

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 6, 2018

Westin Hotel  
Ottawa, Ontario

The following Members of the 2017-18 Board of Directors were in attendance for the entire meeting:

James K. Kondrasuk	Immediate Past President	Monona, Wisconsin
Nick Prillaman	President	Atlanta, Georgia
Rebecca Butler-Mona	18-19 President-Elect	West Des Moines, Iowa
Sandy Cyphers	2017-2018 Director & Director-Elect	Wilmington, North Carolina
Adrian Elcock	2015-2018 Director & 19-20 President-Elect	St. Thomas, Barbados
Nicole Paquette	2016-2019 Director	Casselman, Ontario
Mark Weinsoff	2016-2019 Director	Goleta, California
Don Brose	2017-2020 Director	Clarkston, Michigan
Patsy Garner	2017-2020 Director	Fort Worth, Texas
Benny Ellerbe	Executive Director	St. Louis, Missouri
Sandy Williams	President	Optimist International Foundation
Raymonde Michaud	President	Canadian Optimist Children's Foundation

Attending for In-Person Report during JOI Convention:

Mathew Nacev	JOI President	Burlington, Ontario
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Also in attendance as newly elected Board of Director:

Sandy Larivee	2018-2021 Director	Essex, Ontario
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**Committee Reports are to be considered as part of these minutes and are kept on file separately from these minutes. They provide important information that is considered by the Board of Directors in determining action to be taken on a particular issue.**

**All items are not officially approved and subject to correction until they are adopted at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.**

### **Friday, July 6, 2018**

Immediate Past President Jim Kondrasuk called the third regular meeting of the 2017-18 Optimist International Board of Directors to order at 8:12 a.m. The invocation was given by Sandy Cyphers. There was a moment of silence for Jacques Pelland's wife and family. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Brose, and a toast to all countries with an Optimist Club was led by Patsy Garner. Nicole Paquette read the recitation of the Mission Statement. There was a special presentation by several JOI members that recited the Optimist Creed in French.

**Motion adopted**

To appoint Past President Robert Garner as parliamentarian for the meeting.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion adopted as presented**

**Prillaman/Cyphers**

To adopt the consent agenda.

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

**Motion approved**

To confirm the minutes and decisions made at the following meetings:

**March 1-2, 2018**

**March 21, 2018 Teleconference**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion adopted**

**Garner/Butler Mona**

To adopt the agenda as amended.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Nick Prillaman addressed the Board of Directors and reviewed his written report.

**Board Directors to Make Thank You Telephone Calls to the Top Growth Performing Clubs Each Quarter**

Rationale: There is awesome power in recognition. It more than anything drives us at work, home and especially in our volunteer work. In these changing times we must build a culture of recognition throughout Optimist International at every level. Recognition causes a transformation in those receiving the praise and those giving it. It makes people feel good and valued, strengthens their relationships, and encourages them to work harder, seek out ways to improve themselves and do things better. We must listen to our volunteer leaders and engage with them. Our members will not care about us if we don't show them we care about them. We must be able to build trust and demonstrate our respect and appreciation for our members before we can expect anything from them. Each quarter the Optimist International staff would compile a list of the top growth performing clubs in Optimist International (averaging 75 – 80). Each Board member would then be assign a certain number of these clubs to call and thank them for their hard work and growth accomplishments.

**Motion adopted**

**Butler Mona/Paquette**

That the Board of Directors make thank you telephone calls to the top growth performing clubs in Optimist International at least once a quarter in the 2018-2019 year.

## **CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The report of the Convention Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Committee Chair Joanne Ganske.

