OPTIMISTS - Bringing Out the BEST in Youth... Right Here, Right Now!

The
OPTIMIST
Fall 2015
2015-16 PRESIDENTIAL INCENTIVES

VICE PRESIDENTS:
• Vice President’s “Growth Surge” Award
• “Right Here, Right Now” Award

DISTRICT GOVERNORS:
• “Press On to the Greater Acknowledgements” Award
• Governor’s “Growth Surge” Award
• “First Break” Award (First Quarter)
• “Bringing Out the Best in Youth” Award

CLUBS, LT. GOVERNORS & MEMBERS:
• “Bringing Out the Best in Communities” Award
• “Bringing Out the Best in Our Clubs” Award
• “Club Renaissance” Award
• “Bringing Out the Best in Ourselves” Award

DEPEND ON THE AWARD, RECIPIENTS HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE FOLLOWING:
• Registration to the 2016 Optimist International Convention in Quebec City
• Dinner with President Dave & First Lady Ethna during the 2016 Optimist International Convention in Quebec City
• Trip to the PGA National Resort & Spa in November 2016

For full details and listing of the 2015-16 Presidential Incentives, visit www.optimist.org/incentives.
In many ways, Dave Bruns has been an "Optimist" his entire life. Although Dave did not officially become a Member of the White Lakes Optimist Club of Topeka, Kansas until he was 20 years old, his roots have been born into the Optimist family. In fact, one of his earliest memories is of setting up Santa Claus' knee at an Optimist Club Christmas Party when he was a small child growing up in Kansas City. "Of course, it did not dawn on me until several years later why Santa looked so much like a local dentist who belonged to the Club," Dave recalls.

Impact of Optimist Programs

Growing up, Dave especially enjoyed participating in Optimist sports. Whether on the basketball court, soccer field, or baseball diamond, he learned valuable lessons about teamwork. As an adult, Dave has coached basketball and other youth sports. "In particular, I enjoy being part of a group that works together to achieve a common goal," Dave says. "As Mother Teresa once said, 'together we are stronger than we can be alone.' I have found this to be true not only in sports, but also in work as well." Although Optimist sports played an important role in his life, Dave found that "the joy of giving" was a more rewarding experience. "I was another Optimist program—the Athletic-Oriented—as we did another thousand dollars in a year," Dave remembers. "That was the first time I was able to see that Optimist programs were having a positive impact on people's lives, and it was an incredible feeling." Dave continued to be involved in Optimist activities throughout his life, and he has held leadership positions in a variety of Optimist organizations. Dave attributes much of his success to the Optimist family, which he describes as "a close-knit group of people who work together to achieve common goals." Dave believes that Optimist programs have a positive impact on individuals and communities, and he has been a strong advocate for Optimist programs over the years. As he continues to work in the legal profession, Dave remains committed to the Optimist family and its mission to "bring out the best in youth and in our communities."
For the first time ever, the Reel Optimism contest was open to both Adult and Youth Clubs. Clubs were asked to submit a short video that finished the sentence, “Optimists bring out the best…” Adult and Youth Clubs could submit a video of three minutes or less in the Club Showcase category or they could enter a shorter clip into the 30-Second Challenge category. Optimist International received many wonderful submissions that illustrate how Clubs and Members bring out the best in their communities and the best in themselves.

For two weeks in May, Optimist Members, Youth Members and the general public voted for their favorite videos by sharing on Facebook and Twitter and by casting their votes on the Optimist International website. In total, the Reel Optimism videos were viewed more than 13,000 times. The videos were also shared 7,400 times on Facebook and Twitter and received 4,600 vote button clicks.

During the recent Optimist International Convention in New Orleans, the winners of the 2015 Reel Optimism video contest were announced. Congratulations to the following Clubs:

**BEST OVERALL AWARD WINNER** — Canary Crest Academy, GOO Club, CA ($500 Club grant)

**30-SECOND CHALLENGE WINNER** — Charlotte-Mallard Creek Optimist Club, NC ($500 Club grant)

**CLUB SHOWCASE WINNER** — Optimist Club of Birmingham, AL ($500 Club grant)

**SECOND-PLACE YOUTH WINNER** — Mountain High School 300 Club, GA ($500 Club grant)

**SECOND-PLACE YOUTH WINNER** — NW 30 Club of graded, IA ($500 Club grant)

The two raffle winners are the Optimist Club of Chatham, IL (adult) and the Club Desjarlais, QC (youth). Both of these Clubs have a $250 Club grant.

The Optimist Club of Birmingham video focused on the changes taking place at Huffman Park, a cemetery in this community. The video was a great way for the Club to illustrate the story of the park and the positive results of the Club’s dedication to beautifying the community. Nancy Ryan, representative of the Club, stated, “Through the experience of creating the video and working alongside the coaches and parents, our Club became a new partnership with them and over 200 teens who are volunteering from our contribution to Huffman Youth Sports.”

Club grants are funded through the generous support of the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation. To view the videos for the winning Clubs, in addition to all other Reel Optimism submissions, go to www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism.

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Clubs Have Pride with a Purpose

Has your Club completed successful programs and activities this year? Make sure to note them on the President’s Pride Report, now available for 2014−15.

