

The OPTIMIST

Spring 2014

New Optimists can be found everywhere. Now is the time to seek them out and ask them to join!



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Optimist International is proud to present Austin Gatus in Las Vegas at the Opening Ceremonies of Convention on Thursday, July 10.



Music is Austin's calling and is in his blood, even while battling the blood cancer, leukemia, at age 9 and undergoing four years of chemotherapy. Since age 12, he has shared the stage with saxophone superstars Kenny G and Dave Koz, with Mindi Abair at the San Diego Gaslamp Jazz Festival, and with the Average White Band, playing the iconic "Pick up the Pieces," with their saxman, Freddy V. Now at the age of 17, the beat goes on as he composes and performs his own music as a multi-instrumentalist on keyboard, guitar, saxophone and vocals. To learn more about Austin, visit his website at www.austingatus.com.



Brought to you by Members of the Host Region
and the Childhood Cancer Campaign



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The Optimist

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On the Cover
Spring is a season of growth, which means more Members, more Clubs and more service. Help Optimism grow!

Mission Statement

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.

Vision Statement

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier 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

accord and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself-

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet. To make all your friends feel that there is something in them. To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true. To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best. To be just

as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too

strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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Knock, Knock...

Who's There?



A Message From President Ron Huxley

Most Optimists are focused on what happens in their Club and what they do for the children in their community. While that is both understandable and important, it is also necessary to keep an eye on what is going on in the Optimist world. You don't have to look far before you discover that while you are doing your projects and fundraisers in your community, another Club in another community is doing their best for the kids there too. It's all happening at the same time. Every Club has their own way of doing things and meeting the needs of their community, but the effect is the same – Optimists are bringing out the best in kids.

I have always been amazed at how unique and creative Optimists are when it comes to the activities they offer. The biggest thrill for me is realizing that at any given time, Optimist Clubs around this great organization are affecting the lives of children. Let me assure you that you are not alone. We have almost 2,600 Optimist Clubs in 17 countries around the world. We all believe strongly in what we do and if we work together, we can make a big difference in this world. Remember the more we grow as an organization, the bigger the difference we can make and the more lives we can touch.

We each have a reason why we do what we do. I would wager that the source of that reason is a smile on a child's face. I call that your MO. In an effort to provide new opportunities to serve more children and create more MOs, the International Board of Directors approved a plan for Leadership Summits to be conducted across the organization. These Summits have proven to be very successful. They have inspired Members young and old to improve what they do in their Clubs. The evaluations we have received indicate that we have hit a home run. I hope each of you gain personally from these Summits. I know I have.

If you believe like I do, that we have something special, now is the time to act on it. Our bump in the road is the constant decline we continue to experience in membership. If each of you are willing to recognize that this bump can be overcome, then we can work together to smooth it out and put it behind us. As our Optimist Creed states, we can *"forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future."*

This decline in membership has become the source of constant discussion. Everyone has their own opinion on what we should do to overcome it and

there are as many different opinions as there are voices. I feel that every avenue needs to be acted on. Go out and share your MO, invite a new Member and put a smile on another child's face.

Be happy in what you do, share it with someone new and promise yourself to be part of the best Optimist International Convention ever this summer in Las Vegas.

Thank you,

Ron G. Huxley,
Optimist International President



A New View on Membership



If your Club is like most others in the organization, you have dealt with membership losses. You have also learned that recruiting Members may not be as easy as it was in the past. Being Optimists, we realize that membership loss is not a problem; it is an opportunity.

Every deletion should be seen as an opportunity to replace our losses with enthusiastic new Members, who will bring new ideas and energy to our Clubs. These new Members will lighten the workload, allow us to run new programs and reach more children.

It is necessary to understand that people's needs are changing and we must adapt our recruiting techniques to meet the current society. It may not be possible to continue to do things as we have in the past because those methods are no longer effective.

Due to the demands of today's busy world, many people do not want to join a Club. People do not see the same benefits

to Club membership as they did in the past. The demands of career and family often surpass the need to be involved in a civic organization. However, people are still willing to be involved in a project that brings out the best in kids.

Inviting prospective Members to help with an Oratorical contest, sports activity or mentoring program tends to be much more successful than inviting them to a Club meeting. Getting people actively involved in a Club project shows them how even a few hours of their time can make a difference in the lives of children in the community.

