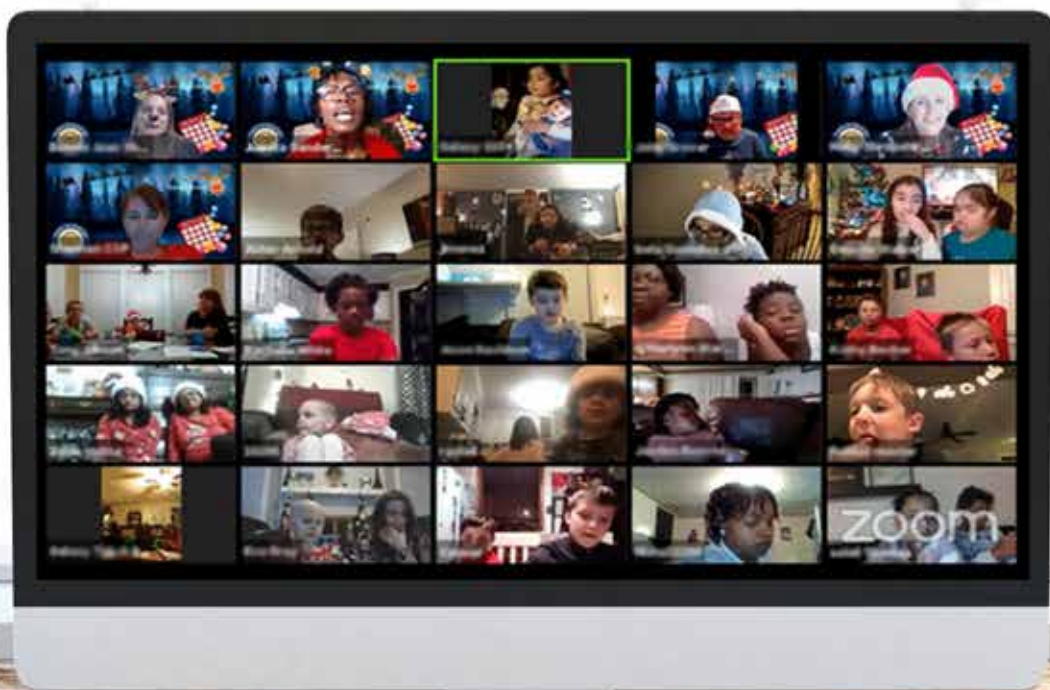


# Optimist

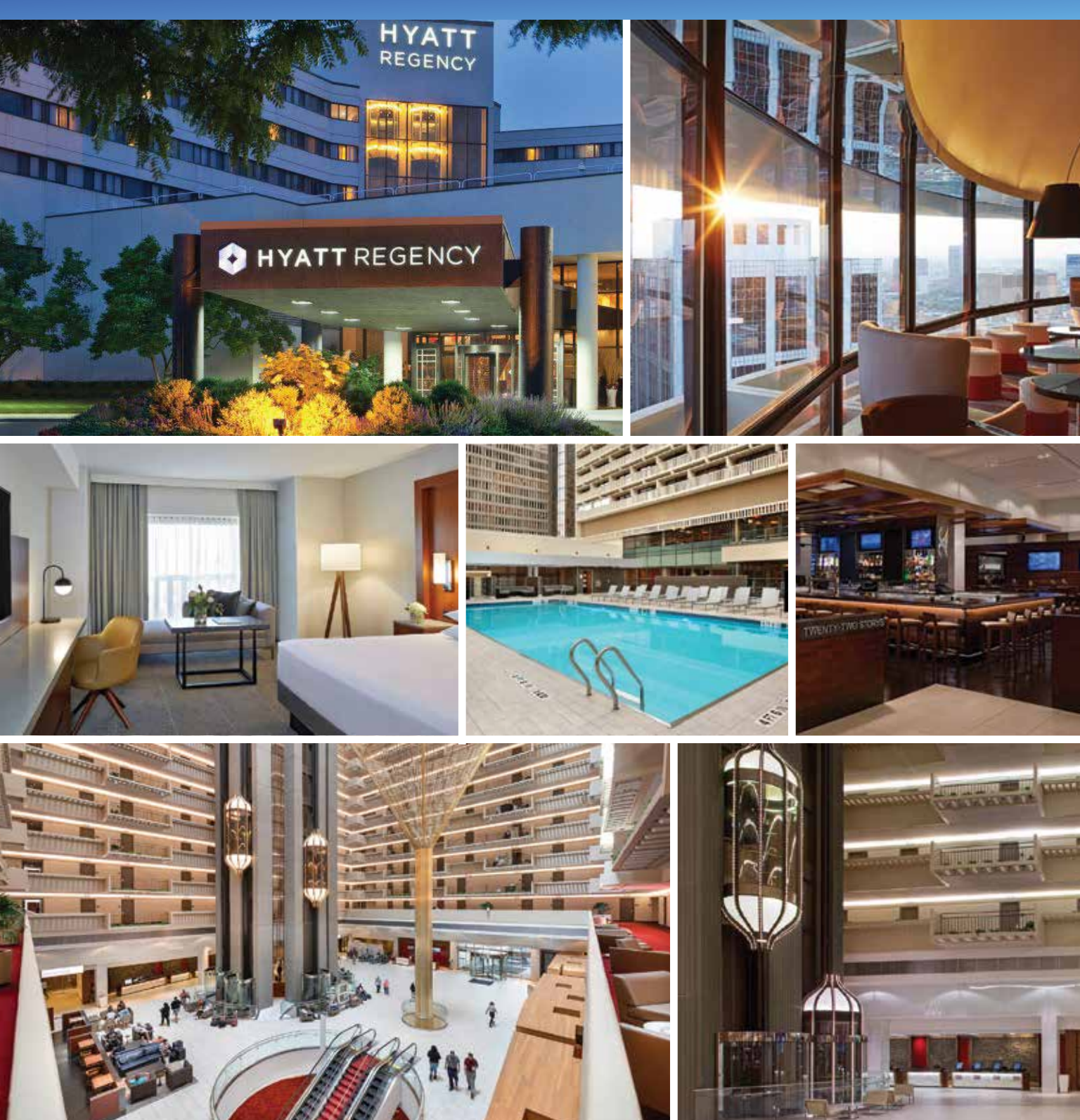
Spring 2021

Bringing out the Best in Children  
Battling Cancer...*Virtually*



**Optimist**  
INTERNATIONAL





# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FAMILY REUNION

June 30-July 3, 2021

[Optimist.org/convention](https://optimist.org/convention)

## 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 premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

## PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Purposes: 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 accord 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.



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# Optimist

The Official Publication of Optimist International

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If you choose to print out the magazine, there are hyperlinks for additional digital material throughout the issue. Please be aware those links can only be viewed online.

