

Summer 2018

The OPTIMIST

**Optimist Club of Naples –
Top Club in Membership Growth**



Sébastien Sasseville

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Monday, July 9 – First Business Session

“Leaders create a mission that is more important than individual success.”



“When we try to adapt ourselves to change, it means we are already trailing and letting others dictate the rules of the game. From Mount Everest to the Sahara Desert, what I have learned about cutting edge technology in changing environments is that organizational change is not about action but about culture. We must not be reactive to change but rather be the creators of change and use it to reach victory. We must become agile to maintain our top peak performance when the field and the environment change.”

Join Sébastien Sasseville in Ottawa at the First Business Session on Monday, July 9.
To learn more about Sébastien Sasseville, visit sebinspire.com/en/



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.

The Optimist (ISSN 1085-5017) (CPN 40032242) (USPS 808-320) is published quarterly in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer by Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, a non-profit and incorporated association of Optimist Clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Europe. Periodicals posted at St. Louis, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$4.50 per year for Club Members, \$5.00 per year for nonmembers. No responsibility is assumed for the opinions expressed by authors of articles or claims by advertisers.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Optimist, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. © Copyright 2018.



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The Optimist

The Official Publication of Optimist International

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On the Cover Optimist Club of Naples, Florida is at the top of the list for membership growth this year. To learn more about the Club, see page 10.



FINISHING THE RACE!

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2017-18
President H. Nick Prillaman, Jr.



When the 2017-2018 Team began this Optimist year, our goal was to end the year with a positive net growth in membership and to build a minimum of 100 clubs. In order to accomplish this, we knew we must clearly stay focused on our objectives and goals. Finishing our race to be positive in net growth would take discipline and the commitment to what we were attempting to do – not win a watch or ring, but to serve more children, and strengthen the core of Optimist International, the local Optimist Club.

I know many of you are getting tired, you have been working hard all year. Some of you may be frustrated because things have not gone as you had planned. But from the beginning, we knew it was not going to be easy. We have to keep focused on what our mission is and the reason we began this journey in the first place – to serve our youth, to make a difference, to be a force of positive change, to improve our lives and to show the world that the best is yet to come.

I have heard it said, winning is an event, being a winner is a spirit. Winners always keep winning in perspective based upon their core values. In most races, all the participants compete, but only one wins and gets the prize. In our race, everyone wins – the children we serve win, the communities we live and work in win, and we win with the personal growth and self-satisfaction we receive. The essential thing is not winning the prize, but the character of those who run the race. The great hope for Optimist International is the individual character of its members and leadership. Do you have the character, and are you tough enough to stay in the race?

Robin Sharma said, “Starting strong is good. Finishing strong is epic!” It is not enough to have started the

race, we have to finish it. Each of us must keep our eyes focused on proving we have the ability to grow our membership...a new growth that will give our organization new energy, excitement and power.

Our membership did not elect us to start the race; they elected us to finish it with success. When the clock strikes midnight on September 30th, the members we lead and the children we serve will not care about how many miles we have traveled or the challenges we faced. All they will care about is we finished what we started. At our journey’s end, the true measure of our leadership and commitment will be judged and rewarded by a job well done. We must remember it is not how you started the race or where you were during the race, it is how you crossed the finish line that will matter. B. C. Forbes said, “How you start is important, but it is how you finish that counts. In the race for success, speed is less important than stamina. The sticker outlasts the sprinter.”

We are moving into the last quarter of our race to be Optimist Strong and be the difference. We cannot give up now; we must battle it out to the finish. Let us hold the line on deletions by replacing those members we lose, let us build more new clubs and clubs within a club, let us do more NOW events and invite more people to become a member of the greatest organization in the world. It is not going to be easy, but nothing truly worthwhile ever really is.

And remember, the finish line for us is just the beginning of a whole new race. The 2018-2019 team has already joined with us in preparation for their leg of the race. Let us work together to show ourselves and the rest of the volunteer world that it is possible for us to grow and sustain that growth as we go forward into the future. That we can achieve what we believed. We have made it this far, let us not give up now. Let us make history and do what we set out to do. Let us finish the race to positive growth. I ask each of you – Club Member, Club leader, District leader, International leader – to think about your original goals. Are you on course to meet them? What adjustments will you need to achieve that goal and have a strong finish. Think strong, be strong, finish strong!

Be Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!

TOP 10 GROWTH CLUBS

Congratulations to the top ten growth Clubs
to date for the 2017-18 Optimist year.

Thank you for recruiting more Optimists to positively impact
more youth and communities.

Naples, Florida

Garden Grove-Orange Coast, California

Roseville Area, Minnesota

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire,
Wisconsin

York Castle, Jamaica

Centerville-Noon, Ohio

Bettendorf, Iowa

Old Harbour, Jamaica

Media-Rose Tree, Pennsylvania

Truckee, California

In order to recruit AND retain new Members, it is beneficial
to help the new Member gain:

- A feeling of belonging and fellowship
- Awareness of Club activities
- A sense of responsibility to participate in activities, events and meetings
- A positive attitude of service to community and youth
- Understanding of Optimism as an organization and philosophy of life

For help with Club growth through recruitment and retention, view resources at
www.optimist.org or contact the Membership Department at membership@optimist.org

NEWS &

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 March 1 and June 1:

LEVEL VII

Elaine Creary	CAR
Marcia Forrester	CAR
Normand Niquette	QUSUD
Monica Robinson	CAR
Jon Ryan	AL-MS

LEVEL X

Cynthia Hobson	TA
Timothy Johnson	TA
Dattel Minott	CAR
Elaine Poole	AL-MS

For more information about Professional Development Programs offered, visit www.optimist.org

Reel OPTIMISM — VIDEO CONTEST —

WINNERS AWARDED AT CONVENTION

The 2018 Reel Optimism video contest received outstanding entries from adult Clubs, and Junior Optimist Clubs. The 2018 contest topic was “Living the Creed.” Optimist Members and the general public were able to view, share and vote for their favorite video from May 11-31.

The winning videos will be shown during the upcoming International Convention in Ottawa. Members representing the winning Clubs will be invited on stage to receive their \$1,500 Club grants, courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation.

To view the videos of all of the finalists, visit Optimist.org/ReelOptimism or search the hashtag **#ReelOptimism** on Facebook or Twitter. Thank you to all Optimists who participated!

VIEWS

OPTIMISTS IN ACTION

During the month of May, Optimist Clubs spread Optimism by conducting any program or special event that meet the needs of their community. **THANK YOU** to all Optimist Members and Clubs for participating in Optimists in Action month! Send in your Club's project details and photos to Optimist International

to be featured in a future issue of *The Optimist* magazine! Stories can be sent via e-mail to magazine@optimist.org or a hard copy to: Optimist International, Attn: *The Optimist* Editor, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

Mark your calendars for May 2019 for Optimists in Action month!