Once a person is involved in and enjoys the activity, they are much more open to the idea of becoming a Member. They have seen the smiles on the faces of the children and discovered the satisfaction of making a difference in the life of a child. Club membership will be viewed and valued as a way to continue providing service and making their community a better place.

Keys to Club Growth

• Interesting Club Service Projects

Most Members join an Optimist Club because of the work done with youth. Appealing service projects keep current Members involved and show potential Members that the work we do is fulfilling and fun.

• Fellowship

Members often stay in their Clubs because of the friendships they have made. Guests who see Members enjoying each other's company and having fun will want to come back.

• Positive Public Relations

A Club's service needs to be shared with the community to positively impact Member recruitment. If people hear about the great work your Club is doing, they are more likely to want to be a part of it.

• Ask

The majority of people do not join simply because they were not asked. Invite at least one guest a month to a Club meeting or project. Once they have seen the great work done by your Club, offer them the opportunity to be a part of this great organization!

Optimists are Making Great Achievements through the PGI Program

The following Optimists submitted their requirements for achieving Levels VII and X of the Personal Growth & Involvement Program between November 1, 2013 and January 30, 2014.

PGI Level VII Recipients

Benny Benson	AZ
John Cowart	NMWTX
Linda Galipeau	QUCE
LeAnne Schneckloth	IA

PGI Level X Recipients

Tracy Huxley	SWONT
Denis Lévesque	QUCE
Nova Sipe	AZ

Sharing Optimism IN A BIG WAY



There is nothing that celebrates a significant event quite like a giant cake. That is why Optimist Clubs from the Quebec City area baked the biggest one possible to kick off a festive season in partnership with the Quebec Winter Carnival. The event was organized to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Quebec Winter Carnival and the first official Optimist Day on February 6. The Quebec Winter Carnival is widely regarded as the most important winter carnival in the world and is ranked third for the total number of participants, right behind the Carnival of Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans' Mardi Gras.

Optimist Gilles Jolin, the Chair of the project and Diane Frenette, President of the St-Émile Optimist Club were responsible for coordinating the activity, which provided wide visibility for the Optimist movement. Bonhomme Carnaval, the mascot of the Quebec Winter Carnival, even became a Friend of Optimists!



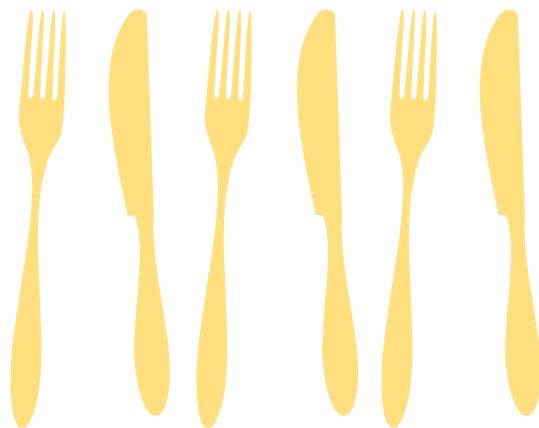
The giant cake featured the image of the Bonhomme and the logo of Governor Carolle Beaudet and consisted of more than 8,000 pieces. Canadian pastry company, Vachon/Saputo contributed the over 20,000 pounds of flour, 15,000 pounds of sugar and 6,000 eggs required to bake the cake. More than 3,500 visitors tasted and enjoyed the huge dessert. Portions were also distributed through La Bouchée généreuse, a community organization that assists the less fortunate.





During the cake preparation, 12 talented children selected from more than 100 contestants for the Mini-Stars contest organized by the Quebec East-North Shore District performed on a special stage. This contest, hosted by District Growth Chair Jean Paquet, was judged by a young Elvis Presley impersonator, the very talented Optimist David Thibault!

The day concluded with the distribution of new clothes to needy children.



Thanks to the cooperation of Michel Deschamps, a Member of the Optimist Club of Charlesbourg, who served as a public liaison officer, this activity was conducted at Place Laurier, one of Canada's most visited malls. It provided Optimist Clubs with the opportunity to showcase the Optimist mission of "bringing out the best in kids." Also, the Quebec East-North Shore District used this event to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Quebec City is hosting the 2016 Optimist International convention! Optimists can be sure that the Quebec East-North Shore Members will help them create lasting memories.





