



The Torch

Make a **Big Impact** Before the Big Game



SM There is still time before the big game to come up with a strategy for your JOOI Club's "Souper Bowl of Caring" plans.

Souper Bowl of Caring is the latest

project that JOOI has teamed up with to help out those in need locally. Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-led movement of giving and serving that is transforming the traditional Super Bowl Weekend into a time to help those who need it most. In schools, participation takes place January 26-30 this year – the week leading up to Super Bowl Sunday.

Your JOOI Club can take the lead in your school, and it's easy to do! First, register your JOOI Club at www.souperbowl.org. Please make sure you use "JOOI" in your Club's name when you register on the website. By registering, your Club will receive a free resource kit that is full of helpful info, including a DVD, posters, pointers, ideas and more! Then, use the week of January 26-30 to collect canned goods and/or money to benefit a local not-for-profit that serves those in need. Total up your Club's collection and report back to Souper Bowl of Caring so your Club's efforts count as part of the grand total! Donate all of your collection to the not-for-profit organization that you have chosen. Don't forget to share your game plan with JOOI – send details of your activities to youthclubs@optimist.org.

Regardless of whether you are an avid football fan or don't even know who's playing, you can now use the big event to do some good, and everyone will come out a winner!

A JOOI Workshop Gets Things Off on the Right Foot

By Marie-Pier Tremblay, 2008-2009 International Director



JOOI President Julie d'Auteuil (right) helps lead some training at the French District Assembly.

In October, most of the French-speaking Districts of Optimist International got together for a conference, and the JOOI Districts were well-represented at the event.

JOOI International President Julie d'Auteuil and International Director Marie-Pier Tremblay gave comprehensive training for French District officers and their Advisers. The training gave everyone the opportunity to hear about interesting and motivating new ideas as well as tips about how to make the year as rewarding as possible.

Those in attendance talked about the Childhood Cancer Campaign, Souper Bowl of Caring and JOOI of Reading. They also covered a lot of information about the JOOI Convention!

On the Saturday of the conference, adult Optimists interested in building new JOOI Clubs attended training as well. The Optimists left with bags filled with important information and tons of ideas, ready to put their thoughts into action and make a difference in their community.





A Novel Idea for February

Can you remember the last book you read for fun? If the answer is “no,” it is definitely time for you and your JOOI Club to take part in JOOI Reading Month this February. If the answer is “yes,” you could be the perfect person to lead your Club through JOOI Reading Month and get the entire school reading for fun! Either way, your JOOI Club shouldn’t skip a page, because this project is sure to be a best-seller!

If February isn’t a good time for your school or your JOOI Club, that’s OK! JOOI encourages Clubs to promote JOOI Reading Month whenever is best for them. The most important thing is to get kids excited about opening up a good book!

For more information about JOOI Reading Month, check out the week-by-week list the JOOI Board of Directors has compiled. And for information about other parts of the JOOI of Reading, go to www.jooi.org, look under “JOOI Clubs” and select “JOOI of Reading.”

TAKE IT ONE WEEK AT A TIME

The JOOI Board of Directors has been tossing around ideas about what JOOI Clubs can do each week of JOOI Reading Month this February. Here’s what they have come up with!

Week 1 – Start getting the word out

- Set up an information table
- Make announcements at school
- Submit a newspaper article
- Create a promotional speech to download
- Make a student presentation to different classes

Week 2 – Get down to business

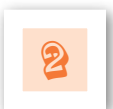
- Designate books to read
- Collect books for children
- Start up class reading competitions