The President’s Pride Report allows Club Presidents to play an important role in deciding the future of Optimist International’s programs and community activities. The information obtained will be used for prospective grants and will help determine what programs will receive emphasis in the future. The President’s Pride report is also a requirement for an Honor or Distinguished Club.

The report is available on the Optimist Leaders website. Go to www.optimistleaders.org, log in and click on “Reports” on the right side of the screen. On the next screen, select the “President’s Pride Report.” Under each question are boxes that can be checked to indicate that your Club participated in that activity. If your Club participated in an activity that is not listed, type a brief description in the box marked “Other.”

One of the best parts of the President’s Pride Report is that you can fill out the form as you complete the activities. Just go to the report, fill out the selected information as it happens and then hit the “Save” button. When you are filling in the dollar amounts, please round off to the nearest dollar and click the “Save” button or you will lose the dollar figure.

When the Club has completed the form by filling in the information for the entire Optimist year, an officer should click the signature button and the click “Submit.” The form will be sent electronically to Optimist International. Please keep in mind that once you hit the “Submit” button, you cannot change or add any information to the report.

Hard copies can be printed from the “Forms” page of the Optimist website, www.optimist.org, and faxed or mailed to Optimist International. The deadline for online submission is September 30. However, hard copies of the report will still be accepted at the Optimist International headquarters after September 30.

If you have questions, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via email at programs@optimist.org.

The Big Picture – Made Even Brighter!

Submitted by Cyndi Kosinski, Chillicothe Illinois Optimist Club

“There’s no business like show business,” and that continues to be the case for the Chillicothe Illinois Optimist Club! As reported in the spring 2010 issue of The Optimist, the Club purchased their community’s local movie theatre on December 1, 2009. The plan was to share profits from running the Town Theatre to area youth groups by saving a local business and offering a first-run movie venue. This plan has been a reality since 2010!

Taking on a project of this magnitude has not been without its challenges. The theatre, which was built in 1920, has a never-ending list of maintenance. The Club went straight to work making improvements to bring the theatre experience into the 21st century. Since purchasing the business, the Club has installed new sound curtains, replaced all of the seats, updated old film projectors to digital technology, installed a new surround sound system, brought in 3D capability, and introduced infrared technology for hearing impaired patrons.

The Club is quick to point out that none of these improvements would have been possible without financial support from the City of Chillicothe, the Chillicothe Development Company, area service clubs, merchants, and individuals. In addition to the amazing work of the employees, countless hours of service have been provided by Club Members and community volunteers from the small community of approximately 6,000. Now that’s dedication!

Something even more amazing – the Chillicothe Optimists have managed to do all of this and give back an incredible total of $46,000 to area youth organizations! The Club has been able to distribute money to nearly 40 partner groups including scout troops, youth groups, athletic teams, and community outreach programs. This “profit sharing” has impacted more than 4,000 area youth!

The Club is busy with many different fund raising ideas, and is nearly halfway to their goal. If you or your Club would be willing to help the Chillicothe Illinois Optimist Club reach their goal, please contact Cyndi Kosinski, President-Elect at cyndikos@gmail.com, or go to their GoFundMe site at: http://www.gofundme.com/vg8uzgg.

Now that’s a blockbuster!
The new Optimist Oratorical World Championships Contest will be June 23-24, 2016. Each Optimist District will have the exciting opportunity to send one of their District Oratorical winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts in their Region for a $5,000 scholarship. The winner of each Region (eight winners total) will compete with the winner from Saint Louis University's Global Region for a $15,000, $10,000, or $5,000 World Championships scholarship.

The participants of the Oratorical Contest will gain the following benefits:

• Empower youth to become effective communicators and leaders
• Provide a learning experience resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth
• Assist youth with the cost of higher education tuition
• Create a unique opportunity for youth to meet other young people from diverse backgrounds
• Promote the Saint Louis University campus and Saint Louis area to youth from around the world
• Help youth gain skills needed to become a confident public speaker

Topic for the contest is “How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others,” which promotes positive thinking.

Before the new sector of the contest, the Optimist International Oratorical Contest averaged 18,000 entrants per year. Optimists in North America award nearly $500,000 annually in scholarships with $250,000 awarded in the current Oratorical Scholarship Contests at the District level. With corporate partners and foundation grants, this program will provide contestants at every level the opportunity to receive substantially more scholarship dollars beginning in the summer of 2016 and running annually.

The District deadline to submit the District winner information to Optimist International will be May 15, 2016. For more information, contact programs@optimist.org.

Saint Louis University is thrilled to partner with Optimist International to deliver this world class program. Saint Louis University has positioned itself as a leader in global citizenship and views the contest as a way to showcase the institution’s commitment to being a global partner in the service of youth. The contest will be held in the Center of Global Citizenship located on the Saint Louis University campus.

The mission of the Center for Global Citizenship is to promote collaboration across the University to educate and engage the Saint Louis University community for global awareness, responsibility, and participation. The Center fosters the University’s mission through teaching, research, and service activities that provide local, national, and global linkages.

The Center for Global Citizenship is a 70,000-square-foot center which brings the Cross Cultural Center, the Center for Service and Community Engagement, the Center for Intercultural Studies, and the Center for International Studies under one roof, and adjacent to the English as a Second Language Program, the Center for Sustainability and the Office of International Services located in Des Peres Hall.

The Center is available for events, both Saint Louis University sponsored and externally hosted, which support the mission to promote collaboration across the University to educate and engage the Saint Louis University community for global awareness, responsibility, and participation.

