

# Optimist

Fall 2021

## A Year of **Optimism**

with International  
President Patsy Garner



**Optimist**  
INTERNATIONAL

# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

[optimist.org](http://optimist.org)

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You can click on the Club you would like to get more information on, and if you would like to connect with them contact [membership@optimist.org](mailto:membership@optimist.org).



(800) 500-8130  
4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

## MISSION STATEMENT

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

## VISION STATEMENT

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the first volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

## PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; To inspire respect for the law; To promote patriotism and work for international agreement and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage 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.

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

### *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.



# Features

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# Optimist

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## On the Cover

Optimist International President Patsy Garner and husband Ken enjoy the day at the Texas Rangers Golf Club in Arlington, TX.

**Photo by Kym McKenzie with Kym Tucker Photography.**

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# A Year of Optimism

**W**elcome to the 2021-2022 Optimist year, a year inclusive of historical events and when Patricia “Patsy” Garner takes her position as your International President.

## **Celebrating 100 years: The Words We Live By**

Most Optimists would agree that the greatest gift bestowed upon them by their ancestors was the adoption of The Optimist Creed, written by Christian D. Larson. The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” – which means “I believe” – and unites a group around a shared identity. A creed is more than mere words; it is a statement of faith and solidarity. This is certainly true of the tenants of The Optimist Creed, which continue to express the values and lofty standards shared by Optimists throughout the world.

The delegates at the 1922 International Optimist Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, passed a resolution adopting the 10-tenet version of “Promise Yourself” “as the official creed of the Optimist Club.” Since that time, this version has been The Optimist Creed. Did you know that “Promise Yourself” originally had 12 verses? In 1923, it was “discovered” that there were two additional tenants, and Christian D. Larson was the author. You can read the full story and a story about the life of Christian D. Larson on pages 99-108 in the book *Bringing Out the Best*.

## **Four Past International Presidents in one Optimist Club**

Patsy Garner is the 2021-2022 Optimist International President, a Member of the Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth, Texas, and there are three Past Optimist International Presidents in the very same Club: Don L. Arnwine, 1977-78; Danny Rodgers, 2010-11; Ken Garner, 2014-15.





*Back Row: Past OI VP Al Clark, Danny Rodgers, Don Arnwine, Patsy Garner, Ken Garner. Front Row: Past OI VP Carol Gant and Past OI VP Ralph Waller*

### **Third Female International President and First International Couple**

Patsy is the third female International President, but 2021-22 marks the first time, in Optimist International history, that a husband and wife both served in this role. As previously noted, Patsy's husband, Ken Garner, served as the Optimist International President in 2014-15. Patsy reflects, "Neither one of us takes our opportunity to serve this great organization as your President for granted. We know that God led us to this, and we share this moment as we did before and are honored."



*Patsy finding her replacement while serving as North Texas District Governor*

### **Historical Year of Hybrid Events**

The 2020-2021 year was one of unforeseen challenges, and President Patsy could not be more pleased with your continued support to engage. Our January 2021 Governors-Elect Conference was moved to March 2021, providing the opportunity to gather and collaborate as a team. We had 100% attending in person or online. Gratefully,



2021-2022 Vice Presidents and Governors at the 2021 Louisville Convention

the 2020-2021 Club, Zone, and District Leaders leveraged modern technology to reinvent engagement as entirely virtual and later hybrid gatherings. Despite its challenges, the 2020 Summer enabled Patsy to attend every District Convention in some small way, which means historically, she was part of every Governor-Elect election and witnessed the process of building our relationships and sharing our dreams. Patsy responds with gratitude, “I feel I’ve received a gift of that amazing team.”

### Optimist Members

“Our passion, sincerity, and commitment to Optimism in our communities emphasize that Optimist International is the best Service Organization in the World!” exclaims Patsy.

She recalls a magazine she discovered a few years ago entitled *The Art of Optimism*, featuring how 34 people, through their artwork, are changing how we see our world. Those powerful words printed almost three years ago are more relevant today than ever. “One certain article jumped off the pages,” Patsy reminisces, “from which I’d like to share with you Oscar Winning Filmmaker Del Toro’s thoughts.”

**‘Optimism is radical. It is the hard choice, the brave choice. And it is most needed now, in the face of despair – just as a car is most useful when there is a distance to close. Otherwise, it is a large, unmovable object parked in the garage.’**

Further into the article, Toro goes on to write, “Optimism is our instinct to inhale while suffocating. Our need to declare what ‘needs to be’ in the face of what is. Optimism is not uncool; it is rebellious, daring, and vital.”

The 2021-2022 year focuses on **Optimism**, with a growth goal of +212 for the year. The entire team commits to achieving that goal by increasing our brand awareness, membership growth, leadership development, and growth by giving of ourselves to our community, our programs, and our projects.

*Photos on the right, top to bottom: Patsy leading her girl scout troop in the most colorful way.*

*Patsy’s mother showing off a small Texas corsage while organizing the ACA Optimist Club.*

*Coach Patsy wearing her small Texas corsage presented by her daughter Glenda while coaching their Optimist cheerleading team.*



# One Degree More

The focus for the 2021-2022 year is on **Optimism** and we have an emphasis for each quarter!

**1<sup>st</sup> quarter:** Be An Optimist

**2<sup>nd</sup> quarter:** Optimism – A Philosophy of Life (Purposes)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:** Optimism - Promise Yourself (Creed)

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:** Optimism – Better Together

The entire team commits to achieving a growth goal of +212 by increasing our brand awareness, membership growth, leadership development, and growth by giving of ourselves to our community, our programs, and our projects.

## **2021-2022 Membership Goal:**

- Net membership: +212

## **2021-2022 Club Expansion Goal:**

- Charter 100 New Clubs

## **2021-2022 JOI Club Goal:**

- Net membership: +212
- JOI Districts: +12

## **Members Award:** (Gift Card)

- Sponsor: +2 NEW members
- OIF/CCOF: Unrestricted donation – minimum \$43/year

## **Club Award:** (Pop-up Tent)

## **Lt. Governor Award:** (212 Lt Governor Writing Pen)

## **Governor/District Award:** (Black Jackets – OI Embroidery)

photo, Ms Clara is wearing pictures and material from each of the cheerleaders sponsored by the then Arlington Cheerleading Association which later became the Arlington Community Athletics Optimist Club (ACAO.) In keeping with the tradition, Patsy also has worn this 'badge of honor' whenever possible to support the youth involved in the cheer program.