Week 3 – Begin reading anytime, anywhere

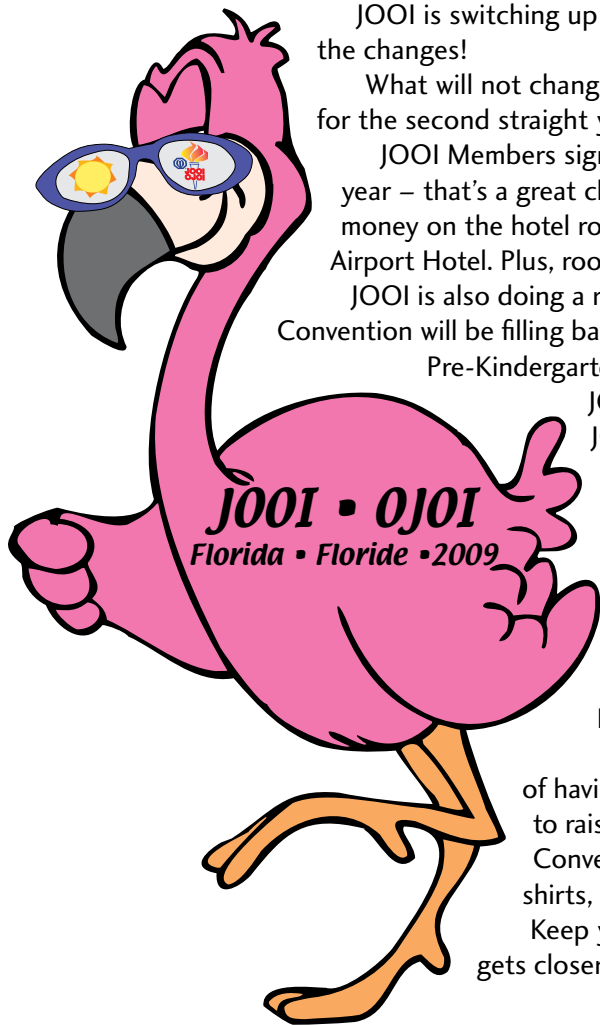
- Read to a child
- Read in front of class
- Read in a library
- Choose a theme and encourage everyone to read related books
- Do some one-on-one reading with another student
- Have a “Read-In” – This is a lock-in where students spend the night but instead of playing games they will all read

Week 4 – Projects for the home stretch

- Inspire others to read
- Sponsor a newborn book drive
- Put on a storytelling contest
- Do some short story writing
- Form a reading club



JOOI Convention: *What You Need to Know*



JOOI is switching up some of the details for Convention this year and is excited about all of the changes!

What will not change is the location – the Convention returns to fun-filled Orlando, Florida, for the second straight year. The dates for 2009 are July 4-6!

JOOI Members signing up for Convention may discover that registration is a little less this year – that’s a great change! Advance registration is just \$260. JOOI Members can also save money on the hotel rooms, which are just \$82 (plus tax) per night at the Marriott Orlando Airport Hotel. Plus, rooms can fit anywhere from one to four people, which means more savings.

JOOI is also doing a really cool service project that all JOOI Clubs can help with. Everyone at Convention will be filling backpacks with school supplies for students in Florida’s Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program to be used in the 2009-2010 school year. The JOOI Board of Directors has set a goal of 250 complete backpacks, so JOOI needs your help to get those backpacks filled! Each backpack full of school supplies costs \$25. JOOI encourages Clubs everywhere to help out with this worthwhile project, seek out donations and make sure these children go to school prepared next year! Each JOOI Club that participates in the project will have their name published in *The Torch*. Checks can be made out to Optimist International with “JOOI Service Project” written in the memo line. Donations should be submitted by June 1, 2009, to Optimist International, Attn: JOOI Department, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

JOOI has changes for the Convention T-shirt this year as well. Instead of having a T-shirt just for Convention, JOOI will be selling JOOI Legacy T-shirts to raise money for the JOOI Legacy Fund. The T-shirts will include the JOOI Convention logo but will be available to anyone. For more info about the T-shirts, see the story on page 4.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information about Convention as July gets closer, and make sure those dates are circled on your JOOI calendar!

A Fun JOOI Get-Together

By Julie d’Auteuil, JOOI International President

The second week of November was an important and entertaining one for many JOOI kids in Quebec – it was the first JOOI District Convention of the year for Quebec East–North Shore.

JOOI Governor Catherine Girard, JOOI District Chair Melanie Brisson and the Chibougamau Octagon Club organized the event with the theme of “Art and Spectacle.” The crowd welcomed one guest speaker who talked about books and the job of a writer and another guest speaker who talked about the populations of Canada.