With nearly 1,000 students from more than 70 different countries, as well as nearly 350 students studying abroad in more than 15 different countries each academic year, the Center for Global Citizenship helps transform students into educated and knowledgeable members of the global community.
DIANA CARLIN

Diana Carlin will play an important role for the 2015-16 Optimist International Activities Committee. Chair. Carlin has lived and worked for most of her life in Barbados and considers herself a Caribbean woman. She is a past Vice-President of Optimist International and has enjoyed holding various Optimist offices. She is a medical doctor in Family Practice and has worked in the field of HIV since 1987. She was Chair of the Barbados HIV/AIDS Commission between 2001 and 2008. During that time, she served as Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on matters relating to HIV/AIDS. She has served on numerous local, regional and international boards over the past twenty-five years, including a two year stint as Chair of the Board of the Geneva-based Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She serves on the Parish Council of her church, St. Antionios Anglican Church, in Barbados. She has recently been appointed to the Parliament of Barbados as an Independent Senator. Last but not least, she is a proud mother and grandmother.

Annie Rosenkranz will also play a vital role in the Oratorical Contest at Saint Louis University. Annie became the Program Manager of the Center for Global Citizenship in 2015, previously serving as an International Counselor in SLU’s Office of International Services. The Oratorical Contest will be held in the Center for Global Citizenship on the Saint Louis University campus. Annie is responsible for overseeing the Center’s activities and working with academic and student development units throughout the university to develop programming that expands Saint Louis University’s global activities on campus, in the community and throughout the world. Annie holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Global Development Studies from Queens University and is completing a Master of Public Administration degree from SLU. As an undergraduate, Annie studied abroad in Botswana, an experience that sparked her passion for international education, intercultural exchange, and global citizenship. She has gone on to work, volunteer, and travel across all seven continents. Annie believes the contest is a great opportunity for young adults to broadcast their voice of the world. "In two opinions and views are the same, it will prompt high school students to organize their thoughts, prepare for all situations, take a stance, and to think globally," states Annie.

CAROL HAYNES

Carol Haynes is honored to serve as the 2015-16 International Activities Committee Chair. Carol has lived and worked for most of her life in Barbados and considers herself a Caribbean woman. She is a past Vice-President of Optimist International and has enjoyed holding various Optimist offices. She is a medical doctor in Family Practice and has worked in the field of HIV since 1987. She was Chair of the Barbados HIV/AIDS Commission between 2001 and 2008. During that time, she served as Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on matters relating to HIV/AIDS. She has served on numerous local, regional and international boards over the past twenty-five years, including a two year stint as Chair of the Board of the Geneva-based Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She serves on the Parish Council of her church, St. Antionios Anglican Church, in Barbados. She has recently been appointed to the Parliament of Barbados as an Independent Senator. Last but not least, she is a proud mother and grandmother.

SOPEN SHAH

Sopen Shah was one of the many children competing in an Optimist International Oratorical Contest in 2002. She vividly remembers traveling to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to compete. She felt very lucky to have qualified for the finals. Looking back on her experiences, she is grateful for the opportunity to share her opinion and express her views in her speech. Sopen competed in the contest while in high school and realized the importance of learning to embrace public speaking for her future. The contest had a lasting effect on Sopen – it was an opportunity for a young woman to share her perspective and she felt her words mattered. Her list of achievements since winning the contest continues to grow. Sopen competed in the Miss Wisconsin-Junior pageant and went on to place Top 5 at the national competition. She graduated from Harvard University magna cum laude with a degree in Social Studies, a mix of philosophy, economics, and political science. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, she interned at the Outagamie County District Attorney’s Office, the New York City General’s Office, and McKinsey & Company, the world’s top-ranked consulting firm, in Washington, D.C. After graduating, she worked as a consultant at McKinsey, and then as a defense financial analyst at Bloombergs LP, where she frequently appeared on TV and on the radio. Sopen was named Miss DC in 2011. She just graduated from the Yale Law School, where she was the Managing Editor of the Yale Law Journal. She also authored three articles that are forthcoming in various law reviews across the country. Public speaking has played a large role in each of her accomplishments. Upon hearing about the new regional/global addition of the Oratorical Contest, Sopen expressed her excitement for the contest and each competitor. Sopen said, "The largest scale increases the contest’s appeal, and gives each competitor the opportunity to meet people from around the world. I firmly believe that we should pay as much attention to academic competitions, as we do to other types, and Optimist International’s addition to the competition goes a long way toward making that happen."
I Met Your Mother (2005–2014). I played the role as Barney Stinson in the television comedy series How I Met Your Mother. I have begun to change. No one is really avoiding me. The trees are welcoming me, and they’re offering something you can bank on a summer’s day. It’s a worm. And it isn’t just ANY worm. It’s a caterpillar. A caterpillar is one of the most optimistic creatures I can think of: he believes in himself and he believes in the future. He knows he’s more than just a fuzzy-looking worm and that someday he’ll become a beautiful butterfly. That’s optimism. Think about that.”

Mr. Maddox turned and said, “I know what you’re thinking. What does this have to do with optimism?”

Mr. Maddox smiled the biggest smile he had smiled in a long time. And no, he didn’t only mean that. Perhaps, it could change yours, too! Mr. Maddox turned and said, “I know what you’re thinking. What does this have to do with optimism?”