*Reading left to right: Bottom row: Crewe, Patsy, Glenda, Carole  
Middle row: Ken, Camden, Kourtnie, Cavin, Kaysen, Kevin  
Back Row: Cadence, Chris*

Patsy is a good sport and rolls with the punches. On several occasions, her name appears as “Pasty.” She has even received personalized gifts with Pasty on them. Not to worry, her family joined in on the fun and has since formed “Pasty’s Posse.”

Before now, in her wildest dreams, Patsy **never** would have believed she would be your President. She was told during her incredible 65 years of life, “You can’t...”, but she did. As stated in her speech at the Convention in Atlanta, she made some not-so-good choices, many good ones too, and even experienced physical and mental abuse but got back up. She may not have a college degree, but she has not shied away from learning as she enriched her intellectual life through her careers and opportunities independently. Patsy proclaims, “Never let anyone tell you, ‘You can’t ....’ Because each of you is beautiful, unique, special, and with hard work, a little bit of luck, a whole lot of craziness, and most importantly, belief in yourself ... Dreams will and do come true.”

Patsy's message to all, “I want to thank every one of you for making the decision to be an Optimist and am looking forward to serving with you this year, along with ‘First Dude’ Ken. I encourage you to stay Optimistic, despite any challenges our world throws in front of you. Together, we will reach that goal of +212. If we are all a bit rebellious, daring & willing to go Just One Extra Degree – We will show the world that Being an Optimist is cool!”

## **Your 2021-22 International President**

Many people ask Patsy about the source of her energy, and she acknowledges, “It’s a God thing. My faith is my strength, He guides me, and I know his plan has brought me through everything.”

For the past 32 years, she has been inspired by many through personal and Optimist experiences.

Optimist influences include but are not limited to: Jewel Bradford Thompson, the first female Governor of Optimist International; Brenda Jenkins, the second female North Texas Governor; Past Vice President Bruce Bernard, who taught Patsy the importance of **showing up**; Past Optimist International Presidents who have given and continue to provide advice and guidance; the Members of both Optimist Clubs; and her boss Tim Bicknell, the **eternal** Optimist.

## **Family**

Volunteering runs in the family. Patsy’s mother, (seen in the photo), on the previous page, Clara Jankowiak, played a huge part in encouraging Patsy to get involved. She is responsible for bringing Patsy into this world, and has shown Patsy the value of giving back. In the

# Calendar

A look at what's coming up for Optimist International

## OCTOBER

- Fall Magazine Release
- Optimist New Year
- Q1 Focus Oct/Nov/Dec:  
Be An Optimist
- Celebrate Community 2021
- Webinar: Restart, Recharge, Reboot



## NOVEMBER

- Optimist Junior Golf:  
Tournament of Champions
- World Kindness Day
- Giving Tuesday
- Webinar: Who's Doing What?  
Community Projects and Programs



## DECEMBER

- Optimist International Board  
of Director's Meeting
- Optimist Junior Golf: Hugh  
Cranford All Scholastic Scholarship  
Application Opens
- Webinar: Giving the Gift of JOI  
(Junior Optimist International)

## JANUARY

- Q2 Focus Jan/Feb/Mar:  
Optimism, A Philosophy of Life
- Vice Presidents and  
Governors-Elect Conference
- District Trainer Class
- Club Trainer Class
- MLK Day of Service
- Webinar: New Year, New Faces,  
New Communities to Serve
- Registration and housing open for  
the 2022 International Convention

## FEBRUARY

- Optimist Day
- Winter Magazine Release
- Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Webinar: Bringing out the Best in  
Yourself & Others – Leadership,  
Mentorship, & Relationships
- IRS Annual Filing due for all U.S.  
Optimist Clubs, the IRS annual 990  
series returns are due
- Junior Optimist Reading Month



## MARCH

- Optimist International Board  
of Director's Meeting
- International Day of Happiness
- OIF & CCOF Club Grant Deadline
- Musical Happiness Competition
- Webinar: Optimist Madness,  
Are We the Big Game?

# of Events

2021-2022

## APRIL

- Q3 Focus Apr/May/June: Optimism, Promise Yourself (Creed)
- OI – Essay District Winners Due
- National Volunteer Week
- Global Youth Service Day
- Webinar: Plant, Nurture, Reap Optimism

## MAY

- Optimists in Action
- Spring Magazine Release
- Optimist Junior Golf: Hugh Cranford All Scholastic Winners Announced
- Webinar: How Much is Enough? Appreciation, Recognition and Awards
- Deadline for Districts to submit Winners for Oratorical Contest to OI
- Deadline for Clubs to submit Winners for Visual Arts Competition
- Early Bird Registration Deadline for International Convention



## JUNE

- National Children's Day
- Optimist International Board of Directors Meeting
- Webinar: Summer Success – In the Good Old Summertime
- Deadline for Districts to submit Winners for CCDHH
- International Convention and Junior Optimist International Convention



## JULY

- International Convention and Junior Optimist International Convention
- Q4 Focus July/Aug/Sept: Optimism, Better Together
- World Oratorical Contest
- Optimist International Junior Golf Championship



## AUGUST

- Summer Magazine Release
- National Nonprofit Day
- Webinar: Better Together



## SEPTEMBER

- International Day of Charity
- Deadline to submit Club Pride Report
- National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Closing of the Optimist Year



# Leadership Development

Leadership Development incorporates many things that provide benefits to our Members. Webinars are offered on topics that are relevant to both personal development and Club Management. Members are invited to participate during the live session or the recording can be reviewed at the Member's convenience.

The Professional Development Program provides opportunities for Members to build skills that will help build their resume and make them more competitive in their respective career fields. There is information for Members about leadership from determining what type of


leader they might be to how to have those “crucial” but necessary conversations. For Members who choose to serve in various leadership positions within the organization, there are training sessions for the office that they choose to hold as well as the opportunities to serve in positions that they would have never dreamed of.