Means Now

By Larry Brown, Member of the Sawnee-Cumming Optimist Club, Georgia District

The Sawnee-Cumming Optimist Club's version of the New Optimists Welcome program is a unique interpretation as the NOW really means now, as in today. Many of today's membership prospects cannot find the time to attend traditional banquets and long programs. They prefer less formal, and particularly, less time consuming guest events. This new model is fashioned for prospective Members who have busy schedules and often short attention spans due to multi-tasking job and family responsibilities.

The Club's innovative take on the Member-guest event is tailored for today's society. Events are designed to be short, informal and more fun. The focus is simple and effective. It emphasizes mingling and socializing, rather than the typical banquet with a long dinner and numerous speakers.

For the Club's Christmas event, Members organized a "Mingle Jingle" and invited guests who would potentially become Members. The



highlight of the evening was socializing while

enjoying wine and cheese. Guests were able to meet and visit with Optimist Members and each other. The Christmas event was the second of the Club's new meet-and-greet format. They also held a "Summer Mingle" during the warmer months.

These events are not only effective for fun and socializing; a 10 minute program is also included to inform guests of the purpose and objectives of Optimist Clubs. Brief presentations are made on Club projects and inspiring stories are shared about how the Club is making a difference in the lives of children

throughout the community.

While many people in the local community may be charitable and benevolent, they likely do not have the time to sit through lengthy Optimist presentations. That is why the Club is doing NOW events differently than they have before, to provide a rewarding and memorable experience for their guests.

Four new Members joined the Sawnee-Cumming Optimist Club following the Mingle Jingle. That is quite a return on the investment in the Club's new NOW program!

Note: Larry is a new Member, who was recruited during one of the new NOW events.

Empower Youth to Lead and Excel with



By Rose Santini, Director of National Programs, HOBY

Attendees of the 2013 Fall Advanced Leadership Academy in St. Louis.

For 55 years, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) has proven to be an educational, life-changing experience for high school students of all ages. HOBY has inspired young people to make a difference and become catalysts for positive change in their home, school, workplace, and community. Every year, more than 4,000 committed volunteers, including Optimist Members plan, fundraise, and help to produce HOBY leadership programs for more than 10,000 students from across the United States and around the world.

Community Leadership Workshop (CLeW) is HOBY's introductory one-day leadership program for high school freshmen. It is a free program, typically with 50-100 freshmen students, and focuses on leadership as a discipline to be explored and learned.

HOBY's flagship program is the State Leadership Seminar (LS). Its unique curriculum cultivates leadership development skills that prepare high school sophomores for a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. Selected students attend three- or four-day seminars to explore their personal leadership skills while learning how to

lead others and make a positive impact in their community.

The World Leadership Congress (WLC) brings students together from across the globe to discover their potential as the next generation of leaders.

The Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA) is a five-day practical and experiential program where high school juniors and seniors explore how they can use their individual abilities to organize and lead a service project to create meaningful change.

HOBY's mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. Working together through our renewed partnership, we can strengthen local communities to create global change.

To learn more, visit www.hoby.org. To connect with HOBY volunteers in your area, please call (818) 851-3980 ext. 308 or e-mail santinir@hoby.org.

Get Involved!

- Spread the word about HOBY programs to local high schools
- Sponsor students by fundraising or donating funds to attend the programs
- Plan and produce a CLeW with local HOBY Alumni
- Help schools select and register sophomore students for the State Leadership Seminars
- Recruit and sponsor a deserving high school junior or senior for the Advanced Leadership Academy
- Invite sponsored students to speak at a Club meeting
- Volunteer at the events
- Provide gifts-in-kind
- Think of a unique way your Club can help!

Selecting the “Best of the Best” in Leadership

The Leadership Academy was established to help Optimist International develop a set of best practice initiatives designed to improve the quality of our organization’s leadership. Optimist International is in the process of carefully choosing its second Leadership Academy class. Only select individuals will be invited to participate in this very elite program.

Leadership Academy members will be recognized for their exceptional leadership skills. There are no other commitments or obligations. Individuals selected to attend the class will receive a certificate and special pin recognizing them as Leadership Academy graduates. Candidates selected for the Academy are determined by demonstrated leadership skills, as well as recommendations from Optimist International staff, the International President, Vice Presidents and other Optimist leaders. The selected individuals will be invited to attend a one-day training program to share their leadership knowledge and participate in

an advanced leadership program that will be held the Sunday after the International Convention.

