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HOTLINE

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Letter from the President

As we kick off the 2008-2009 Optimist year, I can feel the excitement building! Everyone reading this has agreed to serve their Club, Zone or District in a very special capacity and that service begins right now.

So I ask you to "Give Me Five for the Kids!" As Members, as Clubs and as an organization, we need to be able to give to the kids. And this year we're going to make our goals in groups of five. The goals should be easy to attain – they can be counted on just one hand, after all!

We're asking for five new dedicated Optimist Members to serve more children, five solid New Clubs to fulfill needs in the community and five new ways in which each individual Optimist can better serve the organization. Your Club only needs three service projects to get on the path toward Honor Club, but why not round that number up to five as well? In return, each Optimist will see a positive change in far more than just five young people, I have no doubt!

We have the greatest youth programs in the world and we should be spreading our reach to more children every year. I believe in each of our Clubs, and I know we can work to make Optimism grow in each community and in a number of new communities, too! Develop those new projects, find those new Members and build those New Clubs. Don't forget to give each other a high-five for the success of your Club and your District. You deserve it!

Thanks to each of you for agreeing to serve this year, and thank you for the work you do!

In Optimism,

Don Sievers

Don Sievers

Optimist International President



Optimist Clubs Prepare to Take Action

Is the date October 18 circled on your Club's calendar? October 18 is the Second Annual Optimist in Action Day. This special event is a single unified day to promote the mission and values of Optimism to the public.

Clubs can participate in any way they choose. The idea is simple: spread the word of Optimism in a way that best suits your Members and community. An existing Club activity can be held or a new one can be introduced. Events can be centered around community

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A GLIMPSE AT GOLF

For Optimists, it's always the right time of year for golf. Boys 16-18 champion Emiliano Grillo and girls 16-18 champion Susana Benavides left an exciting mark on this past summer's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, and the excitement continues to build as Optimists gear up for next month's Tournament of Champions. For a more in-depth look at the happenings in the Optimist Junior Golf Program, see page 3.



Circle the Dates for District CPA Judging

District-level judging for the 2007-2008 Community Projects Awards should occur at the first quarter District Board meetings. The District Activities Chairperson should serve as Chair of the District CPA Jury.

The District Entry Form is 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. This form must be signed by both the District Activities Chairperson and the District Governor.

Each District may submit two CPA District-winning projects to Optimist International – a Community Service book and a Fundraising book. The District need not award winners in a category if the quality of the projects is insufficient. The District-winning books and the First Place Entry Form must be submitted to the Programs Department by December 15, 2008. Make sure to remove the District Evaluation Sheets before sending the books to the International Office.

If you need District judging forms, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 235, or programs@optimist.org.

CCC Introduces New Johns Hopkins and Canadian Recognition Incentive



The Childhood Cancer Campaign is introducing a new incentive for supporting a long-standing Optimist cause.

Several years ago, Optimist International partnered with Johns Hopkins University to further efforts for finding a cure for childhood cancer. On March 24, 2004, 2003-2004 Optimist International President Dwaine Sievers and Dr. Robert Arceci, director of pediatric oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, signed an agreement that would create the Optimist International Research Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology.

Optimist International made a \$1 million commitment to be paid by 2009 to establish the Endowed Research Fellowship. The fellowship will move forward research of acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) in the university's Division of

Pediatric Oncology. Optimist International has already donated \$560,000 of that commitment, thanks to the support of dedicated Members and Clubs.

Optimist International is instituting a banner patch recognition program that starts on October 1, 2008, and will conclude in December 2009. Clubs will receive special banner patches for donation levels of \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$2,000. Clubs that donate \$2,000 by May 15, 2009, and have a representative at the 2009 Convention in Florida will be recognized on stage during one of the business sessions. In order to qualify, Clubs must designate their donations for Johns Hopkins or for the Canadian CCC.

Donations should be sent to the Optimist International Foundations. Checks should be made out to OIF-CCC. Make sure to write "Johns Hopkins" on the memo line of the check or include a letter that says the funds should be directed to the Johns Hopkins commitment. All funds sent to the OIF-CCC from Canadian Clubs will be designated to the Canadian CCC fund.

If you have any questions, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 261 or 235, or via e-mail at ccc@optimist.org.

Everyone Wins Big at Summer Championships

Each year Clubs and Districts work hard to put on junior golf tournaments for thousands of junior golfers who are aiming to get to the big times – the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The Optimist volunteers work hard, the young golfers play hard and this year 620 golfers made their way to the international tournament.

Countless volunteers make it all happen at the Club and District levels, and about 40 of those volunteers also travel to the international tournament each year. They were not disappointed with what they saw on the courses in the summer of 2008.

Returning to the courses of PGA National Resort and Spa, this year's Optimist saw champions from 2007 come back to win for the second straight tournament.

There were sudden-death playoffs in the girls 14-15 and boys 12-13 divisions to add to the event's excitement. Two young golfers in the girls 10-11 and 12-13 divisions had holes in one. And to bring the 2008 event to an exciting close, the boys 16-18 champion, Emiliano Grillo, broke a long-standing tournament record by going 16 under par for the four-round tournament, an accomplishment never matched in the tournament's 14-year history!