More than 100 JOOI Members attended the convention and took part in Club officer training as well as the District’s general meeting. The convention rounded up with a fun night of improv.

A Legacy Fit to Wear!

JOOI is introducing a new way to raise money for the JOOI Legacy Fund – a JOOI T-shirt for 2009!

The JOOI Legacy Fund is a designated fund in the Optimist International Foundation. It is a discretionary fund used by the JOOI Board of Directors, and \$1,000 is spent annually on service outreach.

This year's new JOOI Legacy T-shirt will have the 2009 Convention logo and the JOOI Torch printed on it. Anyone planning to attend the JOOI Convention take note – this T-shirt will take the place of the traditional JOOI Convention T-shirt. The T-shirt is a great way for all Clubs to help JOOI!

The T-shirt is just \$20 (US/CN) and is available in adult sizes. If there is enough interest in youth sizes, they will be made available. If you are ordering a T-shirt and would like a youth size, please select your youth size of choice but also indicate your adult size in case there are not enough orders for youth. Please fill out the T-shirt order form below and send it to the JOOI Department at Optimist International.

And thanks for helping out the JOOI Legacy Fund!



JOOI Legacy Fund T-shirt Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Club name and number: _____

Size (Please circle one)*:

Adult: Small Medium Large X-Large (Add \$1.00) XX-Large (Add \$2.00)

*The cost of the T-shirt is \$20 (US/CN). If there is enough interest in youth sizes they will be available, otherwise just adult sizes will be offered. If you would prefer a youth size please check a below size as well as the adult size above. If we have enough wanting the youth size, then you will receive the youth size. If not, you will receive the adult size.

Youth: Medium Large

Method of Payment:

Check (Payable to Optimist International, memo section: JOOI Legacy Fund)

Credit Card Total Amount Due: _____

Credit Card Type: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cardholder's Address: _____

Please send this form as well as payment to the following address:

Optimist International
Attn: JOOI Department
4494 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108
(800) 500-8130



THE YEAR'S TOP PROJECTS

Several JOOI Clubs have received Club Project Awards for outstanding projects in special areas.

In the Joint Project with Sponsoring Club category, R.T. Milwee Jr. Optimist Club (A0980) took first place with the Anthony House project. Coming in second was Westend Jr. Optimist Club (A1761) with Meals on Wheels.

For the Fundraising category, it was Bonita Vista High School (B0886) claiming first place with Dance for a Cure. Westend Jr. Optimist Club (A1761) came in second in this category as well for the Club's Winter Wonderland Dance.

For Community Service/Citizenship, the Octagon Club of Colonial Heights (B1978) and its School-Wide Recycling took top honors. In second was JOI of New Prospect (A1652) with Meals on Wheels.

Rounding out the winners was the James Madison Octagon Club (B1890), which took first place in the Club Building category with its Activities Fair Prep/Attendance event.

Congratulations to all of these JOOI Clubs for their hard work!

Building for the Future

JOOI Members and Optimist Members have been working hard to form new JOOI Clubs. A big thank you goes out to all of the following Builders of Excellence who helped form new JOOI Clubs late in the 2007-2008 year.

Optimist Marc Charlebois –
Opti-Jeunesse Louis Riel, Ontario
(B0210)

**JOOI Members Timmoy Whyte
and Orlando Bartley and
Optimist Kevin Grant** –
Pace Setters Octagon Club
of Edwin Allen High School
(B2091)

**JOOI Member Gabrielle Gan and
Optimist Jesse Toral** – Valencia
Octagon Club (B2094)

**JOOI Member Ceidre Smith and
Optimist Dee Gadbury** –
Canyon High School Octagon
Club (B2093)

A WALK THAT REACHES AROUND THE WORLD

Students at Jackson Middle School in San Antonio, Texas, have been learning what it's like for children in other countries to live without clean drinking water. And students in the school's Junior Optimist Club have been paying attention.