Mr. Maddox smiled. He held out his hand, and Scott stood up to announce the winners. But before anybody got an award, Scott raised his hand and said, “Mr. Maddox, may I give an optimistic speech?”

Mr. Maddox looked astonished. He held out his hand, and Scott stood up to the front of the room. “You know, for the last five years or so, I’ve had a bad outlook on life. I told my school bus and everyone seemed to be picking on me and disliking me. When I got to school, the students and teachers seemed to be avoiding me. The trees were glaring at me and the grass didn’t look green. I always wished I could change things. I never even knew how. After Mr. Maddox spoke to us, I decided to give optimism a try, and hey, it worked! I felt better, and so I decided to continue trying. Over the past week things have begun to change. No one is really avoiding me. The trees are welcoming me, and the grass is growing greener on my side of the fence. I just want you to know that I’m trying, and I need a few friends. Thank you.”

Mr. Maddox smiled the biggest smile he had smiled in a long time. And no, Scott didn’t win an award for his speech, but he won something much more important: an optimistic attitude that changed his whole life. And maybe, just maybe, it could change yours, too!”

THE NEXT GENERATION OF OPTIMISTS - MILLENNIALS

WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY WANT, AND HOW TO ENGAGE THEM

PART 2: WHAT DO MILLENNIALS WANT?

Giving - Millennials find it very rewarding to know that they have had a positive impact on the people in their lives and the world around them. They need to know that what they do matters. They believe helping others is the right thing to do and they make a conscious effort to devote themselves to making a positive difference.

Meaningful Relationships - Millennials want to feel loved and give love, give and take. They invest their time and energy in building strong relationships with their friends and family because they want to surround themselves with loyal dependable support systems. Connections and experiences they share are what make life worthwhile.

Achievements - Millennials want to be the best at what they do. They want to achieve the goals they set, open doors to new opportunities, get stuff done and get it done well. They want to make a difference in the world.

Involvement - Millennials love it when they can take action and make an impact. When they think about what they want to do and who they want to be, they believe that becoming a trusted leader and a person who can solve problems is the best way to contribute in the world.

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Learn how you can inspire innovation that attracts and keeps Millennials as Club Members, community leaders, and meaningful friendships for life in upcoming issues of The Optimist.
INSURANCE BASICS

NEW COACH TRAINING FOR OPTIMIST CLUBS

OPTIMIST CLUB LIABILITY INSURANCE

All Optimist Clubs and Optimist Members in good standing with their Optimist International Dues receive Optimist Club Liability insurance for no additional charge.

The Optimist Club Liability Plan protects your Club from lawsuits resulting from bodily injury or property damage at Club-sponsored activities. This coverage provides not only peace of mind for your Club Members, but it also satisfies the need for proof of insurance required by many venues. A Certificate of Insurance evidences Liability coverage provided by the Optimist International Insurance plan. It is not unusual for the event venue or property owner to require a copy of the Certificate of Insurance be provided for each planned event.

It is important to note that coverage depends on the actual facts of each case and the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the policy.

Questions? Please contact Mercer Consumer at 1-800-503-9227. For Canadian Clubs, please call 1-800-363-7151.

OPTIMIST CLUB ACCIDENT MEDICAL INSURANCE

All Optimist Sports Clubs are strongly encouraged to purchase this coverage.

This coverage is structured to respond to individuals injured while participating in scheduled youth games and practice sessions.

With no deductible, and negotiated pricing, protection is benefit-rich at an affordable cost. High Limits of coverage are available upon request, and coverage extends for a one year maximum benefit period.

The Optimist International program includes a number of benefits not typically available in the standard marketplace, including: Dental, Prescriptions, Ground & Air Ambulance, Laboratory Tests, X-rays, Durable Medical Equipment, and Diagnostic Imaging. Plus, it offers the replacement of Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, and Contacts.

OPTIMIST CLUB DIRECTORS & OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE

Optimist International has provided its United States Clubs access to a customized Blanket Club Directors & Officers Liability program to protect Club Directors & Officers from liability resulting from decisions they’ve made on behalf of their Club. Cost savings have been negotiated for Optimist International Clubs in the United States.

Clubs in Canada have additional coverage of Abuse & Molestation, and Directors and Officers Liability included in the general policy at no additional cost to the Club/Member.

The selection of the Coaching Coaches training programs will not only help further educate its coaches and parents, but will help provide all children participating in an Optimist-sponsored program the best sporting experience possible. Education is the key to growth and Coaching Coaches prides itself on positively effecting change through a more educated coach and parent.

Bill Bommarito, President of Coaching Coaches, LLC said: “I am proud and thrilled about this new relationship with Optimist International. Together, we have set a new standard for how our children are coached and supported when playing youth sports. Optimist International is setting the bar on a national scale for how a youth sports program is positively delivered.”

The online coach’s training is filled with insightful tactics and strategies that will help any volunteer coach deliver an even more effective youth sports program.

For more information and details about discounted pricing for Optimist Clubs, visit Optimist.org/Coaches.

Optimist International has teamed up with Coaching Coaches, LLC, to provide Optimist Clubs with access to the highly acclaimed Coaching Coaches online training programs for both volunteer coaches and parents who have children participating in youth sports.

