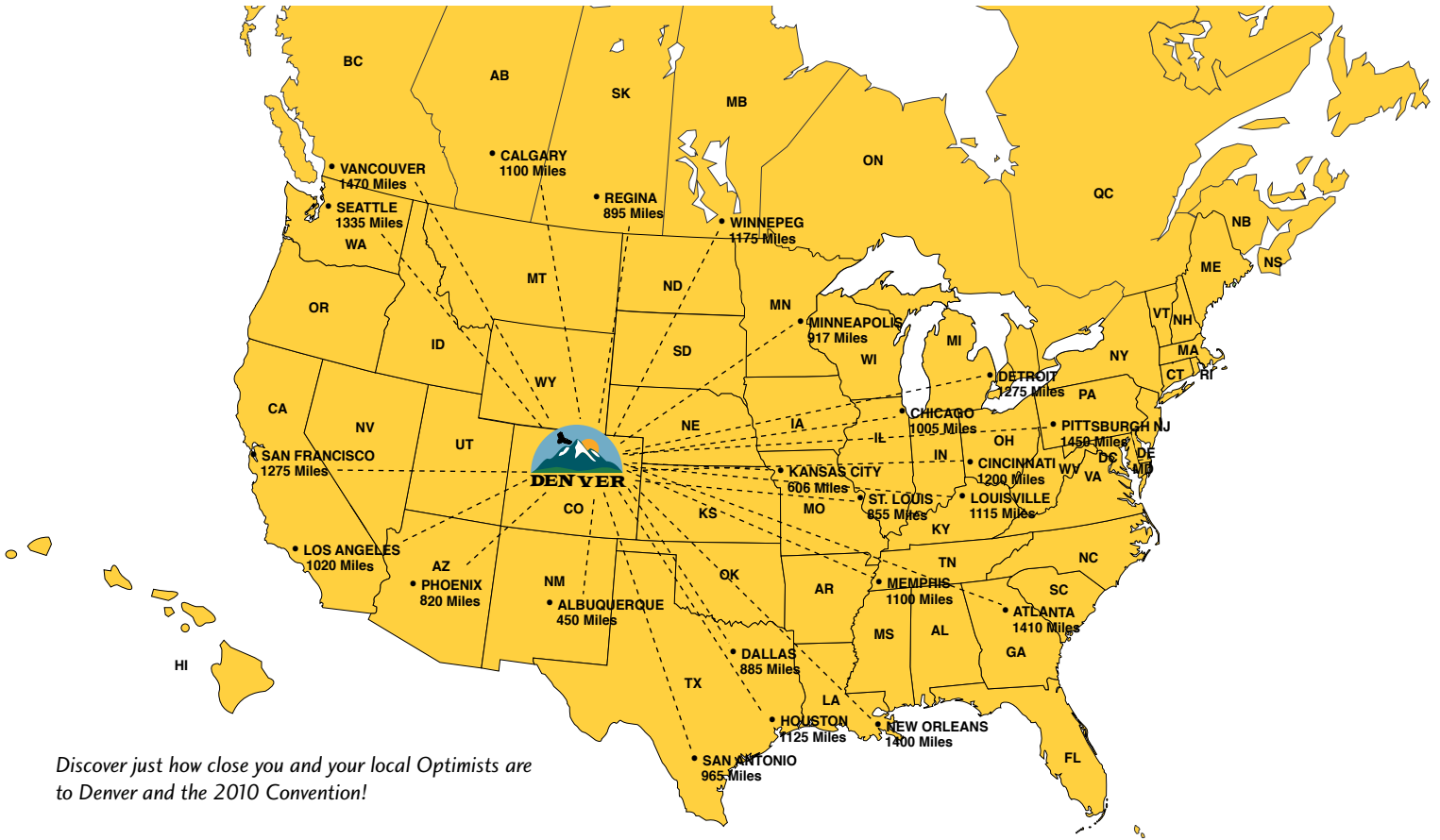
RINGING IN A BIG YEAR

After you reach a certain age and get a visit from Willard Scott, most people might think about slowing down a little and taking it easy for a while. Not Optimist Gertrude Purdue.

Purdue celebrated her 100th birthday this past May with Scott in attendance at a huge dinner courtesy of the Salvation Army and fellow Members of the Optimist Club of White Station, Tennessee, cheering her on.

Purdue joined the Optimist Club when she was 90 and has been a Club motivator ever since. If they had to choose, local Optimists might look forward to this time of year most. Purdue dedicated most of her life to working with the Salvation Army. And these days, when the red kettles come out, she starts baking.

"Each Christmas our Club Members ring the bells for the Salvation Army at a local grocery on a Saturday," Club Treasurer John Coleman said. "Each year Gertrude bakes a pumpkin bread loaf for each Member who has volunteered for the bell ringing. She encourages us in all our projects and we all love her dearly."



Discover just how close you and your local Optimists are to Denver and the 2010 Convention!

Time for an Optimist Road Trip!

If you think Denver sounds too far away for driving, think again!

Denver, Colorado, home of the 2010 International Convention, is only a day or two away by car for many Optimists. If you are still in doubt, check out the map for approximate travel miles.

What does this mean for you? It means it's time to declare a road trip and hop in a car with a few of your favorite Optimists! You'll save money, spend quality time with fellow Members and see the beautiful American countryside while you're at it. And with the new three-day Convention schedule, you'll have extra time to drive into the mountains (the threat of snow will be long gone by July!).

