



The Torch

Convention Gets *Fresh Look* But Keeps Old Favorites

For the 2008 Convention, JOOI is heading to Orlando, Florida, a city where the fun never ends and each attraction is bigger than the last.

JOOI is also planning a whole new format for Convention, but the good times will still be at a maximum!

Mark the calendar for June 25-28 at the Royal Plaza in the Walt Disney World Resort. To get the special room rate, you need to book rooms before May 26, so mark that day on your calendar, too!

What would JOOI be without service? With this in mind, there will be two service projects this year at Convention, one optional project and one for everybody. The optional project will take place June 26 and will involve the JOOI of Reading. The project for all JOOI Members will be an outdoor landscaping project on June 27.

Those who gather donations beforehand will participate in a dance-a-thon, so get your dancing shoes on and practice those impressive moves! Back by popular demand will be the Talent Show. And of course the JOOI Convention would not be the JOOI Convention without theme days (see the accompanying article on page 2 for more).

For all of the forms, go to www.optimist.org, look under JOOI Clubs and click on Convention, or call (800) 500-8130, ext. 218.

MAKE JOOI ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS

There are now MySpace and Facebook JOOI sites!

Please look for JOOI and add it as one of your friends. This is a great way to meet other JOOI Members and find out what other Clubs are doing throughout their community.

If you have any questions regarding MySpace please contact Craig Peden at hc_colonels_fan_04@hotmail.com or Donovan Chu at donovan.c.chu@gmail.com.

If you have questions regarding the JOOI Facebook site please contact Nick Jensen at nickj_47@hotmail.com.



Clubs Honor Local Veterans

While JOOI activities often focus on projects within school or helping kids in the area, JOOI Members in Conway, Arkansas, recently organized an event for those who have served to protect them.

In honor of the U.S. Veterans Day in early November, the St. Joseph Junior Optimist Club and the St. Joseph High School Octagon Club coordinated their sixth annual Veterans Day Service. More than 50 JOOI Members helped out to honor and say thanks to those who have served their country. Each year, more than 100 veterans and guests attend the ceremony, which includes recognition, a reflection on the history of Veterans Day, music and refreshments.



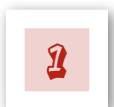
GET OUT THERE AND ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS!

If some students in your school are not in your JOOI Club yet, you have some opportunities for recruiting new JOOI Members!

Recruitment is one of the keys to your Club's future success. Why not start with JOOI's "Just Ask" movement? This movement was designed to solicit questions and interest in your Club.

Your Club should plan a good time for the Just Ask event. Members should wear the Just Ask stickers to encourage questions. Then talk about why you love being involved in JOOI, and the new Members will follow!

For sticker art and other helpful information, go to www.optimist.org and look under JOOI Clubs for "Just Ask."



Only at Convention Could You Ever Wear *That!*

What would the JOOI Convention be without themes to make your time in Orlando even more fun?

Here are the themes for the 2008 Convention. It's never too early to start planning and have a little fun with your wardrobe!



Friday, June 27 – Wacky Tie and Sock Day

Start searching now for the perfect tie and sock combo that you would never in a million years be caught wearing, unless you were headed to the JOOI Convention! The more clashing, fun and crazy the combination, the better!

Saturday, June 28 – Disney Day

It's time to become a real character! Whether you need to dust off your Mickey Mouse ears, you're feeling a little "Goofy" or you want to dress up like the prince or princess you've always thought you should be, now is your chance to fit in at the Magic Kingdom!



Now that your wardrobe has been decided, just what else is in store for Convention? For more Convention information, please go to www.optimist.org, look under "JOOI Clubs" and select "JOOI Convention."

Keeping Up with the JOOI of Reading

The JOOI of Reading program continues to grow and there are plenty of bookmarks available at the Optimist International Headquarters if your Club would like some to help promote your Club projects.

In addition, this year's Convention will feature an optional service project on Thursday, June 26. It will revolve around the JOOI of Reading, and JOOI Members are encouraged to participate!

For information, call (800) 500-8130, ext. 218.



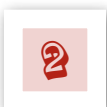
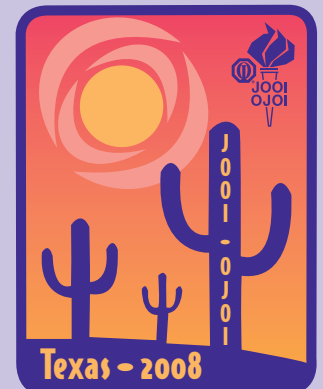
The Legacy Continues...

