

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

Thursday, September 14, 2017
Teleconference

The following Members of the 2016-17 Board of Directors were in attendance for the entire meeting:

James K. Kondrasuk	President	Monona, Wisconsin
Nick Prillaman	President-Elect	Atlanta, Georgia
Judy Boyd	Director	Urbandale, Iowa
Sue Creswell	Director	Reading, Pennsylvania
Rebecca Butler-Mona	Director & President-Elect	West Des Moines, Iowa
Nicole Paquette	Director	Casselman, Ontario
Mark Weinsoff	Director	Goleta, California
Benny Ellerbe	Executive Director	St. Louis, Missouri
Also in attendance:		
Don Brose	Board Director-Elect	City, Michigan
Patsy Garner	Board Director-Elect	Fort Worth, Texas
Sandy Cyphers	2017-2018 Board Director	Wilmington, North Carolina
Excused:		
Dave Bruns	Immediate Past President	Topeka, Kansas
Adrian Elcock	Director	St. Thomas, Barbados
Madison O'Hara Wickham	JOI President	Bonita, California
Don Crall	President	Optimist International Foundation
Nina Strickland	President	Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

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.

Thursday, September 25, 2017

President Jim Kondrasuk called the teleconference meeting of the 2016-17 Optimist International Board of Directors to order at 1:00 p.m. Central Time. A quorum was determined.

Motion approved

To appoint Executive Director Benny Ellerbe as parliamentarian for the meeting.

AGENDA

Motion adopted
To adopt the Agenda as amended

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion adopted **Prillaman/Butler Mona**
To confirm the following Eballot motions already adopted by the Board of Directors:

- a. Confirmation of Eballot: July 19, 2017
That the Board of Directors approve an extension to the contract with Shumsky Enterprises to 2020.
- b. Confirmation of Eballot: July 24, 2017
That the Board of Directors declare the office of 2017-18 International Vice President for the Middle America Region to be vacant and appoint Bob Floyd from the West Missouri District to fill the remainder of the term.
- c. Confirmation of Eballot: July 21, 2017
That the Optimist International Youth Programs Foundation Board of Directors approve the 2015-2016 OIYPF IRS Form 990 as presented.
- d. Confirmation of Eballot: August 31, 2017
That the Board of Directors declares a disaster fund in the Optimist International Foundation to encourage members to render monetary assistance thou the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Foundation

CLUB MERGER REQUEST

Motion adopted **Boyd/Weinsoff**
That the International Board of Directors approve the merger of Rushmore Optimist Club of Rapid City (35127) and Noon Optimist of the Black Hills Club (35116) (Charter of 35127 to be dropped without penalty), with its merged Club number as 35116 and adopted name and Bylaws under the Noon Optimist of the Black Hills Club (35116).

AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget

Rationale: The Audit & Finance Committee reviewed the 2017-2018 draft budget. It is important to note that the 2017-2018 budget includes an assumption that there will be tenant income of \$60,000 in the last six months of the fiscal year. The Committee is closely watching this item and if we fail to secure a tenant within the next several months, the committee will put forth recommendations for addressing this budget item.

Motion adopted **Boyd/?**
That the Board of Directors adopts the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget as presented.

OI/OIF STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

International President-Elect Rebecca Butler Mona addressed the Board of Directors as a member of the OI/OIF Structure Committee.

Rationale: The OI/OIF Committee recommends that the respective Boards (OI & OIF) approve a succession plan whereby: **If the Executive Director of Optimist International cannot fulfil his duties, the Executive Director of the OIF would become the interim Executive Director of OI. Conversely, if the Executive Director of the OIF cannot fulfill his duties, the Executive Director of OI shall become the Interim Executive Director of the OIF.**

Motion adopted as amended

Butler Mona/Weinsoff

That the OI Board of Directors revise Board Policy I-134 as follows:

Duties of the Chief Executive Officer,
Chief Operating Officer, and the Board of Directors

I-134

In conjunction with the Officer Job Descriptions as outlined in Board Policy ID-28, the following titles as noted in the Bylaws shall be delineated and defined:

As the Chief Executive Officer, the International President (acting upon the policies established by the Board of Directors) shall be the official spokesperson for the organization, and shall coordinate with the Board of Directors and Chief Operating Officer (Executive Director) the implementation of policies to achieve membership growth and service to Optimist International and its Clubs. The President will report and bring issues to the Board of Directors.

