



**TOP 5 REASONS**  
**to attend the**  
**2014 Las Vegas**  
**Convention**

**#1 Training, training... and more training!**

- This is an opportunity for District and Club Officers to attend leadership seminars, which are all included in the cost of registration. Workshops will be conducted on a variety of topics to educate you on many areas of interest within the organization and provide the chance for personal development.



**#2 Optimist camaraderie**

- This year's International Convention will offer a great opportunity to network and meet hundreds of dear friends who all share the same vision, making this world a better place for children by "bringing out the best in kids."



**#3 It's Vegas!**

- The 3-day conference schedule allows time for you to come early or stay after to experience the abundant entertainment this exciting city has to offer!



**#4 Prepare**

- Club officers benefit by learning how to prepare budgets, appoint committees and file reports on time. Learn more about the little things that will help make the year a successful one for your Club or District.



**#5 Expand your horizons**

- Refresh your Optimist supplies and learn new fundraising and project ideas! This will give you the chance to brainstorm and practice teamwork with your fellow Optimists. You are sure to hear a wide variety of new and unique ideas to share with your Club.



If you have any questions or concerns about the International Convention, contact the Meeting Services department at **800-500-8130** or **convention@optimist.org**.

# SERVE MORE CHILDREN

- With a Foundation Grant -

The beginning of the 2013-2014 Optimist year marks a new grant cycle. Any eligible Optimist Club that has a new project or event should apply by visiting OIF's website at [www.oifoundation.org/programs](http://www.oifoundation.org/programs).



Optimist International Foundation (OIF) is "helping Optimists help kids" by starting the year off with fireworks. The Club Grant Program provides 20 matching grants of \$500 to Optimist Clubs for new projects.

In the 2012 - 2013 year, 426 Optimists helped over 43,500 children and raised \$19,650, in addition to the \$10,000 given by the Foundation. The Optimist Club of Hubbard, Ohio supplied winter coats for first grade students and the Dignified Residents of Chula Vista Optimist Club in California prepared communication boards for students with autism. Members of the Olathe Evening Optimists, Inc. of Kansas taught students language development skills through writing and the Optimist Club of Jennings, Inc. in Louisiana educated high school students on driver awareness. Sixteen additional Clubs received grants to start new projects that impacted their community.

Any Adult Club served by OIF is eligible to apply as long as they meet the following guidelines:

- The project must be new to the Club.
- The project must start and finish between April 2014 and March 2015.
- Grants to Clubs will be matching grants, with Clubs expected to show plans for matching the money and reporting the results. Clubs will complete follow-up reports.
- Grants are only for one year.
- Club dues must be current.
- Clubs might consider using the Pass Through Program to obtain donations from local businesses and foundations.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

**January 2**

Applications available online and by request.

**March 7**

Applications must have been received in the St. Louis office, 4494 Lindell Blvd., Saint Louis, MO 63108. Do not send applications to the Foundation's P.O. Box.

**May 16**

Winners are notified and asked to identify someone to receive a check at the International Convention.