

# Hotline

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## Delegates to consider several Bylaws proposals

Several proposed amendments to the Optimist International Bylaws will be presented to the delegates representing Optimist Clubs at the 2011 Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, on Tuesday, July 5. The proposals are listed in this issue of the *Hotline* and are also available at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).

### Who can vote?

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, 2011. 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.

## Resolutions can lead to positive change

Clubs still have a few days to take advantage of the Convention Resolutions Process, which is used for any aspect of the organization not covered in the Bylaws.

Clubs must submit resolutions by this Wednesday, May 4, 2011, to the Resolutions Committee. The committee will choose the strongest resolutions and report them to Convention delegates on Tuesday, July 5, 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.

## Slate of eight

Eight Optimist Club Members are running for two three-year terms on the Optimist International Board of Directors. The candidates will be on the ballot at the International Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, this July. Club delegates will elect two of them to three-year terms, which begin October 1, 2011. The two newly elected Board members will replace current Board members Ken Garner and Marlene Phillips, whose terms expire September 30, 2011.

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.

Each candidate was given the opportunity to list background information and relevant experience. Candidates have also expressed their thoughts about the organization. Information about each of them is available on the following pages.

### Inside this issue:

- 2 - Candidates reveal their thoughts about the organization and the role of leaders
- 13 - The Board and Clubs submit proposals for voters to consider



# 2011-2012 Candidates

## International President-Elect Candidate

### Jean-Claude “J.C.” St-Onge

**Member:** Optimist Club of St-Pierre, St-Jérôme, Québec (joined 1987); former Member, Optimist Club of Bellefeuille, Québec (1983)

**Occupation:** CEO and owner of Promellis, Inc. and S3MM Holdings, Inc.

**Optimist service:** Distinguished Lt. Governor, Quebec West (1988-89); Distinguished & Outstanding Governor, Quebec West (1995-96); Member, International NCB Committee (1997-99, 2001-02); Member, Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee (1999-2000, 2003-04); Member, OIJGC Committee (2008-09); Member, Growth Committee Panel (2009-10); Chair, International NCB Committee (2002-03); Chair, International Finance Committee (2005-07); Chair, Growth Panel (2007-08); Certified Club Builder (2001-present); Certified District Trainer (2001-present); Member, International Board of Directors (2005-06)



#### **What is your vision for the future of the organization?**

My vision for our great organization is to see it grow and become even more a leader in helping to bring out the best in kids; but to do so, we need to adapt to the way volunteerism has changed over the years. We have left the 20th century behind us, and we need to adapt to the 21st century. Things are no longer done the same way, but children of the world have basically the same needs. This is what we do best: we have evolved in our activities to better serve our communities, and now we need to reinforce our organization in adapting to the changes and challenges that we face.

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

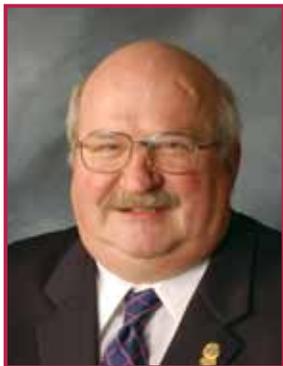
During my mandate I will put all of my energy and resources into maximizing growth via New Club Building and Membership. To do so, I will surround myself with a team of volunteers who will work in concert with our Districts, Zones and Clubs in helping in different ways to better implement our strategic plan that has been worked on by our Board over the years. I will also put in place tools to better help us market our organization at all levels. We are the best-kept secret that I know, and it is time to get known. As a great American once said, "I have a dream." My dream is very simple: the more Optimist Members we have serving kids, the more kids we will help during these challenging times.

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

I have been very successful in business over the past 25 years because I have learned the importance of team building. Once you have built your team, do not micromanage them; let them do their work, let them bring out their ideas, but mainly let them go the extra yard because they believe in what they are doing. We need more mentoring, but we also need people to achieve their personal goals. However, we need to have goals that are achievable. This is my commitment: work on goals together and make them achievable for all.

# 2011-2012 Candidates

## International Board Candidates



### Richard Bloom

**Member:** Optimist Club of Southfield-Lathrup, Michigan (joined 1978), and Optimist Club of West Branch, Michigan (joined 2004); former Member of Optimist Club of Southfield, Michigan (1973)

**Occupation:** Sales

**Optimist service:** Honor Club President (1975-76, 1993-94); Distinguished Lt. Governor, Michigan District (1977-78); Lt. Governor, Michigan District (2003-05); Governor, Michigan District (1982-83); Member, International New Club Building Committee (2005-06); International Vice President (2008-09); Member, International Leadership Development Committee (2009-10); Member, International Convention Credentials Committee (2010-11); NCB Field Representative (1993-present); Certified Club Builder (2006-present); OIF Representative; International Convention faculty member (1993-present)

**What is your vision for the future of the organization?** I envision a time when the mission of Optimist International is fully embraced and individuals actually ask to be a Member of our organization. This can be done by expanding the base of the youth we currently serve in communities around the world. The interests of today's youth need to be studied for possible enhancements to the programs we sponsor.

Our need to grow will never go away, but to keep us fiscally sound and have the ability to provide quality programs for youth we must continue to grow. We must always consider the financial aspect of the programs we promote.

**What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?** When we are growing this organization, we are also growing our financial position. We must carefully monitor our fiscal responsibilities to ensure we remain a viable organization serving the youth in our communities around the world. This must start at the top and continue through the Regions, Districts and Clubs. As a member of the Optimist International Board, this is a challenge I will gladly accept. The youth programs we spend money on must be directed at the interests of today's youth to achieve the most participation and benefit to all.

**What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?** Currently, I serve as board member and treasurer of both the United Way of Gladwin County and the Gladwin County Historical Society. I have implemented changes that have improved the operational effectiveness of these organizations. I have successfully managed my own insurance agency for more than 20 years.

My Optimist experience, particularly as International Vice President, as a Field Representative and as an International trainer during conventions, has given me an opportunity to visit many Districts and meet many wonderful Optimists who have shared their concerns about the organization and their hopes for the future. These experiences have helped to prepare me for a seat on the Board and the responsibilities which are incumbent on that position.



