July 8-10, 2018

See You Next Year!
MISSION STATEMENT
By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

VISION STATEMENT
Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the first volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; To inspire respect for the law; To promote patriotism and work for international agreement and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

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.

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On the Cover
Optimist International is ready for another successful Optimist year! For a full listing of International leaders, see pages 18-21.
As far back as he can remember, H. Nick Prillaman, Jr. had a dream of being a hero – of being a person who made a difference in the lives of others. He wanted to be faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, a seemingly impossible dream driven by the imagination of a young boy determined to make his mark on the world. Little did Nick know that some sixty years later, he would find himself standing in a pantheon of heroes. After all the dreaming, hoping and searching, he came to realize he was already a hero. He is one of the thousands of men and women who bring their passions, hearts and souls to their communities, workplaces, Clubs and projects every day in an effort to build a better world, be a force of positive change and make a difference in someone’s life. Better yet, not only was Nick a member of this mighty band of heroes, he had been chosen to lead them.
It has been said there are two kinds of heroes. Some heroes shine in the face of great adversity, or perform amazing feats in difficult situations. Then there are the heroes who live among us, who do their work unceremoniously, unnoticed by many of us, but who make a difference in the lives of others.

Each of us as Optimists exemplify this second kind of hero. We are driven by the knowledge we have an obligation to care for and serve youth, and the communities we live in and in doing this, we bring out the best in ourselves. We are united by a common goal of being a force of positive change! In each Optimist’s heart, there lives a hero, destined to make a difference in someone’s life.

IN THE BEGINNING

The eldest of four children, Nick was born in Baltimore, Maryland. At the age of two, Nick and his family moved back to his parent’s hometown, Bassett, Virginia, a small town located in the south central part of the state. From an early age, Nick learned the importance of hard work, being dependable, and being accountable and responsible for your actions, good or bad. Summers were spent running barefoot through the fields and pastures of his grandparents' small farm and learning to grow and nurture things – from planting tomato plants, raising chickens and harvesting the crops. Each day was filled with a new experience and adventure. It was a wonderful place to grow from a boy to a man.

As Nick grew older, he worked in the parts department of his father’s International Harvester dealership. Working alongside his dad, he was taught that you are in control of your life, and if you’re willing to work for it and make the sacrifices, you’ll be successful. He also learned the principles he lives by today – always do an honest day’s work, be brave, be a person of integrity, be a man of your word, be kind, and never ever give up. These gifts from his family guide every aspect of his life. Nick always loved designing and building things.

As a boy, he built model airplanes, treehouses and small storage buildings on his grandparents’ farm. In high school, he designed animated homecoming floats and stage sets. In 1965, he entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, “Virginia Tech,” to pursue an education as an architect. He was the first member of his family to attend college. Moving from a small town to a big university was a major turning point in Nick’s life. Six years later, he graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture and a Master’s Degree of Architecture in Urban Design. Nick said, “The great thing about studying architecture is that you are required to make presentations of your work to a faculty jury. This experience taught me very early how to formulate my ideas and present them in a concise, interesting, and factual manner.”

Nick worked for fifteen years with several large architectural and planning companies on large planning and transportation projects, such as the Washington, D.C. Metro and the Miami-Dade Transit Systems. In 1981, Nick left the architecture and planning world and formed Graphix, Inc., a design and marketing company. He has guided this company for the last 36 years. Graphix, Inc. specializes in corporate identity, annual reports, and marketing strategies for medium-size corporations.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Nick met his wife, Dottie, on a blind date while he was in graduate school. One of Nick’s roommates decided to have a birthday party for his girlfriend and insisted Nick have a date. His roommate’s girlfriend knew a girl she thought would be a perfect match for Nick. With much anxiety and trepidation, a telephone introduction was made and the date confirmed. The big day arrived and as Nick waited in the lobby of the freshmen’s dormitory at Radford College, his mind was full of questions – How did she look? Would they have anything in common? Would they even like each other? Having only spoken to her on the telephone for a few minutes, he had no idea what she was really like.
A number of other young men waited in the lobby along with Nick and his roommate. Soon the young ladies began coming down to meet their dates. Nick’s roommate’s girlfriend arrived and announced Dottie would be down in a few minutes. His anxiety built as he watched girl after girl enter the room and greet their dates. All of a sudden, a young woman entered the room – she was a real heart stopper. Nick, along with several of the other young men, remarked as to who the lucky guy was to have her as a date. The young woman walked past Nick. A moment later there was a tap on Nick’s shoulder. He turned around and his roommate’s girlfriend said, “Nick, I would like to introduce you to Dottie Jaloway.” He could not believe it – she was the girl he had just remarked about. It was truly love at first sight. All the anxiety went away and as they began to talk, he realized they had a lot in common. That evening, alone in his room, Nick got down on his knees and prayed to God, asking that if he was to be blessed with a wife someday, please let it be Dottie. Eight months later that prayer came true when she said yes. They have been best friends, partners, confidants, and lovers for 48 years, and yes, they like each other very much. Dottie is committed to following in the footsteps of a long list of outstanding First Ladies and doing her part in helping the 2017-18 team reach its goals and have a productive year.

THE RELUCTANT OPTIMIST

Nick became involved in Optimism due to the persistence of a man by the name of Harry Hackett. A long-time Member of the Smyrna Optimist Club in Atlanta, Georgia, Harry is the owner of a printing company Nick’s firm dealt with. He showed up on Nick’s doorstep one day and announced the Smyrna Club was forming a new Optimist Club in the area where Nick’s office was located. Harry told Nick he thought he would make an excellent Member and invited him to come to an informational meeting. Nick had no idea what an Optimist Club was, and with his new business venture underway, was not really interested. But as a favor to Harry, he promised to attend the meeting.

