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Delegates have a number of candidates to consider for filling two seats on the Board of Directors

Several proposed bylaws amendments will be under consideration at the 2010 Convention

HOTLINE

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Delegates to Choose from a Field of Nine Board Candidates

Nine Optimist Club Members are running for two three-year terms on the Optimist International Board of Directors. The candidates include Richard Bloom of Gladwin, Michigan; Gerard Bourcier of Prevost, Quebec; Ron Cisco of Denver, Colorado; Chris Jernigan of Morganton, North Carolina; Gil Ortiz of Pflugerville, Texas; Fatima Plater of Detroit, Michigan; Linda Stein of Clayton, Indiana; Ron Whitaker of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; and Eddi Wint of Kingston, Jamaica.

The candidates will be on the ballot at the International Convention in Denver, Colorado, this July. Club delegates will elect two of them to three-year terms, which begin October 1, 2010. The two newly elected Board members will replace current Board members Claire Labrèche and Herb Strather, whose terms expire September 30, 2010.

In addition, delegates will elect the International President-Elect and eight International Vice Presidents-Elect. Vice Presidents-Elect will be elected by specific Region. Delegates will vote for the Vice Presidential candidate for their Region only.

Each candidate was given the opportunity to list background information and relevant experience. Candidates have also expressed their thoughts about the organization. Information about each of them is available on the following pages.

Delegates to Consider Several Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Several proposed amendments to the Optimist International Bylaws will be presented to the delegates representing Optimist Clubs at the International Convention in Denver, Colorado, on Saturday, July 10. The proposals are listed in this issue of the *Hotline* and are also available at www.optimist.org.

Each Optimist Club in good standing at the time of the Convention is entitled to one vote per 25 Members or major fraction thereof (13 or more) based on the numerical membership enrolled by the Club in the International Office as of April 30, 2010. A Club organized after that date, and prior to the first day of the Convention, is entitled to cast its votes on the basis of the numerical charter roster on file with Optimist International.

One designee from the Club, who must be registered for the Convention from that Club, must visit the Credentials Desk at the Convention and pick up the Club's ballots and other pertinent information. An individual may represent more than one Club, but he or she must be a Member of each Club and must pay a separate registration fee for each Club.

The Resolutions Process

Optimist Clubs have just a few more days to take advantage of the Convention Resolutions Process. Designed to be used for any aspect of the organization not covered in the Bylaws, resolutions must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by May 8, 2010.

The committee will choose the strongest resolutions and report them to Convention delegates on Saturday, July 10, for debate and vote (note: Resolutions endorsed by Convention delegates are non-binding and are sent to the International Board of Directors for further consideration and study).

Please type resolutions on Club stationery and include your Club name, Club number and Club President's signature. All resolutions should be written in standard resolution format: "Whereas ... , Whereas ... , Whereas ... , Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Optimist International is asked to consider... ." Please mail your resolutions to: Resolutions Committee, Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

2010-2011 Candidates

International President-Elect Candidate



Jack Creswell

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Daniel Boone-Douglassville, Pennsylvania (1970)

Occupation: Retired

Optimist Service: Club President – 1973-1974 (Honor); Lt. Governor, Delaware–Eastern Pennsylvania District – 1974-1975; Governor, Pennsylvania–Upper Delaware District – 1976-1977 (Distinguished & Outstanding) and 2005-2006 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International Leadership Development Committee – 1977-1980; Member, International Membership Committee – 1981-1984; Member, International Activities Committee – 1989-1990; Member, International Audit & Finance Committee – 2008-2009; Chair, International Activities Committee – 1990-1991; Chair, OIJGC Committee – 1995-1997; Chair, International Leadership Development Committee – 1995-1997 and 2006-2008; International Vice President – 1980-1981; International Certified Trainer

What is your vision for the future of the organization?

Vision, to me, means looking forward. From that perspective, I can only see a growing need for an organization with our dynamics. From a history of “Friend of the Boy” to today’s direction of covering all youth, I see a field of service

opportunities which is unlimited. In a world of increasing electronics usage, our role will become one of guide, friend and mentor. I feel that with Optimist Members to guide and support our youth, their tomorrow will quickly become one of light and progress.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure as International President?

I hope to bring the Optimists into the world of electronics and communications. Today we only see the tip of the iceberg. The opportunities are boundless for us; new levels of membership, a new concept for Clubs, one that will allow service to be directed by needs and resources. All the while adhering to our vision statement of being recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

What management and leadership skills will you use to lead the organization?

Leadership is truly the key to reaching one’s goals. Strong leadership requires that one have a clear vision. My vision is clear. Next, a leader needs to understand what resources are available and how to use them. I have worked, for years, with our membership and its leaders. I feel comfortable with my ability to bring out the best in all. The final part of the picture is having goals that can and will be shared by all. I have the vision. I understand our resources. I am goal oriented. So I invite you to “come with me” – “viens avec moi.”

2010-2011 Candidates

International Board Candidates



Richard Bloom

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of West Branch, Michigan (2004); and Optimist Club of Southfield-Lathrup, Michigan (1978); former Member, Optimist Club of Southfield, Michigan (1973)

Occupation: Sales

Optimist Service: Club President – 1975-1976 (Honor Club) and 1993-1994 (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, Michigan District – 1977-1978 (Distinguished) and 2003-2005; Governor, Michigan District – 1982-1983; Member, International New Club Building Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International Leadership Development Committee – 2009-2010; International Vice President – 2008-2009; Field Representative – 1993 to present; Certified Club Builder – 2006 to present; Optimist International Foundation Representative

What is your vision for the future of the organization? I envision a time when any one of us tells someone that “I am a Member of an Optimist Club” and they know what that means to the youth and local community that has that Club! They then ask how they can join or how to get a Club in their town. We are the best-kept secret in our towns. We need to change that!

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? I feel that the Board must be in touch with the general membership. An effective way to do that would be to increase the communication between the Vice Presidents and the Board members to garner feedback from their District visitations.

I also believe that we need to foster a stronger relationship between Optimist International staff and the general membership, particularly to assist with the New Community Building and membership goals, through possible visitations.

I also want to help the Members of this great organization to raise awareness within their communities about our accomplishments with the youth we serve.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board? I have successfully managed my own insurance agency for over 20 years. Currently, I serve as board member and treasurer of both the United Way of Gladwin County and the Gladwin County Historical Society & Museum. In both of these positions I have been able to achieve changes that improved the operational effectiveness of these organizations.