### Dennis Desmond

**Member:** Optimist Club of Slater, Missouri (joined 1985); Optimist Club of Marshall, Missouri (joined 1995); Optimist Club of Southside Kansas City, Missouri (joined 2003); and Optimist Club of Lake Area, Missouri (joined 2009); former Member of Optimist Clubs of Fulton (1990), Pleasant Hill (2003) and Kansas City (2009), all Missouri

**Occupation:** Retired educator; manage/operate family farm

**Optimist service:** Honor and Distinguished Club President (1993-94, 1997-98); Club President (2010-11); Distinguished Lt. Governor, East Missouri District (1994-95); Distinguished Lt. Governor, West Missouri (1999-2000); Governor, West Missouri District (2002-03); Member, International NCB Committee (2005-06); International Vice President (2009-10); Certified Club Builder; Certified District Trainer; NCB Field Representative

**What is your vision for the future of the organization?** I have dedicated my life to educating and working with youth and adults. I have always had the philosophy that we should give the students the tools they need in order for them to think for themselves and to solve problems that have not yet arisen. I think that this philosophy also applies to the Optimist International organization. My goal is to spread Optimism in our communities and to extend Optimism to new communities in order to serve as many children as possible. My vision is growth through

communication, training, motivation and hands-on work.

**What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?** I will strive to bring stability and consistency to the Awards program. I will work to establish growth teams for growth and retention to help the Districts. I will strive to increase the visibility of Optimist International. I will work toward enhancing the major programs we currently have. I will explore new ideas to revitalize the organization.

**What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?** I have an understanding of finance because of my background in teaching mathematics, chemistry and computer science to students and adults. I have board experience because I am on two different boards and have been the secretary of both and currently treasurer of one, where I work with investing funds and overseeing the financial well-being of the organization. This is in addition to my work with the Optimist organization where I have gained experience from being Club President through International Vice President of the Middle America Region. I have gained a lot of experience and knowledge of the organization. I have organizational skills in setting up classes and meetings. I manage and operate 290 acres – my own farm along with two other smaller ones. I have also gained leadership skills in the Army, where we had to make rapid decisions. I am retired and I do have the time where I can be totally devoted to being a Board member.

# 2011-2012 Candidates

## International Board Candidates



### Michael Goldman

**Member:** Optimist Club of Bonita Springs, Florida (joined 2004), and Optimist Club of Miramar, Florida (joined 2008)

**Occupation:** International sales manager

**Optimist service:** Distinguished Club President, Bonita Springs (2004-05); Distinguished Lt. Governor, South Florida District (2004-05); Distinguished & Honor Governor, South Florida District (2009-10)

**What is your vision for the future of the organization?** My vision for the future of the organization is to see Optimist International grow our membership back over 100,000 Members, in part by stressing retention in our current membership and by building new, non-traditional Optimist Clubs. By building non-traditional Optimist Clubs, it is my feeling that the sky is the limit to new and exciting Members that we might be able to attract to our organization. I also think that if we took the blinders off when looking at building new Clubs, there are many groups that would find our organization very attractive.

**What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?** As a member of the Board I would strive to see the Board of Directors become very transparent, and if the Board has to make tough

decisions for the organization's future each Member should be given information to understand the decisions that are made. I would also like to see the Board be much more open-minded to the fact that the organization is not what we once were and the only way we are going to get back to the organization we once were is to change our philosophy and culture from the top of our organization to the bottom.

**What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?** I am the international sales manager for Tuscan Eyewear. The territory that I manage in the company's 25 countries spans through the Caribbean and South America. On a day-to-day basis I work with numerous distributors and sales reps, working as a team to get our goals for the year accomplished. In my Optimist career I was the youngest President to ever make my Club Distinguished in the South Florida District. I was the youngest Distinguished Lt. Governor, and I was the youngest Distinguished Governor in the South Florida District. In 2009-2010 when I served as Governor of the South Florida District, on April 1, 2010, we were 49th in Optimist International. On September 30, 2010, we finished fifth in the organization, tied for the most Clubs built during that year.



### Ron Graves

**Member:** Optimist Club of San Antonio, Texas (joined 1993); Charter President of the Metrocom Optimist Club of Live Oak, Texas (joined 2010)

**Occupation:** Motivational speaker, author, business leadership trainer

**Optimist service:** Club President, San Antonio (1999-2000), and Metrocom, Live Oak (2010-11); Lt. Governor, South Central Texas District (2000-01); Distinguished & Outstanding Governor, South Central Texas District (2002-03); Member, International Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee (2003-04); International Vice President (2010-11); Member, Optimist International Foundation Board of Directors (2005-09); President, Optimist International Foundation (2007-08); Builder of Excellence (7 times)

**What is your vision for the future of the organization?** Optimist International will be an organization that accepts the challenges of our youth as our opportunity to move forward, reframing their challenges as our challenges also. Optimist International will work to bring in a world of people willing to accept these challenges. Life is a succession of moments. At this moment in our organization's history, I have a vision that we will endorse

the concept that nothing great in life was ever achieved without enthusiasm. Therefore, I have a vision of a more enthusiastic, positive, optimistic Optimist International, which accepts its mission of providing HOPE and POSITIVE VISION to the youth of the world with a passion and willingness to serve and accept the opportunities given us.

**What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?** Transparency and more communication between the Board of Directors and the membership and Club officers is a priority and a necessity. I want to create an atmosphere that we are a member up organization, not a Board of Directors down organization. More stability of programs from year to year is a priority and necessity. Optimist International should decide with some finality the program it considers its flagship program. I will work to make that determination. Awards/membership programs should be more stabilized. Specifically, I want to accomplish an atmosphere within Optimist International that we are to empower each other, not overpower, that we are to encourage the questions "Why?" and "Why not?" within our membership and Clubs. I want to leave the Board of Directors having accomplished the following mission: "Sound Planning, Thorough Training, Consistent Motivation," all of which leads to an effective organization and a better Optimist International.

**What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?** Professionally, I present programs in management and leadership skills and am a professional speaker specializing in motivational and leadership subjects. Specifically, I presently serve on one professional board and one non-profit board. Previously, I have served on and been the president of two professional boards and a member of a business board. I have served on six other non-profit boards. I am a certified Distinguished Toastmaster. I have 32 years of management skill development with the U.S. Army Reserves to include being a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College. I have made decisions involving Optimist International as a board member of the Optimist International Foundation and as the OIF Board President. I have a keen insight to the operation of the Optimist International Board since I have attended at least 20 Board meetings over the past 10 years.