Unfortunately, on the day of the meeting Nick got busy and forgot about the meeting. The next day he received a call from Harry telling him how much he had been missed and asking him if he would be willing to come to the next meeting. Although Nick really had no interest in joining such a club, he had made a promise. Being a man of his word, he went to the next meeting planning to make his excuses about why he couldn’t join and be done with it. Nick arrived a few minutes late so the meeting had already begun. A gentleman was speaking about Optimism and the benefits of membership. He said Optimists were in the people-building business. As Members worked to build and shape the lives of young people, they were also building and shaping their own. He promised Nick and the other potential members, that if they would become Optimists and give just a little of their time, Optimist International would make them a better person. Nick became a Charter Member of the Cumberland-Vinings Optimist Club that day and in the thirty-two years he has been a Member of Optimist International, he can truthfully say it has never gone back on its word. All the Optimist experiences he has had over the years have truly provided him with the opportunity to become a better person.

Nick is now a Member of the North Perimeter Optimist Club. In his thirty-two years of Optimism, Nick has served as the President of an Honor Club, Governor of a Distinguished District, International Board Member, Vice President of the number one region, and has had the privilege of serving on numerous International Committees. During his years of service, Nick has enjoyed many defining moments that remind him of the importance of the work Optimist Clubs do and the impact they have on the children and communities they serve. One of the most memorable moments happened many years ago at a Christmas party for needy children. Each child received a toy and something he or she really needed, such as a
clothing item. One little boy received a pair of winter gloves. With the gloves in hand, he stood quietly by appearing to want to say something to someone. Nick asked him if he needed anything. The little boy looked up at him and asked, “Who gave me these gloves?” Nick answered Santa Claus. The little boy replied, “I know, but who really gave them to me?” Nick answered the Optimist Club and asked him why he wanted to know. The child replied, “So I can thank you for this wonderful present.” Many times, it’s those little happenings that have the biggest impact.

**OPTIMIST STRONG – BE THE DIFFERENCE!**

The theme for the 2017-18 year is, “Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!” Optimist International’s mission is to bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. To be a force of positive change and make a difference in the lives of others. We gain strength by working together, sharing new ideas and passions, and opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities of serving more youth and communities. The inspiration for the theme comes from two separate conversations Nick had with two wonderful Optimists, best friends and mentors. Not long ago each of these individuals had to come to grips with devastating health issues that drastically changed their lives. One, a runner, was robbed of his ability to run, by a degenerative muscle disease that may soon confine him to a wheelchair, and the other, a quick-witted, story-telling, motivational speaker lost his ability to remember and rationally organize his stories and thoughts. As their friend, Nick was at a loss of what to say to them or how to comfort them in the midst of such devastating circumstances.

Each of these individuals appeared to realize Nick’s dilemma and said to him in almost the same words, “Don’t worry, I’m Optimist Strong. I can still make a difference.” Their words stuck with Nick for days. How could two individuals faced with such terrible news be so positive and optimistic in their outlook? It was inspiring and heroic, and as a tribute to their courage and willingness to carry on, Nick decided to use their words for the 2017-18 theme, “Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!”

Optimism is not a plaque on the wall, a pin on your lapel, a metal around your neck, a watch on your wrist or a ring on your finger. It is not even the words of our sacred and beloved Optimist Creed. Optimism comes from within us – its comes from the human soul. This is what makes us Optimist Strong and gives us the power to make a difference. The more we use it, the more powerful we become!

**THE ACTION PLAN**

The goal of the 2017-18 team’s action plan is to create an environment of empowerment throughout Optimist International providing our leadership and each of our Members/volunteers a level of fulfillment that far exceeds any of our competition. Providing knowledge, inspiration, guidance and support will develop a strong organization from the top down, enabling Optimist International to continue to strengthen and sustain itself.

The 2017-18 plan will be focused on growth in membership and retention, leadership development, and the expansion of the Optimist International brand. These three areas of concentration are essential to the health and welfare of our Clubs and Optimist International. Clubs are the heart and soul of our organization. Optimist Members working within their Clubs are a force of positive change within their communities, are engaged in service to others, and are dedicated to bringing out the best in youth, their communities and themselves.

The primary goal for every Club is to achieve Honor Club status. This time-tested, Club health maintenance program has been in existence for almost 60 years – it represents what we do best as an Optimist Club. Clubs that achieve Honor Club status are healthy, active, strong, and have a greater impact on the communities they serve. Honor Clubs consistently serve more youth, produce strong, enthusiastic members and provide a richer, more rewarding experience for their members. Strong, enthusiastic members produce strong, enthusiastic leaders; strong, enthusiastic leaders produce the initiatives and strategies necessary to sustain and strengthen Optimist International. If Optimist International prospers, we all prosper. This is all possible because we are Optimist Strong!
Optimist Strong Conference: Putting the WOW in your Optimism!

Want to put some wow, zing, and pizzazz in your Club, Zone or District? Be sure to attend a First Quarter “Optimist Strong” Conference. Developed by your International Leadership Development Committee, these conferences are designed to assist you as a Club Member, Club leader or District leader begin the Optimist year with a strong start!

Take this opportunity to gather with fellow Optimists to share new ideas, learn leadership and team building techniques, and explore how to successfully attract and retain Members. Come and enjoy a high energy, engaged and fun training experience right in your own District!

Facilitated by experienced trainers and working with your District’s Governor and Leadership Development team, these conferences will challenge you to dream more, learn more, do more and be more!

