

Inside This Issue:

Read about the candidates who are ready to lead the organization into the coming years

Convention delegates face a number of decisions this summer – find out more about the issues that will be up for vote

HOTLINE

Optimist International's Leadership Publication

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Four Optimists to Vie for Two International Board Seats

Four Optimist Club Members have filed their intention to be nominated for a seat on the Optimist International Board of Directors. David Bruns of Topeka, Kansas; Edward A. Davis of Burbank, California; Esthermarie Hillman of Tucson, Arizona; and James Kondrasuk of Monona, Wisconsin, will be on the ballot at the International Convention in Florida in July. Club delegates will elect two of them to three-year terms, which begin October 1, 2009. The two elected will replace current Board members Carrollyn Cox and Dee Rushforth, whose terms expire September 30, 2009.

In addition, delegates will elect the International President-Elect and eight International Vice Presidents-Elect. Vice Presidents-Elect will be elected by specific Region. Delegates will vote for the Vice Presidential candidate for their Region only.

Questions about their vision for their leadership role were submitted to all candidates. Their responses can be found beginning on page 2.

Proposed International Bylaws Amendments to be Considered at Convention

Numerous proposed amendments to the Optimist International Bylaws will be presented to the delegates representing Optimist Clubs at the International Convention in Florida on Friday, July 10. The proposals are listed in this issue of the *Hotline* and are also available at www.optimist.org.

Each Optimist Club in good standing at the time of the Convention is entitled to one vote per 25 Members or major fraction thereof (13 or more) based on the numerical membership enrolled by the Club in the International Office as of April 30, 2009. A Club organized after that date, and prior to the first day of the Convention, is entitled to cast its votes on the basis of the numerical charter roster on file with Optimist International.

One designee from the Club, who must be registered for the Convention from that Club, must visit the Credentials Desk at the Convention and pick up the Club's ballots and other pertinent information. An individual may represent more than one Club, but he or she must be a Member of each Club and must pay a separate registration fee for each Club.

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

The Convention Resolutions Process can be used for any aspect of the organization not covered in the Bylaws. Clubs must submit resolutions by May 9, 2009, to the Resolutions Committee. The committee will choose the strongest resolutions and report them to Convention delegates on Saturday, July 11, for debate and vote (note: Resolutions endorsed by Convention delegates are non-binding and are sent to the International Board of Directors for further consideration and study).

Please type resolutions on Club stationery and include your Club name, Club number and Club President's signature. All resolutions should be written in standard resolution format: "Whereas ... , Whereas ... , Whereas ... , Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Optimist International is asked to consider... ." Please mail your resolutions to: Resolutions Committee, Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

International President-Elect Candidate



Danny Rodgers

Member (date joined): Breakfast Optimist Club of Fort Worth, Texas (1986)

Occupation: Municipal Judge, City of Fort Worth
Optimist Service: Club President – 1993-1994 (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, North Texas District – 1995-1996 and 2002-2003; Governor, North Texas District – 1998-1999 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International Governance Committee – 2000-2003; Member, International New Club Building Committee – 2005-2006; Chair, International New Club Building/Renovation Committee – 2006-2007; Chair, International Governance Committee – 2007-2009; International Vice President – 2004-2005; Certified Club Builder; Certified District Trainer

What is your vision for the future of the organization?

I envision an Optimist International whose Clubs are easy to join, and easy to belong to while providing amazing opportunities to bring about positive change in the youth of our communities and our Members. I envision our organization embracing all of the available technology to facilitate meaningful communication at all levels. I envision our organization responding quickly to an ever-changing and increasingly challenging world. Finally, I envision an organization that does indeed bring out the best in kids, our Members and our communities, ensuring immediate and long-term viability as the new standard for excellence among service organizations worldwide.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure as International President?

Growth. We must grow. We must develop new ways of service and membership that attract those we have not yet reached. Communication is key. Everyone has an investment in this organization and should be part of the solution. In the words of Seth Godin, author of *Tribes*, we must create a platform for all Optimists to be “extraordinarily well connected, communicating up, down, and sideways.” Our growth must be real and sustained so that our focus may shift from mere survival to providing outstanding service to the youth of our communities and our Members.

What management and leadership skills will you use to lead the organization?

Leadership is many things. It is setting the example. It is making decisions. It is building and maintaining a team. Leadership is about listening – with your heart. Leaders are inspiring – with words well delivered, and the silence of fierce determination. Leadership is staying in the arena. I will do my best to do these things – every day, as your President. Join me on this journey. In the end, years and years from now, few will remember our names, but every heart we touch and every life we change will remember that Optimists do indeed bring out the best in kids.