As the Chief Operating Officer and Secretary/Treasurer, the Executive Director shall be the administrative and operations officer responsible for the day-to-day operation of the business affairs of Optimist International. The Executive Director shall ensure that the policies adopted by the Board of Directors are implemented and appropriately carried out by the professional staff. The Executive Officer shall also ensure that the business affairs of Optimist International are performed within the budget established by the Board. The Chief Operating Officer will report to the Board of Directors and President.

If the Executive Director of Optimist International cannot fulfil his duties, the Executive Director of the OIF would become the interim Executive Director of OI. Conversely, if the Executive Director of the OIF cannot fulfill his duties, the Executive Director of OI shall become the Interim Executive Director of the OIF. A Search Committee will be formed no later than the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting to engage a permanent executive director.

The Board of Directors will set the mission, vision, and direction of the organization by establishing the policies to achieve those goals. The Board of Directors will coordinate with the President and Chief Operating Officer to successfully implement the policies, goals, and strategies of Optimist International.

PRESIDENT SUCCESSION

Motion adopted

Boyd/Butler Mona

That the Board of Directors direct the Governance and Finance committees to draft wording for a bylaws amendment to elect the International President two years in advance of their taking office and direct them to recommend language for a president elect succession plan and to

consider costs involved.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the Activities Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Committee Chair Kevin Ailara.

Repeat Oratorical Winners

Rationale: The Committee discussed at length the many requests from Optimist members, parents, and contestants that Oratorical contestants be able to compete again to win the bigger scholarships available with the World Oratorical levels. The Committee feels that as long as a contestant meets the age requirement each year, he/she should be able to compete again indefinitely to have the chance to win the scholarships offered by Optimist International up until he/she wins a Regional scholarship of \$5000.

Motion adopted as amended

Weinsoff/Prillaman

That the Board of Directors approve the following Oratorical Contest Rule:

Contest Rule Section III

- ~~2. Once a contestant wins a scholarship at the World Championships Regional level, the contestant is ineligible to compete in an Optimist Oratorical Contest in a subsequent year.~~

Once a contestant wins 1st Place at the District level and/or competes at the Regional level, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest in subsequent years.

Oratorical Funding Distributions

Rationale: The Committee reviewed the current scholarship funding allocations and considered what the Districts that currently hold non-gender contests award. In order to keep all scholarships standard for administrative purposes and allow for promotion to potential corporate sponsorships, the following motion is offered.

Motion adopted

Prillaman/Weinsoff

That the Board of Directors approve the following allocation for District Oratorical scholarship awards effective October 1, 2018.

First Place: \$2500
Second Place: \$1500
Third Place: \$1000

Oratorical/CCDHH Scoring Revisions

Rationale: In light of the new World Championships level of competition, the Committee felt that a complete review of the current rules was in order. In addition to the above, several revisions to the

Planning Guides will be made as a result of the new mandate for non-gender contests including: All references to the word “student” will be replaced with “contestant” in all planning guides, Clubs should continue have the ability to send up two contestants on to the next level of competition, and Clubs may declare one Club winner and runner up or declare the two contestants as their representatives in the next level. The scoring needs to be revised since all levels will use the same scoring rubric. The Committee felt that with today’s technology and common use of quotations, the failure to identify non-original material is harder to score and should not result in immediate disqualification but be considered in a judge’s opinion. The Committee feels that the Club Planning Guides should state that written submissions of the Oratorical and Essay Contests may be run through a plagiarism check. There are several free, and many low cost, plagiarism checkers available on the internet. The Committee feels that the scoring for the CCDHH contest should be same as the Oratorical contest. The Committee asks the Board of Directors to approve the additional following revisions regarding scoring and penalties as they are significant changes to the contest from previous years.