And regardless of how they performed on the course, the junior golfers had plenty to enjoy off the course as well with activities throughout the week.

Check out the list of champions on this page. For complete results, go to www.optimist.org/golf, or look for a full recap in the fall issue of *The Optimist* magazine.



This year's champions in the younger age divisions are (top row from left) Guillermo Pereira, boys 12-13; Liliana Cammisa, girls 14-15; Ariya Jutanugarn, girls 12-13; (bottom row) Joshua Martin, boys 10-11; and Allisen Corpuz, girls 10-11. Not pictured: Poom Saksansil, boys 14-15

Optimist Golf Has Some New Winners!

Congratulations to the champions of the 2008 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships!

Girls 10-11

Allisen Corpuz (Kapolei, Hawaii)

Boys 10-11

Joshua Martin (Pinehurst, North Carolina)

Girls 12-13

Ariya Jutanugarn (Thailand)

Boys 12-13

Guillermo Pereira (Chile)*

Girls 14-15

Liliana Cammisa (Argentina)*

Boys 14-15

Poom Saksansil (Thailand)

Girls 16-18

Susana Benavides (Bolivia)

Boys 16-18

Emiliano Grillo (Argentina)

*Won in a sudden-death playoff

For complete results, go to www.optimist.org/golf.

Junior Golf Tournament to Draw Champion Performers

Coming on the heels of success of this summer's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is the Tournament of Champions, which is a little more than a month away!

The fourth annual Tournament of Champions will return to PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, November 15 and 16, 2008.

An elite group of young golfers has been invited to compete in this year's event. The playing fields will include top players from last year's tournament, top players from this past year's Optimist District qualifiers and the 2008 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships as well as top golfers from other highly regarded junior golf tournaments.

All age divisions will compete on the Champion course at PGA, an opportunity that is quite appealing to these young golfers. The pros compete on this very course for the PGA TOUR's Honda Classic each spring.

The Tournament of Champions draws 100 top junior golfers who compete in three age divisions – approximately 25 golfers in the girls 14-18 division, 25 golfers in the boys 14-15 division and 50 golfers in the boys 16-18 division.

For information or to follow local players who are competing in the event, visit www.optimist.org/golf.

Convention Delegates Approve Special \$1 Per Member Assessment

Club delegates at the International Convention in Grapevine, Texas, approved a one-time \$1.00 per Member special assessment to balance Optimist International's 2008-2009 budget. This assessment will be included on the billing that goes to all Clubs at the beginning of the first quarter of the 2008-2009 year.

The International Board of Directors had proposed a suspension of the \$1.00 per Member that Optimist International allots to each District for the 2008-2009 fiscal year in order to balance the budget. But a substitute motion was offered from the floor that called for assessing each Member an additional \$1.00 in 2008-2009 only. This motion was approved by the delegates representing Clubs from throughout the organization and the dues allotment suspension was not considered.

Delegates also approved a one-year suspension of the so-called "4% Rule" in the Bylaws that requires the Board to budget for a 4% surplus each year.

Both actions were needed to balance the 2008-2009 Optimist International budget and avoid program, service and personnel cuts. The fiscal concerns are the result of a continuing loss of membership and Clubs, as well as new U.S. Government regulations mandating the full funding of defined benefit employee pension plans within seven years. Optimist International's plan, while suspended in 1997, is still required to be fully funded in order to meet future obligations. This unfunded amount requires an annual expenditure of \$225,000.

Nominations Sought for International Board of Directors

Optimist Members who wish to run for a seat on the International Board of Directors must submit their application to the International Candidate Qualifications Committee via the International Office in St. Louis by November 1, 2008. The election of two new Board members will take place at the 2009 International Convention in Kissimmee, Florida. The two individuals elected will serve three-year terms beginning October 1, 2009.

All prospective candidates must have served a full term as a District Governor and be Members of an Optimist Club in good standing with Optimist International.

All candidates who submit a written application and meet the qualifications will have their name entered into nomination. The Candidate Qualifications Committee may also nominate candidates of its own accord.

Nomination applications should be sent to Optimist International, c/o Candidate Qualifications Committee, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 or faxed to (314) 371-6006. Applications will not be accepted by e-mail.

News About Dues

The dues for the Optimist fiscal year beginning October 1, 2008, are as follows:

Yearly Dues

Tier	Regular Members (annual amount in U.S. dollars)	College Members (annual amount in U.S. dollars)
Tier 1	\$49.62	\$21.60
Tier 2	\$36.72	\$16.00
Tier 3	\$25.80	\$11.24

For each Life Member enrolled, a Club pays annual dues of \$16 regardless of the tier.

Optimists can go to the Dues & Fees page of the website for a list of nations in each tier as well as a breakdown of the dues and fees by quarter and by month.

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service or fundraising. These activities can focus on childhood cancer, citizenship, safety, sports, youth appreciation or any need in the community.

While you're at it, make sure to send before and after press releases to the local newspapers and radio and television stations. Press releases are available on the Forms page of the Optimist website, www.optimist.org. Press releases are an easy way to get the word out about the event and your Club and attract some attention.

Most of all, have fun with this day to celebrate what Optimist International stands for!