# 2011–2012 Candidates

## International Board Candidates



### Gloria J. Kloster

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

**Occupation:** Interior designer (retired)

**Optimist service:** Honor Club President (2001-02); Honor Lt. Governor, Dakotas–Manitoba–Minnesota District (2001-02); Distinguished & Outstanding Governor, Dakotas–Manitoba–Minnesota District (2004-05); Chair, International Membership Retention & Recruitment Committee (2006-08); Member, International Growth Panel (2007-08); Member, International Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee (2008-09); International Vice President (2010-11); NCB Field Representative (2005-present); Certified Club Builder (2006-present); Certified International Trainer (2009-present); Member, Certified Trainer Board (2009-10); Chair, Certified Trainer Board (2010-11)

#### What is your vision for the future of the organization?

- I see us welcoming new Members who share our desire to serve youth, but whose schedules and needs preclude regular attendance at our membership meetings.
- I see us streamlining and embracing a Club model that has room for our traditional Clubs as well as new special-interest and virtual Clubs.
- I see ever-expanding service opportunities like child advocacy, healthy living, freedom from bullying, mentorship and increased internet and social media safety.
- I see a growing, financially stable organization that can effectively communicate with and meet the rapidly changing needs of our Members, our communities and the children we serve.

#### What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?

I will strive to:

- Assist in developing relevant programs to retain, attract and welcome existing and new Members, who are all critical to our existence.
- Proactively endorse an expanded use of technology for education and communication – not only with our current and future Members, but also the communities and youth we need to reach.
- Ensure our fiscal future by maintaining our current economies, controlling our budget and exploring new financial partnerships with like-minded individuals and businesses.
- Encourage our Board and Members to honor our past, but remain collectively strong enough to continue making the difficult and sometimes painful decisions to replace outdated activities that no longer suit our societal and youth cultures.

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

- Prior to becoming an Optimist I spent 27 years as an Army wife, living and traveling worldwide. Heading volunteer organizations in peacetime and war, I developed proven problem-solving and consensus-reaching skills.
- In my 14 years as an Optimist I've served in Club, District and International leadership positions. The experiences gained have provided a varied and enlightened perspective on our organizational challenges and strengths, which I will draw from for all Board deliberations.
- My home District, the DMM, and the Great Plains Region I currently serve as Vice President, are made up of both Canadian and U.S. Clubs; I understand that national and cultural differences must always be taken into consideration when making decisions for our global organization.

### Paul W. Lucas



**Member:** Optimist Club of Odessa, Texas (joined 1993); former Member, Optimist Club of Midland, Texas (1999)

**Occupation:** Executive vice president, Western National Bank, Odessa

**Optimist service:** Honor & Double Distinguished Club President (1998-99); Distinguished & Outstanding Lt. Governor, North Texas District (1999-2000); Lt. Governor, North Texas District (2000-01); Governor, North Texas District (2002-03); Member, International Leadership Development Committee (2004-05, 2009-10); Member, International Convention Credentials Committee (2005-06); Member, International Membership Committee (2006-07); Member, International Governance Committee (2007-08); Chair, International Leadership Development Committee (2008-09, 2010-11); Certified International Trainer (2004-present); Member, Certified Trainer Board (2008-present); Chair, Certified Trainer Board (2009-10)

#### What is your vision for the future of the organization?

- **Excellence** in all that we do.
- Be the best **value** in service organizations.
- **Grow** our Optimist movement in a sustainable manner.
- **Bring Out the Best in Kids** and in our Members and the communities we serve.

#### What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?

- **Sustainable growth** at each level of the organization – beginning with the individual Member who grows the Club, Zone, District and Optimist International in order to expand our impact and service.
- **Financial stability** of our organization – not only for the next three years, but for a second century of service.

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# 2011–2012 Candidates

## International Board Candidates

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- Full and efficient **integration of technology** utilized to achieve growth and financial stewardship.
- **Transformation** of Optimism from the best-kept secret into the well-known greatest value for the investment of time, talent and resources.

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

- **Financial experience** – Twenty-one years in the banking industry have allowed me to serve others, provide financial management and see that uncompromising integrity is critical. Given the financial situation evident in today's world, strong financial leadership on our Board is vital for the survival and success of our organization.
- **Outside experience** – I serve in numerous leadership/management positions in work, community organizations and youth activities, including Scouting and Little League Baseball. Involvement in these areas provides knowledge and ideas that are invaluable in my Optimist experience and vision.
- **Eagle Scout**



### Edwin Wint

**Member:** Breakfast Optimist Club of Kingston, Jamaica (joined 1986 – Charter Member)

**Occupation:** Founder and principal of several companies in Jamaica

**Optimist service:** Distinguished Club President (1989-90); Lt. Governor, South Florida District (1991-92); Member, International Development Committee (2001-03); Member, International New Club Building Committee (2003-04); Chair, International Development Committee (2004-06); Member, International Membership Committee (2006-07); International Vice President (2008-09); Member, International Marketing Committee (2010-11); NCB Field Representative (2003-present); Certified Club Builder (2004-present); Certified Trainer (2004-present)

**What is your vision for the future of the organization?** My vision for Optimist International is for it to become the premier youth service organization working for the betterment of children across the globe. As an advocate for children, Optimist International will partner with national and international organizations and businesses to champion the cause of the child.

Optimist International will continue to grow by spreading its message and programs into all regions of the globe, bringing people together who share one common goal – the well-being of the world's children.

**What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?**

- Improve the channels of communication with Members, our target group (youth) and the public.
- Further develop Optimist International as a “learning organization” and foster the development of more web-based learning opportunities through e-learning and enhanced leadership development.
- Develop and implement creative strategies and activities to improve the profile and attractiveness of Optimist International to facilitate our growth.
- Improve our use of web-based marketing solutions.
- Improve the revenue streams through marketing opportunities, Member growth and joint venture partnerships with entities interested in delivering youth-oriented programs.
- Develop greater networking with international and national bodies.
- Build on our interest in childhood cancer by developing our advocacy program aimed at securing increased funding and targeted research and development.

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

- Corporate strategist – Founder and chief executive officer for the fastest-growing property services company in the Caribbean.
- Problem solving, analytical skills and highly innovative – post-graduate studies in business (M.B.A.).
- Growth oriented as a successful Builder of Excellence and business leader.
- Marketing skills as a CEO and part-time university lecturer in marketing.
- Experience with international growth as former chairman and member of Optimist International's International Development and Growth Committee.
- Experienced board member – chairman of my company's board, member of several public and private sector boards.