Do you demonstrate excellent leadership skills or know someone who does? If so, please submit a recommendation to the Leadership Development Committee. Recommendations can be sent to leadership@optimist.org.



"The Greatest Thing about Being an Optimist is..."

Reel PTIMISM — VIDEO CONTEST —

Optimist Clubs were asked to answer what the greatest thing about being an Optimist is. Optimist International received many outstanding submissions and now it's time to vote for your favorite!

Contest finalists will be announced on May 1 and voting for first, second and third place winners will open to the public until May 15. Finalists will be determined based on original video content, creativity,

composition and the extent to which the topic question was answered.

Votes will be tabulated and the winning videos will be announced during the Optimist International Convention in July. Representatives of the top three Clubs will be invited on stage to receive their contest awards. The Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation will be awarding \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 Club grants for first, second and third place respectively.

To vote for your favorite Reel Optimism entry, go to www.Optimist.org/ReelOptimism!



Optimist Clubs can now register their 2014-2015 Officers online. A current Club Officer will need to login to the Optimist Leaders website at www.Optimistleaders.org and click "Reports" on the right-hand side of the screen. Then click on "Club Officer Elect Report" and you will be able to select the names of the Club Members who will be filling leadership roles during the upcoming Optimist year. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the Member Services department at (800) 500-8130 ext. 247.



Important Message for Builders of Excellence

Beginning at the 2014 Las Vegas Convention, additional medallions will not be given to Club Builders who have received a medallion in previous years. Builders of Excellence should bring their medallions to convention, where they will receive stars to indicate the number of Clubs built between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

Optimist International at a Glance

Membership: 88,691*

Total Clubs: 3,098*

Founded: June 19, 1919

*As of February 7, 2014
figure includes
JOOI Clubs



Grab a pen and your calendar because Optimist International has some important dates for you to remember!

Scholarship Contest Deadlines

District Essay Winners Deadline

District Essay winners must be submitted to Optimist International **by April 15**. The District Entry Form, Winner's Information Form, a copy of the essay and the winner's birth certificate or passport must be sent to the Programs Department.

District Oratorical Winners Deadline

The deadline to submit District Oratorical winners is **June 15**. The District Entry Form, Winner's Information Form, a copy of the speech and the birth certificate or passport must be submitted for each of the winners.

CCDHH Winners Deadline

The District CCDHH chair must submit the District Entry Form, Winner's Information Form, a copy of the speech and an audiogram **by June 15**.

All required documents must be submitted by the due date in order for scholarships to be processed. If you have any questions, contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via e-mail at programs@optimist.org.

AN OPTIMIST HOW-TO:

SPREAD THE WORD about Optimism



Optimism has often been referred to as "the best kept secret."
It is important for Members to change that
and begin looking at Optimism as...

"the best news to be shared."

The truth is the vast majority of people do not know what
Optimist Clubs are, what they stand for or what they offer
their communities. That problem can be solved by public relations
or spreading the word about Optimism.

Why publicize Optimist Club events?

The answer is because the benefits far outweigh the efforts your Club would make. Promoting your events helps your Club gain respect in the community and encourages people to get involved. This new interest may result in new Members, project volunteers or even donations. The respect in the community also boosts Club morale and reminds Members that their efforts are valued. The main reason though, is that it allows your Club to serve more children!

Spreading the word is a team effort and can seem intimidating at first. Public relations is often viewed as something the International office or even the District should be handling. However, the most effective methods start at the local level and require the efforts of several Club Members. There are many things Members can do to get the word out about Optimism and some are simpler than you may think. Here are some ways your Club can share the news about Optimism:

Wear Your Pin

Think about all the people you interact with every day. Someone is likely to ask what the pin represents; it can be a great conversation starter.

Get Noticed

Take advantage of every opportunity to promote your Club meetings and events. Utilize the fill-in-the-blank press releases on the Optimist website. Press releases can be sent to local media outlets, such as newspapers and radio stations. Make sure to include action photos, whenever possible.

Share the Experience

Put a copy of *The Optimist* magazine in local doctor's offices or libraries. Send an issue of your Club's newsletter to prospective Members and community leaders. Keep your District Bulletin Editor up to date on all your Club activities.