NEW CLUB BUILDING TRAIN: FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Increased growth efforts in numerous Districts are paying off with the organization of 65 new Clubs throughout Optimist International. President Nick Prillaman informed the current Governors before their year began that their objective was growth and many have taken the statement to heart! A number of Districts are leading the way in new Club development:

Michigan	Governor Theresa Jarrett	7 new Clubs
Ohio	Governor Thomas Kendo	6 new Clubs
Caribbean	Governor Calvin Hunter	5 new Clubs
Southwest Ontario	Governor Mary Lou Abrams	4 new Clubs
Capital-Virginia	Governor Donna Akers	3 new Clubs
California South	Governor Lynn Riter-Woodhead	2 new Clubs
Central Ontario	Governor Anthony Edge	2 new Clubs
East Missouri	Governor Chuck Schuder	2 new Clubs
GATEway	Governor Mary Still	2 new Clubs
Indiana South	Governor Mark Wilson	2 new Clubs
North Carolina West	Governor Daniel Mallard	2 new Clubs
Pacific Southwest	Governor Melissa Cohen	2 new Clubs
South Carolina	Governor Virginia Ricker	2 new Clubs
	Governor Daniel Grice	2 new Clubs
Southern Wisconsin	Governor Gary Engleke	2 new Clubs

Many Governors have already accepted a request from President Prillaman to develop at least one new Club during the last three months of this year in order to "Finish Strong." Onward to 100 new Clubs for the 2017-18 Optimist year!

TOP 10 Ways to Market YOUR CLUB

Marketing is essential for Clubs to attract new Members, establish a strong basis in the community and effectively “**Bring Out the Best**” through Optimist programs. According to the American Marketing Association, marketing is “the activity, set of institutions, and processes for creating, communicating, delivering, and exchanging offerings that have value for customers, clients, partners and society at large.”

It sounds complicated, but the secret is that marketing can be simple. As Optimists, you are the best source of marketing for your Club. You understand the value of being a Member and working with the children in your community. Now it is up to you to share that value with others, so your Club can grow, attain new Members and help more kids.

Use the following list to get every Member excited about marketing and share the value associated with being a part of their Club. **The best time to start marketing is now!**

#1

YOU AND YOUR STORY

There is no better way to tell people about the organization than to explain why you are an Optimist or why you are a Member of an Optimist Club. The personal approach should always be number one as it is often the most effective.

#2

WEBSITES

Every Club should have a website. Whether you are talking to someone in person or electronically sending information, its easy to say, “Check out our website at www.youoptimistclub.org.” Please make sure Optimist International knows about your Club’s website if you already have one.



#3

SOCIAL MEDIA

Utilize resources like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. These are some of the best ways to connect with the 35-and-under crowd. The best part is they are all free. Visit the marketing section of the Optimist website for guides on how to utilize social media.



#4

OPTIMIST MARKETING KIT

The kit is full of useful information about how to market your Club and resources to help. It is free and available on the Optimist website: www.optimist.org.



#5

TRADITIONAL MEDIA

Do not discount the effectiveness of radio, television and newspapers in today’s technology-based society. Send press releases and photos to local media outlets. And then give them a follow up call to answer any questions.

#6

PUBLIC EVENTS

Make sure your Club is part of the community. Members should attend farmer's markets, state and county fairs, leadership classes and other local events. Potential Members should know that Optimists value their community.



#7

PERSONAL STORIES

This can be incorporated into # 1, but think outside the box. Try filming 30-second video clips of Members telling why they are Optimists and posting them on the Club website and Facebook page.



#8

MEET THE OPTIMISTS

A Club could set up an informational table at a restaurant or grocery store. Invite people to ask questions and learn more about Optimism. The forum could be used as a way of inviting prospective Members to learn more about your Club without running a NOW meeting. Again, having Club brochures or information on hand is helpful.

#9

PARTNER WITH ANOTHER COMMUNITY GROUP

Consider working with another community-based group in a mutually beneficial relationship. Run a joint project so each group effectively markets the other.



#10

CLUB CLOTHING

Wear your Optimist pride on your sleeve...literally. It is an easy way to promote your Club, but it makes a strong statement. Members can wear t-shirts promoting the Club during your next project and then showcase their Optimism on any given day.



BONUS!

Sponsor a Local Sports Team

Just imagine a team of little league players all wearing jerseys with your Club name and the Optimist logo. The team gets funding and your Club gets to showcase how they serve youth.





THE SAGA OF CHARLES DINWIDDIE – OPTIMIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

Submitted by: Charles Pease, Boulder Optimist Evening Club, Colorado-Wyoming District



Long, long ago in an Optimist Club far, far away from St. Louis, a young man, only 26 years old, decided to join the Boulder Optimist Evening Club. Yes, on June 3, 1958, some 60 years ago, Charles “Charlie” Dinwiddie presented himself for membership. Since that time, Charlie has accomplished just about everything possible as a valued Member of his Club.

Here are just SOME of those accomplishments:

- Various committee chairs including Programs, Youth Appreciation, Junior Golf, NOW (New Optimists Welcome), Memorial Bowling fundraiser, Brain Bowl and so on.
- Secretary-Treasurer (1958-60, 1994-05, 2006 – 11)
- Club President (1964-65, 2005-06, 2013-14)

In January 1984, Charlie had accumulated 25 years of perfect attendance or 1,200 regularly scheduled meetings! He continues today to attend meetings on a regular basis, at the ripe age of 86.

On June 8, 2000, Charlie was presented with the Optimist of the Quarter award by the Governor of the Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District.

On September 20, 2011, Charlie was named a Christian D. Larson Partner.

Over the years, Charlie has sponsored 13 new Members.

Charlie married his wife, Jean, on July 27, 1966 – over 50 years of marriage! They have two children: son, Scott and daughter, Elizabeth. He worked as a banker in Boulder, Colorado before retiring as a vice president from Chase bank.

His Club celebrated and recognized Charlie for both his 60 years of incredible Optimist service and his 86th birthday in June 2018. Congratulations Charlie – what a wonderful life!

A TALE OF TWO CLUBS

UTILIZING THE “CLUB WITHIN A CLUB” CONCEPT

Submitted by: Jean Shelton and Terri Kearney

In two suburbs of Denver, Colorado, two Clubs formed in late 2016-2017.

Jean Shelton sought to build a traditional Club. When the fifteen Members were found, they were not interested in a Club with traditional officers, regular meetings, speakers, and so on. The Members were mostly heavily committed teachers and parents and only wanted to support the three new Junior Optimist Clubs built in the community. Co-Club builder, Sherman Phillips, took these Members into his Club as a “Club within a Club,” and handles finances and other supportive services. The “Club within a Club” assists the three Junior Optimist Clubs’ activities, such as the monthly visit to a senior home, a joint holiday party and end-of-the-year awards banquet for the Junior Optimists.



Jean Shelton



Terri Kearney

Terri Kearney started to build a “Club within a Club” with prospective men and women who could not make the morning meetings of her established Club. Initially the focus was to have their own projects and to include a more social atmosphere with drinks and hors d’oeuvres. Once the sixteen Members formed a cohesive and growing group that met regularly, they decided they could take on the duties of an independent Club! Naturally, the informal officers became the formal officers of the new Club, which is now called the Purpose Driven Optimist Club. In addition to youth, the Club has stepped outside the box by recognizing outstanding caregivers at local nursing homes.

Both Clubs can be considered a success, meeting the needs of the community, and their Members’ needs!