The JOOI Board is once again selling Convention pins beginning in March!

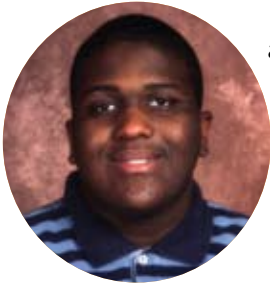
The design of the Convention pin was created to coincide with the 2008 Optimist International Convention in Grapevine, Texas. The pin will be pre-sold beginning in March, and the JOOI Board of Directors will also attend the adult Convention to sell pins to delegates on site.

Pins are \$25 each and sales go to benefit the JOOI Legacy Fund.

If you know someone who would like a pin and would like to support JOOI at the same time, call (800) 500-8130 or e-mail youthclubs@optimist.org.



JOOI Member Grabs Top Local Honors



JOOI has a community service award winner on its hands.

Craig Peden, this year's JOOI Parliamentarian, recently became the youngest winner ever of the Tri-County Community Service Award in Henderson, Kentucky.

Craig is a Member of the Hoffman Memorial Henderson County Octagon Club, a Club that has inspired much of his volunteer work over the years. Craig's community service accomplishments at such a young age became the deciding factor for this year's award, which catapulted him beyond the adult nominees.

To top it all off, October 14, the day after he received the award, was declared Honorary Craig Peden Day in Henderson County. Not many 16-year-olds can say that!

GET ACTIVE!

If your JOOI Club's status is still listed as "pending" for the year, this might have something to do with your Club's dues. With one easy payment, your Club can be on the track to "active" status, which is the way it should be!

Dues and fees payments were due on December 15 and include the dues for Club Members (up to 50 paying Members per Club) and the \$60 Club registration fee. Another reminder will be sent out to JOOI Club Advisers and the Sponsoring Optimist Club's Secretary/Treasurer sometime in January.

Don't forget that Club dues are now based on tiers defined by the World Bank. Dues depend on what country you live in, and the World Bank classifies countries as High Income Economies (Tier 1), Upper Middle Income Economies (Tier 2) and Low and Lower Income Economies (Tier 3). For example, the U.S. and Canada are in Tier 1, Mexico is in Tier 2 and Jamaica is in Tier 3. JOOI Clubs in Tier 1 countries will pay the same dues per Member that they paid during 2006-2007 - \$8 (U.S.) or the Canadian equivalent. For Tier 2, the fee is \$5.92 and for Tier 3 it is \$4.18.

In addition to paying all dues and fees, it is mandatory that a current Club Roster be filled out using the Membership Roster form. This form needs to be completed and sent in, along with the officer report forms. You can find the form on the JOOI pages of the website.

Please fill out the form and send it to Optimist International, Attn: JOOI Clubs, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. For questions about the new tier format, please call (800) 500-8130.

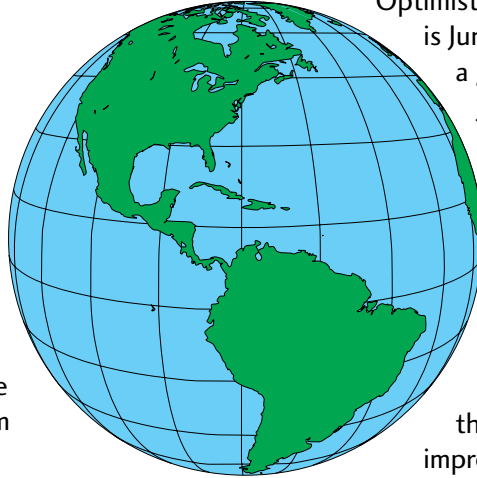
Turn Green with Optimism

Mark your calendars (in green ink, preferably) for the first Saturday in June, which has been designated as

Optimist Earth Day. The date is June 7, 2008, and it is

a great opportunity for JOOI Clubs to conduct a service project with their Adult Sponsoring Clubs.

The condition of the environment is a concern to people of all ages, and it is up to everyone to do their part to make improvements locally and across the globe.

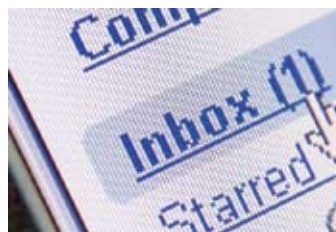


Optimist Earth Day will correspond with World Environmental Awareness Week, which is June 2-6 this year.

Contact your local Optimist Club and see if they would like to partner in planting a tree or flower bulbs, picking up trash at a local park, collecting recyclables or even cleaning graffiti off a building. Or make plans for your JOOI Club to do something on your own. There are enough areas in need for everyone to find some way to help!