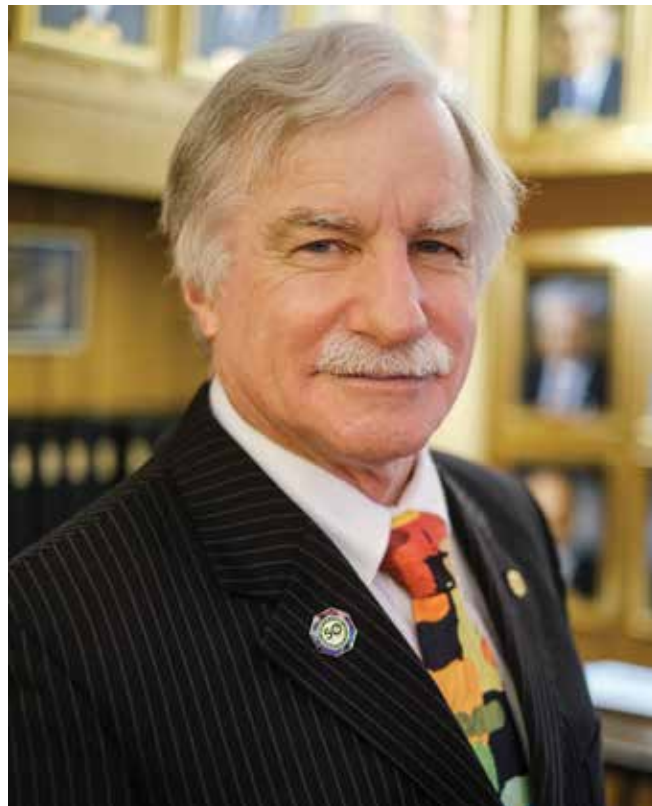
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The Spring Quarter's theme is Rally. When I think of the word rally, I remember the night of July 6, 2010. The Optimist International Convention was in Denver, Colorado, USA, and it was Optimist Night at the Colorado Rockies baseball game.

As the game progressed, the weather got colder. The wind picked up throughout the game and occasional rain was putting a damper on the mood of the crowd as the home team was down by six runs entering the final inning. To put this in perspective, the Colorado Rockies had never won a game they were behind more than four runs in the final inning. Most of the 32,922 fans who entered the stadium had already left.

I always stay to the end of a baseball game because anything can happen. As long as you don't make outs, you can continue to bat. I suspect the father in the row behind me with his family had the same attitude about leaving games early. The youngest boy in that family of four said to his Dad, "c'mon let's go home, I'm cold." I am telling you the truth when I tell you the father replied, "No, it's Optimist Night. The Rockies are going to win!" Of course, I could not resist and chimed in "that's right!"

The Rockies proceeded to send eight batters to the plate, eventually tying the game and bringing Seth Smith to the plate in a tie game with two runners on base. He hit a three-run home run to win the game 12-9 after the team began the inning down 9-3.

This is what reporter David Martin wrote in his game report on bleacherreport.com:

"Wins like Tuesday nights [the night the Rockies won the game] cannot be understated. It would have been easy for the Rockies to pack up their equipment and wait for tomorrow. A six-run lead in the ninth inning is essentially already a win for the opposition. There is no need to keep fighting."

Like the Rockies, we cannot pack up our things and wait until things get better. Yes, we find ourselves reeling from the effects of the pandemic for more than a year now. The easy thing to do would be to give up and wait for COVID-19 to go away. But that is not what we do. Optimists make the difficult choice to work to overcome obstacles and press on to the greater achievements of the future. We know we have the power to overcome any obstacle, and with that power comes the responsibility to lead the way for those who don't share our Optimism.

It is time for us to rally, even if that means starting with ourselves. We must fulfill our mission of bringing hope and positive vision to youth, our Communities and ourselves. We don't always need a home run, but we must not allow ourselves to make an out at this critical time for our communities and especially our youth.

You can start by organizing a **Welcome Optimists Worldwide (WOW)** event at your next Club gathering. Invite some friends that would be interested in serving their community. A W.O.W. event is a simple way to encourage people to join your Club.

It is time to Choose Optimism. This includes reaching out to new communities. Four years ago, there were no Optimist Clubs in the entire country of Nepal. The formation of a Club in Kathmandu began a movement that in 48 months has spread to 25 Clubs reaching all seven provinces in Nepal. On April 24, the Nepal District of Optimist International was established with officers elected and policies established.

Optimism is contagious. When you choose optimism, those you encounter will carry your Optimism with them and those they meet too. That is the kind of rally we need to fulfill our mission of providing hope and positive vision.

**We can! We must! We will!**

**MARK WEINSOFF**  
International President 2020-21

# James E. Creed

## 1979-80 Optimist International President

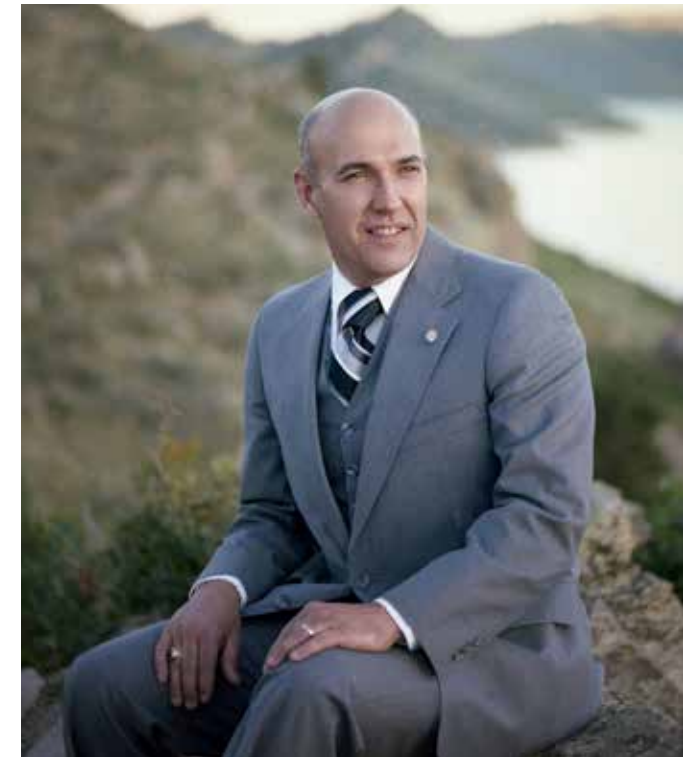
Dr. Jim Creed, DVM, of St. George, Utah, died peacefully at his home surrounded by loved ones on Sunday, November 8th, 2020.

Jim was born on December 10, 1932, to William Henry Creed and Frances Willard Judy Creed at their farm home in rural Atchison County, Missouri.

Jim was in the Air Force ROTC for four years, graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1954, and planned to be a farmer. Shortly after graduating, Jim was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Air Force, stationed at Lockbourne AFB, Ohio. While in the Air Force, Jim and Jayne welcomed two little girls, Joan and Joy. After 2 years in Ohio, they returned to Missouri to begin a life of farming.

Realizing full-time farm life wasn't for him, Jim applied to veterinary school, attended the University of Missouri, and graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1961. While in vet school, they welcomed a 3rd little girl to their family, Julie, and a 4th little girl, Janet, while at Colorado State University. He completed his Master's Degree in Veterinary Surgery from CSU in 1967, his American College of Veterinary Surgeons board certification in 1974, served as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the University of Missouri, and served as Assistant Dean for Service and Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Oklahoma State University. Following his retirement in 1999, Jim and Jayne returned to Columbia, MO where they cared for three beautiful acres overlooking their pond. In 2013, they moved to St. George, UT, to be closer to family.

Of his many tremendous assets and talents, Jim had a special heart for service. As a Member of the Optimist International organization for many years, he served as a Club President, Lt. Governor, and Governor of the Colorado-Wyoming District, and as President of Optimist International in 1979-80. He also served for many years on multiple veterinary association boards and as President of the Western Veterinary Conference.



His example of simple living, hard work, Optimism, and service will live on for generations along with these valuable lessons – be grateful, be kind, be loving, serve others, and obey God's commandments.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his brother William Charles Creed and two granddaughters, Megan Elizabeth Harry and Laura Beth Beckstrand. He is survived by his wife, Jayne; daughters Joan (Ron) Harry, Joy (Dave) Beckstrand, Julie (Paul) Arslanian, and Janet (Van) Crawford, as well as 24 grandchildren, 53 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider donating in Jim's memory to the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine [online](#) or by submitting checks to the University of Missouri in memory of Dr. James Creed, and mailed to 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.