Motion adopted

Weinsoff/Prillaman

That the Board of Directors approve the following revisions to the scoring of the Oratorical and penalties to both the Oratorical and CCDHH contests:

Oratorical Scoring:

1. Poise – appearance and personality: ~~20~~ **10** points
2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: ~~35~~ **40** points
3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: ~~10~~ **15** points

CCDHH Scoring (no changes proposed):

1. Material Organization – subject adherence, theme, content, color and logic. The maximum point award is 40 points.
2. Delivery & Presentation – delivery, gestures and emphasis. The maximum point award is 30 points.
3. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect. The maximum point award is 30 points

Oratorical & CCDHH Penalties:

1. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence - 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material – ~~disqualification~~ **up to 10 points**
3. Use of props, costume, etc. – ~~disqualification~~ **10 points**
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification – **up to 5 points** ~~or fraction of based on degree of identification~~
6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. **Use of audience prompters - disqualification**

2018-2019 Scholarship Topics

Rationale: The Committee received input from the JOI Board and offers the following topics for the 2018-2019 scholarships:

Motion adopted

Prillaman/Creswell

Oratorical/CCDHH: Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?

French: TBD

Essay: When All the World’s Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?

French: TBD

Policy I-67; Club Cash Awards for Scholarship Contests

Rationale: Currently, Clubs are cautioned to only award up to \$500 in cash awards for Essay CCDHH, and Oratorical Club contests. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary. The limit is to keep all contests at the Club level on an even playing field especially in areas where there are several Clubs holding contests. The Committee feels that raising the figure to \$1000 is more in line with current practice and will not jeopardize amateur status, however Clubs should consult state and local laws.

Motion failed

Butler Mona/Prillaman

That the Board of Directors approve the revision to the fourth paragraph of Board Policy I-67 as shown below:

Winners of an Optimist International scholarship in the Essay, Oratorical or Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing must claim their scholarship by the age of 25 in the Optimist year, September 30, or it will be removed from the record. Notwithstanding the above, local Clubs shall be allowed to provide monetary awards for the Essay, Oratorical, and CCDHH contests not to exceed ~~\$500~~ **\$1000** per winner. Clubs are encouraged to consult the scholastic coordinating activities agency for their state or province to determine in advance if cash or bond awards will affect the student’s future ability to compete as an amateur.

Policy I-66; International Programs and Evaluation Scale (and Age Rule Determination)

Rationale: As a result of the resolution passed at the July 2017 convention, the Board of Directors asked the Committee to recommend a proposal regarding the age rule for the Oratorical and Essay scholarships. The Committee felt that designating whether or not a contestant is still in high school or not is a subjective mandate and may not conform to other countries as it does in the United States. Also, the policy needs to be revised to make all the scholarship descriptions uniform with the understanding that details are outlined in the planning guides. After considerable deliberation on whether or not to revise the age rule, the Committee recommends the following revision to the policy as presented in Exhibit F.

Motion adopted

Prillaman/Creswell

That the Board of Directors approve the following revisions to Policy I-66 as shown in the attachment to these minutes.

Policy I-137; International Program Status

Rationale: The Committee noted that the policy refers to CPA entries which hasn’t been an International program since 2011. The Committee requests that the references to CPA entries as a requirement be deleted and add ReelOptimism as a possible pre-qualifying project example.

Motion adopted

Butler Mona/Prillaman

That the Board of Directors approve the following revision to the International Program Status Policy I-137.

Projects submitted for International Program Status ~~must~~ **may** have first been submitted to Optimist International as a ~~CPA~~ **ReelOptimism** entry.