International Board Candidates



David "Dave" Bruns

Member (date joined): White Lakes Optimist Club of Topeka, Kansas (1983)

Occupation: District Court Judge – State of Kansas

Optimist Service: Club President – 1988-1989 (Honor & Distinguished); Lt. Governor, Kansas District – 1991-1992; Governor, Kansas District – 1997-1998 (Honor & Distinguished); Member, International Activities Committee – 1999-2000; Member, International Governance Committee – 2000-2006; Member, International JOOI Committee – 2006-2008; Chairman, International JOOI Committee – 2006-2008; Chairman, International Membership & Retention Committee – 2008-2009; International Vice President – 2004-2005; Member, Kansas City Convention Host Area Committee – 2003-2004; International Convention Faculty – 2000-present

What is your vision for the future of the organization? Growing up in an Optimist family, I was blessed with the opportunity to participate in the Optimist Oratorical Contest, in Optimist sports, and in various other Optimist activities. My children, who are now in college, also had the opportunity to take part in many Optimist activities in their youth. It is my "vision" that children will continue

to have the same opportunity to learn from Optimist coaches and mentors for many generations to come. Although not all Optimist Clubs in the future will look like my father's Optimist Club, the service they provide will be no less important.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? My primary goal is for all Optimists to join together during these difficult times to renew our "commitment to youth" and our "commitment to growth." While showing respect for our traditions, we must look for innovative ways to expand our membership and to increase our service to youth. As chair of the JOOI Committee, I was honored to work "hand-in-hand" with many great young leaders, including Nick Jensen, Raquel Ravaglioli and Julie d'Auteuil. In doing so, I was reminded that we can learn a great deal from our young leaders if we simply take the time to listen.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?

Serving in leadership positions at the Club, Zone, District and International levels, I am familiar with the opportunities and the challenges we face at each level of our organization. Regardless of the position in which we serve, it is important to keep in mind that we are all Members of local Optimist Clubs. Moreover, I have learned in my profession that decisions should not be made out of fear, but that we cannot fear to make decisions. I have also learned that the best decisions are usually made by listening to one another and working together in good faith.



Edward A. "Ed" Davis

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of North Hollywood, California (1994); Optimist Club of Studio City, California (2000); and Optimist Club of Burbank, California (2000)

Occupation: Self-employed contractor, property management, business consulting and computer consultation

Optimist Service: Club President (North Hollywood) – 1997-1998 (Honor Club); Club President (Burbank) – 2004-2005 (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, Pacific Southwest District – 1999-2000 (Distinguished); Governor, Pacific Southwest District – 2003-2004 (Honor District); District Foundation Representative – 2004-2005

What is your vision for the future of the organization? To bring continued growth to the organization through important actions responding accurately to the new generation's needs, in order to "Bring Out the Best in Kids." When life is good to us, it is important to give back to society. Our organization offers the membership an exceptional possibility to continue working toward this goal. It is important that we never lose track of "working for the youth," which is, and always will be, our goal.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? When I am elected to the distinguished Board of Directors, I would continue to develop strategies to increase membership, increase ways for Members to be more hands-on with the youth, because this makes them feel more involved and therefore want to give more of their time and ability. I would find ways to reduce our expenses and increase income streams, and let the President know that the Board of Directors has been successful in its tasks.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?

I have for over 30 years served on many boards: international, finance, advertising, membership, publishing, administration and trouble shooting. I have learned to get along with many different personalities, and know how to overcome many difficulties in order to get the job done. These abilities have been used many times within the Optimist organization.

International Board Candidates



Esthermarie Hillman

Member (date joined): Pueblo Optimist Club of Tucson, Arizona (1996); and Ochoa Optimist Club of South Tucson, Arizona (2006)

Occupation: Goldsmith

Optimist Service: Club President (Pueblo Tucson) – 1999-2000 (Bronze Honor Club) and 2008-2009; Lt. Governor, Arizona District – 2000-2001; Governor, Arizona District – 2004-2005 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International Development Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International New Club Building Committee – 2006-2007; Certified Club Trainer; Certified District Trainer; Certified Club Builder; New Club Field Representative

What is your vision for the future of the organization? When I became an Optimist my District was shrinking. The area I live in had 3 Zones consisting of 9 Clubs. My Club had 22 Members. Now, my District has been distinguished for the last 7 years and we do not plan on stopping that streak

anytime soon. The area I live in has 19 Clubs and we are looking at adding Zones, and my Club has over 75 Members. We accomplished this by working together and showing individuals, the community and schools what Optimist Clubs could do for them. My vision is spreading Optimism through the schools like the Optimists in Quebec spread it through the churches.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? The most important thing to me is communication. Whether it is letting the individual, Club or District know about programs or new services Optimist International is offering, we need to make sure they are getting the information. Communication in the other direction is just as important. As a Board member I will always be accessible by phone, text, e-mail or letter. I will strive to utilize all forms of communication available today and new forms in the future. I will strive to make all Clubs' votes count. The Convention is the most expensive thing that Optimist International does. Maybe it is time to keep it in the St. Louis area. It is centrally located, and not relocating our office once a year would save a lot. The St. Louis area has a lot to offer us.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the board?