Be a Guest Speaker

Reserve time to speak at a parents group meeting at local schools or other community groups. This gives you an opportunity to promote membership in your Club and also encourage parents to get their children involved in Optimist activities.

Be Welcoming

Post an informational flyer where your Club meets and in popular locations in the community.

Connect

Connect with others using social media. Popular social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube can be used to share your Club's activities, programs, meetings and events.

Learn

Attend training at an Optimist Leadership Summit and the International Convention to get more ideas!

Everything You Need to Know About Online Elections

Every Optimist Club has the
ability to

Vote Online



for the next Optimist International President, two At Large Board Directors, and their Regional Vice President! Elections will no longer be held at the International Convention.

How can your Club vote? Here is all the information you will need to become a part of the first annual online election!

All Clubs will be sent an e-mail with instructions on how to cast their votes, if the Club President has a valid e-mail address on file with Optimist International. If a President does not have a valid e-mail address, materials will be sent by mail. Voting information will be sent in May.

Each Optimist Club in good standing with Optimist International will be entitled to one vote for each 25 Members or major fraction thereof based on the membership recorded in the International Office on April 30. Voting will be done during the month of June.

For President-Elect:

Clubs may vote for only one candidate. Election will be by the highest number of votes cast for the office.

For Vice Presidents-Elect:

Elections will be by the Clubs located within the designated Region. The candidate with the most votes cast for the office will be elected.

For the two candidates for At Large Board of Directors:

Clubs may cast votes for no more than two persons. Election will be by the two highest number of votes cast.

Dates to Remember

April 30 - Club voting strength is determined per International Bylaws.

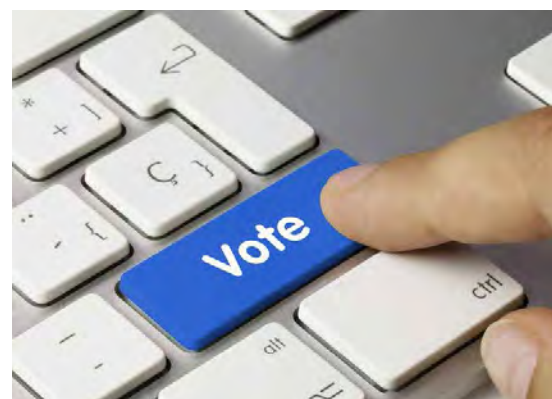
May 1 - Email is sent to every Club President outlining online voting procedure.

June 1 - Online election voting will open for 30 days, closing at the end of the business day on June 30.

July 1 - Results of elections posted on the Optimist website.

Clubs should make sure their current Club President's email address is correct in the Optimist Membership database to ensure that the Club receives the voting procedures:

- Go to www.optimistleaders.org
- Login with your credentials
- If you do not know your credentials, click on the "Password Recovery" link.
- Click on your name and confirm email is correct or enter correct address.





WE'RE GOING TO July 10-12th

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to distribute registration packets on Wednesday, July 9, Thursday, July 10, and Friday morning, July 11. To volunteer, contact Sherman Phillips at (303) 946-3501 or swphill@comcast.net.

Be part of the magic by serving as a table host or hostess at the "Magic of Optimism" Appreciation Luncheon. The Host Area Committee is looking for registered Members and guests who would like to volunteer their time. For more information, please contact Linda Molthen at lmolthen@ca.rr.com.

**Voted Best Hotel
on the Strip:
Caesar's Palace**



Join the Excitement!

Convention is for Everyone

The annual gathering of Optimists is open to each and every Member! The event is not just for District and International leaders. There truly is something for everyone. Are you an everyday Optimist from whom others could gain insight? How about a volunteer who has a successful program, Member looking for a unique project idea or maybe a first-time Club or District Officer? Are you thinking about being a Club or District Officer in the future? Then you have something to contribute and something to gain from attending the International Convention!



VEGAS!

Your Source for Convention Information

Visit www.Optimist.org/convention to see the agenda or learn more on numerous topics, including housing, airfare and rental car discounts, featured events and to view issues of the Convention newsletter. If you would like information sent to you, e-mail convention@optimist.org or call (800) 500-8130, ext. 205 or 221.