A teacher at the school has made frequent trips to countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia and Guatemala and has brought back pictures and stories about the living conditions in some of these areas. The JOOI Members learned that lack of clean drinking water was keeping villagers from moving back home from a refugee camp in Uganda. The JOOI Members decided it was time to send them home.

The Junior Optimist Club sold T-shirts and bracelets to raise money for the installation of a well in the village. They also sponsored a "Water Walk" at school. During the Water Walk, students bought tickets to participate and then received a 5-gallon container of water to hold as they walked around the school's track. Carrying the water with them gave the students an idea of the difficult task millions of children worldwide must do to ensure their families' safety as they travel long distances to access safe water.

The Club also turned to the greater community – not just fellow students, their parents and teachers at the school, but also area businesses and churches. They managed to raise \$15,000 to drill a well in the village in Uganda. This would enable the villagers to live in their homes and they would no longer have to travel great distances to pump clean water.

Since the JOOI Club raised the money, the pump has been installed and their teacher has even been to Uganda to check on the pump and on the residents who are being helped. The villagers have sent a big "thank you" out to the JOOI Club, too!

2007-2008 Award Winners

The following Clubs are Distinguished Honor Club and Honor Club award winners for the 2007-2008 JOOI year. Congratulations to all of these Clubs for their hard work!

Distinguished Honor Club

District	Club Number	Club Name	Club President
78	B1971	The Wolmerians Octagon Club	David Patten
78	B1881	Octagon Club of Calabar	Garvin Grandison
78	B1968	Octagon Club of Holmwood Technical	Timmoy Whyte
41	B0886	Bonita Vista Octagon	Donovan Chu
10	A1614	Norfolk Panther Junior Optimist Club	Samantha O'Hare
10	B1845	Norfolk Panther Octagon Club	Megan Scheffler

Honor Club

District	Club Number	Club Name
41	B1846	Hoover High School Octagon Club
78	B1925	Octagon Club of Immaculate Conception High
5	B1759	Greensburg Community H.S. Octagon Club
78	A1544	Mavisville Prep School
78	B1869	Dunoon Technical High School
78	C0134	St. Stephen's Alpha Club
78	A1842	Parry Town Primary
78	B2020	Merl Grove High School
78	A1790	Martello Junior Optimist
78	A1789	St. Benedict Junior Optimist
78	B2051	Eastern Rays Octagon Club
78	B1969	Octagon Club of Alpha Academy
78	A1914	Junior Optimist Club of Portsmouth
78	A1936	Optimist Octagon Club of All Saints Secondary School
78	A1703	Independence City Primary Junior Optimist
41	A1453	San Diego Optimist Youth Band
78	A1836	Super Stars Junior Optimist
41	A1492	Crusaders of Bonita Vista Middle School
78	A1920	PMPS Outreach Junior Optimist
78	B1964	Sunshine Octagon of St. Mary Technical High
10	A1798	RAOK Junior Optimist
16	B1890	James Madison Octagon
49	B0110	Nouvelle Génération
49	B1422	Club Octogone région de Cornwall
49	C5019	Club Alpha d'Embrun
53	A0530	Les Dragons Fantastiques
53	B0570	Les Incroyables de Gatineau
53	A0513	Optimousse de Lafontaine
53	A0693	Actif de Mascouche
53	C5017	Les Tweety de Mascouche
53	A5045	L'Opt'it Club Junior
54	B0510	Le P'tit Polar de Falardeau
54	B1524	Opti-Jeunes de Jonquière
54	B5031	Club Octogone de Larouche
54	B0370	Club Octogone Val-Bélair
54	B5072	2 Saisons de Chibougamau

The HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Congratulations go out to Kathryn Izumi of the Pacific Southwest District (District 14) and Marie-Pier Tremblay of the Quebec East-North Shore District (District 54) for being named Distinguished JOOI Governors for 2007-2008.

Congratulations also go out to Nicholas Sanchez of the Caribbean District (District 78). Nicholas is the recipient of the Outstanding JOOI Governor Scholarship/Governor of Excellence Award for his accomplishments with New Club Building. In addition to the recognition, he receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

