



THE TORCH

SPRING 2018

joiCONNECT!

Is technology a good thing or not? Have you ever texted someone, and he or she interpreted it the wrong way? When you receive a message, how much thought do you put into your response? Have we become a generation of “instant gratification?” Your Junior Optimist International Board of Directors discussed these questions and arrived at this amazing program! **joiConnect!** is your way to go “old-school” with communicating with fellow Optimists around the world. It gives you the opportunity to write a letter, taking pause to think about the impact of your words and their meaning. Communicate “old-school” with a local Club, a Club in another state, or in another country. You may find by taking your time to think about your choice of words, your understanding and learning is enhanced. So share your experiences and help us make **joiConnect!** your favorite way to learn about each other. Remember that fellow Optimists are following your input so please keep an open mind, be polite, and always use respectful and appropriate language.





joiTALK!

It is your voice, your efforts, your ideas, and your world! Junior Optimist International and your Board of Directors are excited and proud to introduce **joiTALK**, a forum for Junior Optimists to meet, share, and debate issues that are important to you, the Junior Optimists of the World! Comment on **joiCON**, **joiNations!**, **joiConnect!**, **joiPROJECTS**, and **joiTHOUGHTS**. It is here where you will help mold the future of the Junior Optimist Program.

joiTALK is a secure forum for you and your fellow Junior Optimists. Each Member will “register,” be approved, then be able to post your thoughts and provide valuable input. Please choose a username that identifies you, and your Club or District. Check it out and make **joiTALK** your favorite forum for productive discussion. Visit junioroptimist.org and be an active part of our future!



Winter Princess Ball

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 8

Mater Dei and Eastlake Junior Optimists of the California South District teamed up to host their 3rd annual Winter Princess Ball. This event included cupcake decorating, crown making, and face painting for little girls and boys, along with providing snacks and desserts. Those who attended even got a chance to meet Belle, who sang and danced with the young princes and princesses. Throughout the night, there were auctions of donated baskets, and Disney Princess trivia quizzes for anyone to win a prize. We even had a few battles on the dance floor, as dads competed to win a prize for their little princess.

All proceeds from this event were donated to Johns Hopkins Childhood Cancer Research through the Optimist International Foundation. It was amazing to see the children so ecstatic and the parents' smiles as they watched their kids dancing the night away. Over 20 volunteers helped throughout the night, along with leader Past Junior Optimist International President O'Hara, dedicating their time and energy to make this event very successful. We hope to continue and expand this event many years into the future, and we encourage you to plan your own event to encourage the leadership needed to advance the well-being of your community.

submitted by **Hope Treziok of Eastlake Junior Optimist Club**






YMCA PEACE WALK Speakers and Leaders

Junior Optimist were the speakers at this annual candlelit YMCA Peace Walk. The theme this year was "Peace and Reconciliation" of our Indigenous people. A chief and an advocate were in attendance and they were so moved by their speeches they hugged and thanked them all. They then sought out their Junior Optimist Advisors and spoke to me about the prophecy of the youth. Since then we have met many times and in their history and prophecy, it is the youth of this, the 7th generation who will bring the healing. We are in the process of creating a Junior Optimist Club at Six Nations Reservation, and to have the Junior Optimist Clubs work together to learn and understand each other's cultures and traditions. Together I believe they can begin a process of healing for each other – we all have much to learn and benefit from each other. Junior Optimists also led the candlelit walk for peace at the event.

submitted by **Junior Optimist Club of Oakville**

YMCA
peace
week

YMCA Candlelight Walk for Peace

Special Guests
Chief Stacey Laforme
Junior Optimist Club
Optimist Club of Oakville



SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR JUNIOR OPTIMIST MEMBERS!

Did you know that Junior Optimist gives out \$6,000 in scholarships every year to their Members? Visit junioroptimist.org under Forms and Awards to check out the Ruby Blair, Member of Excellence and Outstanding Governor/Governor of Excellence qualifications. There is also a prestigious award given to an Advisor of Excellence each year!

Have you participated in an adult Optimist Club Oratorical, CCDHH or Essay contest? If so, Optimist International would like to hear about your experience! Please contact junioroptimist@optimist.org to submit your story and you might be featured in a future issue of *The Torch* or *The Optimist* magazine!

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 5-7, 2018

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA • SHAW CENTRE

PHOTO: Canadian Tulip Festival

Junior Optimist is launching a premier program:

joINATIONS!

at this year's Convention



Description: The “Junior Optimist International Nations! (joiNations! – JOIN!)” is crafted around the Model United Nations Student Program. The uniqueness of “joiNations!” is that it is focused specifically on those Members that are part of the Junior Optimist International program currently includes 15,000 +/- youth enrolled in primary and secondary educational levels, or Home-Schooled.