OPTIMIST CLUB OF NAPLES, FLORIDA

In our organization, we frequently refer to different Optimist Clubs as Sports Clubs or Traditional Clubs. These terms are used to differentiate between Clubs who primarily run sports programs versus all other Optimist Clubs that help children in other ways. Realistically, many Clubs fall somewhere in between the two.

Perhaps no Club in Optimist International better exemplifies this than the Optimist Club of Naples, Florida. The Naples Club is well known for the large Optimist Soccer program that it has run since 1972. Thousands of children of all ages have participated in this program since its inception 46 years ago. However, the Club does much more for their community and Optimist International than just soccer.

In addition to the soccer league, other activities include:

- Participating in many Optimist International flagship programs such as Essay, Oratorical, and Junior Golf. The Club awards approximately \$24,000 in scholarships annually. The golf program provides clubs for kids who do not have their own.
- Collecting toys, books, canned food, and clothes during their sports programs to distribute to distressed communities.
- Conducting Youth Appreciation events through the local schools.
- Involvement at the District and International levels of Optimist International.

The 2017-18 Optimist year has been an especially successful year for the Club. Under the leadership of President John Dina, Naples is the number one Club in Optimist International in membership growth. They have added 61 new Members this year to reach 174 total Members! While not all of their Members are involved in the soccer program, many are involved and the Club sees the need to add these individuals to their roster to make sure all their volunteers are covered under the liability insurance policy. The Club has had success offering volunteers reduced dues in return for “sweat equity.” This is when a Club is able to subsidize some of the membership dues – as long as the Members are putting in their share of work.

President John is also having an impact outside of his Club by also serving as his Zone’s Lt. Governor and the South Florida District’s Leadership Development Chair. He plans to attend the Optimist International Convention in Ottawa to receive valuable leadership training.

The Optimist Club of Naples is a great template for engaging other Sports Clubs to get the most out of their Optimist experience and extend their community impact beyond youth sports. All Clubs should be encouraged to take part in Optimist programs such as Essay, Oratorical, Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, Junior Golf, Junior Optimist, Youth Appreciation, etc. It is also important to engage leaders from all Clubs at the District and International level. This helps Clubs recruit Members outside of those involved with athletics, and most importantly, serve more kids.

Congratulations to the Optimist Club of Naples for exemplifying the spirit of Optimism!

FRIEND OF OPTIMISTS: A Valuable Tool for Your Club

Has your Club considered boosting your membership by adding Friend of Optimists within your community? Optimist Clubs worldwide have over 1,500 “Friends” on their rosters that have joined for a number of reasons. Consider honoring prominent members of your community such as the mayor, police chief, school principals, etc. Use the “Friends” to thank speakers at your meetings or businesses that support your Club projects.



One of the most beneficial ways Clubs utilize this class of membership is as a stepping-stone to regular membership. Most Optimist Clubs have had individuals tell them they would love to support the Club, but don't feel like they have enough time to be a regular Member. This can be the perfect opportunity to recruit them as a “Friend” of your Club. Now you can attempt to get them engaged in the Club's activities to where they decide to become regular Members. Make sure they get all correspondence related to your Club's activities. Ask if they can assist at one of your events or fundraisers. “Friends” are Members of your Club, so they are fully covered under Optimist's liability insurance while working on Club projects.

Steven and Julie Saph from the Michigan District are great examples of Friends of Optimists becoming regular, engaged Members. Steven and Julie were well acquainted with Optimism because their son, Steven Jr., is a longtime

Member who is active at both the Club and District levels in Michigan. While this connection made them supportive of the organization, they felt that they lived too far away from a Club to be regular Club Members. Instead, they became “friends” for eight years, which continued to foster their relationship with the organization. When they eventually moved closer to an Optimist Club, they were eager to join the Optimist Club of Clinton Township Area, Michigan as regular Members.

Now, Steven and Julie are active Members of their Club. One of their favorite Club programs to work at is the “Trunk-or-Treat” Halloween party hosted by the Mount Clemens Optimist Club. Julie likes working with “a fun group of people who are doing good” in her community and Steven enjoys the opportunity to associate with younger people. They are even planning to join another Optimist Club soon. Congratulations to the Saph family for all their contributions to Optimism!

Oakland Community College Auburn Hills Optimist Club

SUPPORTS MANY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES





Oakland Community College Auburn Hills Optimist Club chartered on July 1, 2010. For the past several years, the Club has participated in many different college and Clarkston community activities. In our seven years on campus, we have achieved Honor Club status five times in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Because of involvement in these activities, Auburn Hills Optimist Club Members were the Optimist International College Club of the year for 2016!

The Oakland Community College Auburn Hills Optimist Club has been involved in many community activities. The Club attends The Friendly Forest at Clintonwood Park in Clarkston, where students and volunteers pass out candy while dressed in friendly Halloween costumes. Another activity is a Christmas party for a local Alpha Club in the Clarkston Community School district. We provide games and crafts for the party. We also participate in Clarkston SCAMP field day. This is a summertime camp for children and adults with learning disabilities aged 3 to 26 years old. SCAMP is located in Clarkston, Michigan, but is available to residents in the Detroit metropolitan area. We will be participating in the SCAMP field day this year in July. At the Auburn Hills campus, we participate in welcome week for both fall and winter semesters. Welcome week is a great opportunity to inform incoming students about our Optimist Clubs and recruit new Members. Our Club was involved in a packing party for hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. The items packed benefited families that have children with autism. We also did a Toys for Tots Drive for Christmas 2017. Our Club is very active both on the Oakland Community College campus and within the Clarkston community.

One long-term activity that the Auburn Hills Optimist Club has undertaken is the packing of boxes for overseas military personnel. This precipitated in recognition of Joseph A. Miracle from Ortonville, Michigan, who was our fallen hero. He was a student at Oakland Community College

Auburn Hills Campus before choosing to serve our country. Private First Class (PFC) Joseph A. Miracle, United States Army Airborne 173rd, served in Afghanistan for only thirty-five days when he put his life at risk defending his unit.

This year we honored Marissa Strock, a member of the 170th military police company based at Fort Louis, Washington, with a packing party of donations to the Detroit Veterans Chapter of the Michigan Veteran Foundation. She received injuries from an incident in Iraq where she lost both legs due to an explosion. She is currently a student at Oakland Community College Auburn Hills, Member of our Optimist Club, and is currently serving as president of the Student Veterans Association.

The donations included sheets, pillowcases, clothes, shoes, socks, games, books, candy, shaving cream, lotion, and cards thanking them for their service. This great event was in April and was a joint effort with the Auburn Hills Community College Optimist Club, the Student Veterans Association, Phi Theta Kappa, faculty, and three Oakland University students to pack twenty-four boxes. In the weeks prior to this packing party, we collected items donated by fellow students and families.

We are looking forward to our next opportunity to serve.

Submitted by the Oakland Community College Auburn Hills Optimist Club, Michigan District:

- Spencer Stringer – President
- Sravan Kareti – Secretary/Treasurer
- Kyle Abent • Anna Ackerman • Brandon Cooley
- Tim Coticchia • Brian Gill • Alex Klusman
- Kyle Longiotti • Marissa Strock

Advisers:

- Robin Brose • Sharleen Longiotti • Kim Reid
- Dick Russell

My Optimist STORY

Submitted by:
Maria Giorlando, Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach, Southwest Ontario District



I am 23 years old from Windsor, Ontario. I graduated from the University of Windsor with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in 2017, and I am now working in pediatric mental health and with older adults.