First, I have a degree in accounting so I understand accounting reports. I have run my own successful businesses for over 25 years. Besides the leadership roles I have taken on with the Optimist organization, I have also been a leader in my neighborhood association and several different business groups. All were in better shape after I left office than before I was elected. Finally I am very good at looking at situations from many different perspectives and coming up with creative solutions.



James W. "Jim" Kondrasuk

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Monona Grove, Wisconsin (1990); former Member of Optimist Club of Middleton, Wisconsin; Optimist Club of Waunakee, Wisconsin; and Optimist Club of Capitol Square, Wisconsin

Occupation: Financial advisor and retirement plan consultant

Optimist Service: Club President (Waunakee) – 1985-1986 (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, Wisconsin–Upper Michigan – 1986-1987 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Governor, Southern Wisconsin District – 1993-1994 (Honor District & Distinguished Governor); Member, International Finance Committee – 1997-1999; Member, International Strategic Planning Committee – 1999-2000; International Vice President – 2000-2001; Member, International Candidate Qualifications Committee – 2001-2004; Member, International Governance Committee – 2004-2007; Chair, International New Club Building Committee – 2008-2009

What is your vision for the future of the organization? My vision for Optimist International is to

continue to be, and to expand our role as, THE premier youth-serving organization. We also need to seek new and relevant ways to serve the youth of today with the tremendous challenges before them and us. We cannot simply rely on the old ways of doing things – those days are gone. To this end we need to explore all avenues open to us, including but not limited to new club/membership models, new programs, use of the internet, new partnerships with new organizations and expanded partnerships with current ones.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? To continue to foster the spirit of cooperation between Board members and the professional staff – look to enrich those relationships to help make our organization even more efficient and effective in meeting its goals. To look for ways to stem the tide of declining membership, by focusing on what we do, and what we can do better to serve our kids and communities. Keep an open door with the membership – an open flow of information. Ensure, as much as possible, that we remain on a sound financial basis so that we can continue our mission of service to kids!

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?

I have spent almost all of my professional career in management and/or leadership positions – 24+ years as a senior level officer in a bank; chaired numerous committees for various organizations (Optimist, church, fraternal); have served in an elected capacity as a school board member during the passing of a referendum and then the construction of a new high school; have the privilege to serve this organization as a Governor and a Vice President. I also have served as the President of our local Chamber of Commerce, and as the President of a local 501(c)(3) organization.

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



Northeast & Great Lakes Region

(Atlantic Central, Atlantic Northeast, Central Ontario, Michigan, Midwestern Ontario and Southwestern Ontario Districts)

Don Brose

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Clarkston Area, Michigan (1992); and Optimist Club of Grand Blanc Area, Michigan (2004)

Occupation: Lighting Showroom owner

Optimist Service: Club President, Clarkston Area – 1998-1999, 2006-2007 (Honor) and 2007-2008; Lt. Governor, Michigan District – 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 (Honor); Governor, Michigan District – 2005-2006 (Distinguished); Member, International Convention Credentials Committee – 2006-2007; Member, International Development Committee – 2007-2008; Host Chairman, 2001-2002 JOOI Convention; JOOI Advisor of Excellence – 2002-2003

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? Growth is contagious. To encourage growth one can create growth, promote growth and recognize growth. I intend to set an example by personally building Clubs, strongly encourage Governors in my Region to do the same, all early in the Optimist year. Recognizing and motivating those who follow in the same efforts can achieve immediate impact, creating excitement about Club building throughout the Region. Understanding the strengths of Members of the Regions I inherit, and helping them use these strengths to achieve the respect and admiration of Optimist Members in their home District, will create positive attitudes, fostering and maintaining membership.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Every Region, every District has its own personality, its own strengths and its own weaknesses. The International Vice President can make the effort to understand these idiosyncrasies by communicating with as many of the leaders and Members as possible. He or she can then motivate and spread the word of these strengths to other Members in other Districts, and can also attempt to turn weaknesses into strengths. This is so important with New Club Building and membership growth. The effective communication and promotion of goals and dreams of the leaders of Optimist International can lead to a more successful organization.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I have much leadership experience not only in our great organization, but in business and local organizations as well. My experience as president of our local Chamber of Commerce has given me the ability to bring together diverse businesses toward a collective goal. I've been told that I have the innate ability to understand people's true feelings, knowing when to push and when to applaud, leading to achievement of others' individual goals. My experience and love of JOOI has taught me to encourage and have fun as we achieve goals, for after all, we are all volunteers. We can achieve our goals and enjoy every minute of it.



