

New Club Building Philosophy

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The Board of Directors of Optimist International has adopted an official "New Club Building Philosophy" and directed that every effort be made to share it with Optimists everywhere, especially those interested in the new club building program. Optimist leaders are encouraged to share this philosophy at new club building workshops and wherever it is deemed appropriate. The philosophy is as follows:

The primary goal of Optimist International in the area of growth is to build and develop clubs that contribute to the betterment of their communities and play a major role in the development of our youth.

Clubs should be built to attain maximum strength for the club as well as for Optimist International. Strong viable clubs are of paramount importance to Optimists everywhere.

A well-built and properly structured club, with complimenting leadership, gives strength to new members and seasoned Optimists alike. The ultimate goal is a club composed of members proud to share their time, talents and experiences.

Sponsors across the organization are encouraged to approach their goal expeditiously and with great enthusiasm. As a builder seeks out his objective, he should do so with a positive attitude, always keeping in mind that new clubs are built today to last.

Prospective charter members must be given an opportunity to really understand the full benefits of affiliation, as outlined in the New Club Building Handbook. New clubs should be officially organized only after the candidates for charter membership have a thorough familiarization with the objectives of the organization as well as the real purpose of their club.

Every club built should and must become an active, contributing force in this organization, and in its community. Each should be comprised of dedicated members who yearn for an opportunity to grow in and with Optimism, and in meaningful service to youth and community.

(Dec 1984; Dec 1996; Dec 2004)