Make an investment in yourself! Attend an Optimist Strong Conference and find out how to bring out the best in you! Contact your Lieutenant Governor for more information about your District’s Optimist Strong Conference. For general information, contact leadership@optimist.org.

Reel Optimism Winners

The 2017 Reel Optimism contest attracted a number of video submissions by adult Optimist Clubs, Junior Optimist Clubs and the general public. Based on the topic “Optimism,” the videos submitted illustrated a broad range of projects, Member testimonials, Club events, inspirational quotes and more.

Optimist Members, Junior Optimists and the general public voted for their favorite videos via an online-based contest hub. During the voting period, 13,440 votes were cast! Congratulations to the following category winners:

Optimists in Action – Adult winner: Harbour View Optimist Club
Optimists in Action – Youth winner: Bixby High School Junior Optimist Club
Make Optimism Go Viral – Adult winner: Galveston Noon Optimist Club
Make Optimism Go Viral – Youth winner: M4 Junior Optimist Club of Yuma
Optimism – Public winner: Sabrina Roualdes

Each of the Clubs received a $750 Club grant courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation. The winner of the Optimism – Public category donated her winnings to Work Play Love, an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of orphaned children in Guatemala.

Club grants are funded through the generous support of the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

To view the videos of the winning Clubs, in addition to all other Reel Optimism submissions, go to www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism. Stay tuned for information about the 2018 Reel Optimism video contest!
Optimists Accomplish P.G.I. Goals

The following Optimists submitted their requirements for achieving Levels VII and X of the Personal Growth & Involvement Program between June 1 and August 1:

**LEVEL VII**
- Jeffery Barnhart  AMS&NW
- Gwen Gable  GATE
- Daniel Grice  SC
- Dale Hoffert  MDSD
- Delia Matthews  AMS&NW
- Hailey Mills  NE
- Michele Sansenbach  GATE
- Linda Shepherd  NCE

**LEVEL X**
- Gwen Gable  GATE
- Daniel Grice  SC
- Dale Hoffert  MDSD
- Diana Morrison  CARH.
- Nick Prillaman Jr.  GATE
- C. Albert Still  GATE
- Russ Thomas  GATE
- Corinne Wastell  NE
- Marvin Wastell  NE

2017 Optimist Leadership Academy

Optimist International held its fifth annual Optimist Leadership Academy class at the International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The candidates selected were invited to attend a one-day training program to share their leadership knowledge and participate in an advanced leadership program. As a member of the Leadership Academy, individuals were recognized for their exceptional leadership skills and as future leaders of the Optimist International organization. A number of great leaders have participated in the Leadership Academy – both as candidates and trainers. Congratulations on the Optimist Leadership Academy Class of 2017, the largest class to date!

- Brent Card
- Ben DeRemer
- Beryle Lantz
- Curtis Huston
- Connie Wastell
- Connie Webb
- Carlene Hunter
- Calvin Hunter
- Dee Friel
- Dyhanara Rios
- Janette Lawrence
- Larry Brown
- Linda Shepherd
- Marguerite Fehseke
- Pauline Langelier
- Sandra Allen
- Aaron Gunnare
- Lynn Martin

The 2018 Optimist Leadership Academy will be offered in both English and French. Nominations can be submitted to leadership@optimist.org now until February 15, 2018.
The Second Annual Optimist International Oratorical World Championships was a huge success! Optimist International’s partnership with Saint Louis University resulted in a premier event for Optimist Oratorical participants from around the world. 30 contestants competed in person at the Saint Louis University Center for Global Citizenship, six contestants for the St. Lawrence Region competed in Montreal, and 11 other students from the United States, Canada, Jamaica, India, Russia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Haiti competed via virtual technology. The event began on Wednesday, June 14 with a meet and greet and contestants determining speaking orders. The Regional and World Championships competition took place Thursday, June 15 and Friday, June 16.

The next Optimist International Oratorical World Championships will be held summer 2018 with the topic: “Where are My Roots of Optimism?” District Chairs will set the deadline date for Optimist Clubs to complete their contests. The District deadline to submit the District winner information to Optimist International is May 15, 2018.

Congratulations to the Regional winners of the 2017 Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. Each Regional winner received a $5,000 scholarship. These students advanced to the World Championships contest to compete for the title of Optimist International Oratorical World Champion:

- Northeast & Great Lakes – Matthew Leon (New York-New England District)
- Southeast – Adia Wynter (Caribbean District)
- Mid-Atlantic – Jay Falk (Capital Virginia District)
- Middle America – Laura Kelly (Illinois District)
- Great Plains – Ye-Jean Park (Alberta Montana-Northern Wyoming District)
- Southwest – Abbie Upshaw (Kansas District)
- West Coast – Meena Venkataramanan (Arizona District)
- St. Lawrence – Olivier Brunet (Quebec Central)
- Global Region – Simran Shah (India)

Meena Venkataramanan, representing the Arizona District and the West Coast Region, is the second overall winner of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. As the World Champion, Meena has won $22,500 in scholarships for competing in the Optimist Oratorical Contests.

Meena will be attending Harvard University this fall and eventually, attend law school after obtaining her undergraduate degree. With a law degree, she hopes her career will allow her to give back to her community through public service and government. The contest empowered Meena to continue to pursue a career to serve others. During the contest at all levels, she learned persistence, resilience and the art of effective communication.

Meena expressed how honored and grateful she is for the Oratorical program and the number of kind, optimistic people she has met along the way. Congratulations to Meena and we wish her the best of luck with her future!
SUPPORT THE ORATORICAL PROGRAM

Help to make education affordable by donating to the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships! The Oratorical program is the longest running Optimist program and Optimists can be proud of the quality of young people competing in the contest - all speaking each year on the topic of Optimism. For more information about the contest, contact programs@optimist.org.