My Optimist experience, particularly as a Field Representative and as a trainer at the Club, District and International level, has demonstrated my leadership skills through positive feedback from attendees and the implementation of ideas expressed in their Districts and Clubs to assist in their achievement of goals.



Gerard Bourcier

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Saint-Jerome, Quebec (2000); former Member, Optimist Club of Prevost, Quebec (1979)

Occupation: Retired High School Vice Principal

Optimist Service: Club President – 1979 (Charter; Distinguished); Lt. Governor, Quebec West District – 1983-1984 (Outstanding); Governor, Quebec West District – 1992-1993; Member, International Development Committee – 2004-2005; Member, International Convention Committee – 2005-2007; Member, International Certified Trainers Board – 2010; Member, International Leadership Development Committee – 2009-2010; Certified International Trainer since 2005; International Vice President – 2008-2009

What is your vision for the future of the organization? My vision is to allow for more and more kids to benefit from all the occasions offered by the Optimists and to bring out the best in themselves. We have to change and improve different things. We must use new technology as an entry into the world of our youth. We must work together to improve our growth, to make it easier for new Members to get into our Clubs, and to offer new Club

models and structures. After 35 years of working in schools and with kids, I believe we must share our Optimism and be present in the schools.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? I would like to promote teamwork, starting with Members of a Club all the way up to our top leaders.

Communication is the most essential element for transmitting information, our programs and any other specific data to all our Members. We must find new ways to bring in new Members. Talking about our activities, actions, training programs, maintaining a good financial base and offering an exceptional service to kids and our Members is the key to our success. It is up to all of us to accomplish this.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board? I have been an Optimist Member for 30 years and as a Club, Zone, District and International leader, it has given me the chance to accept new challenges and to try to find solutions to the problems we meet at all levels of our organization.

I am used to working on teams to reach decisions in the best interests of everyone.

My occupation gave me the chance to work with kids, parents, teachers and to be part of finance, administration, management committees, etc.

I have always worked in the best interests of our kids, and the Optimist movement gives me the opportunity to continue doing so.

2010-2011 Candidates

International Board Candidates



Ronald V. Cisco Sr.

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Monaco South, Colorado (1990); former Member, Optimist Club of Park Hill, Colorado (1975); and Luncheon Optimist Club of Cherry Creek, Colorado (1990)

Occupation: Retired Postmaster-USPS; Professional Motivational Speaker

Optimist Service: Club President (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, Colorado-Wyoming District (Distinguished); Governor, Colorado-Wyoming District – 1991-1992 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International Convention Credentials Committee – 1996-1997; Member, International Leadership Development Committee – 1998-2000; Member, International Convention Resolutions Committee – 2001-2003; Member, International Membership Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International New Club Building Committee – 2006-2007; Optimist International Foundation Representative – 1993-1994

What is your vision for the future of the organization? My vision is to have the organization take its rightful place as the leader of civic organizations in this world. We know that we have a winning program, now we need to let the world in on it. Optimist International must become the name people think of first when they talk about civic organizations.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships must have a national sponsor. This is our premier project and it needs to be promoted on a scale befitting its status in the golf world. A national sponsor would allow this tournament to be televised live and the Optimist name displayed prominently on television and in newspapers and magazines around the world. I will work diligently to achieve this end.

Our Clubs try to get publicity for their projects on a local level but Optimist International must have a national publicity department to make our name and logo a fixture in the world's psyche. I will work diligently to achieve this end.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board? As an employee of the United States Postal Service for 36 years (26 as a manager), I ran both small and large Postal Operations Centers. During the last 10 years of my tenure, I served as the Postmaster of Westminster, Colorado, a suburb of metropolitan Denver, Colorado, with a budget of several million dollars. The Postmaster is in total control of the entire operation, hiring and firing, developing operating expense budgets, negotiating union contracts and dealing with customers and employees. I have served on school boards and worked extensively with the Boys and Girls Clubs and of course had great success as the Distinguished and Outstanding Governor of the Colorado-Wyoming District.



Chris Jernigan

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Morganton, North Carolina (1990); former Member, Optimist Club of Whiteville, North Carolina (1983); and Optimist Club of Smithfield, North Carolina (1978)

Occupation: Executive Director, Southmountain Children and Family Services

Optimist Service: Club President – 1985-1986 (Honor & Distinguished); Lt. Governor, North Carolina East District – 1987-1988 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Governor, North Carolina West District – 1994-1995 (Honor, Distinguished & Outstanding; International President's Membership Award); Member, International Long Range Planning Committee – 1996-1997; Member, International New Club Building Committee – 1997-1998; Member, International Governance Committee – 2004-2006 and 2008-2009; Chair, International Governance Committee – 2009-2010; International Vice President – 2007-2008

What is your vision for the future of the organization? My vision is to return Optimist International to our rightful place as the world's leading children's service organization. That will require opening our minds to developing more projects relevant to today's society. For example, Internet Safety must be expanded. And activities

that interest today's youth should be carefully studied for program opportunities. Something as simple as endorsing "Juvenile Curling" can create youth activities as well as opportunities to gain Members. And, we must explore new ideas that would encourage special interest groups like motorcyclists, pilots, bicyclists or runners to form Clubs related to serving kids through their own particular interests.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? I will strive to help our organization grow. That is what we all must do and it must start at the top. But it is not enough to tritely say we must grow. We must make hard decisions about creating and/or endorsing new projects like self-esteem building programs that will help save children's lives and give those we ask a reason to want to belong. We must recognize that society has changed but we have not. Over the next few years our Board will be challenged to lead us to think in new and creative ways. I seek that challenge.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board? I am the executive director of a unique 40-bed Children's Home in North Carolina. During these 20 years I have led our organization through two multimillion dollar capital campaigns and construction projects and have developed one of the most innovative programs in the country for abused and neglected children. I have developed two Child Advocacy Centers to coordinate child abuse investigations. I have been an Optimist for 33 years and have earned top honors from Club President to Governor. These experiences, teamed with recent service as International Vice President and several years on the Governance Committee, have prepared me for the task.