# 2011-2012 Candidates

## International Board Candidates

### Sandra A. Wooten



**Member:** Optimist Club of Vista Hills, El Paso, Texas (joined 1988)

**Occupation:** Retired administrative assistant

**Optimist service:** Distinguished Club President (1990-91); Lieutenant Governor, New Mexico–West Texas District (1995-96); Distinguished & Outstanding Governor, New Mexico–West Texas District (1999-2000); International Vice President (2005-06); Member, International JOOI Committee (2006-07); International Convention Chief Sergeant-at-Arms

**What is your vision for the future of the organization?** Vision is defined as the ability to see: a forward mental image. But first I want to look back. We need to look at when and why Optimism started to decline. What changes have been made and implemented that challenge us. How can this situation turn around? By being open-minded to suggestions for our Members and familiar with conditions at the Club level. By being the best leaders with the right goals and implementing them for the right reason. Never in our history has active participation of informed Members been so necessary. Wise decisions will bring about growth and greater enthusiasm to this organization we serve voluntarily. Together there is nothing we can't achieve if we are open to it.

**What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?** Optimist

International has yet to attain true visibility in our communities. How many times have you been asked, "What is an Optimist Club?" We have tried with the 30-second elevator speech, the "Just Ask" program and others, but still must introduce our organization. Growth is our greatest concern. To "Bring Out the Best in Kids" we can never have enough Members. If each of us reaches out to an average of 35 kids, what happens to the rest of them? How will we choose whom to say yes to and to whom we will have to say no?

**What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?** I am a retired administrative assistant with a great deal of research background and people skills. I am motivated, educated and dedicated. True, my Optimist career speaks pretty much for itself, but I love how I grew through Optimism and am completely dedicated in what I do as an Optimist. Surrounding ourselves with the right people and being open to suggestion helps accomplish our successes. Serving on this Board will afford me yet another opportunity. I am committed to the children and to the promises each of us make when we recite the Creed. Believe!

# 2011–2012 Candidates

## International Vice President–Elect Candidates



### Northeast & Great Lakes Region

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

#### Lou Moss

**Member:** Optimist Club of Clinton Township Area, Michigan (joined 1990), and Optimist Club of Shelby Township Area, Michigan (joined 2002)

**Occupation:** Retired teacher and school administrator

**Optimist service:** Distinguished Club President, Clinton Township Area (1991-92); Honor Club President, Shelby Township Area (2007-08); Lt. Governor, Michigan District (1993-94); Distinguished Governor, Michigan District (2006-07); Member, Host Area Convention Committee (1997); P.G.I. Level 10 (2007); OIF “Distinguished” Representative (2009-10); NCB Field Representative (2010-present)

**How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow?** Membership and New Club Building are the cornerstones of our organization. More Members equal more service to our youth and communities. It is important for Members to know more about the organization and develop leaders to continue our pursuit of excellence as a service organization. After sponsoring 80 new Members and building seven Optimist Clubs, I have the experience to share with Optimists about the joys of Club/District growth and introducing Optimism to others. Coordinating “New Optimists Welcome” (NOW) events and being directly involved with building Clubs are two of the greatest pleasures of being an Optimist.

**What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do?** A Vice President is the “communication conduit” of our organization from the International President/Optimist International to the Governors/Districts. As a Past Distinguished Governor, I am looking forward to encouraging and helping Governors grow their Districts through good communication. I understand the challenges and can help them with strategies to have a successful year. Members need to know that they are valued; Club and District leaders also need to know that their “extra-ordinary” efforts are appreciated and necessary for the overall good of Clubs and Optimist International. Encouraging growth through good communication is the key to success.

**What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President?** I am organized, experienced with technology and I love to communicate with Optimists; I enjoy “teaching, learning and sharing” Optimism wherever I go. I have attended every Optimist International Convention since I joined my first Club in 1990; the excellent training I received will be an asset to my year as a Vice President. It is also a pleasure to connect with a wide range of Optimists everywhere and learn from their experiences. As a retired teacher and school administrator, I know the value of Optimist programs and the impact they have on youth.



### Southeast Region

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

#### Sonia Anderson

**Member:** Optimist Club of St. Ann’s Bay, Jamaica (joined 1997)

**Occupation:** Retired information technology professional

**Optimist service:** Honor & Distinguished Club President (2001-02); Distinguished & Outstanding Lt. Governor, Caribbean District (2002-03); Honor, Distinguished & Outstanding Governor, Caribbean District (2006-07); Chair, International Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee (Caribbean) (2007-08); Member, International Membership Committee (2009-10)

**How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow?** Remind Governors constantly that growth is their No. 1 priority and thus their focus. Encourage them to articulate their vision to their Districts, making no apology that growth is of paramount importance. Encourage the creation of exciting District incentives for growth. Ensure that included on the agenda for each District meeting are growth workshops/seminars and, importantly, recognition of new Members, new Clubs and sponsors.

Take the responsibility as Vice President to track the membership in each District, thereby

- evaluating and recommending;
- motivating the leaders to remain positive; and
- recognizing and encouraging the drive for growth in membership.

**What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do?** The International Vice President must lead by example, building a great relationship with the Governors and leadership of Districts in the Region through ongoing communication, inspiration, motivation, recognition and support.

While building this relationship the International Vice President must ensure that the vision of the International President is articulated and understood; that the leadership is well trained; and then unapologetically track, assess and analyze the progress of each District in the Region, making recommendations and providing additional support where necessary.

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**May 2011**

# 2011–2012 Candidates

## International Vice President-Elect Candidates

*Anderson, continued from previous page*

Importantly, the International Vice President must sponsor new Clubs and Members (lead by example).

**What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President?**

I have an M.B.A. and attended numerous leadership workshops/seminars. I honed my leadership skills in the technical and administrative management of the IT Department at Kaiser Bauxite Company.

In addition, I successfully led two improvement teams of diverse personalities in Kaiser's survival initiative in 2000. I also was lead internal auditor for Kaiser's ISO 9000 quality system and played a major role in the system's implementation and management.

I am a great listener and communicator, committed achiever with a proven track record of leadership in Optimism as a Grand Slam President, Distinguished & Outstanding Lt. Governor, District Secretary/Treasurer and Governor (winning all three International President's Awards in 2006-2007).



### Mid Atlantic Region

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

### Richard H. Highland

**Member:** Optimist Club of Hidden Valley, North Carolina (joined 1984)

**Occupation:** Retired

**Optimist service:** Club President (Honor 1989-90, 2000-01; Distinguished 2001-02); Lt. Governor, North Carolina Central District (1991-92); Distinguished Lt. Governor, North Carolina West District (2002-03); Distinguished Governor, North Carolina West District (2005-06); Chair, International New Club Building Committee (2007-08); Member, International Growth Committee (2008-09)

**How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow?** I will work closely with Governors, Secretary/Treasurers, Lt. Governors and District Chairs by communicating the overall growth objectives and strategies of the International President and International Committees.