I became involved in pageantry two years ago to find more ways to

be involved in my community, and I wanted to make new friends. Two months into discovering my passion for pageantry, I won the local title of Miss Tecumseh 2016. During the Miss Tecumseh reign, I was an ambassador for the town of Tecumseh at different events and fundraisers. I also held three of my own fundraisers for my charity of choice, The SickKids Foundation, and raised over \$4,200 for their cause.

It was during my time as Miss Tecumseh I learned about the Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach. I had attended several of their events in the community and decided it would be a great fit for me. Overall, I joined because I knew I would have the opportunity to give back to others in my community. However, this was just the beginning. Shortly after joining, I became co-chair of our Christmas giving program where I was responsible for buying Christmas gifts for underprivileged children. This very humbling experience allowed me to make a difference in the lives of dozens of children. I joined the Board of Directors to better voice my ideas of how we could help our community. Throughout my year on the Board, I attended many of our events and fundraisers, and continued to learn about our Club functions and influences the community.

In July 2017, about a month before I had to pass on my crown for Miss Tecumseh, I realized I



wanted to do more and take my passion for volunteerism to the next level. On March 3, 2018, I was crowned Miss Canada 2018 in Laval, Québec. The Miss Canada organization focuses on personality, inner beauty, and attitude, and the titleholder

has the opportunity to be a spokesperson for a platform of their choosing. From the beginning, I knew I wanted mine to be Optimist International. My Club in St. Clair Beach gave myself, and the community, so much joy and fulfillment that I knew I wanted to share with others.

My goal for the year is to spread our purpose and mindset to all others I meet. As Miss Canada 2018, I will be travelling all over Canada to spread the message of positivity and kindness to ourselves and to others. I hope to get involved with many more Optimist Clubs at each location I visit to help promote their events in the community. We are all one big family working towards the same goal. I am very excited to meet many other Optimists with the same dedication and vision for Optimism.

I am the chair of our third annual Optimist Family Fun Fair, taking place on September 22 at McCauliffe Park. I am planning a full day of fun outdoor activities for children and families to enjoy, and is completely free. We will have





bouncy castles, rock climbing, a pony ride, and interactive games for children to play to win fun prizes. Emergency Medical Services will attend the event provide tours of their vehicles for the children. My Club is so grateful to be able to plan and host this event. The Club encourages attendees to bring canned goods and foods to donate to the local food bank. Hundreds of children attend this event with their families each year. I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to bring such a large group of the community together and I am very eager to put my own fun twist on the activities this year!

I truly have seen and felt the love and support from Optimists all over the world congratulating me on my success as Miss Canada 2018. It inspired me to become the Vice President of my local Optimist Club, and to move up the spectrum of Optimist International in the future. I hope to inspire others to join an Optimist Club so they too can have a positive impact in society.

For now, I am working closely with the Optimist Clubs in South Western Ontario to help volunteer at their fundraisers, and to make appearances in their communities. I am excited to meet many more Optimists this July at the International Convention in Ottawa. I am open to new opportunities, and I hope I have the chance to travel the world spreading the meaning of Optimism!

To follow my journey as Miss Canada 2018 and the Optimist events I attend, "Like" my official Facebook page at @misscanada2018!





STAY CONNECTED WITH THE 2018 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SHAW CENTRE (OTTAWA CONVENTION CENTER)
OTTAWA, ONTARIO – THE CAPITAL CITY OF CANADA

Prepare Before You Go!

Check out the convention page of the Optimist International website for all related information and updates. Visit optimist.org/convention for all of the following and much more:

- Convention Schedule
- Hotel Information
- Online registration
- Training & Workshops – contact michelle.turner@optimist.org to add your selections to your registration
- Community Involvement Expo Exhibitors

Find out about some of the great attractions and tours Ottawa has to offer and the best places to have dinner or do some shopping – visit ottawatoursim.com.



Follow the Fun on Facebook

Make sure to visit the Optimist Facebook page for convention news and updates. You will find fun facts about events and the host city, as well as what other Members are saying about convention. The photo gallery will be updated often with pictures of workshops, business sessions, attendees, and more.

Please take a moment to “Like” the page at www.facebook.com/optimistintl. Share your thoughts about the upcoming convention and respond to posts made by other Optimists. Be part of the conversation before, during, and after the convention!



Tweet About It!

Optimist International wants all the Members to be part of the 100th annual International Convention this year. While every Optimist may not be able to travel to Ottawa, they can still stay up to date on the events taking place!

Follow [@Optimistorg](https://twitter.com/Optimistorg) on Twitter. If you do not have a Twitter account, it's easy and free to sign up at twitter.com.

By following the convention hashtag, [#OICONV2018](https://twitter.com/hashtag/OICONV2018), you can get an inside view on the convention. Clicking on a hashtagged word in any message will show you all other tweets on that category.

It is the next best thing to being there!



Live From Ottawa

The Board of Directors meeting, the Opening Ceremonies, and the Business sessions will be streaming live on the Optimist channel at optimist.org/stream.

Here are approximate times for each event. If you are unable to attend, tune in to the live streams.

Board of Directors Meeting



Friday, July 6
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (subject to change)

Opening Ceremonies



Sunday, July 8
7:00-8:30 PM

Entertainment, Parade of Flags, National Anthem

Introductions: 2017-18 International President, Board, Vice Presidents, Governors, Junior Optimist International Board, Optimist International Foundation, Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, Past International Presidents

Speeches: Junior Optimist International President, Mathew Nacev and Optimist International President, H. Nick Prillaman

First Business Session



Monday, July 9
9:00-11:30 AM

Keynote Speaker: Sébastien Sasseville

Speeches: Johns Hopkins, Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, Optimist International Foundation

Centennial Kickoff

Awards Presentations: Pacesetter, Golden Builder, PGI Level 10, World Oratorical, Reel Optimism

Introductions: Builders of Excellence, Leadership Academy participants

Credentials, Rules and Resolutions Reports & Voting

Second/Closing Business Session



Tuesday, July 10
1:00-3:30PM

Reports: Executive Director and Convention Chair

Awards Presentations: 2016-17 Distinguished Governors, Optimist Club of the Year

Future Convention Presentation: Louisville

Introductions: Retiring International Board Members, 2018-19 President, Vice Presidents, Governors

Speeches: 2018-19 Optimist International President, Rebecca Butler Mona and 2017-18 Optimist International President, H. Nick Prillaman's Closing Remarks

Optimist Creed

Adjourn until next year in Louisville!

If you have any questions, please send them to convention@optimist.org or call (800) 500-8130.

CONVENTION

E N T E R T A I N M E N T

The International Convention offers something for everyone!

Be amazed at the various group events featuring the following entertainment:



MACCULLOCH SCHOOL OF HIGHLAND DANCE, DE LA SALLE SENIOR VOCAL ENSEMBLE, & CAPITAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA (CYJO)

Opening Ceremonies

Parade of Flags: Canadian Boy Scout Troops

Theme: Optimist Strong!