2010-2011 Candidates

International Board Candidates



Gil Ortiz

Member (date joined): Greater Southwest Optimist Club of Austin, Texas (1983); and Optimist Club of San Marcos, Texas (2001)

Occupation: Supervisor of Adult Probation

Optimist Service: Club President – 1993-1994; Lt. Governor, South Central Texas District – 1996-1997; Governor, South Central Texas District – 2000-2001; Member, International Development Committee – 2005-2006; Member – International Convention Credentials Committee – 2009-2010; International Vice President – 2008-2009; International Field Representative – 2005 to present

What is your vision for the future of the organization? Our Optimist organization must learn from the lessons of the past to succeed. It must also find the courage and flexibility to abandon some of the traditions which are now obsolete and unsuccessful and adopt new methods and programs which will meet today's societal demands. Our success requires that we as Optimists look beyond our immediate expectations and even beyond our lifetimes. Our vision must come from within our hearts.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? By communicating with

Members and the experienced leaders who have proven themselves in the Districts, I will ask for their input on vital issues

that affect their Clubs. Together we will find solutions regarding membership and implement programs that will revive the reason as to why we joined the organization. I will strive to find a happy median that will provide an opportunity for those who are not able to attend the International Convention so that they have input or their vote can be counted.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board? During my lifetime of work in the criminal justice system I have had a leadership role. I have supervised the officers who make decisions that impact the lives of many individuals. In that capacity, I have served on various boards that prepared long-range planning and assisted in the implementation of such programs. On an Optimist note, last year as Optimist International Vice President, my Region, affectionately named the "Big Dog Region," finished number one in all of Optimist International in membership. This was accomplished by uniting the Governors within the Region and consolidating their visions to achieve growth within their Districts.



Fatima N. Plater

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Metro Riverfront-Detroit, Michigan (1995); Optimist Club of Loving Community-Detroit, Michigan (2002); Optimist Club of Delta Chi, Michigan (2007); Shining Stars Optimist Club-Detroit, Michigan (2008); and WSU Warriors Optimist Club, Michigan (2009); former Member, Optimist Club of UDM-Detroit, Michigan (2000) and Liberty Optimist Club, Michigan (1996)

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Optimist Service: Club President – 1996-1997 (Honor & Distinguished) and 2004-2005 (Honor Club); Lt. Governor, Michigan District – 1997-1998; Governor, Michigan District – 2001-2002; Member, International Strategic Growth Initiative Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International JOOI Committee – 2006-2007; Chair, International College Clubs Committee – 2007-2008; Optimist International Foundation Representative; Certified Club Trainer; Master Club Builder

What is your vision for the future of the organization? The major focus of my 41-year teaching career was the implementation of student volunteer projects at the earliest possible age. The Optimist organization first appealed to me 15 years ago, due to its strong youth service programs and JOOI. For these reasons, a major part of my vision for the future of

this organization is the continued growth of JOOI, College Clubs and the expansion of youth-centered projects, which would include more joint service opportunities with them locally and internationally. The expanded development of new Optimist membership recruitment and retention models is key to our organization's ability to involve more people in the rewards which come with being an Optimist. It's clear to me that growth and fiscal responsibility are the strong foundation needed to continue to build our organization and serve more youth.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? I'd like to expand our International Certified Club Builders program and increase the emphasis on nontraditional Club models. I'm also interested in developing programs that support new Clubs and focus on Member retention. I strongly believe in the inclusion of more Clubs in the development of policy and in the decision-making process. I will work hard on developing projects impacting youth worldwide. I know the importance of listening, learning and communicating, not only with fellow Board members, but also the Optimist Members I seek to serve.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board? I have excellent communication skills and a professional demeanor gained through extensive interaction with the public. These skills were acquired by working on a variety of professional committees and with fellow Optimists on the Club, Zone, District and International level. I have outstanding teaching and organizational skills that have been recognized by the State of Michigan, both as a finalist for State Teacher of the Year and Wayne County Regional Education Golden Apple Teaching recipient in 1997. In 1995, I received recognition as the State of Michigan Service-Learning Educator of the Year and received teacher leadership training as a Danforth Fellow at Michigan State University. I received philanthropy training and became a Learning to Give Consultant at Central Michigan University. I'm very knowledgeable regarding the Optimist International programs and services, which is reflected in my Level 10 PGI attainment in July of 2003 and my training as a Certified Club Builder and NCB Master Builder status. On May 6, 2003, I received the Spirit of Detroit Award "in recognition of my exceptional achievement, outstanding leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life." I served as Governor of the Michigan District in 2001-2002, when we were a District of 24 Zones and 138 Clubs. We ended the year with a positive growth for the first time in eight years!

My 41-year teaching career and 15 years of active membership in Optimist International have developed the management and leadership skills that qualify me to make decisions as a member of the Optimist International Board of Directors.

2010-2011 Candidates

International Board Candidates



Linda F. Stein

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Mill Creek, Indiana (1992), Charter Member; former Member, Optimist Club of IUPUI, Indiana (2001)

Occupation: Director of Marketing & Development, IUPUI Community Learning Network

Optimist Service: Club President – 1995-1996 (Honor & Distinguished) and 2009-2010; Lt. Governor, Indiana South District – 1996-1997; Governor, Indiana South District – 2000-2001; Member, International Membership Committee – 2001-2002; Member, International Leadership Development Committee – 2002-2004; Chair, International Convention Credentials Committee – 2008-2009; International Vice President – 2007-2008; Certified International Trainer

What is your vision for the future of the organization? Returning to grassroots, Optimist International must meet the needs of youth and community and the ability to do that is based on having more people serving more kids. Many factors affect that ability but two items that must happen are: 1) recruiting and retaining Members, and 2) updating existing programs and creating new programs to help kids in this changing world. Grassroots efforts started Optimist International; grassroots efforts will enable our organization to continue and excel. Grassroots is where the kids continue to be helped.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board? Transparency of operations, both of the Board and our International Office, is key to the support of fellow Optimists.

Increased two-way communications among our Members and leaders is important as we elevate the teamwork needed throughout our organization.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board? Belief in teamwork and delegation coupled with organizational and marketing skills are some of my strong points.



Ron Whitaker

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (1991)

Occupation: Marketing and Sales

Optimist Service: Club President – 1992-1993 (Honor & Distinguished), 2002-2003 (Honor & Distinguished), 2007-2008 (Honor & Distinguished), 2008-2009 (Honor & Distinguished); Lt. Governor, Oklahoma District – 1993-1994 and 1999-2000; Governor, Oklahoma District – 1995-1996 (Distinguished); Member, Rose Parade Float Committee – 1997-1998; Member, International Convention Committee – 1999-2000; Member, International Governance Committee – 2003-2004; Member, International Marketing, Programs & Public Relations Committee – 2007-2008; Member, International Marketing Committee – 2009-2010; Chair, International Convention Committee – 2008-2009; International Vice President – 2001-2002; Optimist International Foundation Representative – 2002-2003 and 2007-2008

What is your vision for the future of the organization? An organization that is a dynamic one helping hundreds of thousands of children, where volunteers from diverse backgrounds come together to help children through organized and creative events. I envision a time in which the organization is laser-focused on the social issues of the day. To utilize emerging

social communication tools to allow our Members to connect, discuss and share solutions to the issues affecting their Clubs and communities. We can use the collective brain power of our growing membership to increase service to the youth. A vision: "For the future, for the kids!"