The Learning Management System is the newest addition to the Leadership Development area. The opportunities that come with this addition are so numerous, we feel it gets its own section!

# Professional Development Program

Optimist Members can take part in our Professional Development Program, also referred to as PDP. The PDP program is meant to provide members a way to develop professionally. Members have the opportunity

to build skills that will help them professionally and enhance their Club, District and Optimist International. Our organization wants to bring in younger professionals. The PDP is a tool to help them do that.



# 2021-2022 Webinars

The Leadership Development Committee has developed the webinar topics for the 2021-2022 year. Webinars are at 7:00 p.m. Central, on the third Monday of each month. Pre-registration is required, and free to all Members.

## ► October

### **Restart, Recharge & Reboot**

With the events that have happened over the past few months, many Clubs went idle or ground to a complete stop. What can we do to boost the Club so they can once again do great things in their communities or could we find some better way of providing Optimism in our Communities?

## ► November

### **Who's Doing What?**

#### **Community Projects and Programs**

Nothing energizes a club more or provides roles for new members like taking on a New Project! Check out this webinar to learn about a variety of Optimist International's Community Programs & Projects approved to help you serve today's community. This class is perfect for all members.

## ► December

### **Giving the Gift of JOI (Junior Optimist International)**

Are you interested in energizing your Club by sponsoring a youth club? Do you want to be more effective in working with the JOI clubs you sponsor? The steps for building JOI Clubs, including ideas and tips for taking your sponsorship to new levels of success, will be presented. Learn how you can be the guiding hand in this worthy endeavor.

## ► January

### **New Year, New Faces, New Communities to Serve**

Let's mix our New Years' Resolutions with the Promises that we make every time that we say our creed! This the opportunity; the place we can share our beautiful philosophy! It is not the paperwork, but the people work that brings success!

## ► February

### **Bringing out the Best in Yourself & Others – Leadership, Mentorship & Relationships**

Leadership Matters. Learn how to foster collaboration across Optimist clubs, zones, and districts by building trust, facilitating relationships, and mentoring emerging leaders.

## ► March

### **Optimist Madness, Are We the Big Game?**

Does your community know who you are? We can help with easy, practical, and fun ways to build name recognition.

## ► April

### **Plant, Nurture, Reap Optimism.**

Find out about creative ways to grow Optimism in your community through local projects, volunteer events and partnering with agencies.

## ► May

### **How Much is Enough?**

#### **Appreciation, Recognition and Awards**

One Degree More. Going beyond formal award systems to recognize individual and club excellence. Hear about fun, imaginative and personalized ways Optimists encourage the heart and build a spirit of community.

## ► June

### **Summer Success — In the Good Old Summertime**

Are you satisfied with the programs and attendance at your meetings and activities? Is fellowship a primary concern? What will happen to your club during June, July, and August? Learn how you can avoid the dreaded "summer slide" with ideas and activities that will keep your members excited, interested, and involved.

## ► August

### **Better Together**

The Best part of Optimism is sharing it with others! Collaborative Projects increase our influence and strengthen bonds. This webinar focuses on projects where Clubs have teamed up with other Clubs or Organizations to Bring Out the Best in our Communities!



*Busy market street of Kathmandu. More than two dozen Clubs have organized in Nepal.*

# New Optimist Clubs and Optimist International Global Development

**T**he development of every International Optimist Club requires a partnership with another. These Clubs understand the need to expand the mission and vision of Optimist International beyond the community and country. They spend many hours recruiting people to build a solid foundation to develop and assist in sustaining the success of the Club.

New Club Building is one of the most rewarding aspects of being an Optimist because it provides a Member the opportunity to leave a legacy in a new community. We encourage all Members to review the information about New Club Building on the Optimist International Website, where Members will also find information about global expansion, which began around 2016.

Information includes the development of more than two dozen Clubs in Nepal, a substantial number of

Clubs in Uganda and Ghana on the African continent, a considerable presence in the Middle East in countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Cyprus as well as Clubs in Southeast Asia and the European Union.

You and your Optimist Club Members can join this initiative by sponsoring a Club overseas. This journey offers opportunities for cultural enrichment, new friendships, and an appreciation for knowing you assisted people in another country in “bringing out the best in youth, their community, and themselves.” If you are interested in learning more about the international development initiative, drop a note to [newclub@optimist.org](mailto:newclub@optimist.org) and we are happy to share additional information.

# Donald Ray Sievers

## 2008-2009 Optimist International President

Donald Ray Sievers, 80 of Jackson, MO, passed away at his home surrounded by loved ones on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, after a battle with melanoma cancer.

Don was born August 19, 1941, in Cape Girardeau, MO, the son of Elmer L. and Anita Maevers Sievers. He and Anita Godwin were married on February 27, 1960, at First Baptist Church in Jackson.

Don was a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jackson, where he was baptized and confirmed. Over the years, he served as an usher, an elder, school board member, President of the school board, and chairman of the congregation several times.

He was an active member of the St. Paul Men's club and was instrumental in organizing the annual sausage dinner each March. He also hosted the annual men's club picnic at his farm.

Don was a 1959 graduate of Jackson High School and later earned a degree in special studies from Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri. He enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard in 1959 and retired in 1989 after 30 years of service as a Colonel.

In 1960, Don began working in the sheet metal industry and eventually became a journeyman. In 1976, he ventured out on his own and formed Associated Sheet Metal, Inc. He retired from the business in 2003 and turned it over to his sons.

As a Jackson business owner, he became active in the Chamber of Commerce and the JIDC Board. He received the R.A. Fulenwider Meritorious Community Service Award in 2000.

Don joined the Optimist Club of Jackson in 1976, became very involved at the local, district, and international levels. He served as the East Missouri District Governor in 1993-1994, one of ten vice-presidents in 1999-2000, and Optimist International President in 2008-2009. He and Anita traveled over 50,000 miles visiting other Clubs.

Don had a passion for antique tractors and farming. In retirement, he and his brother Tim Sievers farmed his two farms near Tilsit.