Southeast Region

(Alabama–Louisiana–Mississippi, Caribbean, Georgia, North Florida, South Carolina and South Florida Districts)

Adrian Elcock

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Bridgetown, Barbados (1997); and Optimist Club of Ocho Rios, Jamaica (2006)

Occupation: Director and co-owner of an electrical contracting firm, lighting and electrical supplies store, commercial real estate developments, and men's clothing stores

Optimist Service: Club President (Bridgetown) – 1999-2000 (Triple Distinguished President); Lt. Governor, Caribbean District – 2001-2002 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Governor, Caribbean District – 2005-2006 (Honor District/Distinguished & Outstanding Governor); Member, International Convention Credentials Committee – 2006-2007; Member, International Governance Committee – 2007-2009

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? There must be a clear understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each Club in the Region and a growth program/strategy would be developed based on those results. At a basic level, each Member must take responsibility to add at least one new Member to their roster and Clubs would be encouraged to create various recognition awards and incentives for the Member's recruitment efforts. I am also a big fan of retention initiatives and maintaining current Members' health in their Clubs.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? The International Vice President must be a champion/cheerleader of their Districts and be the conduit of strategy and information between Optimist International, the International President and the Districts.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I am a businessman for the last 15 years involved in various businesses in different industries. This experience has allowed me to develop my management skills of people, time and resources to achieve positive results in all aspects. In addition to my business training, I am a trained accountant from a United States university and I have worked for a former Big 6 accounting firm in the USA prior to returning home to Barbados. I say this because my proposed Region will be diverse in cultures and people and having the experience of working and living in both the Caribbean and the USA gives me the unique perspective of understanding the diverse Districts that make up the Region.

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



Mid Atlantic Region

(Capital–Virginia, Kentucky–West Virginia, Maryland–South Delaware, North Carolina East, North Carolina West and Tennessee Districts)

Robert Buss

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Northview-Kodak, Tennessee (1999); Optimist Club of Angel Tree-Knoxville, Tennessee (2006); Optimist Club of Boyds Creek-Seymour, Tennessee (2006); and Optimist Club of Chilhowee/Holston-Knoxville, Tennessee (2008); former Member of five Clubs in the Florida District (1966, 1979, 1983, 1985 & 1995)

Occupation: Retired

Optimist Service: Club President – 1969-1970 and 2002-2003; Lt. Governor, Florida District – 1972-1973 and 1975-1976; Lt. Governor, Tennessee District – 2003-2004 (Distinguished & Outstanding) and 2008-2009; Governor, Tennessee District – 2005-2006 (Distinguished & Outstanding); District Foundation Rep – 2007-2008

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I will work with the District administrations to reach their goals, understanding that all Clubs are not equal, each having different strengths and weaknesses, and encourage working as a team, suggesting all Clubs have a plan to grow their membership and the need to work their plan. I will be available to listen and offer guidance.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Be enthusiastic. Be available to all Members and their Clubs. Keep the Districts informed of the programs of the International President and Optimist International. Most important: Lead by example.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I have served in various management positions during the 35 years working for the company I retired from in 1997. I have served in many Club and District offices and chairs in the 42 years as an Optimist. I have the ability to listen and work well with various personalities and I am able to accept change when it will benefit the organization.



Middle America Region

(East Missouri, Illinois, Indiana North, Indiana South, Ohio and West Missouri Districts)

Margaret K. Barclay

Member (date joined): Noon Optimist Club of Centerville, Ohio (1990); Optimist Club of Springhorn, Ohio (2004); and Fremont Area Optimist Club, Ohio (2006)

Occupation: Retired teacher and administrator

Optimist Service: Club President – 1998-1999 (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, Ohio District – 2001-2003 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Governor, Ohio District – 2004-2005 (Honor District); Member, International Activities Committee – 2006-2007; Member, International JOOI Committee – 2008-2009

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? After getting to know the District leaders and Club Members in my Region, I will help them assess where they are and where they want to go – their hopes, dreams and plans. I will encourage and help train Members in New Club Building, including traditional, non-traditional, college and JOOI Clubs and in membership growth and retention. I will help Districts to be open to finding new projects to serve youth in a changing and challenging world. Finally, I hope to inspire leaders to “greater accomplishments.”

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? The most important thing a Vice President can do is to enthusiastically and personally represent Optimist International, help Optimists appreciate the importance of what they are already accomplishing in their communities and inspire them to move ahead to accomplish even more. The International Vice Presidents I remember most and best are those who told of life experiences that motivated them to dedicate their lives to furthering Optimism. I believe there should be personal involvement in this position.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? The leadership skills I have begin with the ability to help people recognize their own strengths followed by the teaching ability to help people develop new ideas. I am enthusiastic and have a wide range of knowledge of Optimist policies and programs, but strive to keep up with the latest developments in our communities that demand new responses to challenging situations. In 20 years as a school principal, I believe my greatest strength was in identifying the talents of my staff and in helping them develop and use these talents to accomplish great learning situations.