Register Early and Save

If you're planning to attend the convention in Las Vegas, you can show up with a little more money by registering early. If you register no later than May 1, you can take advantage of the early bird registration rates!

Roommate Wanted: If you would like to share expenses with another Optimist Member, please send an e-mail to convention@optimist.org. Meetings staff have a list of people looking for potential roommates.



Las Vegas is the Place to Be

Visit the official website of Las Vegas™ at www.lasvegas.com for information on shows, tours, activities and restaurants. If this is your first visit to Las Vegas, you will definitely want to visit this website. Click on the "Planning Tools" tab at the top and discover the "Vegas Basics," "Do's and Don'ts," "Money and Tipping," "What to Pack," "Travelers with Children" and much more. You may want to consider arriving early or staying a couple extra days to experience all Vegas has to offer!



Travel Tip

The weather in Las Vegas will be hot and dry in July. It is very important that you hydrate yourself well in advance of your trip to convention. Make sure to drink a lot of water while you are onsite too!

Special Guest Speaker: Jack Canfield

Taking you from where you are

to where you want to be...



Optimist International is pleased to announce that Jack Canfield - a multiple New York Times bestselling author and originator of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul*® series - will be the keynote speaker at convention.

Over the last 30 years, Canfield's compelling message, empowering energy and personable coaching style has helped hundreds of thousands of individuals achieve their dreams.

Affectionately known as "America's #1 Success Coach," Jack has studied and reported on what makes successful people different. He knows what motivates them, what drives them, and what inspires them. Join us in Las Vegas as he shares this critical insight with Optimists at the 2014 International Convention.

The keynote address will take place during the First Business Session on Friday, July 11.



For the Kids

The 2014 schedule for the youth activities will feature exciting offsite locations including Wet 'n' Wild (pictured)–Nevada's largest water park with more than 25 slides, Adventuredome—a five acre indoor amusement park located at the Circus Circus Resort– and the Hoover Dam. If you are interested in being a chaperone, contact the Meeting Services Department at (314) 881-1321 or e-mail convention@optimist.org. To view a detailed schedule of the Youth Activities, visit www.optimist.org/convention.

From the Foundations

New Member Elected to Foundation Board



The Foundation is pleased to welcome Ms. Sandy Williams from Arizona as the newest member of the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) Board of Directors.

Sandy has been an Optimist since 1993. She has been supportive of the Foundation and has served on various Foundation committees. She is a Presidents Club Member, William H. Harrison Society Member, Christian D. Larson Partner and Women's Philanthropy Council Member. Sandy currently serves on the Planned Giving Committee and is the District Foundation Representative for Arizona. She is a small business owner with an accounting background and will bring those skills and experiences to the Board.

"I am excited about this opportunity. I believe the future of our organization depends heavily on the success of the Foundation. Without the funds our Members donate, the programs we believe in can't be continued. It takes a lot of dedication and donations from our membership to maintain the programs our Members

need to succeed," said Sandy. "I will devote my time and effort to help accomplish the goals of our Members. I will work diligently to educate our Members and show them why the Foundation is so important to our organization. Ultimately, it is the children we work for. The smile on their faces is what it is all about."

Sandy will be serving on the Foundation Board for a four-year term beginning in October.

In Search of Purses, Handbags and More!

The Women's Philanthropy Council and the Optimist International Foundation will be hosting their annual "Purse Snatching" during the 2014 Las Vegas Convention.

The Foundation needs your help! The WPC and Foundation are looking for donations for this event. All new or gently used purses, handbags, wallets, golf bags, backpacks, luggage pieces, suitcases and briefcases are welcome.

The items will be auctioned off at convention. Every bag that is donated goes to support a great cause! All the money raised from the Purse Snatching will go to the Foundation. Any bag left at the end of the auction will be given to a local women's shelter.



The Women's Philanthropy Council increases awareness about the Foundation, raises money to go towards its mission, and funds Club Grants and a Girl's scholarship every year.

Please send bags to the Foundation office at 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

For more information about donating a bag, please contact Allyson Pope at 800-500-8130 ext. 249, or by email at allyson.pope@oifoundation.org.

Club Foundation Representatives Help Optimists Help Kids

The Optimist International Foundation (OIF) and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) encourage every Optimist Club to appoint a Club Foundation Representative (CFR).