# The 2021 Convention is for everyone!

This Convention will be like no other  
**YOU** do not want to miss it!

President **Mark Weinsoff** will be leading us through the business sessions.

Opening Ceremony will feature The Atlanta Young Singers, sponsored by Optimist International Foundation.

We are excited to have keynote speakers, Michelle Gielan (First Session) and keynote speaker Patrick "Blake" Leeper sponsored by Optimist International Foundation (Third Session)!

Personal and Professional Development is the focus of the International Leadership Development Committee. This will be educational for everyone!

Check YOUR agenda for the in-person or virtual track throughout the Convention!

The annual gathering of Optimists is open to all  
Members, Guests and Potential Members



Need up-to-date information? Visit  
[www.optimist.org/convention](http://www.optimist.org/convention)

## 2021 Keynote Speakers

### Michelle Gielan

Monday, July 1 - First Business Session



Michelle Gielan has spent the past decade researching the link between happiness and success. She is the bestselling author of **Broadcasting Happiness: The Science of Igniting and Sustaining Positive Change** and was named one of the Top 10 authors on resilience by the Harvard Business Review.

Michelle is an Executive Producer of "The Happiness Advantage" on PBS. She formerly served as anchor of **The CBS Morning News**, and her research has received attention from dozens of media outlets including **The Washington Post**, **FORBES**, and **The New York Times**.

Michelle holds an advanced degree in positive psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.S. from Tufts University in Computer Engineering.

To learn more about Michelle's story, visit her website:  
<https://michellegielan.com/her-story/>

Michelle Gielan has been called "One of the world's best experts in positive psychology" by Dr. Oz, and she appears regularly on National TV programs.

*"Shawn Achor and his wife Michelle Gielan are carving out new territory in the latest science on how positive thinking can literally change the trajectory of our lives."* -Oprah

### Patrick "Blake" Leeper

Saturday, July 3 - Third Business Session

Sponsored by Optimist International Foundation

Patrick "Blake" Leeper was born on August 31st, 1989, in Kingsport, Tennessee. Born with both legs missing below the knee, Blake still spent his young life focused on succeeding in sports. At nine months old, he began wearing prosthetics and spent his young life thriving in sports. Blake's top sport was basketball.

During high school, Blake almost quit athletic endeavors – as an aspiring pre-med student, he felt that he needed to apply himself fully ahead of the college admission process. However, a high school teammate, (and current NFL standout) Cody Sensabaugh convinced Blake to continue playing basketball during his senior year.



On Saturday, July 3, during the 3rd / Closing Session at the International Convention, find out more about Blake's journey through college and on to becoming an Olympian!

To learn more about Patrick "Blake" Leeper, visit his website: <https://www.leeper.run/>



# Spreading the Love During a Pandemic

The impact of a homemade card sparks a movement in the community.

by Megan Pellock

We live in a big, big world. However, even in the busiest times, surrounded by lots of people, it can be lonely. Especially during the pandemic, individuals are isolated, making loneliness a more prevalent issue. Optimist members saw this need and worked hard to create a project.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Lower Providence Optimist Club has worked to stay connected in whatever way they can with community members. “During the summer of 2020, we were unable to do our normal programs like bike safety because of COVID-19,” said Club President Lorin Richter. “What we decided to do was start running Facebook contests for youth. So, we did a coloring contest, virtual Halloween parade, a poetry contest, and a pay-it-forward during Christmas relating to Optimism.”



Valentine's Day was around the corner and they had to come up with something. Richter commented, “January and February can be hard months because people are coming off the holidays. We were brainstorming on how to reach out to children and have a positive effect on senior citizens.” The Optimist Club put out a call on Facebook for children ages five to fifteen that were able to make homemade Valentine's Day Cards for 150 community members that are part of the Meals on Wheels program. Any child that wanted to create any number of cards could email it or drop it off. Those that submitted a card would be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$20 Amazon gift cards.

By the deadline, Richter had received 440 cards to give to those Meals on Wheels participants. With so many extra cards, they were able to share with two assisted living facilities and the Meals on Wheels program in a nearby township. The response was beyond what the Club expected. “It blossomed into something that positively influenced the elderly community, especially during COVID-19,” Richter said, “They don't get a lot of mail; and, to get a homemade card is unusual to begin with.”

From there, the people in the community were inspired. Parents of these young children that submitted cards wanted to find other ways to give back. The Club came up with an idea for a food drive for their local food pantry. “There are food insecurities within our township,” Richter expressed “That next weekend, my pickup truck was full of food and toiletries.” With the need to continue more service projects, the Lower Providence Optimist Club is working to start a JOI Club for those children that learned about the Valentine's Day project and have a desire to give back more.



Projects like this, no matter how simple or small it may be, can make giant leaps within people's lives. “I received a hand-written letter from a father of one the children that submitted a card,” explained Richter, “The family had a conversation about who a senior citizen is, the importance of respecting their elders, etc.; and, to me, it meant Optimism went further.” The homemade card reached beyond a good deed and taught that young boy an important lesson.

When it comes to projects in your community, keep your mind open. Fellow Clubs within your District and throughout the world, come up with some great

projects. Don't be afraid to talk to those Clubs to collaborate, bounce ideas off of each, or use those ideas for your Club in the future.

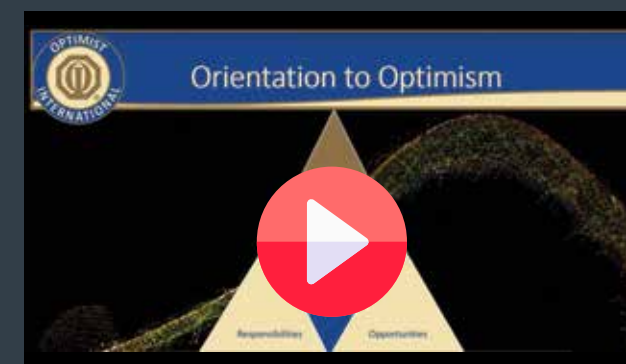
This year has been very different in a lot of ways. Be encouraged to think differently. Change can be scary, but a lot of good can come from it. It is necessary, right now, to adapt in a time where life is changing as we know it. Don't be afraid to lean into it; and, pivot when necessary. You never know when a colorful Valentine's Day card will turn into a movement of giving back in the community.

## Introducing Orientation to Optimism

The Orientation to Optimism program is a set of five videos that have been designed to provide an overview of Optimist International, its guiding principles, and the joys of all things Optimist. With the help of the Leadership Development, Membership, and Club Fitness committee, Members will learn about the Creed, opportunities, responsibilities, the foundation as well as the Member resources available to them.

The video series will provide Members with a foundational understanding of what being an Optimist is all about. However, this series is not just for new Members. Members of any seniority will benefit and learn from these videos. The series is now available on

the LMS or at the link below. It can be leveraged for Club or District meetings or watched individually. New Members will receive information about the series in the digital new Member packet.





# Optimist Day

Thank you to all who participated in International Optimist Day! Proclamations came in from cities all over and including the State of Michigan, for your tireless volunteer efforts to make your community a better place. It is because of you that we are bringing out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves. Save the date for next year, February 3, 2022!