### **2019 International Convention Registration And Meals**

Rationale: The budget for the 2019 International Convention is set based on a projection of 1,000 registrants. The International Convention Committee recommends the following registration fees and meal prices for the 2019 International Convention in Louisville, KY:

#### **Motion adopted**

#### **Cyphers/Paquette**

The Board of Directors hereby approves the following registration fees and meal costs for the Centennial Celebration / 2019 Louisville Convention:

**(Note: The below fees are in \$US)**

Adult Member or Guest Discount/Early Bird (no meals) - \$209

Adult Member or Guest Regular (no meals) - \$209

Adult Member or Guest Early Bird Package (registration and 3 meals) - \$318

Adult Member or Guest Regular Package (registration and 3 meals) - \$318

College Member with discount (no meals) - \$75

Youth (non-JOI) (4 day program)- \$171

Youth (non-JOI) On-site (4 day program) - \$180

Club President-Elect & Lt. Governor-Elect Breakfast - \$31

Appreciation Luncheon - \$42

Fellowship/Old Timers' Breakfast - \$33

President's Banquet - \$65

Non-Registered guest for Appreciation Luncheon - \$48

Non-Registered guest for Fellowship/Old Timers' Breakfast - \$39

Non-Registered guest for President's Banquet ticket - \$75

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Patsy Garner thanked Chair Joanne Ganske for the report.

## **PRESIDENT DESIGNATE'S REPORT**

President Designate Rebecca Butler Mona addressed the Board of Directors and reviewed her written report.

### **Positive Vision and Impact Award**

#### **Motion adopted**

#### **Butler Mona/Elcock**

That the Board of Directors recognize Savannah Karmue on stage with a Positive Vision and Impact Award.

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT**

President-Elect Adrian Elcock addressed the Board of Directors with an informational report.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Benny Ellerbe addressed the Board of Directors and reviewed his written report.

## **JOI PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The report of the 2017-2018 International Junior Optimist International President Mathew Nacev was presented to the Board of Directors.

## **2018-2019 ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

The report of the 2018-2019 International Activities Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Committee Chair Janet Lloyd.

### **Childhood Health and Wellness**

To increase the impact in the area of Children's health and its importance, the Activities Committee believes that our Childhood Cancer Campaign be broaden and rebranded as Childhood Health and Wellness. Childhood Cancer would still be a major priority under the Health umbrella but a broader spectrum of wellness and health issues could strengthen our appeal and help more youth. The objective is to broaden the original well-known and well-loved program in order to help more youth and their families across the country. On page 16 of the December 2015 Board meeting minutes, the Optimist International Board approved the proposed addition of "Childhood Health and Wellness" community activity as presented. In 2017, the CCOF Board of Directors announced a change of their Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC) and now has expanded and re-branded their CCC program as a "Spread the Relief Program," providing grants engaging a wide array of youth health issues.

#### **Motion adopted**

#### **Weinsoff/Garner**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors approves the expansion of the Childhood Cancer Campaign to a focus on Childhood Health and Wellness. Further, that the Optimist International President and President-elect appoint a Committee comprised of Activities Committee Members and Foundations (OIF & CCOF) Board Members to develop a transition plan enabling the Childhood Health and Wellness Program to begin October 1, 2018.

### **Happy Heart Project – Endorsed Organization**

Rationale: In keeping with the expanded focus of Childhood Health and Wellness, the Committee agrees there is significant opportunity for Optimist and Junior Optimist Clubs to partner and sponsor Happy Heart Challenges to their local communities. At the age of seven years old, Savanna Karmue, from Sacramento, California created a Happy Heart project with the focus to help others improve their

health. Savanna wrote a book, *Happy Heart Advices (Volume 1)*, with a goal to eliminate childhood obesity and heart disease: [www.happyheartadvice.com](http://www.happyheartadvice.com). The Happy Heart Challenge program is a 5-10 day challenge, 20-25 minutes of activity per day and around 40 minutes with education. Her *Happy Heart Challenges* allow kids everywhere to learn about the functions of the heart, while getting them involved in fun, heart-pumping activities. Savanna typically launches her challenge by visiting schools and speaking to her peers.

**Motion adopted**

**Prillaman/Cyphers**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors approves the endorsement of the Happy Heart project for the 2018-2019 year, pursuant to Board Policy I-36

**World Oratorical Funding**

Rationale: The World Oratorical Program, after three years has become a proven success and should decree that World Oratorical is in fact a long-term committed program of Optimist International.