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



Great Plains Region

(Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming, Dakotas–Manitoba–Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Southern Wisconsin and Wisconsin North–Upper Michigan Districts)

Gloria J. Kloster

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Brookings, South Dakota (1997)

Occupation: Freelance artist, retired interior designer

Optimist Service: Club President – 2001-2002; Lt. Governor, DMM District – 2001-2002 (Honor); Governor, DMM District – 2004-2005 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Optimist International Foundation Rep – 2006-2007 (Distinguished); Chair, International Membership, Retention & Recruitment Committee – 2006-2007; U.S. Chair, International Membership, Retention & Recruitment Committee – 2007-2008; Member, International Growth Panel – 2007-2008; Member, International Membership, Recruitment & Retention Committee – 2008-2009

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? Three years on International Membership committees have exposed me to many innovative and workable growth programs being used by our most successful Clubs. Working with each Governor, I'll share those ideas and brainstorm with District Members to find ways to adapt them to their own communities and goals. And as a Certified Club Builder, I'll be available to assist in existing Club revitalization and New Club endeavors – whether by long distance or on-site support. My hope is that each of my visits to a District in the Great Plains Region would involve a Club building or renovation project!

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? The successful International Vice Presidents that I have had the privilege of knowing, working with and learning from have capitalized on their abilities to draw from their experiences and resources to energetically, creatively and proactively carry the International President's message throughout their Regions. They have accomplished this while actively supporting and assisting the Governors, their District committees, and local Optimist Clubs and Members in identifying and accomplishing their critical goals of growth, leadership development and increased service to our youth. If elected to serve as an International Vice President, I would continually endeavor to emulate these role models.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I'm a Certified International Trainer and a Certified Club Builder. Prior to becoming an Optimist, I spent 27 years as the wife of an active-duty Army officer, living and traveling worldwide. I headed a variety of volunteer organizations, serving and advocating for soldiers and their families; served as a Department of the Army certified trainer for the Army Family Team Building Program; and learned multiple ways to approach problem-solving. I'll use the training and experiences garnered from both my Army and Optimist families to assist the Great Plains Region Districts in attaining their growth, leadership development and youth service goals.



Southwest Region

(Arkansas, Colorado–Wyoming, Kansas, New Mexico–West Texas, North Texas, Oklahoma and South Texas Districts)

Ron Graves

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of San Antonio, Texas (1993)

Occupation: Self-employed professional speaker and author

Optimist Service: Club President – 1999-2000 (Honor & Distinguished); Lt. Governor, South Central Texas District – 2001-2002 (Distinguished); Governor, South Central Texas District – 2002-2003 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee – 2003-2004; Member, Optimist International Foundation Board of Directors – 2005-2009; President, Optimist International Foundation – 2007-2008

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I will lead them with enthusiasm for the purpose of Optimist International, which is to provide hope and a positive vision for kids in their Club area.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Provide bold and contagious enthusiasm for the job and work with them on their plan of action to accomplish goals they set for themselves.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I have a 35-year career in leadership with military service and insurance marketing, and I speak about leadership and conduct leadership sessions for all groups.

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



West Coast Region

(Arizona, California South, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southeast and Pacific Southwest Districts)

Linda Molthen

Member (date joined): Noon Optimist Club of Cerritos, California (1993)

Occupation: Social services coordinator

Optimist Service: Club President – 1994-1995 (Honor), 1997-1998 (Distinguished) and 2000-2001 (Distinguished); Lt. Governor, Pacific Southeast District – 2002-2003; Governor, Pacific Southeast District – 2006-2007 (Distinguished); Member, OIF Grant Committee – 2008-2009

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? By attending membership workshops at the International Conventions to learn the latest information on how to successfully recruit new

Members and to work with the District Governors to communicate that information to the Clubs in their Districts.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Communicate ... communicate ... communicate! Communication is the key to a successful and productive relationship with the District Governors. Whether it is through e-mail, snail mail or telephone calls, it is vital to know what's happening in their Districts not only to address any problems but to also recognize successes.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I believe that setting goals is extremely important. Few people would set off on a trip without knowing their final destination. Setting goals is the road map to success. As an International Vice President, I would encourage the District Governors to set written goals for their Districts. Being a good leader requires knowing the strengths of those you are working with and to encourage them to use their strengths to achieve their goals.

I am also well organized and I believe that I can communicate with people on any level. I have been told I have the ability to turn stale old philosophy into something new and exciting.