Sunday, July 8, 7-8:30PM

MACCULLOCH SCHOOL OF HIGHLAND DANCE

The late Rae MacCulloch founded the School in 1954. The troupe performs traditional Highland and Celtic Step Dancing under the direction of Deborah Wheeler. The ensemble's work is influenced by the history and traditions of Glengarry County. The traditional dances of early Canadian settlers are danced to the lively tunes of Scotland's bagpipes and the Irish, French and Scottish fiddle and accordion. The dancers' costumes depict the variety of Canadian tradition, featuring the many colorful clan tartans of Scotland. Students range from ages 5 to adult, perform at many local community events and take part in World Fest International cultural festivals. They have represented Canada in Disney World, Florida, Idaho and Utah, USA, Puerto Rico, The Republic of China, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, France, Scotland and Russia, Hungary, and Scotland. In August of 2013, the MacCulloch Dancers and the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band had a great honor of performing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Last August, the MacCulloch Dancers, accompanied by Sixmilecross and piper Jim Forbes, participated in the Summerfest International Folklore Festival in Hungary.

CONVENTION

E N T E R T A I N M E N T

DE LA SALLE SENIOR VOCAL ENSEMBLE

The Ensemble vocal senior De La Salle, under the direction of Robert Fillion, enjoys an enviable reputation. The young singers are students of the Vocal Music program of the Artistic Excellence Centre at De La Salle high school where they have classes in choir and music theory, solfège and music history classes, complemented by private voice lessons in addition to the regular academic workload. The choir is well known for its rich repertoire, its professionalism and above all for the excellence of its interpretations. They have won national championships in both the Canadian Music Festival and the National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs and several provincial championships. They also became an Internet sensation after the creation of Laura Hawley's Alhamdoulillah.

CAPITAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA (CYJO)

The Orchestra and its combos, a group of music students from Ottawa, Ontario under the direction of Nick Dyson, have performed with several big name jazz artists and enjoy an enviable reputation both in Ottawa and beyond performing regularly at the Ottawa International Jazz Festival. The Capital Youth Jazz Orchestra seeks to give students the performance, rehearsal and improvisational experience they will need to be successful and effective performers and educators in the future.



SÉBASTIEN SASSEVILLE

International Convention Keynote Speaker

Monday, July 9 – First Business Session, 9-11:30 a.m

Sébastien Sasseville ran across Canada, climbed mount Everest, and completed the mythical Sahara race. For each of his accomplishments, he had to assemble a strong team, but more importantly, create a mission. A mission that was more important than individual success. His accomplishments are made all the more impressive by the fact that he lives with Type 1 Diabetes. To learn more about Sébastien Sasseville visit sebinspire.com

THE CAMPBELL TRIO Appreciation Luncheon THEME: From Sea to Sea to Sea! Monday, July 9, 12-2:15 PM

Classically trained and performance tested, The Campbell Trio is sure to make any event memorable! This family trio of fine musicians from Alexandria Ontario delights audiences with their wonderful mix of classical, jazz and folk music.



HOUSTON MACPHERSON

Fellowship/Old Timers Breakfast

Tuesday, July 10, 7-8:30 AM

Come and enjoy breakfast while listening to the Master Impressionist Houston MacPherson, a Las Vegas-style entertainer who packs over 50 celebrities into his multi-faceted show.

DJ & SINGERS LYNN LANTHIER AND LUCILLE PRÉSENT

Presidential Banquet

Theme: OTTAWA!

Tuesday, July 10

Presidential Reception 5:30-6:30 PM

Presidential Banquet 6:45-8:45 PM

Presidential Ball 8:45-11 PM

Get ready to be entertained! DJ & Singers Lynn Lanthier and Lucille Prigent will have you dancing in your seats and onto the dance floor. Karaoke anyone?!





FREE REGISTRATION RAFFLE

Because your feedback for the success of future training and workshop sessions is very important to us, we want to encourage you to complete an evaluation for every session you attend and for that effort, we will have two drawings and are awarding free Convention registration to Louisville to the winner of each drawing.

1. For the first drawing: When you complete and turn in a “paper” evaluation to the Leadership Service desk, you will receive one raffle ticket to put in the raffle drum. When you complete and submit an online evaluation on your smart device and show us the confirmation code you received after doing so, you will receive two raffle tickets to put in the raffle drum.
2. For the second drawing: If you pre-registered for any of the training and/or workshop sessions you will receive a ticket for each of those sessions in your registration packet with your name on it to put in the raffle drum.

Please be sure to complete each raffle ticket with your name & address and turn them in along with your session ticket(s) at the Leadership Development Service Desk to be put in the drum(s).

The Leadership Development Service Desk will be located on Level 2 of the Convention Center in the Rideau Canal (RC) Alcove.

We will be drawing the winning Raffle tickets at the business session on Tuesday afternoon.



A MESSAGE FROM
Junior Optimist International President

Hello everyone,

As our year starts to progress into the ending stretch, I would like to take a minute to reflect and give thanks for everything that has happened this past year. This year has been a massive success because of all the work that you, either an Optimist or Junior Optimist Member, have done. Whether it is through participating in projects that have helped empower youth, advising Junior Optimist Clubs, or even funding and encouraging Junior Optimists to be the best that they can be.

The future of Optimism is in good hands as every single one of the young leaders that is affiliated with Junior Optimist International is learning the skill set and repertoire to make a difference in their communities. I personally have visited many of these Clubs and attended many District events. I can honestly say that the sheer amount of willingness and altruism displayed by these young leaders is truly inspiring. It is amazing to see all these young individuals working hard to make their communities the best they can be. This is all because of the support of every Optimist International Member who has helped to instill all these values onto the youth. And for that, we are so grateful.

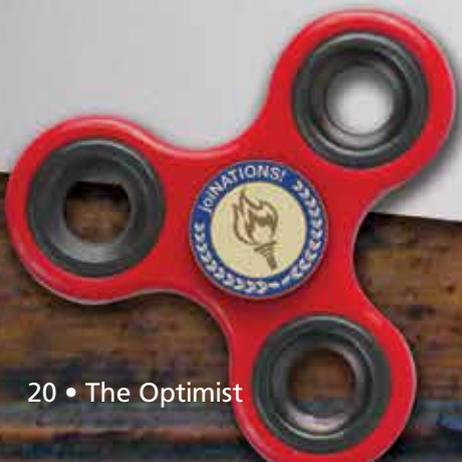
On behalf of every Member in Junior Optimist International, I would like to thank you all for all the support this past year. Alongside our Board of Directors, Tiandra Carty, Nathan Hillman, Amanda Heinzmann, Cole Mullins, and Past President O'Hara Wickham, none of this would have been possible without the gracious support from Optimist International.

Here's to the next 100 years of Optimism!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mathew Nacev".

Mathew Nacev
2017-18 Junior Optimist International President





NEW!

junioroptimist.org

Have you visited the new Junior Optimist website yet? If not, now's the time! Visit www.junioroptimist.org and check out our key buttons: joiNUS, joiCON, joiTALK, joiCONNECT!, and joiNATIONS!