**Motion tabled**

**Weinsoff/Garner**

**See Pages 7 and 8**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors, having so decreed that World Oratorical is a committed Program further request and seek the support of OIF and CCOF. To the effect that by 2021 the full funding of all Regional and overall World Oratorical Winners from their respective areas (OIF to fund all USA, International and Caribbean scholarship winners at all levels (regional or overall) and that CCOF fund all Canadian youth scholarship winners (regional or overall) by 2021.

**2018-2019 Oratorical Rule Clarification**

Rationale: The Activities Committee discussed the importance of clarifying the qualifications for contestants in the 2018-19 official rules. In the rules, it does not state whether a student can be in college or its equivalent. Since the age was increased to 19 starting in the 2018-19 fiscal year, the Committee feels there needs to clearly state that a student may not be in college or its equivalent.

**Motion adopted**

**Elcock/Paquette**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors approves the following Oratorical Official Contest clarification:

Section II – Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) **and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution.** There is no minimum age.

**2018-2019 Essay Rule Clarification**

Rationale: In order to stay consistent with the Oratorical contest, the Committee agrees the same rule change take effect for the essay contest.

**Motion adopted**

**Elcock/Paquette**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors approves the following Essay Official Contest clarification:

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) **and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution.**

**2019-2020 Scholarship Topics**

Rationale: The Committee received input from the JOI Board and offers the following topics for the 2019-2020 scholarships:

**Motion adopted**

**Brose/Weinsoff**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors approves the following topics for the 2019-2020 year:

Oratorical/CCDHH: Promise Yourself...

Essay: Leading with Optimism

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Mark Weinsoff thanked Chair Janet Lloyd for the report.

The meeting recessed at 10:17 and reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT**

The written report of the Optimist International Foundation was presented to the Board of Directors by President Sandy Williams. Immediate Past President Jim Kondrasuk thanked President Williams for the report. President Williams was excused from the meeting to attend the Optimist International Foundation Board of Directors meeting.

**CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION REPORT**

The President of the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation presented the report. On behalf of the Optimist International Board of Directors, Nicole Paquette thanked President Raymonde Michaud for the report.

**AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The report of the Audit and Finance Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Committee Chair Guy Templin.

## **2018-2019 Master Schedule of Dues and Fees**

Rationale: The 2018-2019 schedule includes a cost of living increase of 2.1%, which will increase dues 1.35 cents for regular adult members. This increase is reflected in Dues Revenue in the 2018-2019 budget.

### **Motion adopted as amended**

**Prillaman/Weinsoff**

That the Board of Directors adopts the Master Schedule of Dues and Fees as amended.

## **2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget**

Rationale: Revisions to the 2017-2018 budget were made to adjust for oil/gas revenue, lack of a rental tenant, club insurance premium renewal lower than budgeted and increase in expenses related to building maintenance/cleaning as well as other adjustments.

### **Motion adopted**

**Butler Mona/Garner**

That the Board of Directors adopt the revisions to the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget as presented.

## **2018-2019 Draft Fiscal Year Budget**

Rationale: The Committee met to discuss the 2018-2019 budget. The committee noted a concern with the World Oratorical Championship and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. The Committee hopes that the Board can address the concerns of CCOF on \$ amount and the bilingual issues in hopes of securing their commitment towards future funding of the World Oratorical Championships. Other significant notes: Since the past efforts to secure a rental tenant have not come to fruition, the Audit & Finance Committee reviewed the Oil/gas revenues as a consistent and continuing source of revenue and have budgeted revenues accordingly. The Committee will continue to monitor the oil/gas revenues received and if there appears to be a drop in this revenue source, a recommendation for budget adjustments would be presented at that time. After many discussions with President Designate Rebecca Butler Mona, incoming Committee Chairs, and staff, the Audit & Finance Committee is prepared to offer the 2018-2019 Budget as attached to this report.

### **Motion adopted**

**Butler Mona/Cyphers**

That the Board of Directors adopt the proposed draft 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget as presented.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Adrian Elcock thanked Chair Guy Templin for the report.