I believe in the Optimist Clubs and I believe that Clubs and Club Presidents are the keys to growth and they must set the tone for growth; therefore, I believe that Governors and Lt. Governors need to communicate continuously with their Clubs. I also believe in District incentives and Club competition that creates an atmosphere of excitement within the Districts. I will work with Districts to create inter-District competition.

**What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do?** Communicate, communicate, communicate and be there to support District officers and committee chairs with a focus on disseminating the overall objectives of Optimist International.

**What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President?** I believe I am a good listener and can communicate well with others. When presented with an opportunity to serve, I always give my best. I know there is a need to grow our organization and not only look at previous methods that worked, but also listen to and reach out to the younger generation for ideas, strategies and methods to make the Optimist organization more appealing to a 21st-century audience.

# 2011–2012 Candidates

## International Vice President-Elect Candidates



### Middle America Region

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

#### Jerry Schue

**Member:** Optimist Club of Santa Claus, Indiana (joined 1973 – Charter Member)

**Optimist service:** Club President (2002-03); Outstanding & Distinguished Lt. Governor, Indiana South District (2005-06); Distinguished Governor, Indiana South District (2007-08); Pacesetter Award (2007-08); P.G.I. Level 10 (2009); Christian D. Larson Partner

**How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow?** Without the help of outstanding mentors, becoming an Outstanding and Distinguished Lt. Governor and Distinguished Governor could not have happened. It is my pledge to be there as a mentor and positive force for my Governors, Lt. Governors and Club Presidents as they become the best they can at “Bringing Out the Best in Children” and “Bringing Out the Best in Optimists.” I will make it

fun being a leader through contact with their Governor as they implement their goals using new Club growth, NOW meetings and adding new Members. Retention happens by keeping Members active with projects they enjoy and fundraising they believe in. I believe growth results not only from adding new Members, but also by retaining the ones we already have. I also believe the P.G.I. program fosters strong, healthy Clubs and will help Clubs realize the valuable impact of the program to help them reach their goals.

**What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do?** I will lead by example and never ask someone to work any harder than I do. We will use the best talent to train individuals in building new Clubs, using NOW meetings and adding Members. As Tommy Lasorda once said, “There are three types of baseball players: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who wonder what happened.” By working smart we will accomplish our goals in Optimism and further the vision of Optimist International. “I Believe in You” has always been part of my personal motto and you can also “Believe in Me.”

**What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President?** I believe in helping others succeed and I have the drive to help others be their best. I like having fun, and as Optimists we have fun helping God’s children through their journey in life. I have the drive to help others be their best. I have a simple down-to-earth style of leadership through listening, communicating and a goal-oriented quest to accomplish a positive end result. I enjoy building new Clubs. It renews my self-confidence and all those involved around me. “I Believe in You!” Let the fun begin and let our Region see and feel the energy we have to share.



### Great Plains Region

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

#### Debora Ettleman

**Member:** Optimist Club of Big Sky, Billings, Montana (joined 1987)

**Optimist service:** Club President (1993-94, 1995-96); Lt. Governor, Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming District (1996-97); Distinguished & Outstanding Governor, Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming District (2001-02); Member, International Development Committee (2004-06); Member, International Membership Committee (2006-07); NCB Field Representative (2003-present)

As of press time, the candidate had not provided further information.

# 2011–2012 Candidates

## International Vice President–Elect Candidates



### Southwest Region

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

#### Chris Black

**Member:** Optimist Club of Batesville, Arkansas (joined 2000), and Optimist Club of Mountain Home, Arkansas (joined 2006)

**Occupation:** Quality assurance technologist

**Optimist service:** Distinguished Club President, Batesville (2002-03); Honor Lt. Governor, Arkansas District (2003-04); Distinguished Governor, Arkansas District (2005-06); Governor, Arkansas District (2010-11); Member, International New Club Building Committee (2006-09); Member, International Convention Committee (2009-10); NCB Field Representative (2006-present); Certified Club Builder

**How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow?** I will focus as to why we are Optimists. We are there to serve the youth of our communities. If Clubs are visible in the community and we are seen working to “Bring Out the Best in Kids,” they will want to get involved. I will also ask each person to do their part by asking just one Member to join. If each of us works together doing our part, we can accomplish great things. Lastly, I would ask Members to share our Creed and make Optimism a way of life.

**What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do?** The most important thing is to be there to serve the Districts in their Region. Our primary job is to help the Districts in our Region succeed. I will strive to give the Governors in the Region the tools and resources they need to be successful. I will also work with the Districts in the Region to set goals and put together action plans.

**What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President?** I am a very organized person and can motivate people. I will work to develop teamwork within the Region and I know with all our Districts working together there is not anything we can't accomplish.



### West Coast Region

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

#### Linda Molthen

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

**Occupation:** Social services coordinator

**Optimist service:** Honor Club President (1994-95); Distinguished Club President (1997-98, 2000-01); Lt. Governor, Pacific Southeast District (2002-03); Distinguished Governor, Pacific Southeast District (2005-06); Member, OIF Grant Committee (2008-09); Builder of Excellence (4 times); P.G.I. Level 10 (2003); International Convention workshop trainer

**How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow?** Many times the people in the community are not aware of Optimists. My plan would be to encourage all the Clubs in the Region to look at different groups in their communities such as school groups, sports groups and cultural groups that could benefit from Optimist International scholarship programs and the insurance coverage. I would also encourage the Clubs to look for Friend of Optimists memberships. This is a great opportunity to recruit Members who are too busy to attend regular Club meetings but want to be involved in the Club's community projects either by participation or financial donations.

**What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do?** Communicate. Communication is the cornerstone for success. Effective communication builds relationships while ineffective communication can cause lack of motivation. I feel that you need to create and maintain an atmosphere within which each member of the team will choose to be more self-connected.

**What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President?** Having served as a Club President three times, Lt. Governor, District Secretary/Treasurer and District Governor for two consecutive terms, I believe I have the experience and leadership skills to counsel and guide others to set specific goals for success. There are different styles of leadership and each style is dependent upon the people you are working with. It is only by enlisting the willing cooperation of others that you achieve the desired results.

# 2011–2012 Candidates

## International Vice President-Elect Candidates



### Saint Lawrence Region

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

### Thérèse Tremblay

**Member:** Optimist Club of Templeton, Quebec (joined 1996)

**Optimist service:** Honor Club President (2001-02) and Club President (2002-03); Lt. Governor, Quebec West District (2004-05); Honor District Governor, Quebec West District (2007-08); Certified Club Trainer

**How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow?** I believe that it is through the quality of our programs and activities that we will grow. To that end, I encourage all Clubs and Districts to look at their programs and activities to ensure that they are pertinent in their communities, find new and exciting activities that address a need in the youth communities, make them known and implement them. It is through this approach that others will want to join our organization because they believe in what we do.