You can help fund the scholarships by contacting the Optimist International Foundation, the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation or donate directly to the contest at www.optimist.org/oratorical.

OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS
NEW TOPICS CREATE NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR YOUTH

If your Club is looking for an activity that allows Members to bring out the best in youth, look no further than the Optimist scholarship contests!

The Essay Contest, Oratorical and Communication for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) allow Members to work directly with youth, help them develop writing and speaking skills and pursue their dreams for the future.

Club scholarship contests are simple to run by using the program planning guides available on the Optimist website (www.optimist.org/scholarships) and the help of your District Contest Chair!

Here are the scholarship topics for the 2017-18 year:

Essay: “Can Society Function Without Respect?”

Oratorical and CCDHH: “Where are My Roots of Optimism?”

Start planning your Club’s contests today and make a lasting impact on the life of a child!
2017-2018 WEBINARS

The Leadership Development Committee will be hosting various webinars during the 2017-18 year. Continue to check upcoming Leadership Hotlines and communications from Optimist International for registration links to sign up for the webinars. For questions, contact leadership@optimist.org.

Oct. 3, 2017  Utilizing Skype
Oct. 17, 2017  NOW/Member Recruitment Events
Nov 7, 2017  How to Hold an Oratorical Contest
Nov. 29, 2017  Club Within a Club
Dec. 12, 2017  The Elevator Speech
Jan. 9, 2018  Just Ask
Feb 21, 2018  Catch a Rising Star
Apr 12, 2018  Parliamentary Procedure
May 15, 2018  Using the PGI and PDP Programs in Your Club
June 19, 2018  Finishing Strong

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PDP)

The Professional Development program gives Members the opportunity to build skills that will help them professionally and ultimately enhance their Club, District and Optimist International. Members participating enhance their marketing, project management, and communication talents. Our organization and Clubs want to bring in younger professionals and the Professional Development Program is one tool to help them do that.

A few examples of requirements for achieving Professional Development Program levels include:

- Write a brief description of a favorite Club project and submit it for either the Club newsletter or the Club website/Facebook page
- Create a project plan including a budget for a new community project and present it to the Club Board of Directors
- Recruit three new Members in a single Optimist Year
- Create and lead a team to build a New Club
- Help create and submit an entry for the Reel Optimism video contest.

For more information, contact leadership@optimist.org or visit www.optimist.org.
Membership development is a core part of Optimist International’s mandate as it seeks to bring out the best in youths, communities, and ourselves. Making Optimism a way of life has seen Optimists working with children globally, but particularly in Canada, the Caribbean and the USA since the early 20th century.

For almost 100 hundred years, tens of millions of children have benefited from the care, love, and compassion of hundreds of thousands of Optimists spread across the world serving up their special positive brand of charitable investment in the future. Numerous communities have been transformed through the many scholarship programs, childhood cancer research, and new initiatives in health and education conducted by volunteers who call themselves Optimists. No Optimist can truly say that serving children has not made him/her a better person emotionally or socially. In fact, for many Optimists, the personal development that comes from being an actively involved Optimist is so tremendously invaluable.

One platform designed to promote active participation of members is the Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) Program. In more recent times, the introduction of the Professional Development Program (PDP) has literally rebranded the PGI into more of a professional development platform. This is a deliberate acknowledgment of the incredible training and education opportunities that exist in our great movement. Webinars, workshops, and seminars abound in both the virtual and real worlds. There is even a leadership academy.

These initiatives and opportunities cover such critical areas in personal growth and development as leadership and management, project management, communication skills and techniques, marketing, public speaking, and general relationship building. After all, we as Optimists are in the business of relationship building. Improving the lives and wellbeing of our children and young people is about engaging beneficiaries, benefactors, and people who believe in spreading hope and Optimism and converting that into action! Making the world a better place starting with the transformation of our communities, is also about ensuring that as Optimists we become even better human beings while advancing the welfare of the whole human race.

Every Optimist should therefore be engaged in the Optimist International Personal Growth and Involvement and Professional Development programs. It guarantees involvement, ensures personal development, and sustains interest in the welfare of others and in self. Above all, it makes us better volunteers, driving us to greater impact on our future, and is one of the best ways to keep our Members and the movement of our organization on the path of growth. Embracing these programs and all the initiatives that allow membership growth and personal development as Optimists demonstrates our commitment to optimal performance – being the best!
CONGRATULATIONS

to the Centerville Noon Optimist Club for being named the 2015-16 Optimist Club of the Year!

Centerville Noon Optimist Club conducted many successful community service projects such as the Haunted Trail, a Club oratorical contest and essay contest, an Easter Egg Hunt, Tri-Star basketball and soccer, Fire Fighter EMT Recognition (Robert O’Toole Memorial), Respect for Law: Police and Sheriff Recognition (John Kalaman Memorial), Community Hero Recognition, Care Giver Award, Build a Bear Events for Childhood Cancer and Sickle Cell Children, numerous scholarships including Will Cale and Educational Assistance, and Terry Blair Memorial, Fishing Derby, Safety on Wheels, CCDHH, Kids Day in the Park, Nation Hunting and Fishing Day, and Care Giver Breakfast.

Fundraising events include Christmas Tree Lot, Avenue of Flags, and Tom Frasier Tee Off for Youth. The fundraising events allowed Centerville Noon to donate in excess of $100,000 to community events and programs for children in the community.