4. Year project was submitted to Optimist International as a ~~CPA~~ **ReelOptimism** entry, if applicable.

Policy IC-37; Competitive Boxing

Rationale: Policy IC-37 states that Optimist International does not encourage, condone, or approve the sponsorship by Optimist Clubs of competitive boxing and/or martial arts programs involving youth, and particularly discourages fund raising projects in which youth are involved as boxing and/or martial arts contestants. The Committee noted that several Optimist Clubs noted on their 2016-2017 Club Pride Report that they are involved with boxing, martial arts, karate, or kickboxing. Staff contacted the organization’s US insurance carrier and they stated that all inquiries for Club sports riders are referred to another insurance carrier that will write a rider for these types of club sports activities. The Canadian insurance company will be contacted subsequent to this report. However, since the policy exists, the Committee feels that the Board of Directors should contact these Clubs and let them know of the policy and try to discourage them from conducting these high impact sports activities.

Motion adopted

Prillaman/Weinsoff

That the Board of Directors direct staff to contact Clubs conducting boxing, kick boxing, martial arts and karate and let them be aware of Board Policy IC-37 and let them know that the organization does not endorse these activities.

District Fundraising for the World Oratorical Contest

Motion adopted

Weinsoff/Butler Mona

That the Board of Directors adopt the following revision to the Board Policy D-9 to allow District to raise funds for their World Oratorical Contestant to attend the World Championships Contest without having to get prior permission from the Board of Directors:

District Fund Raising

D-9

Districts may conduct fund raising projects with prior written or electronic permission from the President or the Executive Director after adequate review and consultation with appropriate staff. Requests to be determined to be out of the ordinary shall be brought before the Board of Directors for approval.

Any fundraising activities conducted by Districts shall conform to Optimist International Board Products Endorsement Policy I-65 paragraph 1e.

Any request from a District for Optimist International approval shall include purposes for which funds are to be solicited and proposed disposition of all net revenues.

Districts have fund raisers for the purpose of sending contestants to the world oratorical.

(Mar 2000; Mar 2001; Dec 2010; **adopted September 2017**)

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Jim Kondrasuk thanked Chair Kevin Ailara for the report.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF SERVICE

President Jim Kondrasuk addressed the Board of Directors and stated that Optimist International will continue to be involved with efforts to have joint projects with other civic service organizations.

TEXAS LAND SALE

Motion adopted

Prillaman/Butler Mona

That the Board of Directors approve an oversight committee to invest the funds from the Texas land sale. (Committee members: Jim Kondrasuk, Ken Garner, Marc Katz and Guy Templin)

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OPTIONS

Board Director Nicole Paquette addressed the Board of Directors. The Board agreed that the Convention Committee will consider the possibility of having the International Convention on a cruise as some point in the future.

NEW CLUB BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the New Club Building Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Committee Chair Jim Oliver.

Special Needs Clubs

Rationale: There is a growing interest among Optimists in many geographic areas to pursue the development of clubs that have people with special needs as members. The New Club Building Committee on August 28, 2017 approved submission of the following item for Board action. It requests creation of a special dues and fees program for Clubs with members who have special needs and is modeled after the current pilot program for International Development Brief.

Motion adopted

Weinsoff/Prillaman

That the Board of Directors adopt a dues and fees schedule for “Special Needs” Optimist clubs that will require members to pay dues of \$10 US a year. The schedule will also require the special needs club to be assessed an annual affiliation fee of \$225 US.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS – POLICY ICD-15

Motion adopted

Weinsoff/Butler Mona

That the Board of Directors approve the following revision to Board Policy ICD-15 as follows:

Disaster Relief Funds

ICD-15

The Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation will develop a Disaster Relief Fund to be held in reserve for utilization as directed by the International Board of Directors.

The Optimist International Board of Directors may declare a local, national or international disaster as events merit and take such actions deemed appropriate to encourage Clubs, Districts, Regions, members and/or others to render monetary assistance through either of the Optimist International Foundations.

The Optimist International Board of Directors shall set forth guidelines and protocols for such disaster related projects (as it deems necessary for a specific cause) and liaison with either of the Optimist International Foundation Board of Directors to insure the successful implementation and execution of the disaster fund raising actions and relief efforts. Any disaster related contributions passing through either of the Optimist International Foundations would be regarded as in addition to, not-in-lieu of, normal contributions for normal year-to-year recognition programs.

(July 2006; **adopted Sep 2017**)

TEACHERS INCENTIVE

Motion adopted

Weinsoff/Prillaman

That the current Teachers Incentive Program be instituted for the 2017-2018 year.