St. Lawrence Region

(Eastern Ontario, Quebec Center, Quebec East and Acadia, Quebec East–North Shore, Quebec South and Quebec West Districts)

Raymonde Michaud

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Riviere-du-Loup, Quebec (1991)

Occupation: Retired teacher

Optimist Service: Club President – 1995-96 (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, Quebec East and Acadia District – 2001-2002 (Honor); Governor, Quebec East and Acadia District – 2005-2006 (Distinguished & Outstanding)

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I will help them grow by never failing to keep up with the rank and file; by being an active Optimist within my Club, my District and my Region; by speaking to Members with the conviction that they are the core of Optimist International; and by taking action as soon as possible in the Optimist year, so that Clubs will be able to ensure their

growth and, if they so desire, I will lend assistance.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? The most important thing an International Vice President can do is to enthusiastically believe that Optimist International is the greatest organization to Bring Out the Best in Kids; to have a comprehensive view of the structure and philosophy of Optimism in order to be able to link specific events to the organization as a whole; and to help the Governors and the Clubs achieve their goals.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I am known for my tenacious desire to succeed, my ability to work in teams, and my skill to get people working according to their strengths.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS 2009 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

ISSUE 1: COLLEGE CLUB MEMBERS

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The Board of Directors notes that there are college members remaining on Club rosters indefinitely and there is no mechanism to convert college members to adult members.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.
B. Annual Dues.

... Base dues is defined as follows: Tier 1 \$30; Tier 2 \$22; Tier 3 \$16; College Members \$5 (without regard to tiers). ...

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.
B. Annual Dues.

... Base dues is defined as follows: Tier 1 \$30; Tier 2 \$22; Tier 3 \$16; College Members \$5 (**college member status to be reviewed after five years**) (without regard to tiers). ...

ISSUE 2: ANNUAL AUDIT

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The International Board of Directors agreed with the International Audit & Finance Committee that given new auditing standards, the Bylaws requirement to have the audit 45 days after the fiscal year ends causes undue pressure on the auditors and staff, resulting in some additional audit adjustments after the initial report. Therefore, the Board of Directors recommends the following revision to the Bylaws.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 7. Audit.

The Board of Directors shall contract for an annual audit of the books of account of Optimist International by a certified public accountant. Said audit shall be taken within 45 days after the close of the fiscal year, and a report thereon shall be submitted to the Board at its meeting next following the completion of the audit.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 7. Audit.

The Board of Directors shall contract for an annual audit of the books of account of Optimist International by a certified public accountant. Said audit shall be taken within ~~45~~ **60** days after the close of the fiscal year, and a report thereon shall be submitted to the Board at its meeting next following the completion of the audit.

ISSUE 3: 15 MEMBER PILOT CLUB PROGRAM

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The 15 member Pilot Club program will expire on September 30, 2009. The program has been a success and the Board of Directors believes it should be extended for several more years. It should be noted that many of the Clubs brought in to date were begun as 15 member Clubs but ended up with 25 or more charter members.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article III. Membership

Section 1. Clubs.

A. Optimist Club Structure.

2. New Clubs.

c. Submission of a list of charter members numbering not less than 25, or not less than 15 for Clubs in designated non-districted areas, each of whom shall have paid the full membership fee as established in the Club's bylaws. Effective upon adoption until September 30, 2009, a Club may be chartered with 15 members in targeted Districted areas upon approval by the International Board of Directors.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article III. Membership

Section 1. Clubs.

A. Optimist Club Structure.

2. New Clubs.

c. Submission of a list of charter members numbering not less than 25, or not less than 15 for Clubs in designated non-districted areas, each of whom shall have paid the full membership fee as established in the Club's bylaws. Effective upon adoption until September 30, ~~2009~~ **2012**, a Club may be chartered with 15 members in targeted Districted areas upon approval by the International Board of Directors.

ISSUE 4: YOUTH CLUB STRUCTURE

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: To clarify who would be eligible to be a JOOI Member, the International Board of Directors, at the suggestion of the JOOI Board and International JOOI Committee, requests the following revision to the Bylaws.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article III. Membership

Section 1. Clubs

C. Youth Club Structure. Membership in this class of Optimist International shall consist of affiliated Junior Optimist Octagon International Clubs (JOOI). JOOI Clubs shall consist of young people ages 19 or below and still in high school or its equivalent. JOOI Clubs shall consist of Alpha, Junior Optimist, or Octagon youth clubs; the requirements of which shall be set forth in JOOI policies. JOOI Clubs shall meet all requirements for affiliation as prescribed in the JOOI policies of Optimist International. New Club formation and Club revocation procedures must also be consistent with JOOI policies. JOOI Districts and JOOI Board of Directors shall have direct supervision over JOOI Member Clubs under the auspices of the Optimist International Board of Directors. JOOI policies shall be established by the JOOI Board of Directors with the approval of the Optimist International Board of Directors.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article III. Membership

Section 1. Clubs

C. Youth Club Structure. Membership in this class of Optimist International shall consist of affiliated Junior Optimist Octagon International Clubs (JOOI). JOOI Clubs shall consist of young people ages 19 or below and ~~still in high school or its equivalent~~ **not yet a member of an Adult Optimist Club (to include College Clubs)**. JOOI Clubs shall consist of Alpha, Junior Optimist, or Octagon youth clubs; the requirements of which shall be set forth in JOOI policies. JOOI Clubs shall meet all requirements for affiliation as prescribed in the JOOI policies of Optimist International. New Club formation and Club revocation procedures must also be consistent with JOOI policies. JOOI Districts and JOOI Board of Directors shall have direct supervision over JOOI Member Clubs under the auspices of the Optimist International Board of Directors. JOOI policies shall be established by the JOOI Board of Directors with the approval of the Optimist International Board of Directors.