The Club’s leaders and Members attended Optimist International Leadership Summits, the Optimist International Convention in Quebec, and participated in the PGI program. The Club received the AFLAC National Duckprint Award for “making a significant difference in the lives of children. They were also nominated by Dayton Children’s Hospital for their commitment and work with the Hematology/Oncology department. The Club won the “Club Showcase” category of the 2016 Reel Optimism video contest and voted the best overall video at the Québec International Convention. The Club also was voted best presentation at “Braggers Hall” at the Québec International Convention.

The Centerville Noon Optimist Club sponsored the Sinclair Optimist Club during the 2015-16 Optimist year.

THE CENTERVILLE NOON OPTIMIST CLUB 2015-16 LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Myron Rheaume, President
Larry Lynde, President-Elect
Joseph Madden, Secretary

Gary Smiga, Treasurer
William Stone, Foundation Representative
Optimist Club of the Year

The Optimist Club of the Year award is presented annually to the most outstanding Club in each Region based upon the following criteria:

- Service projects sponsored by the Club
- Member Development Programs a year (i.e. PGI Program, Optimist International Conventions and Summit, etc.)
- Club Growth and Increased Community Awareness Campaigns (i.e. NOW Program, Marketing Campaign, etc.)
- Increased Volunteer Member Base
- New Community Efforts

Overall Optimist Club of the Year

The Overall Optimist Club of the Year is the highest achievement an Optimist Club can attain in the Optimist organization. The eight “Optimist Clubs of the Year” will be judged and ranked by multiple judges. The recipient of this prestigious award will be chosen regardless of number of Members, or Region and will be known as the “Best Overall Club” in Optimist International.

Community outreach and impact on children and Members from projects throughout the year will be considered as part of the judging, using the same criteria as Optimist Club of the Year.

The Club named the Overall Optimist Club of the Year will receive one round-trip airline ticket to the Optimist International Convention, a banner patch, an award and an article in The Optimist magazine and on the Optimist website.

For additional information about the Optimist International Club of the Year, visit www.optimist.org.
Beginning seven years ago, the Optimist Club of Menomonie, Wisconsin, began a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to re-establish an oak savannah at the nearby Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area. Each year since then, the Club, with help from our Menomonie Middle School Optimist Club and other friends, has continued that work.

To date we’ve planted just over 700 oak trees, cleared brush and stacked the brush piles, placed tree shelters on the earlier plantings, and begun a prairie seed collection effort to help the Department of Natural Resources at both Hoffman Hills and other sites.

Best of all, it has provided a chance to get our youth Clubs out for a joint work day twice a year with our adult Club. In addition to the Middle School Club, we occasionally have also had the help of the Menomonie High School Optimist Club, and the University of Wisconsin-Stout Optimist Club as well. As the accompanying photos attest, we are all having a good time while working to improve this beautiful recreation area.

Our partnership working on Hoffman Hills goes back over 30 years. Before the oak savannah project, our Menomonie Optimists also helped clear trails when the park was initially being developed, and we built a 60 foot tall observation tower with assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers and Navy Seabee battalion. Over the years we have also built a picnic shelter, and helped finance ski trail grooming equipment and trail maintenance equipment.

Optimist International Foundation helped expedite our work in 2011 with a grant to help pay for transportation and meals for our Menomonie Middle School Optimist Club during our initial tree planting effort. We invite Optimists from all over the country to stop to see this marvelous project in development – both the natural resources and the youth who are helping make it happen.
Background Checks
Ensuring the safety and security of your organization

We understand the importance of protecting your Optimist Club and the children you serve. IntelliCorp has partnered with Optimist International to ensure Optimist Clubs receive comprehensive and validated screening services at the lowest possible cost.

Optimist Background Check Package
The following cost-effective screening package has been created to simplify your background check process. The package uses a combination of multiple sources of criminal record information. In addition, we validate database records by returning to the source to ensure that we have the latest updates regarding your applicant’s history.

Package Pricing: $13.86
Includes:
- Validated Criminal Database
  - Validated Nationwide Sex Offender
  - Validated Department of Corrections
- Unlimited Single County Searches (7 year address history)*
- SSN Verification w/Address History
- Government Sanctions (Terrorist Search)

Notes:
*Some courts charge a mandatory fee. These are treated as pass-through fees to our clients and are clearly highlighted before processing the search.

Package Add-Ons
- Motor Vehicle Reports
- Employment Verifications
- Education Verifications
- Drug Testing
- Federal Criminal Searches
- Civil Searches
- I9/E-Verify
- Credit Reports

Program Benefits:
- Preferred pricing
- Criminal product validation
- Compliance information/online sample forms
- Personalized customer support
- System & product training sessions
- Secure online report ordering & retrieval

Please Note: Information and preferential pricing provided for U.S. Clubs only. Canadian Clubs should contact IntelliCorp for more information.

Contact:
Mike Terrell
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99TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ALBUQUERQUE
TOGETHER WE DID!