# What one Optimist started – A Virtual Club powers on

by John Grover and Roger Sullivan

In 2001, Tom Russell, Past Governor of the South Carolina District, returned from the Optimist International Convention excited by Optimist International's commitment to fight Childhood Cancer and began searching for local ways to help. He quickly discovered the ordeal families experience trying to get to pediatric treatment centers, as there are only 201 nationwide. With Russell's leadership, the Spartanburg Breakfast Optimist Club launched a project they called the "Children's Security Blanket" for families in Spartanburg to assist with transporting their children to lifesaving treatments, no matter how far away.

By 2015, the project was an incorporated 501(c)(3) public charity and helped 100 children get the best care available. Distant benefactors, who saw the organization's caring and relentless support, challenged them to grow with a transformational gift commitment. Today, with a new name to match its

bigger commitment – Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas – spans both states, helping over 1,700 Carolina children in 2021 alone. No Optimist Club project has ever produced so much help for so many – over \$10,000,000 so far...with a budget this year of \$2.6M!

But let's go back to that expansion challenge, and Tom Russell, who understood that enormous growth challenge, and the need for a much bigger network of helping hands. He reached out to Optimist John Grover (then District Governor, now International VP Elect), who immediately recognized the opportunity to help children and something the entire District could rally around.

In a matter of months, Optimist International's first virtual Club, the Childhood Cancer Optimist Club of South Carolina, was conceived. It was an experiment but with some very specific strategies, it was possible.

## Geographically Diverse

**Membership**– Members were needed statewide, just like the brave children battling cancer, but with special focus on the cities with pediatric cancer centers, i.e., Charleston, Columbia and Greenville, SC. Today, the Club is seeking Members across District and Regional boundaries in North Carolina. Some Members were enlisted from Children's Cancer Partners (CCP), like Russell and CCP Executive Director Laura Allen. Most were dual Club Members from local Clubs and others recruited from the business community and schools with particular skills or strengths.

**Membership Growth**– Even in the midst of a global pandemic, a virtual Club grows. Chartering with 19 Members in 2016, and now at 33 Members with 12 of those added during the pandemic, the virtual Club model is proving to be especially relevant in today's world.

**Meetings Re-imagined**– Since Members would not live nearby, face-to-face meetings were

not going to be possible, and to this day, the Members have never all been in the same room. Communication is very important. Club Members met monthly through conference calls, Zoom, and lots of emails in between. We began to learn each other's faces!

**Highly-Focused Single Mission**– To support the childhood cancer mission of the CCP organization, born of Optimism 20 years ago.

**Creative Fundraising**– With Members spread across multiple communities, we would seldom have enough people in one location to mount typical fundraising events, so we decided to be "opportunistic" as you'll see further on, and let service be our focus. We sought ways to expand and enhance existing CCP fundraising programs, and to help CCP families directly. Already existing events, such as the Burger Cook-off and Docs that Rock, were added to our volunteer repertoire.

**Helping MORE Children with Cancer**– Our business plan centered on being a kind of "grass-

## Simple as 1,2,3,4,5

- Cancer is the #1 disease killer of children
- Only **two** hundred places in U.S. treat kids
- Poor and rural kids face risks **3X** greater
- Only **4%** of cancer research money for children
- One in **5** children do not survive cancer

roots" communications arm of CCP. We encourage our Club Members to network in their communities, and spread the word that CCP is there to help. We were able to identify some families who had not been connected with CCP, and that was wonderful. The Club is now actively pursuing the addition of one or more JOI Clubs for the children battling cancer as well as their siblings.

**This strategy of being alert for ways to help has made a difference. Here are some examples:**

- One of our Members, Lou Kinkle, heard students talking about wanting a charity project. He told them there was a charity quietly helping local children fight cancer and staged an event that raised nearly \$16,000 in one evening. Those students had no idea of the challenges of children getting treatment and were thrilled with their impact.
- A Club Member shared our mission with her father, a retired Army Major General, resulting in a private air show for CCP's cancer kids, hosted by Club Members, complete with combat aircraft tours and an air drop by Special Forces paratroopers who



Club Members helped get South Carolina statewide proclamation of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month





Optimist Tom Russell is co-founder of CCP and still helps childhood cancer families, every day.

landed on precision targets – and then told wide-eyed cancer children that THEY were the real superheroes, giving each child a Special Forces medallion.

- All Club Members assist regularly at CCP events including Family Nights, the annual Camp Victory, and Christmas Parties.

- John Grover helped stage a golf tournament that generated over \$22,000 for CCP children in the Myrtle Beach area.

- One middle school student was saddened to have a good friend with cancer and wanted to help others. This spunky 10-year-old and her school principal came up with an idea, now called *Kidz in Lids*. They picked a day when every student who brought in a dollar could wear their favorite hat in school all day. They raised over \$1,100 in a single day! This has become a signature fundraising project, and we're offering it now to every Optimist Club across the Carolinas.

- Club Member Marlene Grover introduced *Kidz in Lids* to South Carolina's Superintendent of Catholic Schools with the delightful result that every one of the State's Catholic Schools staged a Kidz event.

## A Global Pandemic

When COVID-19 hit, our world changed and we had to change with it. These children are immunocompromised, and we cannot visit them. This became a big problem. We knew there could not be an in-person Camp Victory in 2020 and no Christmas parties. If you think you have been feeling isolated during COVID, imagine cancer weakening your immune system. You and your family are not able to leave your house unless absolutely necessary due to potentially risking your health.

When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade, right? With a 13 year history, Camp Victory had to be re-invented as a "Camp-in-a-Box" with camp supplies delivered and virtual events. Optimists from across the country and Canada jumped in and designed an online "Escape Room" adventure, and virtual campfire sing-a-longs!

We became Zoom experts, and found ways to bring joy back to these kids, **virtually!** In December, we held our first Virtual Bingo Party for CCP's children. The theme was "Reindeer Games" and we told everyone to "wear your holiday pajamas, play some bingo, and win prizes". Over 60 kids and their families crowded around the computer screen, while Club

Members impersonating Santa, Rudolph, Donner, Blitzen, Comet, Vixen, and others hosted the games. We have since held Virtual Family Game Nights every month, every third Saturday. We plan on holding these virtual game sessions for these kids as long as they need us and we can help them. With all too many in hospital beds or confined to home bedrest, virtual is the new normal, and eliminates barriers of time and distance.

COVID willing, we're holding our first Annual Myrtle Beach Burger Cook-off on the beach August 21. We can't wait for Camp Victory and all those other events to be real again. However, when your mission is bigger than your backyard, or even your city, then a virtual platform can empower you in new ways.



Our ZOOM events and meetings bring a lot of happy faces together. The kids LOVE it and think they are TV celebrities.

We've been asked to help build a handbook for virtual Clubs and we hope to share that experience with you all soon. But don't wait – jump in and play with the new group technologies.

In five years, we have learned a lot as Members and as a Club. First, Childhood Cancer Stinks. Secondly, consider what has become of what a single Club started. Because we embraced the power of technology, we were able to virtually come together and make an impact. We have kept it focused and personal. Most of all, we remember to bring it back to the kids.

# I got the music in me

by Gerri Barnett

The International Activities Committee had a conversation last quarter. In a world that is continuously changing, we were looking to do something virtual. What about Happiness Day?

"Maybe, a monetary prize for a kid who writes a song about Happiness? We have kids who can draw and take pictures. How many kids out there aspire to be songwriters? Music is such a big thing!" From that brainstorming session, the Musical Happiness Competition came into light. Kids would sing a song about Happiness, upload a video, and could win a prize.