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?

- Make the iKeepSafe or other internet program our signature cause.
- Utilize new tools to excite potential volunteers, while enhancing the global nature of the organization.
- Facilitate communication between the leadership and Club Members through the use of new media.
- Ensure the organization's fiscal stability by seeking sponsorships with international businesses that share our vision.
- Streamline the organization by helping develop a structure that embraces the volunteers of today.
- Develop and implement a pilot program in which non-joining volunteers can plan, organize and run events benefiting area youth.
- Strengthen the relationship between Optimist International and the Optimist International Foundation by cross training the staff of each organization.

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?

- I have the ability to engage Members, internalize feedback from multiple sources and develop an actionable plan using the feedback.
- Engage and motivate others to become involved and take charge of activities.
- Passion, commitment and respect for the organization to help it grow.
- These skills are evident in these accomplishments:
 - A. Distinguished President of my Club on four occasions.
 - B. Distinguished Governor for the District of Oklahoma.
 - C. International Vice President of Optimist International.
 - D. Raised a record-breaking dollar amount for the Oklahoma District as its Foundation Representative.
 - E. Served on and chaired several international committees.
 - F. I was elected to the Broken Arrow City Council, serving 90,000 citizens with pride and integrity over the course of my term.
 - G. Served on the Broken Arrow City Planning Commission developing a comprehensive plan for the city.
 - H. Developed and taught a course for a corporate sales staff.
 - I. A Builder of Excellence for four new Clubs and sponsored over 50 new Members.

2010-2011 Candidates

International Board Candidates



Edwin Wint

Member (date joined): Breakfast Optimist Club of Kingston, Jamaica (1986), Charter Member

Occupation: Founder, Chairman/CEO and Principal Consultant, La Maison Property Services Ltd.

Optimist Service: Club President – 1989-1990 (Triple Distinguished); Lt. Governor, South Florida District – 1991-1992; District Governor, Caribbean District – 2000-2001 (Distinguished & Outstanding; International President's NCB Award); Member, International Development Committee – 2001-2003; Member, International New Club Building Committee – 2003-2004; Chair, International Development Committee – 2004-2006; Member, International Membership Committee – 2006-2007; International Vice President – 2008-2009; Field Representative – 2003 to present; Certified New Club Builder; Certified Trainer

What is your vision for the future of the organization? My vision for Optimist International is for it to become the premier youth service organization working for the betterment of children across the globe. As an advocate for children, Optimist International will partner with national and international organizations and businesses to champion the cause of the child. Optimist International will continue to grow by spreading its message and programs into all

regions of the globe, bringing people together who share one common goal – the well-being of the world's children.

What specific things will you strive to accomplish during your tenure on the Board?

- Improve the channels of communication with Members, our target group (youth) and the public
- Develop and implement creative strategies and activities to improve the profile and attractiveness of Optimist International to facilitate our growth
- Improve our use of web-based marketing solutions
- Improve the revenue streams through marketing opportunities, member growth and joint venture partnerships with entities interested in delivering youth-oriented programs
- Develop greater networking with international and national bodies
- Build on our interest in childhood cancer by developing our advocacy program aimed at securing increased funding and targeted research and development

What management and leadership skills do you have that qualify you to make decisions as part of the Board?

- Corporate strategist – Founder & CEO for the fastest-growing property services company in the Caribbean
- Problem solving, analytical skills and highly innovative – post-graduate studies in business (MBA)
- Growth oriented as a successful Builder of Excellence and business leader
- Marketing skills as a CEO and part-time university lecturer in marketing
- Experience with international growth as Chairman of Optimist International's International Development Committee
- Experienced board member – chairman of company board, member of several public sector boards

2010-2011 Candidates

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



Northeast & Great Lakes Region

(Atlantic Central, Atlantic Northeast, Central Ontario, Michigan, Midwestern Ontario and Southwestern Ontario Districts)

Dwight Phillips

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Riverside, Ontario (1993); Optimist Club of Roseville-Fontainebleu, Ontario (2002); Optimist Club of Sigma Chi, Ontario (2004); Optimist Club of Essex, Ontario (2009); and Optimist Club of Essex Youth Centre, Ontario (2009); former Member, Ford City Optimist Club of Windsor, Ontario (1998)

Occupation: Retired from General Motors-Windsor Transmission Plant

Optimist Service: Club President (Riverside) – three times (Honor & Distinguished twice); Club President (Roseville-Fontainebleu) – 2003-2004; Lt. Governor, Southwestern Ontario District – 1995-1996 (Distinguished & Outstanding), 1999-2000 (Distinguished) and 2000-2001; Governor, Southwestern Ontario District – 2006-2007

(Honor, Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International New Club Building Committee – 2007-2008; Member, International College Clubs Committee – 2008-2009; Member, International New Community Growth Committee/Chair, College Clubs – 2009-2010; International Convention Ambassador – 2008-2010

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I believe that personal contact and motivation of individuals who are identified by the District as potential builders will help increase growth in those Districts. In addition, ensuring that all Members are aware of promotions from Optimist International and their Districts will also help provide motivation to increase membership. Helping Districts to train their own people will leave a longer legacy for that District as well. I also am a firm believer in leading by example. Governors and their team should be committed to increasing membership in their respective Districts.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? First, lead by example. Vice Presidents should be building Clubs and sponsoring Members. They should also be asking the Districts what they need to be more successful and then making sure they get what they need.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I am a member of Optimist International with a heart for service in our organization. I feel that I have experience to draw on in helping to make others successful. As Governor, my objective was to help as many Clubs obtain Honor as possible. As a Vice President, my objective will be to help my Districts be successful as well.