ISSUE 5: INTERNATIONAL DUES

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The organization is facing an unprecedented financial crisis caused primarily by two decades of declining membership and changes in the U.S. pension laws. Despite making cuts to spending over the past several years, the Board of Directors feels that a dues increase at this time is needed to put the organization back in a positive fiscal status and restore reserves as required by the Bylaws. Please note that the current dues amounts contained in the current Bylaws are from 2004, but have increased because of cost of living increases since then.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues. Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2004, 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 \$46.00 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$34.00 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$24.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of \$11.50 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$8.50 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$6.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. For each College Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, a Club shall pay annual dues of \$21.00 per member in Tier 1, \$15.54 in Tier 2, and \$11.13 in Tier 3, payable annually on 1 October. 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 \$16.00. 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 \$30; Tier 2 \$22; Tier 3 \$16; College Members \$5 (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. 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 October 1, January 1, and April 1.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues. Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2004, 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 ~~\$46.00~~ **\$59.62** for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, ~~\$34.00~~ **\$44.12** for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and ~~\$24.00~~ **\$31.00** for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of ~~\$11.50~~ **\$14.90** for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, ~~\$8.50~~ **\$11.03** for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and ~~\$6.00~~ **\$7.75** for Clubs in Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. For each College Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, a Club shall pay annual dues of ~~\$21.00~~ **\$31.60** per member in Tier 1, ~~\$15.54~~ **\$23.38** in Tier 2, and ~~\$11.13~~ **\$16.43** in Tier 3, payable annually on 1 October. 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 ~~\$16.00~~ **\$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 ~~\$30~~ **\$43.62**; Tier 2 ~~\$22~~ **\$32.21**; Tier 3 ~~\$16~~ **\$22.63**; College Members \$5 (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. 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 October 1, January 1, and April 1.

ISSUE 6: 4% RULE

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: Because of the extreme financial condition of the organization, the Board of Directors is requesting that the Bylaws requirement that each year's budget show a 4% surplus be suspended for the next four fiscal years while the organization solves its financial crisis.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 6. Budget.

Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the Board of Directors shall adopt a budget of estimated revenue and expenses for the following fiscal year for the several activities of Optimist International. The budget as adopted shall provide for an excess of revenue (whether from dues or surplus funds) over expenses of at least four (4%) percent of the member based budgeted revenues for that fiscal year unless this reserve would result in a reserve balance greater than twenty-five (25%) percent of the budgeted Membership revenue. In such a case, the reserve shall be equal to the amount necessary to bring the reserves to twenty-five (25%) of the membership revenue.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 6. Budget.

Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the Board of Directors shall adopt a budget of estimated revenue and expenses for the following fiscal year for the several activities of Optimist International. The budget as adopted shall provide for an excess of revenue (whether from dues or surplus funds) over expenses of at least four (4%) percent of the member based budgeted revenues for that fiscal year unless this reserve would result in a reserve balance greater than twenty-five (25%) percent of the budgeted Membership revenue. In such a case, the reserve shall be equal to the amount necessary to bring the reserves to twenty-five (25%) of the membership revenue. **(This 4% Requirement to be suspended until September 30, 2013.)**

ISSUE 7: WAIVER FOR THE WORLD BANK TIER STRUCTURE

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The International Board of Directors noted that as of March 7, 2009, the countries of Jamaica and Suriname are considered Tier 2 countries instead of Tier 3 according to the World Bank's Tier Structure. As Tier placement can change indiscriminately due to world economic situations, the Board of Directors is asking that a three-year moratorium be placed on the change in tier structure for these two countries until a substantiated global comparison can be made for these underdeveloped countries. Therefore, the Board of Directors recommends the following revision to the bylaws.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues. Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2004, 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 \$46.00 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$34.00 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$24.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of \$11.50 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$8.50 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$6.00 for Clubs Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. For each College Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, a Club shall pay annual dues of \$21.00 per member in Tier 1, \$15.54 in Tier 2, and \$11.13 in Tier 3, payable annually on 1 October. 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 \$16.00. 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 \$30; Tier 2 \$22; Tier 3 \$16; College Members \$5 (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. 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 October 1, January 1, and April 1.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues.

... 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, 2013, 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 October 1, January 1, and April 1.