Read Your Mail



Did you know that there is an e-mail box just for your JOOI Club at www.optimistmail.org? In it, you will find messages for your JOOI Members from President Raquel Ravaglioli, issues of *The Torch*

(including this one!) and important announcements and updates throughout the year.

The JOOI Club e-mail box should be checked by the JOOI Club Adviser, or one person should be appointed to check the e-mail box periodically.

For information about how to access your Club's e-mail, call (800) 500-8130 or send an e-mail to webmaster@optimist.org.

2006-2007 Award Winners

The following Clubs are award winners for the 2006-2007 JOOI year. Congratulations to all of these Clubs for their hard work!

Distinguished Honor Club

District	Club Number	Club Name	Club President	New JOOI Club
10	A1798	RAOK Junior Optimist Club	Courtney Pospisil	Alpha Club of The Meadows
10	A1614	Norfolk Panther Junior Optimist Club	Scott Sampson	Fairbury Optimist Club
54	B0510	Le P'tit Polar de Falardeau	Julie Bouchard	Club Octogone Val-Mauricie
54	B1524	Opti-Jeunes de Jonquière	Catherine Girard	Club Octogone Quatre-Vents de St-Félicien
54	B5031	Club Octogone de Larouche	Jordan Maltais	Club Octogone Séminaire Ste-Marie
54	B5039	Club Octogone St-Honoré	Mathieu Perron	Le P'tit Polar de Falardeau
54	B1052	Club Octogone Val-Mauricie	Mackie Bordeleau	Club Val-Bélair
54	B0370	Club Val-Bélair	Andrée-Ève Côté	Club Octogone de Charlesbours

Honor Club

District	Club Number	Club Name	Club President
5	B1759	Greensburg Community H.S. Octagon Club	Matthew Novak
10	B1845	Norfolk Panther Octagon Club	Laci Zobrist
14	B1980	Malibu High Optimist Club	Kate Mahon
16	B1890	Madison HS Octagon Club	June Shrestha
3	A0465	North Junior High School	Katie Ayer
3	B1048	Hoffman Memorial Octagon	Megan Snyder
47	B5066	Club Octagone Les Jeunes Altruistes de Markham	Alexandra Russell
49	B1422	Club Octogone de la région de Cornwall	Kourtney Prieur
53	B5030	Club Octogone Envolado de Terrebonne	Jonathan Poirier
53	A5029	Les Petits Ducs de St-Antoine	Vincent Richer
53	A0530	Les Dragons Fantastiques de Gatineau	Camille Toutloff
53	B0570	Les Incroyables de Gatineau	Jessica Toutloff
53	A1253	Les Fourchettes du Plateau de Mascouche	Audrey-Anne Boulet
53	B1331	Club Octogone S.M.A.T., Inc	Sébastien Cloutier
53	A5037	Les Anges de Ste-Sophie	Vincent Lauzon
53	B0344	Club Octogone de Thurso	Anny-Pier Boyer
53	A5015	Les Micro Jeunes de Pointe-Calumet	Kimberly Garrison
54	B5049	Opti-Pros de Dolbeau	Stéphanie Lalonger
54	B5053	Club Octogone Laterrière	Ana Rosa Dallaire
54	B5011	Club Octogone St-Ambroise	Léticia Brassard
54	B0927	Club Octogone Quatre-Vents de St-Félicien	Alix Verreault-Tremblay
54	B0496	Club Octogone Séminaire Ste-Marie	Yang Song Gélinas
54	B5071	Club Octogone Polyvalente de la Baie	Claudia Lalancette
78	B2043	Old Harbour Octagon Club	Tiffany Reid
78	B1936	Optimist Octagon JOOI Club of the All Saints Secondary School	Nickeisha Guy
78	B1969	Octagon Club of Alpha Academy	Jelicia Barrett
78	C0105	Alpha Club of St. Theresa	Nadani Dixon
78	B1881	Octagon Club of Calabar	Garvin Grandison
78	B2020	Merl Grove Octagon Club	Deborah Stewart

Awards: New for the Year

The JOOI Awards have been changed and updated this year, so JOOI Clubs should be sure to read about the newly restructured awards. The information is available online by going to www.optimist.org, looking under "JOOI Clubs" and clicking on "Forms and Publications." On the next screen, look for the Awards section (chapter 9) of the JOOI Planning Guide. Encourage your Club to get involved in the awards – there are some great opportunities available!