Loving survivors include his wife Anita, of 61 years; two sons, Brian K. (Joanna) Sievers and Boyd D. (Leslie) Sievers of Jackson; a daughter, Michelle (John) Clippard



of Jackson; nine grandchildren, Jake, Luke, Seth, Zane, and Amelia Sievers of Jackson, Christian Leimbach of Cape Girardeau, Megan (Aaron) Voshage, of Columbia, Missouri, Claire and Matthew Clippard of Jackson; one brother, Timothy (Kathy) Sievers of Jackson; one sister, Betty Schuetts, of Cape Girardeau; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, John and Sharon Godwin of Des Peres, Missouri.

Also surviving are nieces, Dana (Chris) Gier, Paige Wills of Jackson, and Lisa (Brian) Robinson of Chesterfield, Missouri; nephews, Travis (Shanna) Sievers, of Jackson, Jimmy (Sarah) Sievers of Gordonville, Michael Godwin of St. Louis, and Scott (Meghan) Godwin of Webster Groves, Missouri; and many great-nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, an infant granddaughter, Brianna Katlin Sievers, mother-in-law and father-in-law, Raymond and Louise Kibler Godwin.

Anyone interested may send online condolences to the family by clicking on the **Tributes** tab of Don's obituary page at [www.mccombsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mccombsfuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider donating in Don's memory to the Optimist International Foundation by submitting checks to Don Sievers Memorial, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

# PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



## Childhood Health and Wellness

The Childhood Health & Wellness Program builds on the highly successful Childhood Cancer Campaign to expand our impact. Clubs and Districts will now have the opportunity to initiate projects and services to improve the quality of life for children in their communities across a broader spectrum of needs.

## Optimist Photography Contest

Photographers for the contest should be students at any age up through high school and prior to post-secondary education. Students are asked to submit photos that illustrate/exemplify one of the ten verses/lines of “The Optimist Creed”. This contest’s purpose is to expose young people to “The Optimist Creed” and our philosophy of Optimism and to assist them with developing an interest in the area of photography.

## A Kaleidoscope of the Performing Arts

The term “performing arts” refers to forms of art in which artists use their voices, bodies, or inanimate objects to convey artistic expression. The performing arts include a range of disciplines which are performed in front of a live audience. Performing arts may include dance, music, opera, theater and musical theater, magic, illusion, mime, spoken word, puppetry, and even circus arts. Talent showcases highlighting these performing arts are not only fun, but innovative, giving young people the opportunity to express themselves using their own unique talents.

## Optimist Visual Arts Competition

This exciting program is designed to encourage and celebrate youth visual art skills in two categories – painting and drawing. Scholarships will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the OI level for each category. The Optimist Visual Arts Competition – Paintings and Drawings gives the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity!

## Optimists Spark Fun in the Park

This Optimist International event is staged at the club level annually where clubs can choose any date to host their event. This fun and exciting event has been coined to target JOI and College Club members, working with adult Optimist Club Members. The event will further facilitate camaraderie between JOI, College Club Members, adult Optimist Members, and the community at large, while providing an avenue for meaningful interaction and care for children with differing abilities by our Optimist Members at all levels. It is a fun way of sharing our philosophy of Optimism to a wider cross section of the children we serve globally.



## Musical Happiness Competition

This exciting program was such a success last year we are bringing it back for the 2021-2022 Optimist year. Musical Happiness is designed to encourage and celebrate youth Musical and Vocal categories. Scholarships are awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the OI level for each category.

## International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness in March is an annual activity that encourages Optimist Clubs and Members to host an event showing how their Optimist Club shares happiness with the youth and their community.



## Optimist International Oratorical World Championships

The Optimist Oratorical Contest offers youth the opportunity to speak to the world. More than \$150,000 in college scholarships funded by the Optimist International Foundations is awarded annually from this program. First conducted in 1928, this is the second most popular Optimist International Program. Nearly 2,000 clubs participate in this program each year. The winners at the Club level receive medallions and Zone winners receive a plaque. Districts have the opportunity to provide a first place scholarship of \$2,500, a second place scholarship of \$1,500, and a third place scholarship of \$1,000.

## Kids Speak Out

The 'Kids Speak Out' program is broadening its scope to engage children in our primary/preparatory and elementary schools to compete with peers from their own and neighboring schools. All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a competition for younger speakers.

## Essay Contest

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to express their opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. Participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship! One District Scholarship of \$2,500 is awarded.

## Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

This contest offers youth who are deaf or hard-of-hearing the opportunity to gain skills and confidence from their experience of presenting in front of a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship. One District Scholarship of \$2,500 is awarded.

## Respect for Law

Optimist Clubs participate in activities to inspire respect for law enforcement among young people and to educate them on the jobs these brave men and women perform. Events are also held to promote a sense of well-being in the community such as child ID events, poster or essay contests on alternatives to violence and various family-friendly activities.

## Youth Appreciation

Optimists recognize youth for a variety of reasons, including their achievements at school, dedication to community service, improvement in their grades and doing their best in sports or the arts. This activity allows Optimists to build the self-esteem of the youth in their community and show them that their efforts and hard work really do make a difference.



## Youth Safety

This activity focuses on teaching youth about important safety issues that they encounter every day, such as traveling in a car or on the school bus and riding their bike. Optimist events such as a bicycle rodeo can make learning safety skills fun for everyone involved.

## Tri-Star Sports

This is an optional activity Clubs can sponsor that focuses on three skills competitions in each of the following sports: basketball, baseball, soccer, football, hockey, golf, volleyball, and new this year, curling. More detailed information about Tri-Star is available in the Tri-Star Planning Guide.

## Avenue of Flags

Share your Optimism and patriotic spirit in the community with an Avenue of Flags project. This Fundraiser can help support youth programs and scholarships in your community!

Optimist Programs and Activities are updated and added often, so be sure to visit the Optimist website and/or subscribe to our quarterly Optimist magazine for any changes and new program and activity announcements.

# Save the date!

# Optimist Day

## Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

Optimist Day is celebrated throughout the world annually on the First Thursday of February by Members of Optimist International.

Early in 2013, Sylvain Levesque, a member of the National Assembly of Quebec and of the Optimist Club of Lorretteville, introduced the resolution to recognize Optimist Day in Quebec. Later that year at Optimist International Convention, delegates in Cincinnati passed a resolution adopting the first Thursday of every February as Optimist Day. The date corresponded with Optimist Day in Quebec. At the time, Levesque was a member of the Optimist Club of Duberger and was asked by fellow Optimist Michel Lamothe to consider introducing the resolution. Levesque agreed, and the resolution unanimously passed.