Optimist International is providing this service to its Clubs in order to elevate its standards in working with youth sports participants.
The International Convention attracted nearly 1,000 Optimists this past July, 2015 marked ten years after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which was the last time we embarked on this territory for the International Convention!

The event began with a small group of volunteers participating in service projects, one for Café Hope and another for Save the Children, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

An orientation session on Thursday morning for the First Timers and an afternoon packed with topnotch training for Optimist Leaders rounded out the early arrival events.

Let’s not forget about the House of Optimism, which was open for all to see a myriad of vendors! The vendors included, but were not limited to, our Foundations, Quebec Convention Promotions and official suppliers, Shumsky and Ansell’s.

The event began with a small group of volunteers participating in service projects, one for Café Hope and another for Save the Children, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thursday evening, the Opening Ceremony was an event to remember featuring entertainment by the local area Louisiana Kids, the parade of flags, and introductions of the organization’s current and past leaders. Inspiring words from the 2014-2015 Optimist International President Ken Garner and Junior Optimist President Javanni Waugh were also shared during the event.

The First Business session was rewarding and informative as awards were presented and keynote speaker Dayna Steel stole the stage.

The finale was the President’s Banquet and Ball where many danced the night away to tunes played by our own Optimist DJ, Marino Garbin aka South Carolina District Governor.

What a great way to spend a few days away from home with your family – having fun, learning and sharing ideas with hundreds of Members of our Optimist Family – a true Optimist Experience!
**SOUTHEAST REGION**

- **Dave Arroyo**
  South Florida
- **Toland Beal**
  Alabama-Mississippi
- **Kimberly Brown**
  Tennessee
- **Carol Simmons-Morack**
  Pacific Southwest
- **Michel Dupuis**
  Quebec East-North Shore
- **Linda Vaught**
  Vice President
- **Bryan McCormick**
  Ohio
- **Herman Greenwood**
  Indiana South
- **Robert Floyd**
  Vice President
- **Teresa Evans**
  West Missouri
- **Dwight Pollard**
  East Missouri
- **Steve Turner**
  Illinois
- **Julie Robison**
  Indiana North
- **John Blackwell**
  South Texas
- **Albert Clark**
  Vice President
- **Joseph Short**
  South Texas
- **David Clark**
  North Texas
- **Britt Mefford**
  Colorado-Wyoming
- **Dwight Mefford**
  North Missouri
- **Mike Perine**
  California South
- **Michael Gray**
  Pacific Northwest
- **John Grover**
  South Carolina
- **James Adams**
  Vice President

**SOUTHWEST REGION**

- **Dave Phillips**
  Iowa
- **Kenneth Schulz**
  Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota
- **Marvin Wastell**
  Nebraska
- **Edie Harris**
  Alberta-Montana-Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming
- **Howard Crofoot**
  Southern Wisconsin
- **Gregory Goodchild**
  Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan
- **Mark Clausen**
  Vice President
- **Carol Simmons-Morack**
  Pacific Southwest
- **Elsbeth "Beth" Palmer-Mills**
  Pacific Southeast
- **Mike Perine**
  California South
- **Michael Gray**
  Pacific Northwest
- **John Grover**
  South Carolina
- **James Adams**
  Vice President
- **Linda Vaught**
  Vice President
- **Bryan McCormick**
  Ohio
- **Herman Greenwood**
  Indiana South
- **Robert Floyd**
  Vice President
- **Teresa Evans**
  West Missouri
- **Dwight Pollard**
  East Missouri
- **Steve Turner**
  Illinois
- **Julie Robison**
  Indiana North
- **John Blackwell**
  South Texas
- **Albert Clark**
  Vice President
- **Mildred Tatum**
  TennARK
- **Gary Williams**
  New Mexico-West Texas
- **Curtis Merrill**
  Colorado-Wyoming
- **Chuck Lawrence**
  North Texas
- **Jean-Marc Michaud**
  Eastern Ontario
- **Mario Tanguay**
  Quebec Central
- **Sylvain Menard**
  Quebec South
- **Louis-Marie Guité**
  Quebec East-Acadia
- **Bryan McCormick**
  Ohio
- **Herman Greenwood**
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  Colorado-Wyoming
- **Chuck Lawrence**
  North Texas
- **Jean-Marc Michaud**
  Eastern Ontario
- **Mario Tanguay**
  Quebec Central
- **Sylvain Menard**
  Quebec South
- **Louis-Marie Guité**
  Quebec East-Acadia

**MIDDLE AMERICA REGION**

- **Dave Phillips**
  Iowa
- **Kenneth Schulz**
  Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota
- **Marvin Wastell**
  Nebraska
- **Edie Harris**
  Alberta-Montana-Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming
- **Howard Crofoot**
  Southern Wisconsin
- **Gregory Goodchild**
  Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan
- **Mark Clausen**
  Vice President
- **Carol Simmons-Morack**
  Pacific Southwest
- **Elsbeth "Beth" Palmer-Mills**
  Pacific Southeast
- **Mike Perine**
  California South
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- **Bryan McCormick**
  Ohio
- **Herman Greenwood**
  Indiana South
- **Robert Floyd**
  Vice President
- **Teresa Evans**
  West Missouri
- **Dwight Pollard**
  East Missouri
- **Steve Turner**
  Illinois
- **Julie Robison**
  Indiana North
- **John Blackwell**
  South Texas
- **Albert Clark**
  Vice President
- **Mildred Tatum**
  TennARK
- **Gary Williams**
  New Mexico-West Texas
- **Curtis Merrill**
  Colorado-Wyoming
- **Chuck Lawrence**
  North Texas
- **Jean-Marc Michaud**
  Eastern Ontario
- **Mario Tanguay**
  Quebec Central
- **Sylvain Menard**
  Quebec South
- **Louis-Marie Guité**
  Quebec East-Acadia