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **Oratorical World Championships as a Permanent Program**

#### **Motion adopted**

**Elcock/?**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors shall revise Policy I-66 to include the Oratorical World Championships as a permanent component to the Oratorical program.

## **Oratorical World Championship Scholarship Funding**

### **Motion adopted**

**Elcock/?**

That the Optimist International Board of Directors request funding for the overall Regional and World Championship scholarships from the Optimist International Foundation and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation to be in place no later than October 1, 2021.

## **Competition in Person**

### **Motion adopted**

**Weinsoff/Garner**

That the Board of Directors approves the following language regarding the World Oratorical Championships to become effective October 1, 2018:

### **Application:**

#### **Section II.**

**6. Each District Winner shall compete at the World Oratorical Championships in person at the designated locations. If unable to attend in person, the next available runner up, would be allowed to compete for the World Oratorical Scholarships.**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Don Brose thanked Committee Chair Janet Lloyd for the report.

The meeting recessed at 12:14 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:26 p.m.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Presentation via WebEx by Raul Cevallos and Jacob Stevens of Gartner for an information technology review.

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The report of the Governance Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Staff Liaison Dana Thomas for Committee Chair Steffi Swanson.

## **Policy C-12, Alcohol Policy**

Rationale: In reviewing the Board Policy regarding the use of alcohol at Club activities, the Committee felt that the following revisions clearly expresses the intent of the use of alcohol at Club functions when youth are present.

**Motion adopted**  
**Elcock Opposed**

**Weinsoff/Prillaman**

That the Board of Directors adopt the revisions to Policy C-12 as presented and that the Standard Club Bylaws be revised accordingly upon adoption.

**Alcoholic Beverages:** While attending any project, meeting, social event, or other gathering that is **conducted** ~~produced primarily by or~~ for the benefit of youth **in attendance**, adults are expected to refrain from consumption of alcoholic beverages during any portion of the event.

### **Standard Club Bylaws – Alcohol Clause**

Rationale: It was brought to the Committee’s attention by staff that the use of alcohol policy at Club activities is not stipulated in the current Standard Club Bylaws. The Committee strongly feels that while Clubs can’t be mandated or policed about the policy, that they should at least be offered the suggested wording to make them aware of the Board policy and perhaps it will encourage them to refrain from the practice.

#### **Motion adopted**

**Garner/Cyphers**

That the Board of Directors approve the following proposed revision in the Standard Club Bylaws and encourage all Clubs to adopt the suggested wording.

#### **Standard Club Bylaws**

#### **ARTICLE XII – MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1: A member or individual may act as an agent of an Optimist Club only upon prior written approval granting such agency by the Clubs Board of Directors. (BOLDED WORDING)

Section 2: In recognition of the benefits and services available to this Club and its members through its affiliation with Optimist International, this Club shall exercise its rights and privileges of participation in the government and activities of Optimist International. This Club shall provide for its proper representation at all meeting and conventions of Optimist International and the District. It shall provide for such representation when preparing the annual budget. (UNBOLDED WORDING)

**New Section 3: While attending any project, meeting, social event, or other gathering that is conducted for the benefit of the youth in attendance, adults are expected to refrain from consumption of alcoholic beverages during any portion of the event. (UNBOLDED WORDING)**

Section 3 4: Any person elected to membership in this Club shall be deemed to have accepted these bylaws and the Bylaws of Optimist International, and shall be bound by them in all respects as if he or she had been a member at the time of their adoption. (BOLDED WORDING)

Section 4 5: The Board of Directors shall provide for the prompt payment of all dues and other obligations to Optimist International and to the District, and shall require the prompt completion and submission of all reports required by Optimist International and the District. (BOLDED WORDING)

Section 5 6: These bylaws shall be reviewed annually. (BOLDED WORDING)

### **STANDARD CLUB BYLAWS**

Rationale: The St. Paul MN Optimist Club proposed the following revision to Article III of the Standard Club Bylaws

#### **ARTICLE II – MISSION**

**The members of this Club will by** ~~By~~ providing hope and positive vision, **Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.** ~~through the members of this Club, this Club will bring out the best in 1)kids /2)children /3) kids, our Members and our community /4)children, our Members and our community.~~ This Optimist Club shall make its goal to achieve, at the minimum, Honor Club status for Club performance and operations.