Earlier this Optimist year, the Optimist International Activities Committee expanded opportunities for youth to express themselves. In 2020, drawing, painting and photography contests were introduced. This year, the committee sought to add a performance-musical and vocal-competition. Originally, the competition was envisioned for a date later in the Optimist year. However, by special request, it was moved months ahead on the Optimist calendar so the winners would coincide with the International Day of Happiness on March 20, 2021.



## THE MUSICAL HAPPINESS WINNERS:

MUSICAL	VOCAL
First place Mio Legaspi Alex Mona	First place Isabel Naish
Second place Ana Nikolova	Second place Samantha Cayton
Third place Jonah Kassel	Third place Emma Petraborg

Over 70 entries were received through YouTube from youth all over the world using #OptimistMusicalHappiness2021. There were some very impressive entries! On Saturday, March 20, Optimists from all over joined the OptiForum celebrating International Day of Happiness. We heard from Bill Myers, an Optimist himself, as well as an Emmy-winning actor, jazz musician, educator, filmmaker, writer, and speaker, about the importance of music. The winners of the contest were announced at the end of the Zoom session. It was also livestreamed on Facebook.

Positive comments were seen and heard during the OptiForum.

"To see these kids use their talents, and perform in front of all of us Optimists was a moving experience. The participants were so talented and creative."

"Truly inspirational. These kids were amazing."

"I wanted them all to go home with the knowledge that they are fabulous. It takes a lot of guts to perform in front of people."

"I hope this helps bring growth to our organization; and, we can reach more children in all we do."

"What a tremendous way to spread the message of Optimism and the value of being happy! This was indeed a great experience."

The first place winners in each category received \$250, second place \$150 and third place \$100. You can watch the full OptiForum [here](#).

The Activities Committee hopes contests that feature youth creativity will expand during the coming years. We are grateful for the cooperation and the positive feedback of the contest. This memorable, fun event was a success and will continue for another successful event next year.







# Club Event Reviews

While we continue to adjust to the ongoing global pandemic, Club Members may be cautious to start meeting in person. There are ways to continue to engage the Members of your community, Club, or District with virtual events. We break down some great games that are cost-effective, easy, and fun for all.

## Virtual Trivia Night

What's needed:



- Paid Zoom account
- PowerPoint or Google Slides
- Excel or Google Sheets
- Volunteers to help trivia night go smoothly

**How to set up:** Set up the Zoom meeting and have registration for participants to register ahead of time. A paid Zoom account allows you the ability for participants to register beforehand, unlimited time to be on the call with a max of 100 people on the call, and

breakout rooms if desired. A payment system can be linked with Zoom if funds are to be collected..

For the volunteers, be sure everyone has their own job. One person will be the technical host, meaning they will share the screen, any Zoom technical issues, etc. Another host will be asking the questions and progressing the game. Another volunteer will be keeping track of the points.

**After the event:** Send prizes out after the event. Whether by mail or by email, it gets done as soon as the event is over, and no one can forget about it.

## Virtual Bingo

What's needed:



- Paid Zoom account
- [MyFreeBingoCards.com](https://www.myfreebingocards.com)  
(The website is free for up to 30 Bingo cards. There is an additional cost for additional cards.)
- A team of fun and creative volunteers

**How to set it up:** The event can be set up 30 days in advance on [MyFreeBingoCards.com](https://www.myfreebingocards.com). The number of cards can be determined at this time. If you pay for additional cards, you will be prompted for an email address and payment. Links to play, as well as a PDF, with cards to print will be emailed to you. The link will be available for 30 days. Save the link in the email provided.

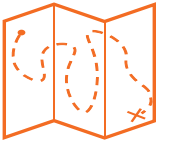
Set up a Zoom session with registration required for participants and include the link to their bingo cards. Be sure to include the link to the Bingo cards. On the day of the event, send out instructions on how to login, if they are printing out their Bingo cards, and how the game will work.

Each volunteer should have their own job. Some positions include the Zoom master (tech support, screen sharing, running the bingo website, etc.), Bingo Caller (call the numbers and act as a host; there can be more than one Bingo caller), Bingo Recap (if playing with kids, this person reminds the kids of the numbers called), Winner Notes (someone that keeps track of the winners so prizes can be sent).

**After the Event:** Prizes will be sent out after the event is over. If possible, send out virtual gift cards to the winners. It saves on postage and they are able to access it right away.

## Virtual Scavenger Hunt

What's needed:



- Excel or Google Sheets
- Paid Zoom account
- A list of items for participants to find
- A group of volunteers

**How to set it up:** A scavenger hunt should be easy enough for participants to find items around the house. Depending on how many rounds there are, make it fun and creative. Be sure to have a practice run of the scavenger hunt to work out any issues before the event. Set up your Zoom meeting and send out the invite to those that register for the event.

Volunteer jobs can be host, Zoom technician, point tally, and several volunteers watching the screen to see who gets to their chair first, second, and third. From there, determine the number of points to be awarded.

**Note to self**

- Have a practice event before the event to work out any technical issues, logistical questions, etc.
- Be sure to market your event! Whether it is social media, emails, flyers, or a section in the newspaper, get the information out.
- Collect participants, emails after the event and send them your newsletter or events happening in the future.
- During the event, be sure to talk about your Optimist Club and all the great work they are doing in the community. This gives participants an opportunity to learn about your Club and potentially join in the future.

Now get excited, come together, and make memories from wherever you are!

## Leadership Webinars

Save the dates for our leadership webinars. Webinars are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, beginning at 7 p.m., Central Standard Time. Email [leadership@optimist.org](mailto:leadership@optimist.org) for more information.

### ► June 21, 2021 | Facebook Page Management

Want more likes? Need more engagement? Learn how to use the Facebook Page Manager to collect metrics and drive your social media strategy.

**REGISTER HERE**

### ► August 23, 2021 | Tools for Communication

100 Club members. 30% read email. 60 % are on Facebook. 20% are texters. Some are on Facebook and some are not. 12 like things in writing in the mail and 15 want a personal phone call. Only 70% attend the meetings. How do you get the message to your Members? Learn about some tools useful for reaching your harder to reach Members.

**REGISTER HERE**



# Let's see them get W.O.W.ed

By Denise Nacev

Are you ready to W.O.W. your Club and your community? I think we are all ready to get out and meet people again; and, more important, serve our youth and communities. Our new W.O.W. program is the perfect way to recruit new Members, reengage and revitalize your existing Members, and renew those vital friendships.



W.O.W. stands for Welcome Optimists Worldwide and takes our current recruiting tools to a new level. It is so easy to implement and will bring the fun to your Club. For example, the Optimist Club of Burlington in Burlington, Ontario Canada is a small but active Club that wanted to increase Member engagement and recruitment. Their Members love to play cards, so they decided to host a Euchre tournament once a month on the third Friday. Euchre is a card game played in partners and the tournament was set up so that you changed partners with every round.

The tournament is open to Members and non-Members alike and they encourage their Members to invite friends, colleagues, and family. They advertise on social media, their town's website, their website, and all other activities they host. It started out slow, with Members and a few friends, but it grew and now typically has 25+ people per event. This event has brought the fun back to the Club, increased their profile in the community; and, more importantly, acts as a vehicle to recruit new Members. Win, win all around, right?