When asked why the first Thursday in February was selected, Levesque said that it was because we usually start our work at the National Assembly in the 1st week of February, and we could pass the resolution at that moment.

Regardless of the reason, Optimists throughout the world are thankful to him for taking the initiative to present the resolution, and they continue to celebrate Optimist Day on the first Thursday of February each year.

Now each year the Members of Optimist International celebrate Optimist Day to promote their efforts in helping and recognizing the people that make a difference in their communities. They do this by wearing something with the Optimist logo and/or hosting events to celebrate the annual day. This celebration can extend for the week or entire month.

In addition to our Clubs and Members celebrating Optimist day, many local governments routinely issue Proclamations in honor of Optimist Day so that their communities can look to the future with hope, and on Optimist Day, they can celebrate the volunteers who share their enthusiasm, skills, and talent to make that tomorrow a vibrant and peaceful one.

So please consider this your invitation to Optimist Day, Week, Month, and Year as every day can be an Optimist day. Please celebrate Optimist Day with us by volunteering in the community, teaming up with your local Optimist Club, or spreading optimistic messages to friends and loved ones on Optimist Day.



# Celebrate Community 2021

To our Optimist Members: Thanks for all you do to make a meaningful difference in your local community. We share your values in working together to help make our corner of the world a better place, and we all agree that the need for Optimism has never been greater.

With that in mind, leaders of the four major service Club organizations – *Kiwanis International*, *Lions Clubs International*, *Optimist International*, and *Rotary International* – have been meeting regularly over the past 18 months to share ideas and to identify opportunities to collaborate more, which resulted in the first annual “Celebrate Community” event. Celebrate Community, from October 10-16th, 2021, is the first of what we hope will be many collaborative community events.

With the focus on this year’s 2021 Celebrate Community being a “soft-launch”, know that any effort, no matter how big or how small, is a success. Be sure to let us, the media and news, and your community know about your efforts - whether on your own or with another organization.

Thank you again for all that you do, and we hope you share our enthusiasm for a chance to shine a spotlight on our service and expand our positive impact by teaming up to “Celebrate Community!” We look forward to building on this in the years to come!



Cheryl with HOBY students, after a week of service building in weaving center in rural Peru.



Cheryl with the children of Kisenyi during a HOBY project in Kampala, Uganda.

# Optimist International Welcomes New Executive Director

Optimist International is proud to introduce our new executive director, Cheryl Brenn. Cheryl comes to Optimist after 14 years with Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY), a global youth leadership organization where she served in multiple capacities, including Chief International Programs Officer. This is not OI's first partnership with HOBY; Optimist International worked with HOBY beginning in December 1981. Under Optimist International Past President Silverman, a partnership was formed, and by 1995 it was reported: "Optimists were volunteering at approximately 300 HOBY leadership seminars across the United States and Canada." (Bruns, David: Bringing Out the Best)

Before her work at HOBY, Cheryl spent a decade at the New York State School Boards Association where she led their membership and marketing departments as well as large-scale event management.

"With her extensive background in nonprofit work and optimistic enthusiasm, I am confident that I am leaving this position and Optimist International in good hands" Benny Ellerbe said of Brenn in a statement before his retirement in September 2021.

Cheryl relocated to St Louis in early August and has been excited to explore the local area and is eager to move into her new home in early November (and finally have her fur family with her). She not only brings extensive nonprofit management experience to her position with Optimist International, but also a lifetime commitment to volunteerism and community service. She strongly believes the OI headquarters staff should mirror our Clubs and Members through volunteerism and community service, "We should not only understand what it is to be an Optimist, but walk-the-walk through service to our local community".

As Cheryl transitions into the executive director role, she is committed to upholding the Optimist mission, vision and purpose while moving the organization forward towards new growth and possibilities.

You can reach Cheryl via email at [Cheryl.brenn@optimist.org](mailto:Cheryl.brenn@optimist.org) or connect with her via social media through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

# SHOP [optimiststuff.com](http://optimiststuff.com) TO PURCHASE YOUR:

## SPEAKER GIFTS



## MEETING SUPPLIES



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# How Optimism can help your career:

## 4 Simple Steps

by **Tracy Brower**, September 15, 2019  
Reprinted with authors permission, [tracybrower.com](http://tracybrower.com)

Optimism seems like a straightforward characteristic—a simple spotlight on what’s good and future-focused — but it is actually quite a powerful attribute. From a longer life to better performance at work and satisfaction with your job, it has some seriously positive effects.

Here’s why optimism matters and how to be more optimistic to reap its many benefits:

### Optimism, Stress, Health And Performance

First, optimism matters for your health. New research from the Boston University School of Medicine studying over 70,000 men and women over decades found optimism is correlated with an 11 to 15% longer life span. This was true even when controlling for age, education, alcohol use, diet and exercise. In addition, previous studies have found optimism is connected with less disease and premature death.

As for the world of work, a 2016 study found optimism was positively related to job performance and job satisfaction, and 2004 research proved a relationship between optimism and reduced job stress and less work-life conflict.

### Why Optimism Matters

Optimism is helpful because those who are optimistic tend to bounce back more easily from difficult situations—they are more resilient. In addition, they are thought to have better control over their emotions and may make better overall choices about diet, exercise and other habits such as tobacco use. When you face stress at work, an optimistic view can help you cope in healthy ways, or when you’re passed up for the promotion, you’ll be able to bounce back more easily and keep doing great work toward the next opportunity.

Optimism is also related to a growth mindset which means optimists believe they can change their circumstance. They are more likely to take positive actions to create their own futures—rather than viewing themselves as having fixed sets of skills and traits that can’t change or adapt. If you’re facing an especially tough project at work, an optimistic approach can keep you motivated to try new solutions and persist in finding resolution.

### How To Be More Optimistic

So, you’re sold on optimism, but how to be more optimistic? Here are a few tips:

#### Be Present

One of the hallmarks of pessimism is worry about the future and negativism that can spiral out of control. One of the strategies for optimism is to stay more focused on the present. In fact, a brand new study from MIT found middle school students who practiced mindfulness experienced less stress. Be present in each meeting and each interaction with colleagues. Focus and give your best in every moment knowing that investment in the now will result in a positive future.