The International Convention attracted many Optimists this summer in Albuquerque!
The excitement began with attendees arriving early to take in the breathtaking sites of Albuquerque by participating in the optional tours.
The crowd continued to grow as folks arrived to attend the Vice Presidents-Elect and Governors-Elect Training on Tuesday and to register, visit the exhibit hall, and attend the TenderLove Community Center Fashion Show on Wednesday.
Optimists started early Thursday morning to attend workshops and training sessions, including an orientation session in the morning for the First Timers.
The House of Optimism exhibit hall was open Wednesday through Saturday. Members and the public were able to see a myriad of vendors and Optimist International Club project displays.
The Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening was one attendees would not soon forget after witnessing the fantastic performance by Native American Singer Shelley Morningsong accompanied by her husband as he performed Native American Dances. The Albuquerque Boy Scout Troop 1 served as flag bearers for the parade of flags, then everyone remained standing as the Albuquerque Boy Choir performed the United States national anthem! The ceremonies continued with introductions of the organization’s current and past leaders and inspiring words from the 2016-17 Optimist International President Jim Kondrasuk and Junior Optimist President Madison O’Hara Wickham.
On Friday, 2017-2018 International President, Nick Prillaman kicked off the day with a special breakfast for Club Presidents-Elect and Lieutenant Governors-Elect followed by a morning business session. The First Business session was rewarding and informative as awards were presented and keynote speaker Jean Nadeau took the stage giving advice on how we can and should re-think our personal and professional growth! Immediately after the First Business Session, participants headed to enjoy the performance of the local area marimbas and mariachi groups at the Amazing Albuquerque Appreciation Luncheon! The evening was full of fellowship and fun at District dinners and the gathering on Civic Plaza for a taste of the local culture including dancers, food trucks and even some chalk art fun with the Optimist International Foundation’s President Don Crall.
Before the business session resumed on Saturday, the day started with a relaxing meal and performance by Cowboy Singer, Earl Gleason at the Old Timers Breakfast! The afternoon closing session covered the bylaws report and voting and included inspirational messages from our current and incoming International Presidents Jim Kondrasuk and Nick Prillaman. The finale was the President’s Banquet and Ball where many danced the night away to music played by local DJ extraordinaire Brad King!
What a great way to spend a few days away from home – experiencing another part of the world, having fun, learning and sharing ideas with almost 1,000 other Members of our Optimist Family – a true Optimist Experience where TOGETHER WE DID have a good time! A huge thank you to everyone that attended with an extra special shout out to Jim White and his Host Area Committee for all they did to organize such a great and successful Convention!
See you next year in Ottawa!
2017 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the 2017 champions of the Optimist Junior Golf Championship! The three-phase tournament at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida began July 20 and ended August 4. With a strong field of golfers featuring players from 42 states, six Canadian provinces and 25 total nations, the level of play was impressive on the courses.

BOYS 16-18
Adrien Pendaries (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France) 70-72-71-70 – 283
Lorenzo Elbert, Jr. (East Point, Georgia) 75-72-69-68 – 284
Agustin Errazuriz (North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina) 73-71-67-75 – 286

GIRLS 15-18
Latanna Stone (Riverview, Florida) 71-70-72-73 – 286
Catherine Caudill (Clarksville, Tennessee) 73-71-75-71 – 290
Viviana Prette Reyes (Luque, Paraguay) 73-78-72-71 – 294

BOYS 14-15
Drue Nicholas (Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey) 72-70-72 – 214*
Symon Balbin (Pinehurst, North Carolina) 70-75-69 – 214
Diego Prone (Buenos Aires, Argentina) 71-71-73 – 215

HOLE IN ONE – Congratulations to Walker Franklin (Broomfield, Colorado) for acing hole #13 on the Fazio Course on July 26!

GIRLS 13-14
Alejandra Ferrer (Queretaro, Mexico) 78-70-68 – 216
Giovanna Fernandez Lopez (Luque, Paraguay) 72-75-73 – 220
Katherine Schuster (Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina) 70-76-76 – 222
Madison Spiess (New Albany, Ohio) 77-75-70 – 222
BOYS 12-13
Gaven Lane (Argyle, Texas) 72-70-66 – 208
Zachary Ong (Scarsdale, New York) 72-72-65 – 209
Walker Jennings (Greenville, South Carolina) 74-71-68 – 213

GIRLS 10-12
Xiaowen Yin (Tianjin, China) 66-72-72 – 210*
Thanchanok Iadpluem (Thailand) 70-68-72 – 210
Josefina Rendo (Necochea, Argentina) 72-70-74 – 216

* Indicates Sudden Death Playoff

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, parents and participants for making the annual event a tremendous success!

Thank you to the following sponsors:
• Srixon (Official Golf Ball)
• PGA National Resort and Spa
• Palm Beach County Sports Commission
• Arnold Palmer Golf Management
• SEI Communications
• Prize Possessions
• Under Armour

PAST PARTICIPANT/PARENT TESTIMONIAL

“My first exposure to the Optimist organization was in 1980 when I played my first event in the 11-12 age division at Mission Bay in San Diego, California when I was 12 and I finished 6th. I also was a low qualifier in Colorado in 1984 in order to participate in the event at Torrey Pines, also in San Diego. Both amazing, life-changing experiences that helped shape my future in golf. In addition, making friends that I still have today! I ended up receiving a full ride to the University of New Mexico and played professional golf until I went into the LPGA Teaching & Club Professional division in 1997 and became a Class A in 2000. In 2001, I became the teacher of the world famous Dr. Deepak Chopra, author of over 80 books, who ended up writing a book about my teachings called Golf for Enlightenment. However, since my two children were born in 2002 and 2006, teaching golf to children become paramount to me. In 2014, I became a U.S. Kids Golf Master Kids Teacher, which is a Top 50 worldwide designation meaning I was recognized three years straight as a Top 50 Teacher. Both of my children are following in my golf footsteps. Bella had her first hole in one this last January at age 10 and Mikey is so excited for his first Optimist opportunity at PGA National where I once played!”
– Wendy Werley Bullock
Woodlawn/Gwynn Oak Junior Optimist Clubs
Prepare Meals at the Believe in Tomorrow House

Submitted by: Joan Keenan-Livezey, Advisor for Woodlawn/Gwynn Oak Junior Optimist Clubs, Maryland - South Delaware District