## It is that simple! Here are the basic steps:

- 1** Decide as a Club what your activity will be and when you are going to host it. Make it a recurring event on the same day, at the same time, so people will schedule around it. What works in your community? What do your Members enjoy? The Sunrise, San Diego Club recently hosted a virtual scavenger hunt. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.
- 2** Assign a Chairperson and committee to host and organize the event. Put a budget together, it doesn't have to be a lot of money. Money for snacks, refreshments, and other incidentals aren't always expensive. A budget shows you are fully committed.
- 3** Encourage Members to invite friends, colleagues, and family.
- 4** Advertise on Social Media. This one is really important. Social media is a free way to get the word out. Make sure to share it in community groups and pages.
- 5** During the event, make sure to take 5-10 minutes to talk about your Club. **YOUR CLUB!** Members do not join Optimist International, they join their local Club. Tell them about the great things you do in the community and how much fun they can have when they join.
- 6** Make sure to have applications available. If someone says no or wants to think about it, make sure to follow up and invite them again. The Burlington Club has people who attend every month but have not joined... yet.

There is another aspect to W.O.W. that each Club needs to implement right now. Turn every one of your activities into a recruitment activity. When you are out in the community doing your very important work, make sure you have a display that highlights the things your Club does. It can be a physical display, or it can be a presentation that runs on a laptop and monitor. Anything to get their attention and allows you to proudly display what your Club does. Make sure to have Member applications available!

See how easy that is! With a little creativity, a W.O.W. event can be virtual. Clubs have been hosting paint nights, scavenger hunts, bingo nights, and so much more on virtual platforms. It is time to ramp up our retention and recruitment efforts. It is time to W.O.W. our Members and communities. We have been locked in too long, it is prime time for us to Rally and spread our Optimism!

The Membership Committee is here to help you plan an event or do a presentation on how the W.O.W. program works. Contact Russ Thomas at [ruthomas10@gmail.com](mailto:ruthomas10@gmail.com).





# Club News



## Winter Haven Optimist Club

The Winter Haven (FL) Optimist Club initiated a new project for the 2020-21 local school year. The project "Sock it to Me", included Club Members collecting nearly 400 pairs of new children's socks. The socks were distributed to three local elementary schools. The schools were selected based on the social-economical needs of the children in the schools' community. Placed inside each bag of socks was a sticker identifying the Club as the provider.



## Promoting Democracy

The Sacramento Breakfast Optimist Club Members have now served in three elections, beginning in 2018. We set up and close our polling place and help voters understand their rights. We protect ballots, voting equipment, and in helping, we earn extra money which helps our Club create projects in our

community with these funds. In each of the elections, eighteen Club Members combined their individual hours for four days' work, earning between \$5,000 – \$6,000 per election.

Some of our more memorable moments were when a voter brought his parrot to the election on his shoulder (support animal) and his parrot called out, "Hello, Hello" and "Here, kitty kitty," repeatedly. Another was when a 70-year-old voted for the first time, or when families brought their children along to teach them the importance of voting. There were long lines and some voters had to wait for up to one hour before they could vote; but, they were patient and did not complain. These moments add a rewarding experience for our Club.



## Optimist Club of Brookville Ohio

The Chamber of Commerce of Brookville, Ohio, honors the Brookville Optimist Club's "Honoring America Flag Project" with a Beautification Award. The program began in May of 2020 having Club Members place/retrieve over 300 flags throughout Brookville for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Patriot's Day (Sept 11), and Veteran's Day. Group donations allowed the Club to initiate the project, while an annual/renewal subscription service to individuals/businesses helps fund many programs.



## Morehead Optimist Club working hard for "Beds for Kids"

The Morehead Optimist Club partnered with the Rowan County Detention Center, Rowan County Schools, and Big 4 Lumber (a family-owned local business) to build

beds for school children not fortunate enough to have one of their own at home. The Optimist Club purchases lumber and materials from Big 4 Lumber, inmates at the Rowan County Detention Center build the beds, and the Family Resource Centers of Rowan County Schools identify the children in need.



## Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club

The Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club hosted the Petrolia Optimist Grocery Run. Due to the pandemic, they postponed the event until August 2020. Similar to the famous gameshow, "Supermarket Sweep", contestants make their way through the grocery store to collect groceries. The contestant that collects the highest value in groceries wins. Contestants ran through Heidi's Independent Grocer Petrolia. Winners received either a gift card or a monetary prize. One contestant ran for the Petrolia Food Bank and placed second, receiving a \$500 prize.

## It is time to Rally for Action In new and different ways

Gathering is about coming together to act. After the long months of confinement and the quiet months of winter, as the days begin to lengthen, we Optimists are ready to roll up our sleeves! This is when we run our scholarship contests and prepare for our International Convention. All this to inspire the best in youth, and most importantly, in ourselves. Let's spread our Optimism and inspire the best in our communities! Let's offer this incredible opportunity to our friends and invite them to choose Optimism by joining a Club, becoming a Friend of Optimists, or becoming a charter Member of a new Club. **Together we can make a difference!**

I am an  
Optimistic  
Person

Because I believe...  
It is time to  
RALLY for ACTION  
in NEW and  
DIFFERENT WAYS

I have SPONSORED

2

MEMBERS







# 2021 VIRTUAL ORATORICAL

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 22 – 23, 2021

## 2021 Junior Optimist International Convention

Atlanta, Georgia, June 30 - July 2, 2021

### Join us for:

- JOI Opening Ceremonies  
- (JOI Board Intros/Icebreakers)
- Paint Event
- Candidates Q&A
- Online Election Voting
- Breakouts/Workshops
- Talent Show
- Scavenger Hunt

- Stargazing on Observatory

- Service Projects  
- Make-A-Wish Presentation  
- Foster Backpack Project

### Keynote Speakers

- Dr. Jessica Ward-King
- Audrey Maame Esi Swatson (youngest female commercial pilot)

- President's Banquet/Dinner  
- (Closing Remarks/Awards/Election Results)

- Discord Party/Dance

**\$ In Person Registration:** \$215 USD/\$275 CAD **\$ Virtual:** \$30 USD/\$38 CAD



### JOI 2021 Keynote Speaker

## Dr. Jessica Ward-King

Dr. Jessica Ward-King has a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of London, England, and a Bachelor's degree from McGill University with a BSc (Hons) in Psychology. Jessica also has Bipolar II Disorder, a chronic mental illness that she has lived with since she was a teenager. Known as a StigmaCrusher, Jessica works tirelessly to crush the stigma of mental health both in-person and now on YouTube. Jessica is thrilled to be joining you to crush stigma today!

### Topic for the 2020-21 school year is: "Healing the World with Optimism"

In 2021, students from around the globe will once again have the opportunity to compete for scholarships in the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. Due to the potential of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Optimist International Board of Directors recently voted to conduct the 2021 Oratorical Regionals and World Championship virtually to protect the safety of the contestants, volunteers, and staff. The Regionals and World Championships will be live-streamed as previously scheduled on July 22 and 23, 2021.

Check out the message below from the 2020 Optimist International Oratorical World Champion:  
Jaylon Muchison, Illinois





# WELCOME BACK

## Optimist Golf Season Officially Reawakens

**A**pril is here and so is the Optimist District qualifying season. Junior Golfers are making their way back to the golf courses after most tournaments were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19. Golfers are headed back out with some restrictions in place. Golfers compete in qualifying tournaments over the next several months with the hopes of making it to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. Over 50 Optimist qualifiers will take place this year. Every District tournament receives a set number of qualifying spots in each age division based on the previous year's golfers playing in their qualifier. For a golfer to advance, they must receive a qualifying spot along with the qualifying scoring criteria.

Each participating Optimist District helps young golfers advance by covering the tournament's registration fees for the District Winners

in the older boys' and girls' age division. A handful of Districts cover the other age divisions as well. The registration fee includes their golf, five nights housing, five breakfasts, and four dinners, along with fun evening activities.