**Motion adopted as amended**

**Paquette/Prillaman**

That the Board of Directors adopt the following revision to Article II-Mission of the Standard Club Bylaws (Note: This is mandatory wording and will need to be adopted by all new Club effective immediately.)

By providing hope and positive vision, ~~through~~ the members of this Optimist Club will bring out the best in **youth** ~~1)kids / 2)children / 3) kids, our Members and our community / 4)children, our Members and~~, our communities, and ourselves. This Optimist Club shall make its goal to achieve, at the minimum, Honor Club status for Club performance and operations.

**CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Rationale: In 2018, 89 Clubs celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, or 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their charter. At President Nick Prillaman’s request, staff considered the current procedure for Club anniversary recognition and what can be done to enhance the current recognition process. Staff considered the current procedures and other options such as OI paying the cost of visits from the President, Vice President, or staff to anniversary celebrations. The expense for hotel and travel could be insurmountable if all Clubs are accommodated. However, there are other less expensive ways Optimist International can recognize these significant milestones, such as including the tribute resolution in a nice frame. A list of Clubs celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and the current letter and tribute are attached to this report.

**Motion adopted**

**Brose/Weinsoff**

That the Board of Directors approve the following new policy to help a Club celebrate its anniversary. (Budget Impact: \$30 per frame – approx. \$2700/year)

Club Anniversaries

C-14

Optimist Clubs shall receive the following from Optimist International at least one month prior to their 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary:

- Facebook announcement of the Club’s anniversary date and celebration details provided by the Club
- Letter of recognition from the International President to the Club President
- Framed Resolution of Tribute from the International President to the Club President

A list of Club’s celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be posted on the optimist.org website banner with a link to the Club’s website, if provided.

Clubs may receive a letter and resolution on any other anniversary date upon request.

The meeting recessed at 2:50 p.m. and reconvened at 3:04 p.m. in executive session. The meeting reconvened into regular session at 4:02 p.m.

## **CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

An information report of the Centennial Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Chair Danny Rodgers. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Rebecca Butler Mona thanked Chair Rodgers for the report.

The meeting recessed into executive session at 4:15 p.m. and reconvened at 4:53 p.m. into regular session.

## **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT REPORT**

Immediate Past President Jim Kondrasuk addressed the Board of Directors.

### **Motion adopted**

To recess the meeting to time uncertain and/or is considered adjourned.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting recessed at 5:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 9 and adjourned at 6:18 p.m. Monday, July 9.

Benny Ellerbe  
Executive Director/Secretary

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES.....	2
<i>March 1-2, 2018.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>March 21, 2018 Teleconference.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PRESIDENT’S REPORT.....</b>	<b>2</b>
BOARD DIRECTORS TO MAKE THANK YOU TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE TOP GROWTH PERFORMING CLUBS EACH QUARTER.....	2
<b>CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2019 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION AND MEALS .....	3
<b>PRESIDENT DESIGNATE’S REPORT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
POSITIVE VISION AND IMPACT AWARD .....	3
<b>PRESIDENT-ELECT’S REPORT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>JOI PRESIDENT’S REPORT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2018-2019 ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS.....	4
HAPPY HEART PROJECT – ENDORSED ORGANIZATION .....	4
WORLD ORATORICAL FUNDING .....	5
2018-2019 ORATORICAL RULE CLARIFICATION .....	5
2018-2019 ESSAY RULE CLARIFICATION .....	5
2019-2020 SCHOLARSHIP TOPICS .....	6
<b>OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CANADIAN CHILDREN’S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION REPORT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AUDIT &amp; FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2018-2019 MASTER SCHEDULE OF DUES AND FEES.....	7
2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET .....	7
<b>ACTIVITIES REPORT (CONTINUED) .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
STANDARD CLUB BYLAWS – ALCOHOL CLAUSE .....	9
<b>CLUB ANNIVERSARIES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT REPORT.....</b>	<b>11</b>