

SAVE THE DATE



JULY 9-11, 2015

HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE!



THE 97TH ANNUAL OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
IS FOR ALL OPTIMIST MEMBERS OFFERING FELLOWSHIP,
TRAINING, NETWORKING AND MOST OF ALL FUN!



MISSION STATEMENT

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.

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

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.

The Optimist (ISSN 1085-5017) (CPN 40032242) (USPS 808-320) is published quarterly in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer by Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, a non-profit and incorporated association of Optimist Clubs located in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Europe. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$4.50 per year for Club Members, \$5.00 per year for nonmembers.

No responsibility is assumed for the opinions expressed by authors of articles or claims by advertisers.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Optimist*, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

© Copyright 2015. OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL.



Features

Winter 2015 | Vol. 95, No. 2

2	Letter from the International President
4	News and Views
8	Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood Optimist Club
11	KidZ Partnering
16	Optimist Leadership Summits
18	International Convention
23	Optimist Leadership Academy
26	100 Years Ago

The Optimist

The Official Publication of Optimist International

Managing Editor Dennis Osterwisch

Editor Heidi Schertzer

Graphic Designer GRAFXWORX, Fee McCaskill

Editorial Office 4494 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108

Office (314) 371-6000

Fax (314) 371-6006

Email magazine@optimist.org

On the Cover

If every Member were to strive to grow the project they are the most passionate about by 10% each year, they would need to recruit more volunteers to achieve their goals. Bigger and better projects mean more Members and more kids affected by Optimists!