The Woodlawn/Gwynn Oak Junior Optimist Clubs visit the Believe in Tomorrow House six times a year to volunteer their time and service. The concept of the Believe in Tomorrow House is to keep families together during a child’s medical crisis. It is a place where housing is provided for critically ill children and their families. Members of the community provide meals for the families to ease the responsibility of the families of having to prepare meals after spending the day in the hospital visiting their children.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Members from the United States, Canada and the Caribbean celebrated the 25th Annual Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico from July 3-5, 2017! The attendees participated in many team-building projects, group activities, the 4th of July fireworks show and finished with the President’s Banquet with the theme “A Day at the Races.” The Junior Optimist International Board also participated in the Optimist International Foundation’s Sidewalk Chalk event. Thank you to all the attendees, volunteers, and Advisors for making the 2017 Junior Optimist Convention a successful, unforgettable event!
STRIVE TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL ADVISOR

Optimists serve young people throughout the continent. We create many exceptional programs to serve the youth in our community. Yet, we have over 15,000 of the world's best youth working alongside us, our Junior Optimists.

This year, Optimist Clubs are making a concentrated effort to support our Junior Optimists. Here are some things you can do:

- Create special recognition programs for your Junior Optimists
- Bring Junior Optimist leaders to your Optimist meetings to thank them
- Allow your Junior Optimist leaders to speak to your Optimist Club
- Create outstanding publicity for your Junior Optimists in local newspapers and other media
- Have motivated Members speak to your Junior Optimist Clubs
- Budget money from your adult Club to support your Junior Optimist Clubs
- Bring your Junior Optimists to your District Convention
- The ultimate: Find a way to bring your Junior Optimists to the Junior Optimist International Convention

Please let us know what special things you do to support our youth. Send your ideas to: youthclubs@optimist.org.

Our young people are special. We hope you will do something to support, honor and nurture them this year. Junior Optimists may be the future of Optimist International.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST GROWTH

Since October 1, 2016, 49 new Junior Optimist Clubs and 900 Members have joined the organization.

Congratulations to Junior Optimist International and the Optimist Clubs sponsoring the new Clubs and Members!

For more information about Junior Optimist International or if you have questions about starting a Junior Optimist Club, contact youthclubs@optimist.org.
Optimist International Foundation President Sandy Williams, along with the rest of the Optimist International Foundation Board, is helping spread the mission of Optimist International President Nick Prillaman’s theme of “Optimist Strong – Be The Difference” through this year’s Optimist International Foundation theme of “Reaching New Heights Together.”

2017-18 plans to be an exciting and successful year for the Optimist International/Optimist International Foundation partnership. We hope each Optimist will support the Foundation individually through our basic fundraising efforts such as Dime-A-Day, Presidents Club, The Women’s Philanthropy Council and many more! That support is the cornerstone of Optimist International Foundation’s efforts to fund the wide range of programs and services offered by Optimist International.

Likewise, Clubs can be involved in many ways with the Foundation. Donations such as the $365 or $1 a day effort are greatly appreciated. The Foundation is also here to assist Clubs through programs such as the Club Campaign Fund, Childhood Cancer Matching Grant Program, and the Club Grant program and others.

If you have questions about any Foundation program or incentive, please contact the Foundation office at (800) 500-8130 or visit our website at www.oifoundation.org.

Optimist International Foundation Announces Board Opening

The Optimist International Foundation is seeking nominations for an upcoming opening on the Foundation Board of Directors. The four-year term for the Board Member will begin October 1, 2018. Nominations will be accepted until December 31, 2017. Contact Craig Boring at craig.boring@optimist.org for more information.

The open Board position is for a Member at large. Members interested in nominating themselves or others may visit the Foundation website to submit an application. Please review the candidate qualifications before submitting a nomination.

For more information, call (800) 500-8130 or visit www.oifoundation.org.
Let’s Build Bridges…

Towards the 100th Optimist International Convention

Legend has it that if the sun shines on both shores of a body of water, it is possible to cross it like a bridge. This phenomenon is known as a “golden bridge” and the lower St. Lawrence is reputed to have the best golden bridges. St. Lawrence is also the home of 2017-18 Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation President Raymonde Michaud. The Foundation was thus inspired by this marine setting and is starting this Optimist New Year with the theme, “With the Foundation, Let’s Build Bridges.”

We want to build bridges with our Members, participants and leaders – to be proud of their additional contribution to this wonderful Optimism cause. We want to build bridges for the beneficiaries – whether they be scholarship winners or young people through the Outsourcing and Spread Relief program. We want everyone involved to add to the building of this bridge.

To achieve this, we are building you a golden bridge! This is an interesting proposal which could lead you, should you participate, to the 100th Optimist International Convention held in Ottawa July 2018.

Optimist Members: be proud to make a donation to your Foundation. To all the Dime a Day and other donors who have contributed before December 31, 2017, we will draw 10 basic registrations to the Ottawa International Convention.

Be proud that at least 10% of the Members of your Club are Dime a Day donors and that your Club gave at least $100. Each Club where 10% of Members have all given a minimum of 10 cents a day will receive a ticket for a drawing for a basic registration to the Ottawa International Convention. In addition, each Club which has contributed a minimum of $100 will receive a ticket for another basic registration. The Club which has reached these two goals and whose total donations reaches $1,000 by March 31, 2018 will automatically receive a reimbursement of one basic registration to the Ottawa International Convention.

Be proud that 10% of your District Members make a donation to your Foundation and the total of those donations increase by 10% over 2017-18. We will refund a basic registration at the Ottawa International Convention and 3 free hotel nights to the District Foundation Representative who meets this goal by June 30, 2018.

Be proud to use this golden bridge that is offered to you. Be proud to shine Optimism all around and to contribute to building a bridge, maybe a golden bridge, towards the 100,000 Members for the 100th Optimist International Convention.