**SAINT LAWRENCE REGION**

- **Dave Phillips**
  Iowa
- **Kenneth Schulz**
  Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota
- **Marvin Wastell**
  Nebraska
- **Edie Harris**
  Alberta-Montana-Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming
- **Howard Crofoot**
  Southern Wisconsin
- **Gregory Goodchild**
  Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan
- **Mark Clausen**
  Vice President
- **Carol Simmons-Morack**
  Pacific Southwest
- **Elsbeth "Beth" Palmer-Mills**
  Pacific Southeast
- **Mike Perine**
  California South
- **Michael Gray**
  Pacific Northwest
- **John Grover**
  South Carolina
- **James Adams**
  Vice President
- **Linda Vaught**
  Vice President
- **Bryan McCormick**
  Ohio
- **Herman Greenwood**
  Indiana South
- **Robert Floyd**
  Vice President
- **Teresa Evans**
  West Missouri
- **Dwight Pollard**
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  Eastern Ontario
- **Mario Tanguay**
  Quebec Central
- **Sylvain Menard**
  Quebec South
- **Louis-Marie Guité**
  Quebec East-Acadia
Each year, many Optimist Clubs and Districts sponsor children and young adults at their local tournaments for a chance to compete and advance to higher levels. Following is an inspirational letter from Alexander Lowe, a past competitor of the Optimist Junior Tour Event held in Ft. Worth, Texas, to his sponsor and Optimist Club of Fort Worth Member Ron Traver. As he describes in his letter, a few simple words of encouragement can go a long way!

Dear Ron,

I just want to thank you for taking the time to offer me words of advice and encouragement. This past weekend was very challenging. Participating at the Optimist Tournament was very important for me because I wanted to represent The First Tee of Fort Worth. I also knew that my participation was possible because someone that I did not know had sponsored me and this meant a lot because otherwise, I could not have competed. After we met, I was very grateful to you, but I also became nervous. Soon I realized that my performance was going from bad to worse. I was feeling sorry for myself and for all the people who had offered me their support. I felt like crying and giving up, and I honestly don’t know how I was able to keep going until the end. After finishing hole 18, I could not wait to leave the golf course. I had such a deep sense of failure; I felt that no matter how hard I worked to improve my game, nothing was working and I was never going to change for the better. Once I arrived home I did nothing but cry. I did not understand about my performance that I considered not going back the following day.

Later that night, I told my mother that I was not going back to the tournament on Sunday. She advised me about the importance of facing the challenges of life rather than running from them and told me that if I did not show up on Sunday I would regret it more than if I did so. For this reason, I decided to go back the next day and offer my best effort.

On Sunday right before my first shot, Mrs. Patsy Garner gave me words of encouragement, and it made a huge positive impact on me. It was a new day and I had a renewed sense of hope. Throughout the day I found myself at peace because of the simple fact that I was there giving my best instead of being at home feeling sorry for myself. I found a deeper respect for myself and I was happy to be there.

I want you to know that your sponsorship not only enabled me to participate in a tournament that my family could not have afforded, but it actually taught me that:

1. It is better to face your fears than to run from them;
2. The day after a failure is a new day, a new beginning, a new opportunity to do better;
3. Every person counts, every smile counts, every word of encouragement and hope that you can give to others counts.

I thank God, my parents, Kevin Long, The First Tee of Fort Worth, Mrs. Patsy Garner, you, Mr. Ron Traver, and The Optimist Golf Tournament for this great opportunity.

Respectfully,

Alexander Lowe
It was another year of competitive play and great success on the golf courses at the 2015 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa. This year was the first year the Optimist Junior Golf went to three segments allowing more than 650 international junior golfers to compete for titles in seven age divisions along with approximately 1000 family members, 40 volunteers and 30 college coaches attending.

In addition to the winners above, three golfers made a hole-in-one:

Thomas Blumbleke (Canton, GA) – Palmer Golf Course, hole #10, par 3, 183 yards
Maria Connolly (Waterville, Ohio) – Fazio Golf Course, hole #16, par 3, 145 yards
Anna Eddy (Hilton Head Island, SC) – Fazio Golf Course, hole #13, par 3, 160 yards

Congratulations to the 2015 champions of the Optimist Junior Golf Championships! Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, parents, and participants for making the event a tremendous success.

NEXT ON THE OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF CALENDAR: TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
The eleventh annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions will take place November 7-8, 2015, at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The tournament will feature top junior golfers eligible by way of their top finish at the summer Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, by winning their District qualifier, or by being a top-ranked national player. For more information, visit www.optimist.org/golf.