Connect with Junior Optimist International!

junioroptimist@optimist.org

www.junioroptimist.org

 **Facebook:** Junior Optimist International

 **Twitter:** @Junior_Optimist

 **Instagram:** @junioroptimist

 **Snapchat:** junioroptimist

 **YouTube:** Junior Optimist International

Junior Optimist International Numbers:

Since October 1, 2017, there are 45 Charter Clubs and 1,058 Charter Members! Now is a great time to reach out to your local school administrators for potential new Clubs.

Ways to Grow Your Club

Optimist International is continuing its graduating senior's incentive! Optimist International is offering all Junior Optimists graduating from high school a free membership for a year to any adult or college Optimist Club. If your Club has a graduating Junior Optimist senior who wishes to take advantage of this offer, contact membership@optimist.org or call 800-500-8130 ext. 226.

FOR ADVISORS and CHAIRS: ACCESS JUNIOR OPTIMIST RECORDS AT OPTIMIST LEADERS

To update rosters and information log onto www.optimist.org and click on the Optimist Leaders link at the top left corner.

- Click "Log-in"
- Select "Login Using E-mail & Password"
- Enter your personal e-mail address as it appears on your Club roster
- Enter your password (click password recovery if you do not know your password or need a new one)
- Click the "Log-in" button.



MERCER

Mercer Workshop @ Ottawa Convention

Insurance Updates and Abuse Prevention –

New Guidelines and the Importance of Safety Policies and Training

Date: Monday, July 9 from 2:30-3:30 pm

Presenters: Senior Risk Manager at Philadelphia Insurance Company Craig Simpkins, Operations Team Lead at Mercer Cody Wiedenhoff

This informative presentation will focus on:

- insurance basics
- how insurance will cover will cover particular situations for a club
- in-depth review of the new abuse and molestation law and what clubs need to do to be in compliance
- overview on risk management training resources
- question/answer session

Visit the Mercer booth (#17) in the expo area to ask questions and receive beneficial information about Mercer's services!

NEW! Check out Optimist International's new and improved insurance benefits website!

Enhanced Features:

- Access the site at any time, from any device!
- Fresh layout with simplified navigation!
- New search functionality – just click the 'magnifying glass' icon in the top right corner!

Visit www.oiclubinsurance.mybenefitsolutions.com





It's all about the Tees, Fairways & Greens at the Optimist Championship!

Golfers from around the globe are hitting the courses for a chance to qualify for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship held this year at PGA National Resort and Spa. The Championship dates are July 17 – August 1, 2018.

Thank you to the Optimist volunteers, Clubs and Districts for supporting local golfers and helping them make their dreams come true!

Track the progress of your hometown players by viewing the daily scores posted on the Optimist website at www.optimist.org/golf.



Fall Junior Tour Events

The Tour Events provide additional opportunities to qualify for the Championship. These tournaments are ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard. These 36-hole events are open to golfers ages 11-18. These qualifiers are:

August 29-30, 2018 – Kingsville Golf and Country Club in Kingsville, Ontario, Canada

October 13-14, 2018 – Green Valley Ranch Golf Club in Denver, Colorado

October 28-29, 2018 – Orange County National in Orlando, Florida

For more information on these tournaments, visit www.optimist.org/golf

14th Annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions

November 3-4, 2018

ChampionsGate in Orlando, Florida

An invitational event for Boys 11-13, Boys 14-15, Boys 16-18, Girls 11-13, and Girls 14-18 which is ranked by *Golfweek* and the Junior Golf Scoreboard and is included in the AJGA Performance Based Entry process.

For more information, go to www.optimist.org/golf





HUGH CRANFORD ALL-SCHOLASTIC TEAM

Optimist Junior Golf recently announced the junior golfers of the 2018 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team. Those making the team exemplified an impressive balance of academics, golf and community service. After reviewing the qualifications of a record number of impressive applicants, the Optimist Junior Golf Committee selected the following exceptional student athletes for the team:

Academic Winners

Jackson Franchville (Coatesville, Indiana)

Hailey Freedman (Raleigh, North Carolina)

Christopher McDonald (The Woodlands, Texas)

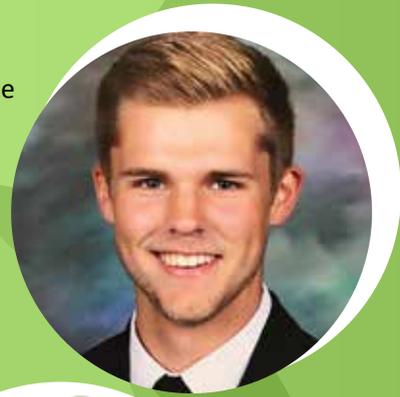
Marlene Tartaro (Warren, New Jersey)

Community Service Award Winner

Gerry Jones, Jr. (Suffolk, Virginia)

The All-Scholastic Team is named for Hugh Cranford, who served as Executive Director of Optimist International from 1967 to 1986. He was instrumental in starting the Optimist Junior Golf program and in 1978 led the efforts to co-sponsor the Optimist Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, the forerunner to today's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Cranford passed away in August 2014.

Jackson Franchville is a senior at Cascade High School in Coatesville, Indiana. Franchville carries a cumulative 4.3 grade point average, scored high on his SAT, PSAT and ACT scores, and is taking several advanced placement courses. He is valedictorian of his class. In 2017, he was honored as part of the Rising Stars of Indiana recognition program based on his academic achievement. Franchville is an avid golfer and member of the varsity golf team. In his spare time, he is a landscape worker for members of the community, a carpenter assistant, and helps his father flip houses.



Hailey Freedman graduates this year from Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is an exceptional student with a cumulative grade point average of 5.3. Freedman has received the Dartmouth Alumni Book Club award, National Merit Commended Scholar, Gibbons Scholar Athlete Award, and selected as Junior Marshal for 2017 graduation based on status as class valedictorian at the end of her junior year. She is also a member of the Tri-M Music Honors Society, National Honor Society, and of the Green Army (which is a student-led cheering section at the high school sporting events). She is captain of the women's golf team, violinist in the advanced strings ensemble, and Secretary of the Tri-M Music Honors Society. She is the founder of the Kids Helping Kids program at the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill in North Carolina.



Christopher McDonald is a junior at The John Cooper School in The Woodlands, Texas and top of his class taking advance placement classes, and maintains a 4.0 grade point average. For the past two years, he was named Rotary Student of the Year and this school year nominated for the Rotary Youth Leadership and student of the year award. He was also named Outstanding Math Student of the Year. He is a leader in Habitat for Humanity serving as service chair for The House That John Built and founded Pars and Birdies FORE Habitat for Humanity in order to raise money for Habitat through The John Cooper golf team. McDonald is a Student Ambassador to new students, helping them acclimate to their new school and integrate socially into the community. He also participates in several mission troops both locally and in Central America specifically Costa Rica and Nicaragua. In golf, Christopher was named All-SPC (top 10 in Conference Championship) both sophomore and junior year.