#### Be Grateful

Another sure-fire way to increase your optimism is to be grateful for what you have. Gratitude has long



been shown to improve physical and psychological health, increase empathy, reduce aggression, reduce stress, improve self-esteem, improve relationships and even improve sleep. It is logical that gratitude is also associated with optimism. When you appreciate what you have, you have more positivity about all that is to come. Even when you're facing a problem that seems insurmountable, you can express gratitude and optimism. When she faces a challenge, one of my colleagues says, "If this is my worst problem, I'm still very fortunate."

### **Think Long-Term**

Another way to be more optimistic is to extend your time horizon. When you're facing a challenge that feels difficult in the moment, extend your view and consider whether it will matter in a month or a year. The disagreement with a client or the conflict with a coworker may seem significant today but won't be a big deal after some time has passed. Being optimistic can

be easier when you think of a bright future in which present problems won't even be on your radar screen.

### **Manage Your Expectations**

One of the reasons for dissatisfaction is when experience and expectation don't match. Keep your expectations realistic in order to be more satisfied with what's going on around you. If you have set the bar too high—on your timing for the next raise or the juicy project you're sure will come your way—you may be disappointed. Set goals that keep you motivated but be realistic to ensure you're delighted when opportunities come your way. This will keep you optimistic about the next opportunity, and the next.

Optimism has some powerful effects. To reap its rewards, be present and be grateful. Take a long-term view in which your expectations are positive and realistic. All of this will contribute toward the kind of constructive, growth mindset that will keep you motivated and compellingly future-focused.

# INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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**MAYA GLUCK**  
Junior Optimist President



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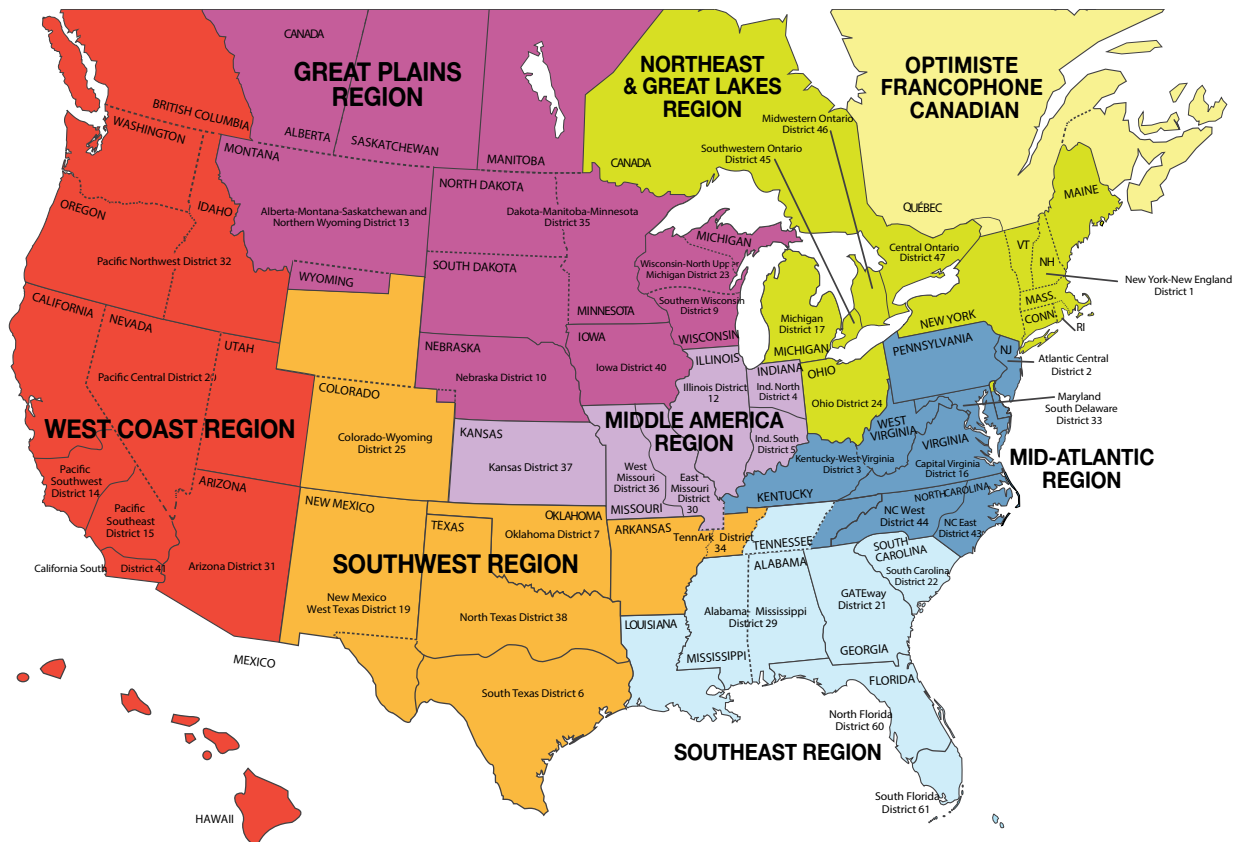


**MARC KATZ**  
OIF President



**DIANNE JOSLING**  
CCOF President

## REGION MAP



\*\*\*PSW includes Hawaii

Caribbean District 78  
\* includes other islands

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President

**Nicole Paquette**  
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**Pauline Langelier**  
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**DEBRA MERRIT**  
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Director,  
*Past Optimist International  
President 2016-17*



**BEN DEREMER**  
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**CRAIG BORING**  
Secretary/Executive Director

### Dear Fellow Optimists,

It is an honor and privilege to serve this year as the President of the Optimist International Foundation. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to Immediate Past President Jan Oord Graves for leading the Foundation through its 50th Anniversary Celebration and to all of our donors who continue to support the Foundation.

During the last Optimist Year, the Foundation Board of Directors committed to two new initiatives: funding a scholarship for the outgoing JOI President and making a financial commitment to the Jr. Golf Program. The Foundation now supports all of the programs of Optimist International.

