

WHAT IS IN A NAME?



A Message From PRESIDENT KEN GARNER

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Do you have a nickname? Grandparents generally get to help influence what their grandchildren call them. Some of us have nicknames that came about by the some funny, interesting, or sometimes misfortunate incidents.

Whatever the name is and however it was received, it becomes one of the most intimate and precious parts of our lives. In many ways it not only defines us, but it also sets a strong precedent in the minds of others for who a "Ken" is. When one hears a name, emotions, thoughts and reactions are subconsciously set in motion. For instance, if I were to hear someone is named Patsy, I would have a positive outlook toward that person before I ever met them.

So what about the name, "OPTIMIST?" Does it conjure up positive and energetic thoughts? Is it not the most attractive thing to any individual regardless of age, size, shape, color, creed, religion or nationality? Does it not brighten cloudy, wintry days and warm up cold, dark nights?

CHALLENGE: Since we are likely in the coldest of months while you are reading this, **I CHALLENGE YOU SET YOUR OPTIMISM ON FIRE!** Make your next Club meeting roar with laughter and comforting hugs. Fire up children in your community with a project that is full of energy and warm congratulations. Build up body heat by inviting others to join you in all of these!

Remember, we are still in the "Season of Giving". Whatever you do, make the name you wear, and hopefully share, of being an Optimist something that conjures up emotions of joy and positivity to everyone you meet.

I am an Optimist! Are you?

President Ken Garner



CLUB ELECTION **TIME** is COMING UP

All Optimist Clubs should be making preparations for electing new officers for the 2015-16 administrative year. Now is the time to seek out qualified and interested Club Members for a leadership position.

After your election is complete, be sure to submit the Club Officer Elect Report (COER) to Optimist International so that your incoming Club President can receive important communications. The deadline for submitting the COER is May 20.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER **CANDIDATES** SOUGHT

Candidates for the offices of Optimist International President-Elect, International Vice President-Elect and International Board Member for 2015-16 are now being sought. Clubs will elect Optimists to these positions during the online voting session in June.

Self-nominations for these positions must be received in the International Office no later than April 1, 2015. The International Candidate Qualifications Committee will also announce its nominations for these positions by March 1. If you want to recommend someone for an International office to the Candidate Qualifications committee please fill out the evaluation/recommendation form that can be found at www.optimist.org.