A WEEK OF JOOI



The JOOI Convention will also be in Denver this year, and it will take place just before the Optimist Convention. The JOOI Members will be at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel July 5-7, 2010, and their big week will wind down just as Optimists begin to arrive for their own Convention. Check out www.jooi.org often as more details are announced.

A Whole New Convention

Optimists have asked and the Convention planners have listened!

Anyone who has been to a Convention knows that the days can fill up quickly. There is free time here and there, but unless you plan to stay longer, sightseeing can be difficult for some. Plus, coming a day early or staying a day late means more money spent on hotels.

Optimists have expressed their desire to see more without seeing an increase in cost. And in 2010, they will get their wish. Convention events have been rearranged to fit into a three-day schedule. The new schedule means that some Optimists will be busy, busy, busy. It also means fewer days at Convention for those who strictly stick to business. And those who want to get off site and soak up the local flavor will be able to do so without spending any more nights than in past years.

To see just how the schedule has changed, or to find out how to start planning your day of sightseeing, check out www.optimist.org/convention.

Tournament of Champions Turns 5 with Big Weekend



Celebrating five years of the best of the best in junior golf, the Optimist International Tournament of Champions went off without a hitch in early November, thanks to a number of dedicated Optimist volunteers and determined young golfers.

One hundred young competitors battled it out on the Crooked Cat course at Orange County National Golf Center and Lodge in Winter Garden, Florida. All three playing fields finished with close scores as some of the most talented young golfers around aimed for the top spots.

Taking first place in the boys 16-18 division was a newcomer to Optimist Junior Golf. Jason Roets of Johannesburg, South Africa, finished three under par for the tournament and two strokes ahead of the playing field. Finishing in a tie for second were Hayden Squadrito of Oviedo, Florida, and Joshua Lee of Orange Park, Florida. Just one stroke back and rounding out the top four in the oldest boys division was Stephane Dubois of Brantford, Ontario.

Longtime Optimist participant Clancy Waugh of North Palm Beach, Florida, topped the boys 14-15 division. The championship comes a year after Waugh competed in a sudden-death playoff and finished in second place at the 2008 event. Waugh earned this year's championship with two rounds of steady golf and finished one stroke ahead of the field. Coming in second was Sheldon Statkewicz of Mobile, Alabama. Finishing in a tie for third were Austin Eoff of Benton, Arkansas, and Evan Deroche of Key West, Florida.

Local golfer Nicole Quinn of Windermere, Florida, scored the low round both days to capture the girls 14-18 division title. Quinn, another familiar name in Optimist golf tournaments, finished one stroke ahead of second-place finisher Katie Petrino of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Finishing the tournament in a tie for third were Juliana Herrera of Weston, Florida, and Kailey Walsh of Boca Raton, Florida.

Optimists can go to www.juniorgolfresults.com for overall tournament results and hole-by-hole scores for all players.



Top: Jason Roets (center) captured the boys 16-18 championship this year. Finishing tied for second were Hayden Squadrito (left) and Joshua Lee.

Center: Leading the boys 14-15 division were (from left) Sheldon Statkewicz in second place; Clancy Waugh as the 2009 champion; and Austin Eoff in a tie for third.

Bottom: President Mark Shriver was on hand to offer his congratulations to the winners of the girls 14-18 division. Top competitors included (from left) Katie Petrino in second place; 2009 champion Nicole Quinn; and Juliana Herrera, who tied for third place.

An Optimist with Pizazz

The premiere issue of *Pizazz!* magazine came out in Chickasha and Grady County, Oklahoma, this fall, and a big feature about Optimist Margaret Davis got things started off right.

Davis, an Optimist for more than 15 years and a member of the International Credentials Committee, has been a huge asset to a number of organizations in the Chickasha area. She was honored to be the subject of one of the magazine's first big stories. Magazine staff followed her around to see just how much of an impact she has on the local community, and the feature story certainly did her contributions justice!

Up Next: The Awards Hotline

The 2008-2009 *Awards Hotline* is just around the corner. Stay tuned to see how your Optimist Club and local Optimist leaders finished in the 2008-2009 Optimist year and find out who received top international-level Optimist awards for the "Give Me 'Five' for the Kids" year. The issue will be available in mid-January!

Submit Your District's Top Community Service and Fundraising CPAs

Just two weeks remain before all District-level Community Projects Awards winners need to be submitted.

The District-winning CPA entries and the First Place Entry Form must be submitted to the Programs Department by December 15, 2009. 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, 2009. 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 Chairperson and the District Governor. If your District has not yet submitted this form, please do so as soon as possible.

If 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.

STICKING TO THE RULES

The Zone, Region and District minimum number of contestants rule will be strictly enforced this year in all of the Optimist scholarship contests.

For the Oratorical Contest, if a Zone, Region or District sponsors a separate gender contest, there must be at least six participants – three boys and three girls. Combined gender contests must have no fewer than three participants.

In the District Essay Contest, there must be a minimum of three contestants participating.

In the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, there must be a minimum of three students at the Zone-, Regional- and District-level competitions.

In cases where the minimum number of three contestants at the Zone- or Regional-level contest cannot be met, there are two options. Club winners may be sent directly on to the next level of the competition or Zone or Regional contests can be combined. This decision will be up to the discretion of the District Contest Chair and the District Governor.

There are no exceptions made at the District level. If these minimums are not met, Districts will not be eligible for scholarship funding.

Don't Keep Good News to Yourself!

Is there an Optimist leader in your area who has been making waves in the organization, or even in the local community? Let Optimist International know so that the inspiring stories can be passed along to other Optimists! Just send an e-mail to communications@optimist.org. Photos are always welcome as well!