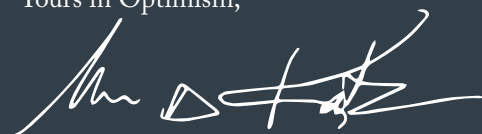
This year's theme is "Making A Difference, Yes We Can!" With the continued support of our members and Clubs, the Foundation can continue to give back through the various Grant Programs, the funding of the World Oratorical Regional winners, the Oratorical 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners, JOI, all scholarships, and general support to OI for programs and services.

This year there is a new recognition level for the donors to the Foundation: any donor who contributes at least \$100 in unrestricted funds will achieve the Diamond Level status. This year's print recognizes the many different ways that our youth have been learning for the past 18 months and celebrates not only our students but also our educators.

My goal for the Foundation this year is two-fold: (1) to increase the percentage of our Optimist members that contribute to the Foundation with a minimum donation of \$36.50, a dime a day, and (2) encourage our donors to take advantage of having their Foundation contributions automatically deducted from their bank account each month. For a monthly contribution of \$3.05 a donor will achieve Dime-A-Day status, for a monthly contribution of \$8.34 a donor will achieve Diamond status, and for a contribution of \$20.84 a month a donor will achieve Presidents Club status.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Foundation. Please, at your Club Meetings and gatherings, remind your members about the Foundation. Encourage those who do not currently contribute to think about a minimum Dime-A-Day contribution.

Yours in Optimism,



Marc D. Katz  
Optimist International Foundation President 2021-2022





2021/2022 OIF President's Theme, "Making A Difference, Yes We Can!" Artwork created by local St. Louis Artist, Greg MacNair

# Foundation Board Nominations

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The Optimist International Foundation is accepting Board Member nominations for the Board of Directors to begin their four year term on October 1, 2022. Nominations must be received by December 1, 2021. The Election will be held February 2022.

For more information and the nomination form,  
please contact Craig Boring, OIF Executive Director  
[Craig.Boring@oifoundation.org](mailto:Craig.Boring@oifoundation.org)

## CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION BOARD



**DIANNE JOSLING**  
President



**ANN-RICHER DOYLE**  
President Elect



**JEAN-CLAUDE ST-ONGE**  
Past President



**TIM BELL**  
Member



**LESLIE TREVOR**  
Member

### Dear Optimist friends,

Since 1988, Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) has supported Canadian Optimist Clubs and the young folks they serve. Scholarships, club grants, stewardship of donations designated to enhance community projects and support of health and wellness programs have become our trademark. The rippling impact of Covid-19 challenged all of this. Traditional ways of doing things changed. One thing hasn't changed and that is the faith that CCOF has in you.

The theme for 2021-22 is 'CCOF Believes in You!' It's in tribute to all who keep CCOF dear to your hearts – even during a pandemic! It's in tribute to young folks who take part in Optimist programs, to our fabulous JOI members, to Optimists and Clubs for your perseverance and to all who balance CCOF donations with pandemic challenges.

Through our support of Canadian Optimist Clubs, CCOF is your committed partner in community betterment. Your donations help us help you. Like the stars in the sky – even though there are lingering clouds of the pandemic – we believe you will continue to be shining partners with the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

It is such an honour to serve as the 2021-22 President of the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

Sincerely,

**Dianne Josling**  
2021-2022 President,



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation

### CONGRATULATIONS to new Board Member Leslie Trevor

Leslie Trevor ('Les') became a member of the Optimist Club of Red Deer in 2005 and has enjoyed every moment of his journey.

He has served in many capacities over the course of his Optimist endeavours, and in various positions for his club, with his favorites being the Essay and Oratorical Contest Chair positions. He became Distinguished President in 2007-2008, Lieutenant Governor, District Membership Chair and served as District Governor in 2019-2020. In the upcoming year, he will serve as District Foundation Representative and CCOF Board member.

Les has been a strong supporter of the CCOF and is extremely happy to have been asked to serve as a CCOF Board and committee member. The youth involved in the programs provided by the Foundation have an impact towards lifetime memories. Les intends to support the Foundation in its current capacity of providing youth with opportunities and to help expand and grow its support network. He very much looks forward to working with the other Board and committee members.

The CCOF Board members and its Executive Director wish Les a warm welcome!

## JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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President



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Past President



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**MIRANDA STIDHAM**  
Director



**FATIMA ZAIDI**  
Director



**BO ZIMPEL**  
Director

## Hello,

I am Maya Gluck, your Junior Optimist International President for the 2021-2022 year. I live in Orlando, Florida, between The Mouse and The Beach. I am currently a senior at Lyman High School and have been a member of Junior Optimist since 2015. The positions I have served include International Board Director for two consecutive years, District Governor, Lt. Governor, Club President, VP, and Secretary/Treasurer, in addition to many other committee positions. I received the 2017-2018 Member of Excellence award and the Distinguished Governor ring for the 2019-2020 year.

Although the past few months have been hard for everyone, we have a chance to become something even greater by helping the world in which we live by increasing our community service and being kind to one another. There is an abundance of ways to achieve this goal. If we all have a creative mind and open hearts, I know we will make a difference. That is why as your International President, I will make it my mission to help spread as much love and compassion through community service as we can and place a bandage on our broken world. My slogan, “**Healing the World with Optimism**” will remind us all to continue to strive in increasing new ways to help our world.

Let’s bring back all of our Junior Optimists this year and concentrate on growing our numbers. Include all youth you know to join your Clubs and expand the message of Junior Optimist by promoting inclusivity in your schools and communities. Take the opportunity to look at the strengths of those around you and build up your Clubs.

We will continue to globalize Junior Optimist Clubs. My Club, JOI Around the World, which chartered this past year, is the first genuinely international virtual Club. This Club has provided opportunities for many others to strive in their home communities of Canada, Jamaica, Barbados, and several states within the United States. Let’s use all the tools and skills to increase communication through our Clubs, Districts, and Regions and grow this organization. With this in mind, I want to encourage all of you to build new Clubs as well as curating new friendships and keeping all of our Members motivated.

I am incredibly excited to work with my outstanding International Board and Committee to make this year an extra special one. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Junior Optimist in all forms. You are what matters!

Let’s have a wonderful year!

A handwritten signature of Maya Gluck in black ink.

