

# Optimist International 97th Annual Convention

New Orleans, LA • July 9 - 11, 2015

## ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

### **Advertise in the Official Convention Program**

Do you want to market your personal business, congratulate people in your Club or District, and/or have personal Club birthday or anniversary announcements? Get your/their name and face out to everyone at the convention:

- Full Page \$100
- ½ Page \$75
- ¼ Page \$50

For details contact Janet Karez at: [janet.karez@optimist.org](mailto:janet.karez@optimist.org) or call (314) 881-1321  
Deadline: May 4

### **Airfare Discounts**

#### **Air Canada**

Discount Code: HMJPFQB1  
Ticketing agent fees may apply for phone reservations.  
Travel valid July 5-12, 2015

#### **Delta**

When booking online, select Meeting Event Code and enter NMKFG on the Search Flight page. A ticketing fee applies if purchased by phone (800) 328-1111  
Travel valid July 2-16, 2015

### **Airport Information**

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is just 20 miles from the Convention located at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

### **Amtrak Discounts**

Reservations cannot be booked via Internet  
Call 1 (800) 872-7245  
Discount Code: X12U-913  
10% discount off the best available rail fare to New Orleans, valid July 2-15, 2015.

### **Bulletin Board**

A bulletin board will be provided for posting messages, ticket swap forms, and District hospitality information. The bulletin board may only be used for information pertaining to the convention.

### **Credentials Hours**

Wednesday	2 - 6pm
Thursday	7:30am – 6pm
Friday	7:30 – 5pm
Saturday	7:45– 8:45am 12:15-1:15pm

Decrease the amount of time you stand in the registration and credential lines, pre-determine with your Club-Members who will be picking up credentials for the Club and verify with your Club Secretary-Treasurer prior to convention that the Club is paid in full. The Club listed on your badge is the Club for which you will be obtaining Credentials (if applicable).

### **District Chairs Designate Training**

The District Club Services, Leadership Development, Membership and New Club Building Chair Designate training will be held on Thursday, July 9 from 1–5pm. The focus of these sessions will be to provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful District Chair. Chairs will receive more information prior to the convention.

### **Dress Attire**

Business attire is appropriate for all sessions and meal events. Formal attire is appropriate, but not required for the Presidential Banquet on Saturday, July 11. The theme for the banquet is Western/Black Tie and Boots.  
Casual dress is the acceptable fashion for any other time.

### **House of Optimism**

Featuring exhibitors of fund-raising products, endorsed organizations, displays of Optimist International programs, Braggers Hall as well as an extensive array of logo items by our supply companies. All vendors are allowed to sell their products.

### **House of Optimism Hours**

Thursday	10am – 6pm
Friday	7:30am – 5pm
Saturday	8am – 2pm

### **Housing**

All Convention activities will take place at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. For additional information on the hotel, please call or visit the website listed below.

#### **Hilton New Orleans Riverside**

Phone Number: 800-445-8667  
504-584-3959

Group Name: Optimist International  
Group Code: OIA

Website:

<https://aws.passkey.com/event/11705694/owner/107/home>

Standard room rate is \$109 + taxes

*\*Be sure to mention you are attending the Optimist International Convention in New Orleans and reference group code OIA*

### **New Orleans Workshops**

Choose from many exciting workshops designed to expand your education. Topics will vary from Optimist specific to personal development. There is no pre-registration for these sessions; seating is "first-come, first-served". A schedule will be available in advance online at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) and onsite.



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## ***GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)***

### **Meal Events**

Tickets are collected at meal functions. Pre-paid tickets will be included in your registration packet. Additional tickets may be purchased at the On-site Registration Desk. Tickets are sold based on space availability. You must be registered to purchase tickets.

### **Old Timers' Breakfast**

Saturday, 7 – 8:30am

Entertainment provided. What better way to start your day than with a hearty breakfast and a lot of laughs. Breakfast served promptly at 7am.

### **Presidential Banquet and Ball**

Saturday, 6:45 – 11pm

Join President Ken Garner and First Lady Patsy Garner to celebrate the annual convention. Formal attire is optional for this event and business attire is required. At the conclusion of the banquet, those that have not purchased a ticket are welcome to join the group for the Ball. You will receive a coupon for each dinner ticket purchased. *The coupon(s) will be in your registration packet if purchased in advance. The coupon must be exchanged during the appropriate times as noted on the coupon. A reserved seating system will be used; tables of ten will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.*

### **Club Presidents-Elect and Lt. Governors-Elect Breakfast**

Friday, 7 – 8:15am

If you are a Club President-Elect or District Lt. Governor-Elect, you don't want to miss this breakfast with International President-Elect, Dave Bruns. Breakfast served promptly at 7am.

### **Appreciation Luncheon**

Friday, 12 – 1:45pm

The luncheon is held in honor of all the support Members and participants in Optimist activities. Entertainment is provided at this event.

### **Name Badges**

You will receive a name badge when you pick up your registration packet. Badges must be worn at all Optimist functions for admission.

### **Orientation for First-Timers**

Thursday, 10-11:30am

Is this your first time attending the Optimist International Convention? Plan to attend the First-Timers Orientation to orient yourself and learn your role as a delegate of the international convention.

### **Official Convention Program**

You will receive an Official Program when you pick up your packet. The program includes schedules, maps and details on the International Convention.

### **Refunds for Meal Tickets**

There are no refunds on meal tickets. A form will be available at the registration desk to sell or purchase meal tickets with other Members. Swaps forms can be posted on the bulletin board.

### **Registration/Meal Tickets Hours**

Wednesday	2 – 6pm
Thursday	7:30am – 6pm
Friday	7:30am – 5pm

### **Rental Car Discounts**

#### **Budget**

Discount Code (BCD): U160153

Call (877) 516-7275

#### **Enterprise**

Discount Code: GE1025 and PIN: OPT

Call (800) 261-7331

### **Responsibilities of a Delegate and Obtaining your Credentials**

After picking up your Convention Registration packet, proceed to the Credentials Desk to pick up your voting material. Accredited delegates have the privilege and honor of representing their Club at the International Convention. It is the responsibility of each accredited delegate to attend all business sessions; participate fully by listening and debating the issues within the framework of the convention rules and to vote on issues.

*IMPORTANT: Credentials will not be available for distribution during business sessions. In the event of loss, the Credentials Committee may issue duplicate credentials during the times specified.*

### **Special Requests**

If you require special needs or have a medical condition that requires a special dietary meal, please contact Janet Karez at:  
janet.karez@optimist.org  
or call (314) 371-6000 ext.221

### **Volunteers Needed**

- Registration assistance
- Appreciation Luncheon
- Host/Hostess
- Youth Chaperones

Contact Janet Karez at  
janet.karez@optimist.org or call (314) 371-6000 ext.221

### **Youth Activities Ages 5-18**

A fun-filled program with meals included for only \$145 per child with an optional Thursday tour for an additional \$20

#### **Thursday:**

1:30 – 5pm (\$20)

*Bowling at Fulton Alley (no meal provided)*

5 – 5:30pm

*Youth Information Meeting with Parents*

6 – 9pm

*Get Acquainted Party – On site dinner provided)*

#### **Friday:**

9am – 4pm

*Audubon Aquarium (lunch provided)*

#### **Saturday:**

9am – 4pm

*Audubon Zoo (lunch provided)*

6 – 9pm

*Youth Party – On Site (dinner provided)*