Southeast Region

(Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi, Caribbean, Georgia, North Florida, South Carolina and South Florida Districts)

Sonia Anderson

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica (1997)

Occupation: Retired Information Technology Professional

Optimist Service: Club President – 2001-2002 (Honor & Distinguished); Lt. Governor, Caribbean District – 2002-2003 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Governor, Caribbean District – 2006-2007 (Honor, Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International Membership Committee – 2007-2008 & 2009-2010; Field Representative

How will you help the Clubs in your region grow? Remind Governors constantly that growth is their #1 priority and thus their focus. Encourage them to articulate their vision to their Districts, making no apology that growth is of paramount importance. Encourage the creation of exciting District incentives for growth. Ensure that included on the

agenda for each District meeting are growth workshops/seminars and, importantly, recognition of new Members, new Clubs and sponsors. Take the responsibility as Vice President to track the membership in each District thereby 1) evaluating and recommending; 2) motivating the leaders to remain positive; and 3) recognizing and encouraging the drive for growth in membership.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? The International Vice President must lead by example, building a great relationship with the Governors and leadership of Districts in the Region through ongoing communication, inspiration, motivation, recognition and support. While building this relationship, the International Vice President must ensure that the vision of the International President is articulated and understood; that the leadership is well trained; and then unapologetically track, assess and analyze the progress of each District in the Region, making recommendations and providing additional support where necessary.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I have an MBA and attended numerous leadership workshops/seminars and honed my leadership skills in the technical and administrative management of the IT department at Kaiser Bauxite Company. In addition I successfully led two improvement teams of diverse personalities in Kaiser's survival initiative in 2000, was lead internal auditor for Kaiser's ISO 9000 quality system and played a major role in the system's implementation and management.

I am a great listener and communicator and a committed achiever with a proven track record of leadership in Optimism: Grand Slam Club President; Distinguished & Outstanding Lt. Governor and District Secretary/Treasurer; Governor winning all three International President's awards in 2006-2007.

2010-2011 Candidates

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



Mid Atlantic Region

(Capital-Virginia, Kentucky-West Virginia, Maryland-South Delaware, North Carolina East, North Carolina West and Tennessee Districts)

Sandy Cyphers

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Winter Park, North Carolina (1993)

Occupation: Retired Assistant Collector of Revenue, New Hanover County

Optimist Service: Club President – 1998-1999 (Distinguished) and 2004-2005 (Distinguished); Lt. Governor, North Carolina East District – 1999-2000; Governor, North Carolina East District – 2002-2003 (Distinguished); Member, International JOOI Committee – 2004-2005 and 2009-2010; Member, International Convention Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International Convention Credentials Committee – 2006-2007

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? Basically, I feel the best way to assist my Region in growing is to offer my time, energy, enthusiasm and passion for this organization to assist them in their endeavor of new Club building or membership recruitment. In doing this I will be hands on in working side by side, “just asking,” to recruit new Members in their Club or by working together and showing prospective members, the community and schools what Optimist Clubs could do if a new Club was built.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Be committed to the prestigious position and willing to dedicate the necessary time and energy in helping to achieve the goals of the Optimist International President, and supporting the mission of the Optimist organization and the programs established by the Board of Directors. It is essential to establish respect and good rapport within all Districts to motivate Club Presidents through their Governors that growth is essential to the life of this organization as well as to the Governors, and to see that each District and Governor has ongoing training for their District officers and team members.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I have the leadership skills to motivate individuals and groups toward a common goal. I set goals for myself and have the perseverance to work diligently to achieve those goals. I listen to other individuals' ideas and opinions. I communicate well with people. I am task-oriented and person-oriented, but most importantly I lead by example, bringing in new Members and working to build new Optimist Clubs for this organization. I have self-confidence and the passion for this organization to continue to “Bring Out the Best in Kids.”



Middle America Region

(East Missouri, Illinois, Indiana North, Indiana South, Ohio and West Missouri Districts)

Mary Ann Gilpin

Member (date joined): Mid-Day Optimist Club of Marshall, Missouri (1998)

Occupation: Executive Director, Saline County United Way

Optimist Service: Club President – 2001-2002 (Distinguished); Lt. Governor, West Missouri District – 2003-2004 (Distinguished); Governor, West Missouri District – 2006-2007 (Executive Director's Excellence in Leadership Award); Certified New Club Builder; Certified Club Trainer

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I will provide new and innovative ways to recruit Members. I will have personal contact with District chairs and Club Presidents.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? To provide hope and positive vision.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? Challenge the process: Find a process that you believe needs to be improved the most.

Inspire a shared vision: Share your vision in words that can be understood by your followers.

Enable others to act: Give them the tools and methods to solve the problem.

Model the way: Get in there and help.

Encourage the heart: Share the excitement, while keeping the pains within your own heart.

2010-2011 Candidates

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



Great Plains Region

(Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming, Dakotas–Manitoba–Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Southern Wisconsin and Wisconsin North–Upper Michigan Districts)

Judy Boyd

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Urbandale, Iowa (2002); former Member of Daybreak Optimist Club of Cedar Rapids, Iowa (1991)

Occupation: Field Auditor

Optimist Service: Club President – 1993-1994 (Honor) and 1994-1995 (Honor); Lt. Governor, Iowa District – 1995-1996 (Distinguished) and 1996-1997 (Distinguished); Governor, Iowa District – 2001-2002; Member, International Activities Committee – 2003-2004; Member, JOOI Committee – 2004-2006; Member, International Audit & Finance Committee – 2006-2008; Chair, International JOOI Committee – 2008-2009

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? We must promote the passion that is inside every Optimist. All kids have needs – Clubs can grow and new Clubs can be built if we combine our passion with the needs of kids. As we market our passion, mission and Creed, we must provide opportunities for the “twenty- and thirty-somethings” as well as the “traditional” Optimist Member. We must appreciate that one Optimist is not the same as the next Optimist, nor will each Club be the same. Every day the world is changing – let’s meet that challenge with the capacity to grow – as individuals, Optimists and Clubs.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Provide positive encouragement with two-way communication.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I am a listener. I communicate well, whether it is sharing ideas and the methods to get things accomplished or whether it is being tactful in handling difficult situations. I will seek wisdom when I don’t know the answer. I take responsibility for my actions and can be trusted to follow through to the best of my ability.