The CFR is an important member of the Foundation team because they serve as a liaison between the Foundation and their Club. The CFR is responsible for informing their Club about opportunities the Foundations offer throughout the Optimist year and supporting the Foundations' mission to raise funds.

To learn more about what being a CFR entails or how to appoint a CFR, visit www.oifoundation.org (for all US and Caribbean Clubs) or www.ccof-foec.org (for all Canadian Clubs).



Our theme for the 2013-2014 year is the acronym "MO." It stands for My Optimist, Mon Optimist, Magical Opportunities, More Optimism, My Optimism and so on. Now I ask you, "What's your MO?" Share it with your friends and your fellow Members. Don't hide it, embrace it, talk about it and go out and seek another MO.

— Ron Huxley, International President

"Why did I become an Optimist and remain one for the past 23 years? Unlike most Members, I was the one who asked to join this group of people that seemed to get along so well together. I saw the pleasure they experienced while organizing their many activities, so I approached the Club President and soon became an Optimist Member. My sponsor had me participate in all the activities organized by the Club. I was hooked! Less than a year after my induction, I was elected President of my Club.

Why have I remained a Member all this time? It's for the friends I've made, the personal growth acquired from all the information and training offered, the smiling faces of people whose lives we impacted and the challenges I've accepted that still make me grow as a person. For me, the Optimist organization is a big family and I am proud to be one of its Members."

— Danielle Dupont, International Vice President-Elect, Saint-Laurent Region



"Doing volunteer work within the Optimist organization is very special because I have met incredible people I would not have met if I wasn't an Optimist Member. When I had to be hospitalized for emergency surgery, I received a tremendous wave of love and friendship from my true Optimist friends. My entire family was incredibly amazed by the help coming directly from these dedicated people. The Optimist movement is not only about "bringing out the best in kids," but also bringing out the best in adults. It is discovering a real treasure in the quality of our Members."

— Alain Gailloux, Quebec West District Governor



MY MO...

"As a child, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance each day in school. Sometimes with gusto, sometimes dogmatically and most times anxious to get on with our day! Over time it was woven into our minds and hearts and became an intrinsic part of who we are as Americans. As Optimists, we recite the Creed in much the same way as we did the pledge. Not always thinking about the tenets or how they help define our character, our interpersonal relationships, stress management and ability to meet the challenges in our lives. The Creed becomes woven into our minds and hearts and we smile more, applaud more, reach out more and have a greater peace of mind each day.

An automatic answer to my reasons for being an Optimist might have been "I truly like working with kids." However, I've realized that developing Optimism as a philosophy of life through the power of the Creed is what has impacted who I am, how I respond to others and how I meet challenges each day. Somehow, we absorb the Creed through our weekly recitation, and it moves from extrinsic recitation to an intrinsic part of our being."

— Ruth Nelson, International Vice President, Southwest Region

"I was privileged to be a Charter Member of the Optimist Club of Senoia in 1985. One of the reasons I joined was that it looked like it would be a great way for me to give back to the people and the community that had given so much to me. The organization's motto of "Friend of Youth" was definitely appealing, too.

One of our early service projects was "Kids Helping Kids" at Christmas. Seeing the faces of the children and parents who received gifts from others helped me to realize that we were giving back in a way that was needed and appreciated by so many. Our Optimist Club has gone on to do many great service projects. Many of our fundraisers are also special community events that people seem to really enjoy. Serving as a Member of an Optimist Club has helped us to "bring out the best in kids," while also bringing out the best in me."

— Hal Sewell, Georgia District Governor



MY MO...

Please share your "MO" or the reasons why you are an Optimist. Send your responses to magazine@optimist.org.



MY MO...



Grants Help Optimists in the Fight against Childhood Cancer

Every day, Optimist Members conduct projects to provide the care and find the cure for childhood cancer. Think back to a fundraising project your Club sponsored for the Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC). The money raised was contributed to a worthwhile cause, possibly to fund a service project or research at a local hospital. Imagine if there had been a resource that was willing to match the funds you raised up to a set amount.

The good news is that the resource is Optimist International! The Childhood Cancer Campaign is pleased to offer matching grants to applying Clubs and Districts to assist them with cancer-focused projects. There is no set application period for CCC matching grants.