ISSUE 8: INTERNATIONAL BOARD POLICIES

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

EXPLANATION: The Bylaws shall be considered the Constitution and Bylaws of Optimist International but the International Board Policies are, in fact, the actual legislation and directives governing the operation of the organization. Although the Bylaws cannot be changed except by vote of the delegates at convention, the International Board Policies can be changed any time by action of the International Board without prior or subsequent notice to the general membership. This proposed amendment returns the actual governance of Optimist International to the members, as has been stated many times recently by International officers. To be effective immediately.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article V. International Board of Directors

New Section 7. International Board Policies are attached to these Bylaws as an addendum and are a part of these Bylaws subject to the provisions of Article IX Amendments. The International Board of Directors may, by unanimous vote, modify or suspend portions of existing policy pending approval of the delegates at the next annual convention. Policy changes reinstated by the delegates at convention cannot be altered in the future except with prior approval by the delegates at convention.

ISSUE 9: TWO CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIVE OFFICES

(Submitted by the Optimist Club of Southeast Wichita, KS)

EXPLANATION: Optimist International Bylaws require elective offices be filled by election of the delegates at International convention. Although some offices provide for nominations from the floor, if none are received, the election process is degraded to confirmation by default of the selection of candidates by a small committee working in secret. By requiring two candidates from the Candidate Qualifications Committee, there will be an actual election of officers.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article V. International Board of Directors

Section 6. International Committees.

B. Duties.

2(d). The Candidate Qualifications Committee shall seek and receive the names and qualifications of prospective candidates for elective offices in Optimist International. It may consider prospective candidates on its own motion. During the convention this committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each elective office.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article V. International Board of Directors

Section 6. International Committees.

B. Duties.

2(d). The Candidate Qualifications Committee shall seek and receive the names and qualifications of prospective candidates for elective offices in Optimist International. It may consider prospective candidates on its own motion. During the convention this committee shall nominate at least ~~one~~ **two candidates** for each elective office.

ISSUE 10: ELECTIONS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Submitted by the Optimist Club of Reading-Springlawn-Westlawn, PA)

EXPLANATION: The original intent of the new Board structure was to remove the Candidate Qualifications Committee from the selection of candidates for Board members at large, except to certify that the person nominated meets the qualifications. This proposal shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the delegates.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article IV. International Conventions and Elections
Section 2. Elections.

A. Elections for the Board of Directors.

New Item 4. The Candidate Qualifications may only submit additional names if there are not enough self nomination submitted to fill the vacant seats.

Note: This conflicts with Bylaws Article V. International Board of Directors. Section 6. International Committees. B. Duties. Item 2(d).

The Candidate Qualifications Committee shall seek and receive the names and qualifications of prospective candidates for elective offices in Optimist International. **It may consider prospective candidates on its own motion.** During the convention this committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each elective office.

ISSUE 11: REPORTING TO THE BOARD

(Submitted by the Optimist Club of Reading-Springlawn-Westlawn, PA)

EXPLANATION: The new Board structure was designed to give more stability and continuity to the organization. However with the CEO changing every year we still have not achieved that goal in its entirety. The President should be the face of Optimist International and should concentrate on working with the Vice Presidents and Governors to grow the organization. When the President gets involved in the day-to-day operation of the organization they are not able to concentrate on the growth of the organization. Since the committees work for the Board and the entire organization, this change gives the Board the ability to adopt policy on reporting that will lead to greater efficiency and be more cost effective. This proposal shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the delegates.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article V. International Board of Directors
Section 6. International Committees.

D. Reporting. Except for the convention business committees the chairmen or their designees shall report to the Board of Directors and to the President at such times as the President shall determine. The content of such reports shall be released only at the direction of the Board of Directors or the President.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article V. International Board of Directors
Section 6. International Committees.

D. Reporting. Except for the convention business committees the chairmen or their designees shall report to the Board ~~of Directors and to the President at such times as the President shall determine:~~ **in the form and manner prescribed by the Board of Directors at the request of the President or Board.** The content of such reports shall be released only at the direction of the Board of Directors ~~or the President.~~

ISSUE 12: DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

(Submitted by the Optimist Club of Reading-Springlawn-Westlawn, PA)

EXPLANATION: The new Board structure was designed to give more stability and continuity to the organization. However with the CEO changing every year we still have not achieved that goal in its entirety. The President should be the face of Optimist International and should concentrate on working with the Vice Presidents and Governors to grow the organization. When the President gets involved in the day-to-day operation of the organization they are not able to concentrate on the growth of the organization. The duties normally associated with a Chief Executive Officer are already specifically assigned to the Executive Director. This has the potential to cause conflicts on who is running the day-to-day operations of the International Office. The President's main roll should be to promote the growth of the organization through the volunteer members. This proposal shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the delegates.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VI. International Officers
Section 2. President.

The President shall preside at the International convention and over the Vice Presidents Council and shall be the Chief Executive Officer exercising general supervision over the interests and affairs of Optimist International, subject to the direction of the Board. He shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of the President.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VI. International Officers
Section 2. President.

The President shall preside at the International convention and over the Vice Presidents Council ~~and shall be the Chief Executive Officer exercising general supervision over the interests and affairs of Optimist International, subject to the direction of the Board.~~ He shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of the President, **subject to the direction of the Board.**