In addition to the Optimist qualifiers, we have 21 International Federations who hold tournaments and send golfers to our Championships as well.

In addition to the Championship, adults have the opportunity to compete alongside their junior golfers. Each year, Optimist Junior Golf holds two Parent-child Tournaments. These enjoyable events take place between the phases (July 19 and 24). The 18-hole event will be a two-player best-ball format. Optimist junior golfers will pair up with a parent, legal guardian, grandparent, aunt, or uncle. The event will have awards presented in various divisions based on age and gender of the junior golfers. It is a great family-friendly opportunity.

For more information  
about the tournament  
schedule, go to  
[www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf)



## Get Involved in your District

It is a great time to be outside helping at local tournaments. Members can volunteer their time at the District level by helping with a District qualifier. We are looking for Marshals, shuttle drivers, registration helpers, and scorers. If you are not able to attend and would like to greatly affect the life of a young golfer, consider sponsoring him/her to attend a District qualifier or the International Championship.

To find out what is going on in your area, go to  
<https://www.optimist.org/golf/golf-championships-qualifiers.cfm>  
Click on the tournament name and look for the qualifying information or contact information

If you have questions, please contact the Junior Golf Department at  
800-500-8130 ext. 207 (direct/314-881-1307)  
or email at [golf@optimist.org](mailto:golf@optimist.org)



# Meet the 2021 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team

Optimist Junior Golf recently announced the junior golfers of the 2021 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team. Those making the team exemplified an impressive balance of academics, golf, and community service. After reviewing the qualifications of impressive applicants, the Optimist Junior Golf Committee selected the following exceptional student athletes for the team:



**Holden Kittelberger** is finishing his junior year at Cinco Ranch High School in Katy, Texas. In addition to being a two-time All-District selection, Holden was a member of the Houston Area Golf Coaches Association All-Area First Team; and, is the MVP of his varsity golf team. Academically, Holden has filled his schedule with a multitude of advanced placement classes and is a third-year German language student. He has maintained a 4.55 GPA. Holden is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC). Through the AJGA Leadership Links program, Holden has worked to raise funding for junior golfers in need, as well as the NRDC whose efforts help safeguard the environment.

**John Thomas "J.T." Timmers** is a sophomore at Colorado Academy in Denver, Colorado. Timmers competed in MathCounts in middle school. Timmers is a solid member of the American computer science league and Ethics Bowl teams; and, serves on the Colorado Academy community council. He also performs in the Upper School Chamber Choir and musical theater. In addition, he volunteers at the Food Bank of the Rockies and Open Arms Food Bank, and also provides tutoring to underprivileged youth in Denver. In sports, Timmers is on the Junior Varsity basketball, Varsity baseball, and Varsity Ultimate Frisbee teams.



**Elisa Villamizar** will be graduating next year from Colegio Colombo Britanico in Cali, Colombia. Elisa is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of a class of 94 students. Villamizar has made the honor roll throughout her high school years. She competed in the regional math Olympics, making it to the finals. She started her own cooking business called "Delice" with making cinnamon and chocolate strawberries. She helps in the community by giving lessons to caddies, collecting recycled plastic to help cancer patients, recycling notebooks to help underprivileged children, helping people who were affected the most by covid, and participating in the building of libraries in places that need it most.

## The Community Service Award goes to:

**Sarah Balding** is a junior at Brookfield Central High School. She carries a grade point average of 4.225. Sarah got an almost-perfect score on her ACT. In 2020, Balding was the captain of the state championship Brookfield Central Girls Golf Team. She was the president of the symphony orchestra and currently the vice president of the chamber orchestra. The number of volunteer hours performed as a Kiwanis Key Club Member is impressive. While serving as a district representative, she developed and led a Division Wide Donations Project. Sarah also volunteers as a student leader with the Elmbrook Church youth group, has helped with Junior Golf at Oconomowoc Golf Course, and is a SEA Literacy Tutor.



## The Community Service Award goes to:

**Charlie Bundy** will graduate from Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, next year. An Honor Roll student, he scored in the top 2% nationally on the SAT. He is a Maguire Ethics Scholar, was selected to represent his school at the Maryland Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference. He is the co-founder and president of Landon's Ethics Club, which includes discussions focused on ethics in sports. During his sophomore and junior years, he was the captain of the varsity golf team, and he was on the varsity cross country team and basketball team. Bundy started "Clubs For Kids", which collects new and used equipment for junior golf programs; and, he has volunteered for the First Tee and Maryland Special Olympics. He shares the game of golf with other young people to help build character, improve physical fitness, foster camaraderie, and have fun.



## The 2020-2021

# CLUB OFFICER

## TRAINING COURSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

2020-2021 officers who did not complete training prior to March 31 are able to take the 2021-2022 training to receive credit toward Honor Club designation.



[www.optimist.tovuti.io](http://www.optimist.tovuti.io)

Please email [LMS@Optimist.org](mailto:LMS@Optimist.org) for more information





## Jeff Hanson's painting “Only in Holland” finds new home

Few can say they own one of the late Jeff Hanson original paintings, but now the Mona family can say they own not one but two with their winning \$10,000, buy-it-now "bid" on the painting "Only in Holland".

The painting was made available for auction thanks to the contributions of President Jan Oord Graves and Ron Graves, who donated the painting to the OIF 50th Anniversary online auction. Jan and Ron worked with the Hansen family to select the perfect piece of art by Jeff to be in our 50th Anniversary Auction. Thank you Rebecca and Mike.

*"Jeff and his family are very special to us, and this seemed the perfect way to honor Jeff's legacy of giving, while supporting our Optimist International Foundation. I was privileged to introduce the Hansons and their inspiring story to Optimists at our Centennial Convention in Louisville, and I'm grateful that led to this wonderful partnership with shared goals to make the world a better place."*

- Rebecca Butler Mona, Past Optimist International President 2018-19

## Optimist International Foundation 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary auction success

The Optimist International Foundation would like to thank everyone who helped us raise \$26,688 in bids and donations. Every dollar raised helps us support Optimist International programs and scholarships, plus provide grants to Clubs throughout the year.



## Picturing healthy, happy youth

The Optimist Club of San Antonio has a new Childhood Health and Wellness project, thanks to a grant from the Optimist International Foundation. The Club will partner with the Green Spaces Alliance Picture Your World program. Club project Chair, Shirley Bratton, tells us that the goal of this project is to actively connect children with their natural environment, teach them about the nature around

them, while endowing them with the tools, photography instruction, and art concepts necessary to engage their imagination, and express themselves creatively.

The participants will receive instruction on photography techniques. As a group, they will embark on a nature hike, enjoying the beauty while looking for interesting subjects to photograph. The goal of this project is to promote healthy lifestyles in our youth.

The benefits should be multiple:

- hiking
- promoting physical health
- enjoying nature
- promoting mental wellbeing
- creating photographic art
- promoting self esteem



Ben DeRemer



Debra Merritt

## Congratulations to our newest OIF Board Members

**Ben DeRemer**

Effective October 1, 2021  
through September 30, 2023

**Debra Merritt**

Effective May 6, 2021  
through September 30, 2023



# Donald MacDonald

## 1932-2021



Donald MacDonald

Optimist Donald MacDonald, a dedicated supporter and Honorary Member of the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) and its predecessor, the Optimist International Foundation of Canada, passed away on February 19, 2021.

Don's contribution to CCOF has left a legacy for others. Don was made an Honorary Member of the corporation. He is spoken about with respect, reverence, and admiration.

