

A CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT FOR OPTIMISM

CONTINUED

Opti-Match at its Best

Ken met his lovely wife Patsy through Optimism. They were both Lieutenant Governors during the 1999-2000 year and then Patsy convinced him to follow her as Governor in 2000-2001. During that year, they became dates for each other at events and an Optimist love match was made. Now they are each other's biggest fan and supporter. First Lady Patsy is poised to play an important role in the 2014-2015 year helping the organization reach its goals.



Optimism is a “Family Thing”

When Ken and Patsy got together, they not only increased their Optimist family, they combined their biological family of Optimists. Patsy's mother was co-founder of the cheerleading club, which has become the ACA Optimist Club. Both Patsy and her sister Pam are Members and this year, Patsy's daughter Glenda White, will be the Club President so that she and Ken can be Presidents together.

Both their dads, Jim Garner and Woody Cahoon, are Friends of Optimist and Carolyn Garner soon will be as well. Ken's brother and sister-in-law James and Audra Garner help with various projects and their children,

the three M's (Matt, Morgan and Maysen) pitch in with creative insight. Kevin White takes care of cheerleading needs for granddaughter Kournie and supports Glenda. Then there are five C's (Chris, Carole, Camden, Crewe, and Cavin) who have been across the country with the President and First Lady.

Bringing Out the Best

While “bringing out the best in kids” is a theme that has meaning for every Member, Ken is placing the emphasis on “the best.” As part of their Creed, Optimists promise themselves to “think only of the best, work only for the best and expect only the best,” so it is necessary for them to also give their best.

“I believe that we should be encouraging everyone, adults as well as children to do their best in everything they do. My best may not be as good as another's best, but it may be enough to be better than their good enough and that could be the difference in victory and defeat,” says Ken.

[TOP PHOTO: Ken and Patsy celebrate with his parents, Jim and Carolyn Garner, brother James and his family at his Dad's 80th birthday party. LEFT PHOTO: A Garner family photo including Ken and Patsy's children and grandchildren minus one.]