**What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do?** The most important thing that I as a Vice President can do is to guide and support my Governors, provide them with relevant and timely information, listen to their ideas, concerns and aspirations and help them to accomplish their objectives. I intend to establish regular meetings with all Governors, follow up on their accomplishments and always be available for them.

**What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President?** I have been recognized as a very dynamic and charismatic leader who has the ability to listen, gain consensus and, when required, be decisive. However, my biggest asset is my belief in the strength of the team. To that end, I am always available to the team to listen and guide them to achieve the team's objectives. That way, when one person succeeds, the team succeeds! That is my recipe for success!

# PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS 2011 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

## ISSUE 1: ELECTION PROCEDURE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The Governance Committee was charged to receive proposals from the Credentials Committee to refine and simplify the election procedures for Board of Directors At Large Candidates. The Credentials Committee held a teleconference on January 11, 2011, with Governance Committee Chair Rick Quinlan and staff. Taking into consideration the comments and concerns made at this teleconference and the resolution the delegates passed, regarding the confusion and timeliness issues at the last convention, the following proposal is offered. This proposal will be offered at the first business session as the first order of business in order to allow this proposal to be **effective immediately**.

### CURRENT:

Article IV, International Conventions and Elections

Section 2. Elections

A. Elections for Board of Directors

3. Members-At-Large.

..... Voting shall continue until two candidates shall have received a majority of the votes cast.

### PROPOSED:

Article IV, International Conventions and Elections

Section 2. Elections

A. Elections for Board of Directors

3. Members-At-Large.

Previous wording stays the same..... ~~Voting shall continue until two candidates shall have received a majority of the votes cast.~~

#### a. Procedure

1. If there are three (3) or fewer candidates running for Board Director At Large, all names will appear on the ballot. Convention Delegates shall vote for one candidate at a time. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes will be elected. The remaining candidates will be voted on for the second position. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes will be elected.
2. If there are four (4) or more candidates running for Board Director At Large, there will be a primary election. The convention delegates will vote for two (2) candidates and the top three (3) names shall be the winners of the primary election. At this point the procedure will revert to a1 above.

## ISSUE 2: NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT AND VICE PRESIDENTS-ELECT

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: In its "Charge Letter" from President Rodgers, the Governance Committee was asked to consider a deadline date for self nominations from the floor for Vice President-Elect and President-Elect. The dates chosen were carefully considered to allow for fairness to all candidates and for proper submission of candidate nominations from the Candidate Qualifications Committee and to allow for proper notification to all delegates prior to the convention. In order to receive a nomination from a wider area that will be represented by each office and to conform to current convention rules and parliamentary procedures, the following proposal is offered:

### CURRENT:

Article IV, International Conventions and Elections  
Section 2. Elections

#### A. Elections for the Board of Directors.

1. President-Elect. Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, nominations from the floor for the office of President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office. The vote for the office of President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced by the Candidate Qualifications Committee. Voting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. The President-Elect shall assume the office of President on the first day of October in the calendar year next following this election. The term of office shall be one year.

2. Immediate Past President. No change

3. Members-At-Large. See previous proposal

B. Elections of Vice Presidents-Elect. The number of Vice Presidents-Elect shall be equal to the number of Regions. At each annual convention Vice Presidents-Elect, one nominated for each Region and so designated by the Candidate Qualifications Committee shall be elected to serve a term of one year as Vice President-Elect to become Vice President on 1 October in the calendar year following their election as Vice President-Elect. Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office. Nominations from the floor shall be designated for one of the specific Regions and such nominations from the floor shall be of an individual(s) residing within that Region. The vote for the office of Vice President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced. At such session, delegates shall vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region, with each delegate casting his vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region in which the delegate's club is located. Voting shall continue until a candidate for each Region shall have received a majority of the votes cast in that Region.

C. General Provisions. All elected persons shall take office on October 1 next following their election .....

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:

Article IV, International Conventions and Elections  
Section 2. Elections

#### A. Elections for the Board of Directors.

1. President-Elect. Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, **any other person desiring to be placed in nomination for President-Elect shall be nominated no later than April 1 by two clubs. Those two clubs must be from two different Regions** ~~nominations from the floor for the office of President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office.~~ The vote for the office of President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced by the Candidate Qualifications Committee. **There shall be no nominations from the floor.** Voting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. The President-Elect shall assume the office of President on the first day of October in the calendar year next following this election. The term of office shall be one year.

2. Immediate Past President. No change

3. Members-At-Large. See previous proposal

B. Elections of Vice Presidents-Elect. The number of Vice Presidents-Elect shall be equal to the number of Regions. At each annual convention Vice Presidents-Elect, at least one nominated for each Region and so designated by the Candidate Qualifications Committee shall be elected to serve a term of one year as Vice President-Elect to become Vice President on 1 October in the calendar year following their election as Vice President-Elect. Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, **any other person desiring to be placed in nomination for Vice President-Elect shall be nominated no later than April 1 by two clubs. Those two clubs must be in two different Districts within the Region** ~~nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office.~~ Nominations from the floor shall be designated for one of the specific Regions and such nominations from the floor shall be of an individual(s) residing within that Region. **There shall be no nominations from the floor.** The vote for the office of Vice President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced. **Non-contested elections shall be by acclamation. At such session, In a contested election** delegates shall vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region, with each delegate casting his vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region in which the delegate's club is located. Voting shall continue until a candidate for each Region shall have received a majority of the votes cast in that Region.

C. General Provisions. **No person may be a nominee for more than one elected office in any given year.** All elected persons shall take office on October 1 next following their election .....

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. **The Candidate Qualifications Committee shall announce its slate of officers no later than March 1 prior to the election.**

### ISSUE 3: ANNUAL REVIEW

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

**EXPLANATION:** In an attempt to provide Optimist International, as well as the Clubs in each respective District, with greater assurance of the accounting of each District's funds, a review process by disinterested individuals is being requested. These reviews can be performed by certified independent accountants or by a committee of disinterested individual volunteers with financial backgrounds within each District. This assurance and accountability is also intended to help protect District officers and Secretary/Treasurers from accusations regarding financial matters. Since the U.S. Form 990 does not require any outside review, it is not considered sufficient for these purposes.