GIRLS 10-12
1. Ruo Ning Yin (China) – 70-74-73 – 217
2. Manuela Gomez (Colombia) – 72-73-75 – 220
3. Lauren Gilkes (Missouri) – 70-71-74 – 215

BOYS 10-11
1. Casey Janis (South Africa) – 72-69-73 – 214
2. Eli Tran (Lubbock, Texas) – 74-71-71 – 216
3. Alli Kurnikou (Palm Beach, Florida) – 72-72-74 – 218

GIRLS 13-14
1. Agustina Zeballos (Argentina) – 72-69-75 – 216
2. Lauren Miller (Niceville, Florida) – 71-76-71 – 218
3. Ashley Zi-Ting Au (Medina, Ohio) – 69-75-76 – 210

BOYS 12-13
1. Naraajie Emerald Ramadhanputra (Indonesia) – 70-74-72 – 216

GIRLS 15-18
1. Mary Janiga (Wellington, Florida) – 73-72-71-70 – 286
2. Araceli Fonseca (Colombia) – 70-75-73-74 – 292
3. Annie Lacombe (Canada) – 74-71-78-72 – 295

BOYS 16-18
1. Adrien Pendaries (France) – 68-73-72-64 – 277
2. Davis lamb (Potomac, Maryland) – 73-72-71-65 – 290

*won the playoff
The JOOI Presidential Banquet was well-attended with 280 JOOI Members and adult Optimist Members. Many adult Members holding incoming leadership roles were invited to the masquerade ball themed banquet where many youth Optimists and several adult volunteers were recognized for their leadership in making a difference in local communities and through leadership at the international level.

Anne Donkers, 2015-16 International Vice President of the Northeast & Great Lakes Region said, "Seeing the quality of the youth leadership was very inspiring and it encouraged me to pay closer attention to our District JOOI Clubs, which I feel sometimes get left out. It will also make me encourage JOOI Members to attend the JOOI Banquet for the youth to see that the adults are interested and concerned with what they do."

Rebecca Butler Mona, 2015-16 International Board Director attended her first JOOI Banquet this year and described the event as inspiring. "Clearly, the future is bright in the hands of these young Optimist leaders, and I commend the Optimist Clubs who are supporting JOOI Clubs in their local communities. Partnering together, we can provide so many more opportunities to develop our young leaders and their passion for service - enabling us all to do more to bring out the best in children, our communities, and each other."

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During the JOOI Banquet, Clubs participated in a Best Dressed competition. Congratulations to the 1st place Selma JOOI Club and the 2nd place Bonita Vista High School JOOI Club. The Selma JOOI Club received $100 for Club services and the Bonita Vista High School JOOI Club received $50. A special thank you to Sandy Cyphers, Youth Clubs Committee Member, for her generous donation to the Club winnings!

Optimist International’s Youth Clubs President Javanni Waugh, who attended the youth and adult Optimist International conventions in New Orleans from his home country of Jamaica, was especially impressed with his fellow Optimist youth Members’ generosity and volunteer efforts. “As an Optimist, my personal mission is to bring out the best in children. This event was just one way that we can demonstrate how Optimists care about kids and how they put safety first.”

For more information about Save the Children, visit http://www.savethechildren.org/.

The JOOI Legacy Fund

While promoting JOOI in New Orleans, the JOOI Legacy Fund pins sales reached nearly $4,000! Thank you to the Optimist Members who bought a pin and donated. The JOOI Legacy Fund is a designated fund within the Optimist International Foundations. It is a discretionary fund to be used by the JOOI Board of Directors with $1,000 spent annually for service outreach.

SAVE THE DATE

The JOOI Convention will be held July 3-5, 2016 in Quebec, Canada. Continue to check www.jooi.org and click on JOOI Convention for updates and more detailed information.
The Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation is proud to launch its 2015-16 annual campaign from October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Our goal is to raise $500,000, which represents a donation of $36.50 from each Optimist Member—the equivalent of A DIME-A-DAY.

Take this challenge as an additional way to support your Club, your community and your organization.

As you already know, the Foundation is the only funder of the District scholarships for your Oratorical Contest, your Essay Contest, and your Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Foundation not only supports Optimist International activities such as the JOOI Clubs of your District and the Reel Optimist Contest, but also is a partner to the new Optimist International Regional/World Championship Oratorical Contest.

It is important to mention that the Foundation supports the Clubs community projects through the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation Club Grant program. Congratulations to our $500 grant winners, Optimist Club of Essex and Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks!

Along with the President of Optimist International, Dave Bruns, the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation encourages you to meet this challenge RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

For more information about the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation, visit http://ccof-foec.org/

I BELIEVE IN THE CANADIAN CHILDREN’S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION!
Top Ten as of June 30, 2015