Southwest Region

(Arkansas, Colorado–Wyoming, Kansas, New Mexico–West Texas, North Texas, Oklahoma and South Texas Districts)

Patsy Garner

Member (date joined): Arlington Community Athletics Optimist Club, Texas (1989); and Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth, Texas (2002)

Occupation: Logistical Operations/Quality Assurance Assistant

Optimist Service: Club President (Arlington) – 1992-1993 and 1999-2000; Club President (Breakfast East Fort Worth) – 2004-2005 (Honor); Lt. Governor, North Texas District – 1996-1997 and 1998-1999 (Distinguished); Governor, North Texas District – 2000-2001; Member, International Ad-hoc Collegiate Club Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International Leadership Development Committee – 2006-2007 and 2008-2009; Member, International Convention Committee – 2007-2008; Chair, International New Community Growth Committee – 2009-2010; Certified

Club Builder since 2005; Certified Club/District Trainer; Certified International Trainer; Builder of Excellence (7); P.G.I. Level 10

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I have a great passion for this organization and wish to see my granddaughter take the oath of a Club President one day, as my mother, sister and possibly daughter soon will. In order to do that, our membership must remain strong, and we must continue building anew. Having personally been involved in building 20 Clubs, and sponsoring 97 Members, it has given me valuable knowledge and tools to assist our Member, Club and District successes. I will offer a “hands-on” approach to the growth of our Region. I am not afraid to get my hands dirty when the going gets tough and will be readily available to lend assistance however needed.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Communication will be the most important factor. I intend to keep the lines of communication open to every Member of our Region through listening, encouraging and offering guidance in every step of their journey. As I travel throughout our Districts, I hope to encourage our Members to be creative without sacrificing history and tradition, to challenge and motivate each of them to work collectively together as a team so they may accomplish their goals.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I enjoy working with and encouraging others to continue growing in Optimism as the Optimist organization has given so much to me! The experience I have gained by traveling around the country as a Certified Club Builder and Certified International Trainer has given me great insight into the people and heart of this organization. I am energetic, innovative and organized; however, I feel my greatest strength is my enthusiasm and will to be the best! I have the ability to push and to cheer and will encourage our Members to be true leaders.

2010-2011 Candidates

International Vice President-Elect Candidates



West Coast Region

(Arizona, California South, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southeast and Pacific Southwest Districts)

Esthermarie Hillman

Member (date joined): Pueblo Optimist Club of Tucson, Arizona (1996); and Ochoa Optimist Club of South Tucson, Arizona (2007)

Occupation: Goldsmith and Coach, Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind

Optimist Service: Club President (Pueblo) – 1999-2000 (Honor); Club President (Ochoa) – 2008-2009 (Distinguished); Lt. Governor, Arizona District – 2000-2001; Governor, Arizona District – 2004-2005 (Distinguished & Outstanding); Member, International Development Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International New Club Building Committee – 2006-2007; Member, International Governance Committee – 2009-2010; Certified District Trainer; Certified New Club Builder; Field Representative

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I know how to close the sale. I have sponsored many new Optimists into existing Clubs and have been a Builder of Excellence eight times and have helped on many other new Clubs. I can teach others how to ask the right questions, word information and present the many pros of being part of our outstanding Optimist organization. I am willing to travel to help, teach, lead by example and bring new energy to the process of growth.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? The most important thing a Vice President can do is their job for Optimist International. This is to work as a liaison between Optimist International and the Districts of the Region, helping the International President to motivate, train, prepare and help guide the District Governors to do their best as the leader of their respective Districts. As a Vice President, I will assist the District Governors in training, motivating and helping their Members to be the best Optimists they can be. This includes promoting our Optimist mission, programs, marketing and growth.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I am a good listener, motivator, communicator and teacher. I lead by example. I never ask anyone to do something that I have not done myself. I have a good understanding of our Optimist organization and can explain things pertaining to Optimist International, our Foundation, Members, Clubs and Districts and how they relate to each other. I have experience working in many different aspects of the Club, District and International level. I am a quick thinker and problem solver, but mostly I bring an energy that never stops and is contagious.



Saint Lawrence Region

(Eastern Ontario, Quebec Center, Quebec East and Acadia, Quebec East-North Shore, Quebec South and Quebec West Districts)

Claire Labrèche

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Ahuntsic-Montreal, Quebec (1993)

Occupation: Interior Designer

Optimist Service: Club President – 1995-1996 (Distinguished); Lt. Governor, Quebec Center District – 1999-2000; Governor, Quebec Center District – 2003-2004; Member, International Membership Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International Convention Committee – 2006-2007; Certified Club Builder; International Board Member – 2007-2010

How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? I think we have a new generation of Members and young people that forces Optimist Clubs to stand out from other service clubs by being more competitive, thereby increasing our membership so that in years to come we can be more effective and more in step with today's youth.

I would like to organize a Francophone Optimist Conference (Route to the Future) focusing on strategies and the future of our organization, to work together on a positive, structured analysis of the past versus the future so that our organization will thrive. Results from polls which took place earlier by a group of Optimists from each of the Francophone Districts will be gathered together at this conference for a roundtable discussion. Conclusions formed into proposals will be submitted to Optimist International to help boost the Optimist movement and assure the continuation of our services for young people ... and that, I promise to do with you!

The new Internet Safety program must become the access key to the world of informed net surfers. Parents will be able to count on Optimist Clubs to help their children who have fallen victim to online predators and bullies. This program should open the horizons within our communities ... and that, I promise to do with you!

We should be inspired from past and present successes to transform Optimist Clubs into the most dynamic youth service organization which knows how to keep up with the times ... and that, I promise to do with you!

Optimist Clubs should be able to rely on a really experienced team with expertise in helping to build new Clubs and attract new generations of Optimists willing to serve our young people ... and that, I promise to do with you!

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? To both give and accept help! Be present to help in whatever way possible. To accomplish their mission to their communities' young people, Optimist Clubs must be able to rely on their organization as a positive and objective element.

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Continued from page 11

To show our actual and potential members an organization that is ready to invest in “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” as well as offering the wonderful opportunity to create friendships, discover our own leadership potential and adopt Optimism as a life philosophy. Be an Optimist Member, for better or worse!

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I love, appreciate and respect my organization of which I became a member in September 1993, with the best of intentions and the hope of aiding and serving my community. As a member of the Optimist International Board of Directors from 2007 to 2010, I found myself at the heart and soul of the organization. I took part in deciding the future and survival of our organization while respecting the interests of our Members.

I have positive, creative, visionary, but realistic ideals of a future for our Optimist Clubs in which we have made a solid organization able to survive the new century. My remarkable patience allows me to work on this process which will continue to make us international leaders of service to young people.

As an interior designer, I am capable, with an experienced team, of creating and organizing training specifically tailored to fit the requirements of our Members. Forming objectives according to Members’ needs and then transmitting and defending them to the appropriate parties is one of my strong suits.

You can believe in me to take up the cause and to stick with it to accomplish the objectives, because I promise to work with you!

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS 2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

ISSUE 1: DEADLINE FOR SELF-NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT-LARGE CANDIDATES

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The Board of Directors feels it is not necessary to have such a long span of time between self-nominations and possibility of the Candidate Qualifications nominations for the position. As the Candidate Qualifications Committee has made a practice of meeting prior to the March Board of Directors meeting, February 1 is a more appropriate deadline.