**CURRENT:**

Article VII, Districts

Section 5, District Revenues and Disbursements

E. Review. An annual review of the books of account of each District as of 30 September shall be performed by an independent certified public accountant, chartered accountant, and a report thereon shall be submitted to the District Board of Directors not later than 30 November of each year. An IRS Form 990 or its equivalent may be substituted in lieu of the annual review.

**PROPOSED:**

Article VII, Districts

Section 5, District Revenues and Disbursements

E. Review. An annual review of the books of account of each District as of 30 September shall be performed by an **independent** (bold) ~~e~~Certified ~~p~~Public ~~a~~Accountant, a **Certified Managerial Accountant, a Certified General Accountant, a**Chartered ~~a~~Accountant, **or a review committee**, and a report thereon shall be submitted to the District Board of Directors not later than 30 November of each year. ~~An IRS Form 990 or its equivalent may be substituted in lieu of the annual review.~~

### ISSUE 4: PENSION TRUSTEES

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

**EXPLANATION:** Currently, the Bylaws require that two of the Pension Trustees be Past International Presidents. It has become difficult in recent years to find Past Presidents who are eligible to serve; i.e., not a member of another International Committee, a citizen of the U.S., and knowledgeable about current pension and retirement plan laws. It would be in the best interest of the organization to have members with experience in and knowledge of U.S. pension laws and investment strategies serving in this capacity.

**CURRENT:**

Article V, International Board of Directors

Section 6, International Committees

C. Appointment and Term

3. The Pension Committee shall consist of three (3) trustees. The trustees shall include the executive director and two (2) Past International Presidents appointed for five (5) year terms. Except at the inception of the committee the President shall appoint one volunteer for a five (5) year term one volunteer for a four (4) year term,

**PROPOSED:**

Article V, International Board of Directors

Section 6, International Committees

C. Appointment and Term

3. The Pension ~~Committee~~ **Trustees** shall consist of ~~three (3)~~ **four (4)** trustees. The trustees shall include the executive director and ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** ~~Past International Presidents~~ **volunteers** appointed for ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** year terms. ~~Except~~ ~~a~~**At the inception of the Trustees, committee** the President shall appoint one volunteer for a ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** year term, one volunteer for a ~~four (4)~~ **two (2)** year term, **and one volunteer for a one (1) year term.**

## ISSUE 5: BASE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

**EXPLANATION:** The Board of Directors created the Ad Hoc Recognition Committee at its December 2011 meeting to address issues and concerns that have been ongoing for years regarding the Recognition Programs. There is no doubt that the varying requirements from year to year, and even within the same year, has created confusion and an atmosphere that precludes some clubs from participating in the program. The President of Optimist International appointed this Ad Hoc Committee to address these concerns and to provide a baseline program that will be consistent from year to year to encourage more clubs to participate in the program with the hopes that the organization will benefit with membership growth and club activities. As part of the process to review the overall Awards structure of Optimist International, a comprehensive survey was e-mailed to some 27,500 Optimist members with varying tenure in the organization; and a wide spectrum of involvement at the Club, Zone, District and International levels. 2,478 members (9%) responded to the survey. This represents a larger member input than at any Optimist International Convention in recent history. As such, this survey is included as an integral part of the Ad Hoc Committee Report to the Board. Furthermore, the awards program from 1983 until 2001 changed 8 times; from 2002 to present, the program changed 11 times. In order to be certain a recognition program will not change from year to year, the following bylaws amendment proposal is offered.

**PROPOSED:**

Article III. Membership

**Section 3. The Board of Directors shall establish a baseline Recognition Program. This Recognition Program shall not be changed more than once every five years (beginning October 1, 2011). The President may propose an Incentive Program for his or her year, not to conflict with the Recognition Program.**

## ISSUE 6: OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOCUS PROGRAM

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

**EXPLANATION:** The future of the Optimist organization relies on the quality of its programs. The Committee proposes that the organization needs to focus on a single program with a recognizable goal in order to garner the most attention from potential new Members, endorsed partners and corporate sponsors. The intent is not to forego the other Optimist International programs and community activities, but to highlight one organizational focus. Selecting a focus program for Optimist International would allow the organization to solidify its identity in the global marketplace. Other member service organizations are recognized internationally for their work dedicated to one specific cause, such as Rotary with their commitment to eradicating polio. Optimist International could become synonymous with finding a cure for childhood cancer. Spotlighting this effort would be impactful because from a volunteer and public relations perspective, a result can be seen after the campaign is completed. The lives of most people have been touched by cancer, however indirectly, and efforts to find a cure would be a recognizable cause viewed favorably within all areas of the community. The Childhood Cancer Campaign has a strong emotional appeal. The focus on finding a cure would be heavily promoted at the International level. Clubs and Districts would continue to work within their own communities but would also be encouraged to participate in organization-wide events, such as the CCC Walk. This show of unified support will demonstrate the organization's dedication to this cause. Funds raised by Clubs and submitted to Optimist International and monies obtained through sponsorships would need to be put into a designated account. Committees for the United States and Canada, such as the CCC Advisory Panels, would need to be responsible for the distribution of these funds to various organizations working on finding a cure for childhood cancer. (Note as per Bylaws Article IX, Section 1: Amendments to Articles I and II require a 2/3 vote to amend)

**CURRENT:**

Article I, Identification and Purposes

Section 2. Purposes. Optimist International is organized and shall operate for the common good and general welfare of the community as set forth in Section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, as now in effect on or as may be amended (the "Code"), including, but not limited to, developing Optimism as a philosophy of life, utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; promoting an active interest in good government and civic affairs; inspiring respect for law, promoting patriotism and working for international accord and friendship among all people; and aiding and encouraging the development of youth; in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well being of humankind, community life and the world.