Motion adopted

To adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2017.

Benny Ellerbe
Executive Director/Secretary

Essay Contest

Optimist International will promote an annual Essay Contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Canadian Children's Optimist International Foundation of Canada will be paid in Canadian funds for winners in Canada ~~of contests held after October 1, 2001.~~ The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year. **Effective October 1, 2018 the contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year.**

Oratorical Contest

Optimist International will promote an annual oratorical contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Canadian Children's **Optimist** Foundation of Canada will be paid in Canadian funds for winners in Canada ~~of contests held after October 1, 2001.~~ The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year. **Effective October 1, 2018 the contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year.**

District Oratorical Contests

The costs of all District oratorical contests above Club level shall be budgeted by the District administration. Contestant registration and/or entry fees and allocation from the District's general fund, or combination thereof, are the only allowable means of defraying costs of District contests. The expense and elaborateness of Zone or other District elimination contests should be held to an absolute minimum, because such contests are merely preliminary steps in the District contest.

Optimist International Regional Oratorical Contests

The costs of the Optimist International Regional Oratorical Contests held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International ~~and Saint Louis University.~~ Contestant registration and allocation **scholarships will be provide by** ~~from~~ Optimist International's general fund and/or **the Optimist International Foundation or the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation and Saint Louis University** may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual.

Saint Louis University Global Region Contest

The ~~costs~~ **scholarships** of the Saint Louis University Global Region Contest held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International **and the Optimist International Foundation** ~~and Saint Louis University.~~ Contestant registration and

allocation from Optimist International's general fund and /or Saint Louis University may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual. **The administrative costs for the Regional Contest will be shared by Optimist International and Saint Louis University.**

Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest

The costs **scholarships** of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation, and the Canadian Children's **Optimist** Foundation **(for Canadian winners)**, and Saint Louis University. ~~Contestant registration and allocation from Optimist International's general fund and/or Saint Louis University may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual.~~ **The administrative costs for the World Championships Contest will be shared by Optimist International and Saint Louis University.**

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Optimist International will promote an annual Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundation and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (for Canadian winners). The contest is open to young people through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Québec and grade 13 in the Caribbean, who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean.

- ~~1. Districts are to conduct one contest combining genders and methods of communication (verbal or sign).~~
- ~~2. District contests must involve no fewer than three contestants District-wide in order to qualify for scholarship funds.~~
- ~~3. Optimist International will provide scholarship in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Optimist International Foundation of Canada will be paid in Canadian funds for winners of contests held after October 1, 2001.~~
- ~~4. District CCDHH reports must be received at Optimist International within 30 days of the completion of the contest, but in no case later than June 15.~~

- ~~5. Students interested in participating in the contest must submit the results of an audiogram conducted no earlier than 24 months prior to the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist.~~
- ~~6. Students must be certified to have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more by a qualified audiologist and supported by the audiogram to be eligible to compete.~~

Optimist International Community Projects include:

Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence

Youth Appreciation

Youth Safety

Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests

~~Internet Safety~~

The Childhood Cancer Campaign will be supported by the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

International Programs Evaluation Scale

If the number of Clubs participating in an International Program falls below 30% on a two-year average, the program could be discontinued as an International program and will lose its funding. The Program will then become a non-funded Community Activity.

This applies only to International scholarship programs. The Junior Optimist International and the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are exempt as they are self-sustaining.

Community Activities Scale

If the number of Clubs participating in a Community Activity falls below 20% Club participation on a two-year average, it could be removed from the list.

This applies only to Community activities, which include the Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests, Youth Appreciation, Youth Safety, Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence, Internet Safety. The Childhood Cancer Campaign is administered by the Optimist International Foundation and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

(June 1987; Mar 1989; Dec 1993; Mar 1994; Jun 2001; Dec 2005; Dec 2007; Mar 2010; Dec 2013; Oct 2014; Apr 2015; Dec 2015; Dec 2016; **adopted Sept 2017**)

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