Purpose: The purpose of Junior Optimist International Nations (JOIN!) is to promote the pillars of Junior Optimist International by creating an event at the international convention that encourages global cooperation through public speaking opportunities. Based off a Model United Nations platform, each Club has one or multiple representatives (delegates, if you will) that present an issue effecting the entire international community that they believe is paramount and requires greater action. Once each problem has been introduced and there has been time for supporters and naysayers to speak, that problem will be voted on as to whether or not to add to the overall list. Once there have been five issues compiled, they will be voted on, where one problem will receive the most votes and will be the topic of interest for the upcoming year. Each Club will return to their communities not only with more mature speaking and persuasion abilities, but also with an issue to conduct a service project. This allows every Club to do what is in their economic capacity to achieve, but still impacts a global calamity that this organization deems most pertinent. It also adds to the “international” component to our international organization, especially as we continue to grow and develop to all corners of the world. This addition is important because many do not feel as though we are truly international past the honoring of the flags in the introduction of the general meeting. Overall, JOIN! presents Members with an opportunity to enhance their public speaking with a topic they feel passionately about, creates a scenario that forces critical thinking centered on global topics, and impacts an issue that has worldwide effects.

submitted by **Amanda Heinzmann JOI Board of Directors**



PHOTO: Canada Science and Technology Museum

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

JULY 5-7, 2018

Day 1 – Thursday, July 5, 2018

District/Patriotism Theme Day

Optional Service Project – A Shoreline Cleanup will be offered in the a.m. (exact time to be determined)

- 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Registration
- 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm Advisor/Chaperone Meeting
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Opening Session
- 9:00 pm – 9:30 pm Mandatory Candidate Meeting
- 10:00 pm Curfew

Day 2 – Friday, July 6, 2018

Twin/Triplet Theme Day

- 8:15 am – 9:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 11:00 am Sweet Life Road Show Conference Event
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch/Parliament Tours
- 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm The Greatest Project Ever – Open Discussion
- 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm Group Activity
- 4:00 pm – 4:15 pm Advisor/Chaperone Meeting
- 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm Meet and Greet Candidates

- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm joiNations!
- 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm Jumping with JOI – Talent Show
- 11:00 pm Curfew

Day 3 – Saturday, July 7, 2018

Celebrity Theme Day (No political figures)

- 8:15 am – 9:00 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am – 9:00 am Guest Speaker
- 9:00 am – 10:30 am Candidate Speeches/Forum
- 10:45 am – 11:30 am Faces of JOI – Open Discussion
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch
- 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm Elections
- 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm Workshops
- 2:30 pm – 3:15 pm Workshops
- 3:15 pm – 5:15 pm Free Time/Pool Party
- 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm President’s Reception
- 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm President’s Banquet & Dinner
**Best Dress Attire*
- 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm President’s Dance
- Midnight Curfew

Running for International Board?

Candidates wanting to run for International Office in Ottawa, Ontario, will need to follow the below qualification section in the Junior Optimist International Policy for Governance.

SECTION 3:

Qualifications: The President and Junior Optimist International Board of Directors shall be elected by the delegates at the annual convention. They shall take office October 1, following their election. No more than two candidates per District will be eligible to run for the International Junior Optimist Board of Directors. Those eligible for the office of Director shall be a member in good standing belonging to a Club in good standing, shall have served a term as Club president or a District officer and shall be the age of 14 by October 1. Those eligible for the office of President must have served as an International Director or District Governor, must be 16 by October 1, and meet the requirements for an International Director. In order to be listed on the ballot, potential candidates for the International JOI Board of Directors must submit an official application and a signed letter from their school principal or equivalent, for those applicants who are still in high school or its equivalent, to the International Office by June 1 prior to convention. Candidates from the floor will be allowed to run for the International JOI Board of Directors and International JOI President. If elected from the floor, the election for that office will be contingent upon the submission of a signed letter from their high school principal or equivalent if in high school, to the Optimist International Staff by September 1. Those nominated from the floor will receive the same privileges as pre-announced candidates, with the exception of their name being pre-printed on the ballot. Those eligible for the office of Director will be able to run for a second term with a maximum of one being elected to another term. Current Board members wishing to run for a second term must follow the same nomination procedures as pre-announced candidates and may not be nominated from the floor. If more than two current Board members run for election, a primary election will be held and the two highest vote receivers will be added to the ballot.

PHOTO: Library of Parliament





PHOTO: Saunders Farm Spiral Maze, Ottawa

Who May Propose Amendments and When?

Authenticated proposed amendments, which may be proposed only by Clubs that are in good standing at the time of submission and at the time the proposal is voted upon, or by the Junior Optimist International Board of Directors shall be presented in writing to the Junior Optimist International Board of Directors, at least 60 days prior to the date fixed for the opening day of the convention. The JOI Clubs Department shall make available a copy of all proposed amendments on the official Junior Optimist International website not later than 30 days prior to the starting date of convention.

Please go to junioroptimist.org and click on joiCON for up-to-date Convention information!

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Connect with Junior Optimist International!


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