**PROPOSED:**

Article I, Identification and Purposes

Section 2. Purposes **and Focus**

**A. Purposes.** Wording stays the same

**B. Focus. The Childhood Cancer Campaign shall be the focus program for Optimist International for a period of 25 years beginning October 1, 2011.**

## ISSUE 7: OPTIMIST CREED

(Proposed by the Optimist Club of Traverse City, MI)

EXPLANATION: The proposed verbiage is more positive and enforces the notion that mistakes are learning experiences. Not to mention that forgetting mistakes usually leads to repeating them. (Note as per Bylaws Article IX, Section 1: Amendments to Articles I and II require a 2/3 vote to amend)

### CURRENT:

Article I. Identification and Purposes

SECTION 3. Official Creed. The official creed of Optimist International shall be the Optimist Creed stated as follows:

Promise Yourself:

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

### PROPOSED:

Article I. Identification and Purposes

SECTION 3. Official Creed. The official creed of Optimist International shall be the Optimist Creed stated as follows:

Promise Yourself:

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To ~~forget~~ **learn from** the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

## ISSUE 8: FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS

(Submitted by the Optimist Club of Kalamazoo, MI)

**EXPLANATION:** The Friend of Optimists Membership category was created to accommodate people who believe in what Optimist International stands for and what Optimist Clubs do in their communities. The Friend of Optimists provides financial support for Optimist activity through a \$100 fee and they have the opportunity to participate in all Optimist activities, except for voting. Along with the monetary support they provide, we view Friends of Optimists as potential new Optimist Club members. One of our objectives is to keep the Friends informed of Optimist activities through International, District and Club correspondence and newsletters. The hope is that, even though the Friend may not currently have the inclination to join as a member, as they learn more about our organization and the valuable service that we provide, they will join an Optimist Club in the future. Currently the Friend of Optimists or their sponsor submits the application and the \$100 fee to OI, who sends \$40 back to the sponsoring club. The missing piece is support for the District to promote the Friend of Optimists program and include the Friends residing in their District in mailings and activities. Our proposal is to change the distribution of the Friend of Optimists fee to include support for the District.

### CURRENT:

Article VIII: Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues

G. Friend of Optimists. Members recognized as Friends of Optimists would be required to pay a membership fee to Optimist International as set forth by the International Board of Directors. Optimist International will receive 60 percent of the fee and 40 percent of the fee will be sent to the Sponsoring Club where the Member resides or to the District if there is no Sponsoring Club. The member shall be billed directly and payment will be sent to Optimist International for distribution to either the Club or District.

### PROPOSED:

Article VIII: Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues

G. Friend of Optimists. Members recognized as Friends of Optimists would be required to pay a membership fee to Optimist International as set forth by the International Board of Directors. Optimist International will receive ~~60~~ **50** percent of the fee, **10 percent of the fee will be sent to the District of the Sponsoring Club**, and 40 percent of the fee will be sent to the Sponsoring Club where the Member resides or **50 percent** to the District **where the Member resides** if there is no Sponsoring Club. The member shall be billed directly and payment will be sent to Optimist International for distribution to either the Club or District.

## ISSUE 9: ELECTION OF PRESIDENTS-ELECT

(Submitted by the Optimist Clubs of North Wichita and Breakfast Wichita, KS)

**EXPLANATION:** Board proposed bylaws changes will provide three different and confusing procedures for the nomination of candidates for the three different officer categories of Optimist International. There can be no logical reasoning to support multiple, confusing criteria for the nomination to an office of Optimist International. This proposed amendment and its counterpart for Vice President-Elect simplify nomination procedures by applying the identical procedure now in effect for the Board Members at Large.

### CURRENT:

Article IV, International Convention and Election  
Section 2. Elections.

A. Elections for the Board of Directors.

1. President-Elect. Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, nominations from the floor for the office of President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office. The vote for the office of President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced. Voting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. The President-Elect shall assume the office of President on the first day of October in the calendar year next following this election. The term of office shall be one year.

### PROPOSED:

Article IV, International Convention and Election  
Section 2. Elections.

A. Elections for the Board of Directors.

1. President-Elect. **To be eligible for the position of President-Elect, a person must have served all of a term as a District Governor and be an active member of a club in good standing. Any person desiring to be placed in nomination for President-Elect must file an intent to run by February 1 of the year the election is to occur. The Candidate Qualifications Committee shall submit for nomination the names of those persons who have submitted an intent to run (assuming they meet the necessary qualifications for the office).** ~~Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, nominations from the floor for the office of President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office.~~ The vote for the office of President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced. **There shall be no nominations from the floor.** Voting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. The President-Elect shall assume the office of President on the first day of October in the calendar year next following this election. The term of office shall be one year.

## ISSUE 10: ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS-ELECT

(Submitted by the Optimist Clubs of North Wichita and Breakfast Wichita, KS)

**EXPLANATION:** Board proposed bylaws changes will provide three different and confusing procedures for the nomination of candidates for the three different officer categories of Optimist International. There can be no logical reasoning to support multiple, confusing criteria for the nomination to an office of Optimist International. This proposed amendment and its counterpart for President-Elect simplify nomination procedures by applying the identical procedure now in effect for the Board Members at Large.

### CURRENT:

Article IV, International Convention and Election  
Section 2. Elections.

B. Elections of Vice Presidents-Elect. The number of Vice Presidents-Elect shall be equal to the number of Regions. At each annual convention Vice Presidents-Elect, one nominated for each Region and so designated by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, shall be elected to serve a term of one year as Vice President-Elect to become Vice President on 1 October in the calendar year following their election as Vice President-Elect. Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office. Nominations from the floor shall be designated for one of the specific Regions and such nominations from the floor shall be of an individual(s) residing within that Region. The vote for the office of Vice President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced. At such session, delegates shall vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region, with each delegate casting his vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region in which the delegate's club is located. Voting shall continue until a candidate for each Region shall have received a majority of the votes cast in that Region.

### PROPOSED:

Article IV, International Convention and Election  
Section 2. Elections.

B. Elections of Vice Presidents-Elect. The number of Vice Presidents-Elect shall be equal to the number of Regions. At each annual convention Vice Presidents-Elect, **at least** one nominated for each Region and so designated by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, shall be elected to serve a term of one year as Vice President-Elect to become Vice President on 1 October in the calendar year following their election as Vice President-Elect. **To be eligible for the position of Vice President-Elect for a specific Region, a person must have served all of a term as a District Governor and be an active member of a club in good standing within that Region. Any person desiring to be placed in nomination for Vice President-Elect must file an intent to run by February 1 of the year the election is to occur. The Candidate Qualifications Committee shall submit for nomination to the specific Regions the names of those persons within each Region who have submitted an intent to run (assuming they meet the necessary qualifications for the office).** ~~Following the nominations by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President-Elect shall be called for before the vote is taken for such office. Nominations from the floor shall be designated for one of the specific Regions and such nominations from the floor shall be of an individual(s) residing within that Region. There shall be no nominations from the floor.~~ The vote for the office of Vice President-Elect shall take place at a session following the session at which nominations are announced. **Non-contested election shall be by acclamation. At such session, In a contested election** delegates shall vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region, with each delegate casting his vote for the Vice President-Elect nominee by Region in which the delegate's club is located. Voting shall continue until a candidate for each Region shall have received a majority of the votes cast in that Region.