

- b. Obey the Bylaws of Optimist International and your own Club.
- c. Be eager to take counsel from members and Committees, but also be ready to give it.
- d. Read the literature Optimist International sends you.
- e. Represent Club at District and Zone meetings.

5. Oath

“I hereby solemnly promise, on my honor as an Optimist, that I will carry out the duties of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my ability, in loyalty to my Club, and in harmony with the constitution and bylaws of my Club and Optimist International. So help me God.

On behalf of the authority vested in me by Optimist International, I am happy to declare you duly installed to your respective offices.”

New Member Induction

1. President schedules meeting for induction and advises the Club Secretary-Treasurer who notifies all participants and gathers necessary supplies. Participants should include: the new member(s), the President, the sponsor(s), the Secretary-Treasurer, and the membership Chair.
2. Sponsor(s) notifies new member(s) and reviews the procedure with the new members(s). Make sure each new member knows what to do, and when.
3. At the start of the ceremony the President introduces the new member(s).
4. Membership Chair introduces the sponsor(s).
5. Each sponsor introduces his/her new member. An introduction should include a brief (approx. 2 min.) biography.
6. The membership Chair then responds:

It is our pleasure to welcome a new member today. This marks a new beginning for _____. Your membership will provide you great opportunities to return service to our community. Enjoy and participate in the true fellowship of Optimism. Optimist activity has its tradition in citizen involvement. Our members benefit singularly from opportunities for leadership and personal development. We invite you to share your talents and resources by serving on Club Committees and working on projects. Sharing common interests and aspirations is one of the many satisfactions of membership. We ask you to support your Club and its objectives freely. Cherish your membership in this Club.

7. The President invites the new member to pledge loyalty to the Club with the following pledge:

I _____, do pledge to develop Optimism as a philosophy of life, promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs, inspire respect for law, promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people, and encourage development of youth, in the belief that giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well being of humankind, community life and the world.

8. The President affixes the lapel button to the new member's lapel and declares:

The members of this Club have authorized me to place this Optimist membership pin upon your lapel. Wear it always and with pride since it identifies you as a community leader and is a testimonial to your commitment to serve our community. By the authority vested in me by the Board of Directors, I declare you inducted into the _____ Optimist Club of _____. It is a pleasure to offer you my hand of fellowship in the spirit of Optimism.

9. The sponsor presents the new member with a New Member (Welcome) Kit, explaining that the kit contains much valuable information about Optimist International and the new Club.
10. The Secretary-Treasurer presents the new member a membership card and certificate.
11. The President invites all members to welcome the new member warmly with a round of applause as the President shakes hands with the new member.

At the end of the meeting, the new member and the sponsor should position themselves at the door to greet Club members.