Marlene Tartaro a senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School in Warren, New Jersey. Tartaro scored high on her SAT and PSAT tests and taking several advanced placement courses. She was accepted into the National, Spanish and Chinese Honor Societies. She also received the Principal's Honor Roll, New Jersey's State Seal of Biliteracy, and Watchung Hills Skyland Conference Scholar – Athlete. Tartaro founded the first ever Varsity Girls' Golf team at Watchung Hills and is the captain of the team. She also participated on the Boys' Golf Team her freshman year. She is the sole volunteer for Els for Autism golf program and organized a joint team fundraiser volunteer opportunity for Autism New Jersey. She also volunteers at the First Tee of Connecticut for the Middle School. Tartaro has been recruited to attend and play golf at Columbia University starting Fall 2018.



The "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" Community Service Award: Gerry Jones, Jr. is currently a junior and homeschooled. He carries a 4.5-weighted grade point average. Jones volunteers as a Life Skills Coach for The First Tee of Hampton Roads. For the past three years, he has planned and coordinated a "Golf-A-Thon." Money raised is split between The First Tee program and the AJGA Ace Grant Program (a program to serve junior golfers who cannot afford to participate in golf tournaments). He has raised \$16,936! Jones also plays the violin and piano, and performs for the retirement adults at the Bickford Retirement and Memory Care and at the Association of University Women's annual fundraiser events. He is also a member of the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia. He is an avid golfer who qualified and played last year at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship.



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION: 10 Things Accomplished in 2017



Sent 136 students off to **college** with Optimist International oratorical, essay, and CCDHH scholarships totaling **\$315,800**.



Relaunched and broadened the **CCC Matching Grant program** to include health and wellness projects that relate to Childhood Cancer.

Helped **352** Optimists help **7,027 children** and their families by awarding **22 Club Grants** including two grants to Clubs in Africa.

Assisted Clubs in receiving

\$303,158

in charitable contributions for their own local programs through the Pass Through program.

Supported the Optimist International Oratorical World Championship Contest by funding the US and International winners totaling

\$35,000.



Contributed **\$35,540** towards the Optimist International Research Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at

JOHNS HOPKINS

Paid out **\$384,052** to Clubs utilizing the Club Campaign program and added an additional **\$21,421** in interest to Club Campaign funds.

Ended the year with **204 Members to the Women's Philanthropy Council**, which will fund two scholarships and two Club grants in 2018.



Launched initiative to provide **\$100 grants** to new JOI Clubs with 25 Members or more to help conduct service projects.

Increased unrestricted giving over the previous year by

15%



HELPING OPTIMISTS HELP KIDS



2018 CLUB GRANTS

2018 Club Grant Program Optimist International Foundation and the Club Grant Committee are pleased to announce the 2018 Club Grant Program winners! Due to the volume and excellent quality of grant applications received this year, the Optimist International Foundation Board awarded an additional grant. The following 21 Clubs will be awarded a \$500 matching grant at the International Convention in Ottawa.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 WINNERS:

Optimist Club of Memphis-Northeast, TN

Bike Safety Rodeo

R-A-K Nebraska Optimist Club, NE

Project Warmth and Love

Mother of Tomorrow Optimist Club – Jinja, Uganda

Give a Rabbit for Healthy Nutrition

Playa Vista Optimist Club, CA

Tools4Schools Backpack Project

Optimist Club of Searcy, AR

Book Sharing Houses

Student Optimist Club of U.W.-Whitewater, WI*

Children's Center Sensory Room

Golden Circle Optimist Club of Wilson, NC

Darden School Youth Improvement

West Bakersfield Optimist Club, CA

Okihi Summer Camp

Wisconsin Heights Optimist Club, WI

Kids Snack Bags

Optimist Club of Portland-Evening, IN

Kids Fishing Derby

Optimist Club of Treynor, IA

Neighborhood Fire Hydrant Parties

Optimist Club of Fort Worth-BFT East, TX*

"Girl Power" Leadership Conference

Noon Optimist Club of Black Hills, SD

Summer Nights

White Mountains Optimist Club, AZ

Bags of Care

Optimist Club of West Hills, CA

West Hills Club Art Contest

Optimist Club of Tamarac Denver, CO

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? Books for 1st Graders

Optimist Club of Omaha-Miracle Hills, NE

Project Ponchos for Kids

The East Fort Bend County Optimist Club, TX

Stop! Don't Touch! Gun Accident Prevention

Ya Ya Xpress Optimist Club, GA

Suitcases of Love for Foster Children

Optimist Club of San Antonio-Towne-Country, TX

Towne and Country Optimist Club Little League

Optimist Club of Lubbock, TX

Texas Tech University Back to School Fiesta

* Funded by the Women's Philanthropy Council

THE CLUB GRANT PROGRAM is a yearly program designed to assist Clubs in funding new projects. For more information please visit oifoundation.org or call the Optimist International Foundation office at (800) 500-8130.



Spread Relief

If your Club has a project related to childhood health and is looking for some help, the **Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation** has a program to help you. How does the Spread Relief program work?

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

In July 2016, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Board of Directors reviewed the Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC). The objective was to enlarge that well-known and well-loved program in order to help more kids and their families across the country, as asked by an always growing number of Clubs and Members. The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation therefore has broadened its program to assist more children and families dealing with more diverse health issues. The program will include projects focused on assisting children and families dealing with mental and physical health issues, and promoting and raising awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle to inspire entire communities.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM?

Every community has special needs and asking the Optimists for some help is often the first thing that comes to mind when in need of support. The Spread Relief program seeks to provide seed money to Canadian Optimist Clubs to help them develop childhood health related projects that will make a real difference in the life of children in need in their community. Who would better know what would help your community than members of this community?

WHAT IS SEED MONEY?

"It takes money to make money" according to the time-tested adage. Starting a new project requires investment of time and money, which might be difficult for some Clubs. The Spread Relief program is proposing to provide between \$500 and \$3,000 to help you start your project. Do you need to pay a security deposit? Do you need some supplies in order to get your project going? Do you need to print tickets, pay for publicity in the local newspaper? That is what "seed" money is for.

HOW DO WE BEGIN?

Think about what the needs in your community are. Contact local or provincial non-profit organizations if you need some ideas. Each Club is strongly encouraged to work with other local or provincial non-profit organizations to insure the success of their endeavour. Then, develop your project, fill in the application form you will find on our website and send it to the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation with the necessary letter as requested by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) before the due date.

For more information, call the **Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation** at 1-800-363-7151 ext. 336 or e-mail info@ccof-foec.org

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Board of Directors

This year, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is pleased to welcome not one, but two new members on its Board of Directors. They will both begin their term on October 1, 2018.



Thomas McNaught joined the Optimist Club of Oakville, Ontario, in 1991. After retiring in 2004, he became Club President. In 2007, he was elected Lieutenant Governor for Zone 3 in Central Ontario District. On October 1, 2009, he became District Governor presiding over 63 Clubs and 1,600 Members.

Thomas also held positions on International Committees, such as Candidate Qualifications and Finance, was District Foundation Representative for three years, and appointed to the Optimist International Youth Committee in 2017-18.



Past Optimist International President **Jean-Claude St-Onge** has been a District West Québec Optimist Member since 1983. He has been a Distinguished Club President, Distinguished Lieutenant Governor, and Outstanding Distinguished Governor. He is currently serving on the Candidate Qualifications Committee, and will serve as the Committee Chair for 2018-19.