Since 1977, he was a valuable Member of the Oakville Optimist Club, Central Ontario District. He held many Club and District leadership positions, but none more important than District Chair of the Essay Contest. He was instrumental in helping set up the Oakville Bursaries program for senior students in the Oakville community.

Prior to having been a Member of the Oakville Optimist Club, in 1967 he had been a charter Member of the Montréal-Côte-des-Neiges Optimist Club, then part of the Québec-Maritimes District. He held many leadership positions as well with the Club, namely as President and Secretary. During his tenure as President, the Club became well known for financially supporting a drum and bugle marching band that performed on many occasions, but none more famous than the Quebec Carnival parade.

Don MacDonald had retired from a career in the Treasury Department of Canadian Pacific, a job that took him overseas and around the continent over many years. In the mid-1960s, Don MacDonald worked as a goal judge for the NHL and rubbed shoulders with some of the great Canadian hockey legends. He donated a signed puck from Maurice 'Rocket' Richard to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

He was a proud participant and active volunteer with the Optimist Clubs he served, and the Two Solitudes were never a deterrent to his involvement in helping young people.

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation has lost a believer, a supporter, and a true example of living out the Optimist Creed.

President Jean-Claude St-Onge, Board Members, and Executive Director Linda Loranger extend their condolences.

Past CCOF President Benoît Paré (on right) presenting the Platinum Benefactor medallion to Donald MacDonald (on left) at the 2011 OI Convention in Baltimore.



## Optimist Club of West Lorne reimagines its 2021 Road Race as a virtual event

*"When the going gets tough, resilient Optimists keep going!"*

A 2020 Spread Relief grant was part of the Annual West Lorne Optimist Road Race fundraising event. The Road Race benefits three Optimist projects: M.I. Understanding, Bravery Beads, and Conductive Education.

When the pandemic arrived last year, the in-person road race and Mother's Day event (featuring a 10k, 5k road race and 5k family fun walk) was cancelled.

The event first took place in 2014. In order to keep the slowly building momentum of community engagement alive and well, the West Lorne Optimists realized that, somehow, the race needed to happen in 2021. So online it went! The 2021 West Lorne Optimist Road Race, complete with certificate of participation and photo gallery, is now a virtual 16-day event, scheduled for May 1-16.

Interested in how the Optimist Club of West Lorne, Ontario reimagined this annual event, and to learn more about M.I. Understanding, Bravery Beads and Conductive Education, check out [www.westlorneoptimistroadrace.com](http://www.westlorneoptimistroadrace.com)

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) Executive Director Linda Loranger and the CCOF Board Members congratulate Clubs for their resiliency in providing community service projects during unprecedented times. Through our Outsourcing and Spread Relief programs, Club Grants, President's Incentives, and Scholarship programs, CCOF is your partner in community service.

As in the past, and today, and on into the future, CCOF supports Canadian Optimist Clubs in every corner of Canada.

Your CCOF donations make a difference, especially when the going gets tough. Please donate to CCOF.



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation



# CCOF FOUNDATION DONORS

## CCOF TOP THREE from October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Edie Harris	\$18.24
Pacific North West	Peter H Smith	\$9.85
Central Ontario	Barbara Holly and Gordon S Holly	\$8.27
District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Edie Harris	\$14,465
Central Ontario	Barbara Holly and Gordon S Holly	\$10,486.50
Quebec Central	Nathalie Gravel and Roland Rhéaume	\$8,201.15

## CCOF DONOR LISTINGS

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels newly achieved from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of Optimist Magazine.

### Silver Benefactor - \$25,000

EASTERN ONTARIO

### Bronze Benefactor - \$15,000

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO  
Optimist Club of Guelph, ON

### Eminent Benefactor - \$10,000

QUÉBEC EAST AND ACADIE  
Bernard Labrecque

CENTRAL ONTARIO  
Alexander S. Ansell

### Distinguished Benefactor - \$5,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING  
Optimist Club of Regina-Sundown, SK

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO  
Dianne F. Josling

QUÉBEC CENTRAL  
Gaétan Labelle

QUÉBEC SOUTH  
Edithe Lemieux  
Ilze & Vilnis Epnars

QUÉBEC WEST  
Club Optimiste de Lafontaine, QC  
Club Optimiste de St-Eustache-Est, QC

QUÉBEC EAST ACADIE  
Club Optimiste de Moncton, NB

### Honored Benefactor - \$2,500

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
Edward Stevens

QUÉBEC CENTRAL  
Robert Sabourin  
Roland Rhéaume

### Benefactor - \$1,000

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
Ritchie Stewart

QUÉBEC CENTRAL  
Benoit Latreille  
Anne Falardeau

QUÉBEC SOUTH  
Patrick Descheneaux  
Ginette Métivier  
Yvan Fecteau

QUÉBEC EAST - NORTH SHORE  
Martin Maheux



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation

# OIF FOUNDATION DONORS

## OIF CHRISTIAN D. LARSON PARTNERS MEMBERSHIP

765 Michael E. Anders

## OIF TOP TEN as of February 28, 2021

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Marsi Salmi	\$21.97
New York – New England	Debra Davis	\$13.49
North Carolina East	Billy Edgerton	\$10.77
Alabama-Mississippi	Nancy Boyd	\$9.51
Indiana South	Bob Thompson	\$8.70
New Mexico-West Texas	Lynne Martin	\$8.60
Maryland – South Delaware	Teri Branch	\$8.08
South Texas	Joe Smith	\$7.55
Michigan	Theresa Jarratt	\$6.59
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$6.55
District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Theresa Jarratt	\$18,251.76
Ohio	Bill Stone	\$12,427.00
Arizona	Marsi Salmi	\$10,918.26
Alabama-Mississippi	Nancy Boyd	\$9,686.54
Indiana South	Bob Thompson	\$8,771.50
New York – New England	Debra Davis	\$8,685.54
North Carolina East	Billy Edgerton	\$8,510.75
South Texas	Joe Smith	\$8,299.75
Iowa	Janet Lloyd	\$7,598.88
Maryland – South Delaware	Teri Branch	\$7,486.60

## OIF DONOR LISTINGS

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from December 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021, for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date of the printing of The Optimist.

### Bronze Benefactor - \$15,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING  
Optimist Club of Billings-Breakfast, MT

### Distinguished Benefactor - \$5,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI  
Nancy Ryan  
WEST MISSOURI  
Platte County Optimist Club of Missouri

### Honored Benefactor - \$2,500

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI  
Thomas H. Howell  
KANSAS  
Optimist Club of Shawnee Mission – Valley View, KS  
MICHIGAN  
Linda L. Thompson  
NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND  
Lori A. DeHond  
NORTH TEXAS  
Noon Optimist Club of Marshall Inc., TX  
OHIO  
Jerry P. Stahley  
WEST MISSOURI  
Darlene A. Friel  
WISCONSIN NORTH – UPPER MICHIGAN  
Roman Wagner

### Benefactor - \$1,000

CAPITAL - VIRGINIA  
Donna M. Aker  
COLORADO-WYOMING  
Perry P. Allen  
DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA  
Randy Johnson  
EAST MISSOURI  
Charlotte Baker  
IOWA  
Timothy A. Kessler  
MARYLAND – SOUTH DELAWARE  
Glen L. Rotner  
OHIO  
Bellbrook – Sugar Creek Optimist Club





# Rewind

A look at more than 100 years of Optimist International memories



Photo: Courtesy of Mike Mosley

## Never too young too be an Optimist

Image from late 80's of a young Paul Spradlin whose father, Edward J. Spradlin, has been a Member of the Chickasha OK Club (07018) since 1984.





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logo printed on left chest



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