CURRENT

Article IV. International Conventions and Elections

Section 2. Elections.

A. Elections for the Board of Directors.

3. Members-at-Large.

Any person desiring to be placed in nomination for a Member-at-Large position must file an intent to run by November 1 of the year preceding the election.

PROPOSED

Article IV. International Conventions and Elections

Section 2. Elections.

A. Elections for the Board of Directors.

3. Members-at-Large.

Any person desiring to be placed in nomination for a Member-at-Large position must file an intent to run by ~~November~~ **February** 1 of the year ~~preceding~~ **is to occur**.

ISSUE 2: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OFFICE FUNDS

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: Bylaws Article VIII Section 2D requires all funds remaining in the pre-existing International Office Fund and International Development Fund be used for their intended purpose. There are no funds remaining in either of these funds.

CURRENT:

Article VIII. Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

D. *Provision for International Office Fund and International Development Fund.* As of October 1, 2004, all funds remaining in the pre-existing International Office Fund and International Development Fund shall remain in such funds and be used for the purposes for which each fund was established. No additional monies shall be added to these funds unless so decided by the Board of Directors.

PROPOSED:

Article VIII. Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

D. ~~*Provision for International Office Fund and International Development Fund.* As of October 1, 2004, all funds remaining in the pre-existing International Office Fund and International Development Fund shall remain in such funds and be used for the purposes for which each fund was established. No additional monies shall be added to these funds unless so decided by the Board of Directors.~~

Re-letter subsequent Items E-I.

ISSUE 3: ANNUAL DUES BILLING FOR CLUBS ON THE 120-DAY LIST

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The Board of Directors has reviewed the problems with Clubs that are frequently on the 120-day list for dues payments. The Board believes that such Clubs should be required to pay their dues on an annual basis.

CURRENT:

Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

C. Annual Billing Option. Clubs may select a yearly dues billing at the beginning of each quarter based on their Membership as of the close of the previous quarter. Any Members added in the first half of the billing cycle shall pay the full dues amount and any members added in the second half shall pay one-half the dues. All processing fees for new members in single billing clubs will be waived.

PROPOSED:

Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

C. Annual Billing ~~Option~~.

1. Clubs may select a yearly dues billing at the beginning of each quarter based on their Membership as of the close of the previous quarter. Any Members added in the first half of the billing cycle shall pay the full dues amount and any members added in the second half shall pay one-half the dues. All processing fees for new members in single billing clubs will be waived.
2. **Once a Club is delinquent 120 days two times in any fiscal year, the Club will be billed on an annual basis at the discretion of the executive director.**

ISSUE 4: DISTRICT MEETINGS

(Proposed by the Optimist Club of North Wichita, Kansas)

EXPLANATION: The "Parallel District Conferences," which are planned for the first quarter of 2010 and are intended to replace the traditional District First Quarter Conferences, could result in Districts being unable to conduct official first quarter business. Under current International Bylaws, Districts cannot conduct official business without a quorum. The great distances Members might have to travel to attend the "Parallel District Conference" could result in not enough District Members present to have the required quorum.

CURRENT:

Article VII. Districts
Section 3. District Administration.

F. Meetings. The Governor may call a meeting of the Board of Directors each quarter, or at such time and place as he may determine with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. Notices of all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be issued and caused to be delivered to all members of the Board of Directors by the District Secretary-Treasurer at least 30 days prior to said meetings. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

PROPOSED:

Article VII. Districts
Section 3. District Administration.

F. Meetings. The Governor may call a meeting of the Board of Directors each quarter, or at such time and place as he may determine with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. Notices of all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be issued and caused to be delivered to all members of the Board of Directors by the District Secretary-Treasurer at least 30 days prior to said meetings. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors **who have registered at the meeting** shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of **district** business.

ISSUE 5: MEMBERSHIP FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL

(Submitted by the Optimist Club of Des Plaines, Illinois)

EXPLANATION: Tenet number four of the purposes of Optimist International is to promote patriotism. Clubs may do that on a local level, but there is a need for a strong and permanent patriotic stand. Members of a nation's military may have a desire to become active in community service, but the relatively low salary scale may make paying dues cost prohibitive. Both the purpose of promoting patriotism and assisting active military personnel can be accomplished by creating a class of membership known as Armed Forces Membership. Armed Forces members would pay the same rate as college students do in the country they serve. Members of a nation's military may have a desire to become active in community service, but the relatively low salary scale may make paying dues cost prohibitive. Creating this membership category would allow clubs to actively pursue the more than 1.4 million members of the U.S. military, and hundreds of thousands of others serving in the military of nations where Optimist International is active.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues. Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2004, each Club shall pay to Optimist International for each of its members, except Life Members and College Members, enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June, as annual dues, the sum of \$59.62 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$44.12 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$31.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of \$14.90 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$11.03 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$7.75 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. For each College Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, a Club shall pay annual dues of \$31.60 per member in Tier 1, \$23.38 in Tier 2, and \$16.43 in Tier 3, payable annually on 1 October. For each Life Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September 2004, a Club (without regard to Tiers) shall pay annual dues of \$26.00. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant an extension of time for payment of obligations to Optimist International when, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, circumstances indicate such extension would best serve the interests of the organization. Effective October 1, 2005, and each year thereafter, a cost of living adjustment of no more than 4% of Base Dues (as hereafter defined) may be made by the Board of Directors based on the yearly change in the December CPI-U. Base dues is defined as follows: Tier 1 \$43.62; Tier 2 \$32.21; Tier 3 \$22.63; College Members \$5 (college member status to be reviewed after five years) (without regard to tiers). Tier 1 shall be defined as High Income Economies; Tier 2 shall be defined as Upper Middle Income Economies; Tier 3 shall be defined as Lower Middle and Low Income Economies. The terms High Income Economies, Upper Middle Income Economies and Low Middle and Lower Income Economies shall have the definitions established from time to time by the World Bank's published statistics. (The countries of Jamaica and Suriname will be considered Tier 3 countries until September 30, 2013, and until further review by the World Bank.) Clubs in countries (no matter the Tier) whose currencies are not exchangeable on the international currency market (Associate Clubs) shall be required to pay to Optimist International annual dues of a minimum of \$1.00 per member. College Clubs shall pay to Optimist International all applicable dues and fees on October 1, January 1, and April 1.