He served the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation as a District Foundation Representative, as well as a Club Foundation Representative. He is a William H. Harrison Society Member.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME!



Optimist Funded Scholarships

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.

Optimist International scholarships are made possible by you and your Optimist Club's donations to the Optimist International Foundation in the United States and the Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. 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.



Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

677	Melissa Cohen	681	Madeleine Poulin
678	Wendi Paul	682	Rhéal Bazinet
679	Steven D. Smith	683	Claire Bergeron
680	Donna Suggitt	684	Adrien Tremblay

Top Ten as of March 31, 2018

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Marcia Aurand	\$20.72
Colorado-Wyoming	Ronald V. Cisco	\$10.70
Iowa	Dave Phillips	\$10.43
Alabama-Mississippi	Tolanda R. Beal	\$10.14
Pacific Central	Joan D. Estepa	\$9.87
New York-New England	Bruce Maclain	\$8.83
Oklahoma	Terry Watson	\$8.58
New Mexico-West Texas	Suzann Owings	\$8.38
North Carolina East	Billy Edgerton	\$7.99
Capital-Virginia	Barbara L. Grizzard	\$7.69

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Iowa	Dave Phillips	\$24,495.34
Colorado-Wyoming	Ronald V. Cisco	\$16,815.35
GATEway	Connie J. Webb	\$15,504.05
Michigan	Cherryl R. Thames	\$15,388.33
Arizona	Marcia Aurand	\$12,702.94
South Texas	Carol Hodges	\$11,405.85
Ohio	William R. Able	\$10,837.00
Alabama-Mississippi	Tolanda R. Beal	\$10,664.10
West Missouri	Theresa Evans	\$10,442.63
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$9,066.00

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Pacific Northwest	Earl Pollock	\$64.84
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$35.13
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$13.48

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$29,016.27
Southwestern Ontario	Edward Stevens	\$17,753.50
Québec Center	Joanne Guay	\$15,365.25



Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018, for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Vince Parker

GATEWAY
Robert and Alice Kuzniak

OKLAHOMA
Optimist Club of Lawton-LaSill, OK

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
Optimist Club of Richmond-West Central, VA

IOWA
Optimist Club of Solon, IA

KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA
Frank and Susan Ruman

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Downie, ON

NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
Optimist Club of El Paso-Cielo Vista, TX

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Windsor-Forest Glade, ON

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

COLORADO-WYOMING
Optimist Club of Denver-Mile Hi, CO

NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
Sallie E. Rizzo

QUÉBEC SOUTH
Robert Weldon

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Sarnia-Lakeshore, ON

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
Amy Davis

KANSAS
Optimist Club of Ottawa, KS

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
Tolanda R. Beal

EASTERN ONTARIO
Pauline Tessier-Chabot

IOWA
Marguerite Fehseke

MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE
Raymond L. Sheeler

PACIFIC CENTRAL
John W. Butterfield
Eugene W. Murray

PACIFIC SOUTHEAST
Optimist Club of Buena Park-Suburban, CA

QUÉBEC EAST & ACADIA
Club Optimiste de Moncton, NB

QUÉBEC SOUTH
Jacqueline Fontaine
Marcel Lavoie & Gisèle Ayotte

QUÉBEC WEST
Danielle Angers-Bouthillier

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

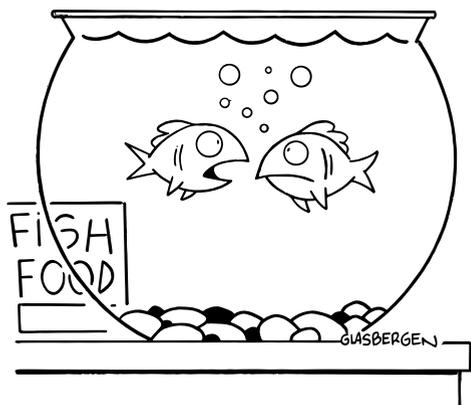
GATEWAY
Optimist Club of East Ridge, TN

NORTH TEXAS
Tony D. Blauvelt
Albert and Diane Clark

QUÉBEC CENTER
François Cotnoir
Roger Cousineau
Josée Galarneau
Diane Lépine
Michel Lamothe
Lucie Massé
Dominique Mondor
Denis Poirier
Nathalie Surprenant
André Therrien



For more information about the Foundations, see pages 26-29.



"Of course I think you're fun to be around – but I'm tired of playing Marco Polo!"



"Pinocchio dreamed of becoming a real boy, until he found out that real boys grow into real men who pay taxes."

A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in. "So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog. "I've led a very full life," says the dog.

"I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

A man calls 9-1-1 and says, "My wife is pregnant, and her contractions are only two minutes apart!"

The operator asks, "Is this her first child?"

"No!" the man shouts. "This is her husband!"

Jim, Scott and Alex are tired after traveling all day and check into a hotel. When they get to reception, they find out they'll have to walk 75 flights of stairs to get to their room because the elevator is out of order. Jim suggests that they do something interesting to pass time while they walk the 75 flights. Jim will tell jokes, Scott will sing songs, and Alex will tell sad stories. So Jim tells jokes for 25 flights, Scott sings songs for 25 flights and Alex tells sad stories for 24 flights. When they reach the 75th floor, Alex tells his saddest story of all, "Guys, I left our room key at reception."



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

FRIEND OF OPTIMISTS

What is Friend of Optimists?

The Friend of Optimists Membership category was created to accommodate people who believe in what Optimist International stands for and what Optimist Clubs do in their communities. However, not everyone has the time to fully commit as a regular Member of an Optimist Club or perhaps they live in an area that does not have an Optimist Club. Joining as a **Friend of Optimists** allows people to Bring Out the Best apart from Club affiliation.

Can a Friend of Optimists participate in Club or District activities?

Absolutely!

How much does it cost to be a Friend of Optimists?

A one-year Friend of Optimists membership is \$100.

What does one receive as a Friend of Optimists?

A **Friend of Optimists** receives a one-year subscription to *The Optimist* magazine, a membership card, a copy of The Optimist Creed, a cling-on **Friend of Optimist** decal, and **Friend of Optimist** Certificate.

Can I sponsor a Friend of Optimists?

Yes, you can sponsor a **Friend of Optimists** and receive sponsorship credit for recruiting your Friend!

Can a Friend of Optimists eventually join an existing Club?

Yes!

Can a Friend of Optimists Membership be presented as a gift?

Sure! An Optimist Club can present a loyal supporter with a **Friend of Optimists** membership as a way of saying thank you for the support they have received.

There are countless opportunities that surround the **Friend of Optimists** membership, and it is just one more way to make sure Optimist International is “Bringing Out the Best!”

For additional information about **Friend of Optimists**, visit www.optimist.org

BE AN OPTIMIST VOLUNTEER



BRING OUT THE BEST IN...

YOUTH:

We offer a variety of programs including Junior Optimist Clubs, Junior Golf, Scholarship Contests – to name a few!

YOURSELF:

Engage in leadership, fellowship, training, events, and discover a sense of belonging.

COMMUNITY:

Organize service projects to meet the needs in your area for local schools, parks, hospitals... making the future brighter for our kids!

Visit www.optimist.org for more information.