

97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



JULY 9-11, 2015

This year's International Convention will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA), a vibrant vacation destination, ranked number 5 in TripAdvisor's 6th annual Travelers' Choice Awards for Destinations in 2014.

BOOK YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Experience the best of the Crescent City in a spacious guestroom with a view, take a stroll down Bourbon Street for some entertainment, and savor local specialties at Drago's Seafood Restaurant. With plenty of amenities and things to do, Riverside is the ultimate in New Orleans accommodations and just 20 minutes from Louis Armstrong International Airport.

The sleeping room rates start at \$109 per night (plus taxes & fees) for up to two people and each additional person is an additional \$20 (plus taxes & fees). Sleeping rooms with king beds are limited to a maximum of three people per room. Upgrades are available. Room rates include complimentary basic internet.

To book your reservation and for more information on room types and upgrades available, including photos, go to the housing section of the convention page at www.optimist.org/convention or call (800) 445-8667 or (504) 584-3959. **When calling, remember to mention the group name "Optimist International" and confirm the hotel "Hilton New Orleans Riverside", the dates and the rates.** As long as there are sleeping rooms available, the deadline to make your reservation is June 17, 2015.

Please note: Self-parking is available at the hotel for overnight guests at the rate of \$35 (plus tax – subject to change) per day.

If you check-out prior to your reserved check-out date, the hotel will add a \$90 early checkout fee (plus taxes & fees) to your account. To avoid an early checkout fee, advise the hotel at or before you check-in of any change in planned length of stay. Room rates include complimentary internet.

Talk all you want about what New Orleans has to offer; when it comes down to it, the 97th annual Convention will be about one thing – OPTIMISM!



NETWORK • LEARN • COLLABORATE • TRAIN • EXPLORE • EXHIBITS • FELLOWSHIP • FUN!

TUESDAY, JULY 7:

Vice President-elect and Governor-elect Training

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8:

Club Trainer Class and District Foundation Representative Training

Registration and Credentials OPEN

THURSDAY, JULY 9:

HOUSE OF OPTIMISM (EXHIBITS)

The place to be to pick up that perfect Club project or fundraising idea and feel the fellowship.

FIRST TIMERS' ORIENTATION

Not sure what to expect? Then be sure to attend the First Timers Orientation. This session is open to everybody - you do not have to be a First Timer to attend!"

DISTRICT CHAIRS, CLUB LEADERS AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Want to start the Optimist year off on the right foot? There's no better way to make sure you, your District and Club is prepared than attending the dynamic training at the International Convention.

OPENING CEREMONIES

ATTIRE: BUSINESS

Truly a "can't miss" event for any Optimist! Entertainment by Louisiana's own, Louisiana Kids, the Parade of Flags and singing of the National Anthem will send chills down your spine, and International President Ken Garner will be there to encourage you to continue Bringing Out THE BEST In Kids!

FRIDAY, JULY 10:

2015-2016 International President Breakfast

All new Club Presidents and Lieutenant Governors are invited to have breakfast with 2015-2016 International President Dave Bruns. Tickets must be purchased in advance to attend.

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

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ATTIRE: BUSINESS

Join First Lady Patsy Garner along with other Past First Ladies and current leaders' spouses to honor Members, spouses and guests who continue to support Optimism in every way.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

These highly acclaimed training sessions alone are worth the trip and will help YOU and YOUR CLUB succeed.

SATURDAY, JULY 11:

OLD TIMERS' FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Everyone is welcome! What better way to start off your day than with a hearty breakfast and a lot of laughs? Join the Past International Presidents, some of the organization's most revered legends, and enjoy the live entertainment.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

ATTIRE: BUSINESS

Arguably the most informational aspect of the entire Optimist Convention. Here's your chance to have your voice heard by voting on issues that will shape the future of Optimism. It's also the best time to find out what's going on throughout the organization.

PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET/BALL

WESTERN THEME

ATTIRE: FORMAL EVENT – BOOTS & BLING!

Come and celebrate 97 years of Optimism by joining President Ken Garner and First Lady Patsy for this gala event. Remember to purchase coupons in advance for the banquet and look forward to a splendid night of dinner, entertainment and dancing.

YOUTH PROGRAM

Optimist International Convention Committee Chair and Coordinators are making plans for great things to happen at the Convention in New Orleans July 9-11 including a youth talent show for our children and grandchildren!

REGISTER

You can register online or download the form at www.optimist.org/convention. Save money by registering by May 1, the "early-bird" deadline.

TOP FIVE REASONS TO ATTEND THE 2015 CONVENTION

#1 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. "I attend the workshops to increase my skill level and confidence in my ability to lead" Laurel Schirmer, Optimist Club of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

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

#3 NOLA! The 3-day conference schedule allows time to come early or stay after to experience the excitement of the city.

#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 Events and Travel department at 800-500-8130 or convention@optimist.org. And be sure to visit the convention page of the website frequently for updates at www.optimist.org/convention.