With the Foundation, together, let’s build bridges… towards tomorrow!
Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation Board

Raymonde Michaud
President

Vince Parker
President-Elect

Nina Strickland
Immediate Past President

Yves Berthiaume
Past International President
2004-2005
CCOF Past President 2015-2016

Rod McKendrick
Director
### Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>646</td>
<td>Donald G. Pfeiffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>647</td>
<td>John E. Griffith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>648</td>
<td>Lytle Allen (in memory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>649</td>
<td>John Plank (in memory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>Diane Ouellette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>651</td>
<td>Michel Geoffroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>652</td>
<td>Raymonde Michaud</td>
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### Top Ten as of May 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Average Contribution Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Ted Gaffin</td>
<td>$21.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama-Mississippi</td>
<td>Debra Merritt</td>
<td>$14.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Missouri</td>
<td>Sallie Westenbarger</td>
<td>$13.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Doug Griffin</td>
<td>$13.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico-West Texas</td>
<td>Suzann Owings</td>
<td>$13.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado-Wyoming</td>
<td>Joe Priester</td>
<td>$12.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>California South</td>
<td>Angie Hawkins</td>
<td>$11.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Texas</td>
<td>John Blackwell</td>
<td>$10.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Central</td>
<td>Joan Estepa</td>
<td>$10.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital-Virginia</td>
<td>JoAnna Tremper</td>
<td>$10.61</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Total Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Missouri</td>
<td>Sallie Westenbarger</td>
<td>$22,730.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Don Pfeiffer</td>
<td>$21,891.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>David Fries</td>
<td>$19,529.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado-Wyoming</td>
<td>Joe Priester</td>
<td>$19,364.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Texas</td>
<td>John Blackwell</td>
<td>$16,576.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama-Mississippi</td>
<td>Debra Merritt</td>
<td>$15,400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Ted Gaffin</td>
<td>$15,133.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina West</td>
<td>Bill Teague</td>
<td>$14,472.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana South</td>
<td>Kathy Underwood</td>
<td>$13,194.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina East</td>
<td>Bill Edgerton</td>
<td>$11,074.35</td>
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</table>

### Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Average Contribution Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan &amp; Northern Wyoming</td>
<td>Douglas Kirby</td>
<td>$27.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Northwest</td>
<td>Peter Smith</td>
<td>$16.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota</td>
<td>Wes Shewchuk</td>
<td>$15.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Total Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan &amp; Northern Wyoming</td>
<td>Douglas Kirby</td>
<td>$29,380.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern Ontario</td>
<td>Edward Stevens</td>
<td>$22,324.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Ontario</td>
<td>Susan &amp; Jim Lynge</td>
<td>$19,155.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from April 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of The Optimist.

**DIAMOND BENEFACtor - $75,000**
EAST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Ashland, MO

**SILVER BENEFACtor - $25,000**
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Komoka-Kilworth, ON

**BRONZE BENEFACtor - $15,000**
ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Optimist Club of Regina-High Noon, SK

**EMINENT BENEFACtor - $10,000**
KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA
Optimist Club of Radcliff, KY
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Alvinston Dists-Alvinston, ON
Optimist Club of Wallacetown, ON

**HONORED BENEFACtor - $2,500**
ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Kathleen Branter
ILLINOIS
Paul H. Hellrich
Connie Pellock
IOWA
Susan P. Helmers
Optimist Club of Dubuque-Morning, IA
LOUISIANA
Optimist Club of Lake Charles-South, LA
PACIFIC CENTRAL
Lloyd E. Reber
QUEBEC CENTER
Daniel Frappier
QUEBEC EAST – NORTH SHORE
Isabelle Couture

**BENEFACtor - $1,000**
EASTERN ONTARIO
Tammy Nolan
GATEWAY
Optimist Club of Gilmer County, GA
IOWA
Kathy L. Cox
LOUISIANA
Optimist Club of Jennings, LA
MICHIGAN
Judy Listenberger
PACIFIC CENTRAL
Joan D. Estepa
Optimist Club of Citrus Heights, CA
QUEBEC EAST & ACADIE
Adrien Tremblay
QUEBEC EAST – NORTH SHORE
Club Optimiste de Laterrière, QC
Marc Richard
Optimist Club of Yamachiche, QC

**DISTINGUISHED BENEFACtor - $5,000**
CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
Chester and Barbara Grizzard
EAST MISSOURI
Pat Abernathy

For more information about the Foundations, see pages 26-29.
A team of little animals and a team of big animals decided to play football. During the first half of the game, the big animals were winning. However, during the second half, a centipede scored so many touchdowns that the little animals won the game.

When the game was over, the chipmunk asked the centipede, “Where were you during the first half?”

He replied, “Putting on my shoes!”

A little boy was so excited because his mom told him he was getting a baby brother. He repeated to his teacher every day, when he came to school, “I’m getting a brother.” One day his mom allowed him to feel the baby’s kicks in her belly. The next day he came to school and didn’t say anything to his teacher, so the teacher asked him what happened to his brother.

He replied, “I think my mom ate him.”

A duck, a skunk and a deer went out for dinner at a restaurant one night. When it came time to pay, the skunk did not have a scent, the deer did not have a buck so they put the meal on the duck’s bill.
A BRAND NEW BRAND OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

The logo you knew is all new. Optimist International has rebranded all the way to the Club level. New logos available at www.optimist.org.

Contact marketing@optimist.org for questions.
FOLLOW US

on Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn and tag all your posts with #Optimist

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OPTIMIST.ORG
Visit the Optimist International website for Member news, events, programs and more.