Maya Gluck  
Junior Optimist International President, 2021-2022

# 2021 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship

by Dale Hassall  
Optimist Junior Golf Intern

The annual Optimist International Junior Golf Championship was a huge success again this year! The tournament is considered to be one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world, and we exceeded those expectations this year. Even with some countries under strict travel restrictions due to the global pandemic, we still had a wonderful turnout of both players and volunteers. There were 23 countries represented in this year's tournament, with over 550 participants qualifying to compete in this year's championship. Over 5,000 golfers competed in our qualifying tournaments held across the globe.

Our tournament does not only include great competition and great courses, but it includes opportunities for the players to make friends on and off the course each night. Our tournament includes fun events as well — glow golf event, long drive competition (fan favorite) and a PARTEE night on the last day. We also have an opportunity for a parent to get on the course as well in the parent-child tournaments

There were exceptional scores this year across all three phases of tournament play. There were many amazing feats throughout these three weeks as well. There were 7 hole-in-ones, and a course record during Phase 3! The odds to make a hole-in-one are 12,500 to 1, and it is even more improbable to set a course record.



## Phase 1

### Boys 10-11

1 <sup>st</sup> Santiago Villegas (Ecuador)	76-80-75 (231)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Maxwell Milton (Montana, USA)	75-78-80 (233)*
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ayden Febres (Florida, USA)	77-77-79 (233)

### Boys 12-13

1 <sup>st</sup> Franco Fernandez (Paraguay)	70-72-73 (215)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Andre Miguel Saldivar Cantu (Mexico)	69-74-74 (217)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Matias Saavedra (Venezuela)	69-73-76 (218)

### Girls 10-12

1 <sup>st</sup> Abigail Lin (California, USA)	75-70-70 (215)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Athena Singh (Kentucky, USA)	71-76-72 (219)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pimpakorn Panyadilok (Thailand)	70-74-78 (222)



Phase 1 winners

## Phase 2

### Boys 14-15

1 <sup>st</sup> Ryan Slonaker Laird (Virginia, USA)	68-74-75 (217)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Erich Fortlage Arce (Paraguay, USA)	70-75-75 (220)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Antoine Jasmin (Quebec, Canada)	68-77-79 (224)

### Girls 13-14

1 <sup>st</sup> Alexis Faieta (California, USA)	70-75-73 (218)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ariana Urrea (Peru)	74-73-72 (219)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lauryn Finley (Minnesota, USA)	75-71-75 (221)



Phase 2 winners

\* Won by Scorecard Playoff

\*\* Won Sudden Death Playoff

## Phase 3

### Boys 16-18

1 <sup>st</sup> Juan Martin Loureiro (Argentina)	74-72-69 (215)**
2 <sup>nd</sup> Daniel Felipe Medellin (Colombia)	68-72-75 (215)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Anders Larson (Minnesota, USA)	75-67-74 (216)

### Girls 15-18

1 <sup>st</sup> Maria Jose Marin Negrete (Colombia)	72-63-72 (207)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Giovanna Fernandez (Paraguay)	72-68-77 (217)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vunnisa Vu (California, USA)	73-76-70 (219)



Phase 3 winners

## Course Record – Red Tiger

Maria Jose Marin Negrete (Colombia) 63



Maria Jose Marin Negrete with the golf committee and President designate, Patsy Garner.

## Hole in Ones

Crosby Kimps (Wisconsin, USA)	Age 11
Lucy Newell (Arizona, USA)	Age 14
Jasmine Wong (Hawaii, USA)	Age 14
Joaquin Sandoval (Chile)	Age 14
Kenna Jenkinson (Ohio, USA)	Age 16
Rachael Krieger (Michigan, USA)	Age 18
Andrew Gallagher (North Carolina, USA)	Age 18



2021 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship  
Volunteers, Harold Stewart and Mike Woodward.

## Our Volunteers

With all the success that the golfer's had competing in this year's tournament, none of it was possible without the help of our outstanding volunteers. We had approximately 40 volunteers to help us see the tournament through. These volunteers were doing everything from giving out golf balls each morning for the players to warm up before play, to marshaling the courses until play was concluded each day. They are the backbone to the tournament, and we cannot thank these volunteers enough for everything they do for the organization.

## Volunteers – Help Needed

The Optimist Junior Golf Program relies heavily on the support of dedicated volunteers who are committed to "Bringing Out the Best in Youth". Volunteer for any number of days.

July 14-19, 2022	Boys 10-11, 12-13 Girls 10-12
July 19-24, 2022	Boys 14-15 Girls 13-14
July 24-29, 2022	Boys 16-18 Girls 15-18

## Volunteers receive:

- Discounted room rates
- Receive breakfast and lunch for days you work
- Complimentary parking
- Two tournament shirts (working two or more days)
- An opportunity to play a round of golf following parent-child classic.

**Positions available:** (inside or outside jobs)  
Registration help, marshals, shuttle drivers, scoring, and range area. If you are interested in becoming a part of our volunteer team or have questions, please contact Optimist Golf - 800-500-8130 ext. 207 or [golf@optimist.org](mailto:golf@optimist.org). You'll experience the rewards of your efforts as you watch your junior golfers compete.

## Sponsors

Our sponsors help us to become a larger and more successful tournament each year. We are very appreciative of the continued support. We are already looking forward to the 2022 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship!

### Thank you to our Sponsors:

Trump National Doral Resort and Spa

Greater Miami Convention And Visitors Bureau

Florida Sports Foundation

Optimist International Foundation

Prize Possessions

SEI Radio Communications

Extraordinary Photography – Tina Valant

Play Away 4 Push Carts

First Tee Organization of Miami

# Rewind

A look at more than 100 years of Optimist International memories



**Photo:** Cover photo of the March 1988 *The Optimist*. Optimist International Photo Archives.

## **Joining the Optimist Ranks**

At the 1987 convention in Montreal, Optimist International changed its constitution to admit women as members for the first time. Rita Webb, is pictured above with James K. Knebel, President of the Optimist Club of Lincoln Nebraska. Rita Webb was one of more than 2,000 women to join Optimist International in the first 9 months since the constitution change.



## **Optimist International**

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*headquarters@optimist.org*