PROPOSED:

Article VIII. Optimist International Finances
Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues. Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2004, each Club shall pay to Optimist International for each of its members, except Life Members and College Members/**active military**, enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June, as annual dues, the sum of \$59.62 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$44.12 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$31.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of \$14.90 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$11.03 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$7.75 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. For each College Member/**active military** enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, a Club shall pay annual dues of \$31.60 per member in Tier 1, \$23.38 in Tier 2, and \$16.43 in Tier 3, payable annually on 1 October. For each Life Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September 2004, a Club (without regard to Tiers) shall pay annual dues of \$26.00. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant an extension of time for payment of obligations to Optimist International when, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, circumstances indicate such extension would best serve the interests of the organization. Effective October 1, 2005, and each year thereafter, a cost of living adjustment of no more than 4% of Base Dues (as hereafter defined) may be made by the Board of Directors based on the yearly change in the December CPI-U. Base dues is defined as follows: Tier 1 \$43.62; Tier 2 \$32.21; Tier 3 \$22.63; College Members/**active military** \$5 (college member/**active military** status to be reviewed after five years) (without regard to tiers). Tier 1 shall be defined as High Income Economies; Tier 2 shall be defined as Upper Middle Income Economies; Tier 3 shall be defined as Lower Middle and Low Income Economies. The terms High Income Economies, Upper Middle Income Economies and Low Middle and Lower Income Economies shall have the definitions established from time to time by the World Bank's published statistics. (The countries of Jamaica and Suriname will be considered Tier 3 countries until September 30, 2013, and until further review by the World Bank.) Clubs in countries (no matter the Tier) whose currencies are not exchangeable on the international currency market (Associate Clubs) shall be required to pay to Optimist International annual dues of a minimum of \$1.00 per member. College Clubs shall pay to Optimist International all applicable dues and fees on October 1, January 1, and April 1.

ISSUE 6: COLLEGE CLUBS

(Submitted by the Black Hills Noon Optimist Club, South Dakota)

EXPLANATION: It is our firm belief that the College Clubs, which could have great potential as feeders into the adult Clubs, are being discouraged by the price and billing treatment they receive as College Club members. We also feel that Optimist International needs to lend its support and clout to the College Clubs if we intend to attract new members and maintain the current membership. The Clubs and the Districts are unable to do the job alone. At this point, we are not willing to build and sponsor another College Club unless significant changes are made. A point in fact is that we recently had a new Club that was unable to pay its international dues because of the reasons set forth above. This Club has lost its charter as a result of loss of members and the manner in which the Club's dues have been calculated. In order to alter the course, we offer the following amendment recommendations as a possible way to ensure the growth and longevity of the College Clubs.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues. Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2004, each Club shall pay to Optimist International for each of its members, except Life Members and College Members, enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June, as annual dues, the sum of \$59.62 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$44.12 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$31.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of \$14.90 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$11.03 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$7.75 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. For each College Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, a Club shall pay annual dues of \$31.60 per member in Tier 1, \$23.38 in Tier 2, and \$16.43 in Tier 3, payable annually on 1 October. For each Life Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September 2004, a Club (without regard to Tiers) shall pay annual dues of \$26.00. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant an extension of time for payment of obligations to Optimist International when, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, circumstances indicate such extension would best serve the interests of the organization. Effective October 1, 2005, and each year thereafter, a cost of living adjustment of no more than 4% of Base Dues (as hereafter defined) may be made by the Board of Directors based on the yearly change in the December CPI-U. Base dues is defined as follows: Tier 1 \$43.62; Tier 2 \$32.21; Tier 3 \$22.63; College Members \$5 (college member status to be reviewed after five years) (without regard to tiers). Tier 1 shall be defined as High Income Economies; Tier 2 shall be defined as Upper Middle Income Economies; Tier 3 shall be defined as Lower Middle and Low Income Economies. The terms High Income Economies, Upper Middle Income Economies and Low Middle and Lower Income Economies shall have the definitions established from time to time by the World Bank's published statistics. (The countries of Jamaica and Suriname will be considered Tier 3 countries until September 30, 2013, and until further review by the World Bank.) Clubs in countries (no matter the Tier) whose currencies are not exchangeable on the international currency market (Associate Clubs) shall be required to pay to Optimist International annual dues of a minimum of \$1.00 per member. College Clubs shall pay to Optimist International all applicable dues and fees on October 1, January 1, and April 1.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VIII. Optimist International Finances

Section 2. Revenue and Dues.

B. Annual Dues. Except as set forth herein, beginning October 1, 2004, each Club shall pay to Optimist International for each of its members, except Life Members and College Members, enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June, as annual dues, the sum of \$59.62 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$44.12 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$31.00 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries, payable in quarterly amounts of \$14.90 for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$11.03 for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$7.75 for Clubs in Tier 3 countries each on 1 October, 1 January, 1 April, and 1 July of each year. **The Optimist year for a college club shall be a tri-semester year with the first tri-semester being 1 September through 30 November, the second tri-semester being 1 December through 28 February and the third tri-semester being 1 March through 31 May.** For each College Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of ~~30 September~~ **31 October**, a Club shall pay annual dues of ~~\$31.60~~ **\$22.50** per member in Tier 1, ~~\$23.38~~ **\$19.50** in Tier 2, and ~~\$16.43~~ **\$13.50** in Tier 3, payable ~~annually on 1 October~~ **as of 31 October, 31 December and 28 February**. For each Life Member enrolled in the office of Optimist International as of 30 September 2004, a Club (without regard to Tiers) shall pay annual dues of \$26.00. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant an extension of time for payment of obligations to Optimist International when, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, circumstances indicate such extension would best serve the interests of the organization. Effective October 1, 2005, and each year thereafter, a cost of living adjustment of no more than 4% of Base Dues (as hereafter defined) may be made by the Board of Directors based on the yearly change in the December CPI-U. Base dues is defined as follows: Tier 1 \$43.62; Tier 2 \$32.21; Tier 3 \$22.63; College Members \$5 (college member status to be reviewed after five years) (without regard to tiers). Tier 1 shall be defined as High Income Economies; Tier 2 shall be defined as Upper Middle Income Economies; Tier 3 shall be defined as Lower Middle and Low Income Economies. The terms High Income Economies, Upper Middle Income Economies and Low Middle and Lower Income Economies shall have the definitions established from time to time by the World Bank's published statistics. (The countries of Jamaica and Suriname will be considered Tier 3 countries until September 30, 2013, and until further review by the World Bank.) Clubs in countries (no matter the Tier) whose currencies are not exchangeable on the international currency market (Associate Clubs) shall be required to pay to Optimist International annual dues of a minimum of \$1.00 per member. College Clubs shall pay to Optimist International all applicable dues and fees on ~~October 1, January 1, and April 1~~ **November 30, January 31, and March 31**.