**District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Average Contribution Per Member</th>
<th>Total Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Kathleen Paulson</td>
<td>$20.77</td>
<td>$202.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Florida</td>
<td>Perry Albritton</td>
<td>$20.23</td>
<td>$202.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland-South Delaware</td>
<td>Jack Evans</td>
<td>$13.80</td>
<td>$138.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Missouri</td>
<td>Sallie Westenbarger</td>
<td>$12.29</td>
<td>$122.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Ewell Johnson</td>
<td>$12.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina East</td>
<td>Bill Edgerton</td>
<td>$12.09</td>
<td>$120.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico-West Texas</td>
<td>Ludwig Bezemer</td>
<td>$11.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>California South</td>
<td>Al Vriner</td>
<td>$11.08</td>
<td>$110.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado-Wyoming</td>
<td>Steve Gomett</td>
<td>$10.88</td>
<td>$108.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Ruth Nelson</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Ray Prossich</td>
<td>$32,212.30</td>
<td>$1,194,658.00</td>
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<td>North Florida</td>
<td>Perry Albritton</td>
<td>$28,078.51</td>
<td>$842,356.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Dave Mason</td>
<td>$20,547.32</td>
<td>$410,946.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Missouri</td>
<td>Sallie Westenbarger</td>
<td>$19,714.30</td>
<td>$394,286.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado-Wyoming</td>
<td>Steve Gomett</td>
<td>$17,805.85</td>
<td>$178,058.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Jack Evans</td>
<td>$17,706.75</td>
<td>$177,067.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Kathleen Paulson</td>
<td>$16,009.45</td>
<td>$160,094.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Jose Richardson</td>
<td>$15,659.60</td>
<td>$156,596.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Texas</td>
<td>Ruth Nelson</td>
<td>$14,498.10</td>
<td>$144,981.00</td>
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</tbody>
</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, Manitoba, Saskatchewan  &amp; Northern Wyoming</td>
<td>Jo-Ann Peters</td>
<td>$16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakotis-Manitoba-Minnesota</td>
<td>Peter Smith</td>
<td>$11.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Northwest</td>
<td>Andre Picard</td>
<td>$16,285.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Gordon Brownlee &amp; John Post</td>
<td>$16,627.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Donor Listings**

336 Myra K. Holmes (In Memory)
335 Harvey Johnson
333 C. Douglas Holland
332 Richard Mercer
331 Joanne Johnson
330 Myra K. Holmes (In Memory)
329 Tony Bell
328 William M. Fowler, Jr.
327 Bill Edgerton
326 Jack Evans
325 Daniel Mason
324 Dave Mason
323 Kathleen Paulson
322 John Post
321 Amanda Karol
320 Jo-Ann Peters
319 Peter Smith
318 Andre Picard
317 Gordon Brownlee & John Post
316 Tony Bell
315 William M. Fowler, Jr.
314 Joanne Johnson
313 Myra K. Holmes (In Memory)
312 Bill Edgerton
311 Jack Evans
310 Daniel Mason
309 Dave Mason
308 Kathleen Paulson
307 John Post
306 Amanda Karol
305 Jo-Ann Peters
304 Peter Smith
303 Andre Picard
302 Gordon Brownlee & John Post

**COPPER BENEFICIARY - $100,000**

- Michigan
  - Karen E. Monsue
  - Rebecca and Mike Morin
  - Tennessee
  - Optimist Club of Tullahoma, GA

**SILVER BENEFICIARY - $250,000**

- Arizona
  - Optimist Club of Tucson-Pueblo, AZ

**BRONZE BENEFICIARY - $500,000**

- Michigan
  - Optimist Club of Ann Arbor, MI

**DISTINGUISHED BENEFICIARY - $1,000,000**

- Central Ontario
  - Daniel Nose
  - Colorado-Wyoming
    - Donna Pennington
    - Georgia
    - Mary Still
    - Kansas
    - Ricky North
    - Missouri
    - Daniel McNeely
    - Idaho
    - Diane Graham
    - Quebec West
    - Louis-Marie Guillet
    - Quebec East
    - Bernard Bougie
    - South Texas
    - Optimist Club of the Greater Copperas Cove Area, TX

**HONORED BENEFICIARY - $2,500,000**

- Alberta-Montana-Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming
  - Tim S. Geil
  - East Missouri
    - Optimist Club of Rolla, MO
    - Eastern Ontario
    - Genevieve Quirin
  - Nevada
    - Donald Phillips
    - Michigan
    - Debora Berry
    - Nebraska
    - Daryl A. Carey
    - New York-New England
    - Audra Gansfort
    - North Carolina East
    - Gary and Louwanna Pender

This listing reflects contributions received up to June 30, 2015, and is for individuals and clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of The Optimist.
A young boy attending a wedding for the first time whispered to his mother, “Why is the bride dressed in white?”

“Because white is the color of happiness,” his mother explained, “and today is the happiest day of her life.”

The child thought about this for a moment, “So, why is the groom wearing black?”

A gentleman entered a busy florist shop that displayed a large sign that read, “Say it with Flowers!”

“Wrap up one rose,” he told the florist.

“Only one?” asked the florist.

“Just one,” replied the customer, “I am a man of few words.”

One day a mother visited her daughter’s dorm room only to find her not at home. Knowing she needed support as a freshman, the mother disguised her handwriting and wrote her daughter a complimentary message signed as from a “Secret Admirer.”

Later, the daughter thanked her mother for the note. When the mother asked her daughter how she knew who left the message, she replied, “It was the same handwriting as the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, and Santa Claus.”

A new mother came home from the hospital with her new baby son still wearing his hospital identification tag. The mother’s three-year old son met his new brother, and then asked, “Mama, when are you going to take off his price tag?”

If you Club is looking for an activity that allows Members to bring out the best in kinds, 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!

“On Thanksgiving the Four Basic Food Groups are ‘more,’ ‘a little more,’ ‘a lot more,’ and ‘too much.’”

“Yes, I loss regularly – right before every appointment.”

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NEW TOPICS
CREATE NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR YOUTH

Here are the scholarship topics for the 2015-16 year:

Essay: “Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction”

Oratorical and CCDHH: “How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others”