The application can be found on the Optimist website, www.Optimist.org/CCCMatchingGrants and the process is designed to be as simple as possible. Clubs or Districts are asked to complete an application, which asks for an overview of the project, amount raised so far, how funds will be utilized, how the project will impact the community and the anticipated income sources and expenses. Once complete, the application should be mailed, e-mailed or faxed to Optimist International.

Applications are reviewed quarterly by the United States and Canadian CCC Advisory Councils, which are composed of Optimist Members who have displayed a dedication to helping Optimist International be the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer. If the grant is approved, an award letter and check for 50% of the funds are sent to the Club or District Treasurer.

Once the project has been conducted, the sponsoring Club or District is required to submit the Final Report form. This report asks for the steps involved in the project from planning to execution, a final budget and proof of how the grant funds already received have been utilized, such as a copy of the check presented to the recipient, a thank you letter or press coverage. The Final Report is then reviewed by the appropriate Advisory Panel. If approved, the final 50% of the grant is awarded.



If you have questions about CCC matching grants, please email the Programs department at ccc@optimist.org. The project can be of any size and the CCC matching grants program will help ensure that it makes a big impact!

Optimist projects that have received matching grants:

Optimist Club of Oakville, ON – to purchase one chemotherapy pump for the cancer ward at McMaster Children's Hospital of Hamilton

Optimist Club of Rochester, MN - to contribute funds to Brighter Tomorrows, which provides emotional outreach programs

Club Optimiste de Vanier, ON – to assist in funding the second phase of research on oncolytic virus therapy at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

Old Town Scottsdale Optimist Club, AZ - to assist families with travel costs to and from treatment

Will your project be next?



30 Ways in 30 Days to Serve Children with Cancer

As June approaches, the Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC) should be on the minds of Optimists. Every Member is encouraged to find a way their Club can participate in this worthwhile program and help Optimists meet their goal of “providing the care and finding the cure.” Optimist Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is a great time to get started!

JUNE 2014

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THR

FRI

SAT

1 Place a new CCC coin bank in a local business	2 Have city official sign proclamation designating June as CCC month	3 Request the CCC PowerPoint from Optimist International and educate your Club Members	4 Sponsor a CCC fundraiser and send half of the proceeds to Optimist International	5 Contact a hospital social worker and see if there is a local family that can use your help	6 Contact a local agency like the Ronald McDonald House and coordinate a CCC activity	7 Host a public forum to educate the community about CCC
8 Bake a sweet treat for local health care service providers	9 Ask local hospital for “wish list” for CCC and provide one item	10 Request a CCC Resource Packet from Optimist International for your community	11 Sponsor a camper at a summer camp for children with cancer	12 Sponsor a Funny Hat Day at work and have everyone pay \$1 to wear them	13 Work with a JOOI Club and hold a carwash for CCC	14 Purchase a phone card and give it to the family of a cancer patient
15 Host an Ice Cream Social and invite families affected by childhood cancer	16 Take a family dealing with childhood cancer to the zoo	17 Purchase a copy of “The New Normal” and donate it to a local hospital	18 Make a donation to a camp for children with cancer	19 Hold a dinner for childhood cancer doctors and service providers	20 Choose a Club CCC activity and create a Community Project Awards entry	21 Make a small donation to your local hospital
22 Participate in a District CCC project	23 Send an article and pictures about Club CCC activities to local newspaper	24 Collect CCC bank proceeds and submit 50% to the Optimist Foundations	25 Play board games with children with cancer	26 Write encouragement cards to children undergoing cancer treatment	27 Send an article and pictures about Club CCC activities to Optimist International	28 Challenge other Clubs in the area to a Penny War to raise money
29 Offer transportation service to the family of a child with cancer	30 Make a donation to the CCC research fund					

Share the ways your Club supports the Childhood Cancer Campaign at ccc@optimist.org. Remember that everything you do, no matter how small, makes a big difference in the life of a child or family dealing with childhood cancer.



A Letter from the Editor



Dear Optimists,

First, we would like to extend a thank you for everything you do. *The Optimist* magazine is designed to be a resource to aid you in “bringing out the best in kids.” It is intended to provide Members with news, details about upcoming events and important information to help Clubs stay educated and up to date on what's going on around the Optimist world.

We want you to look forward to reading the latest issue. This is your magazine and our goal is to provide content that you will find informative, inspiring and useful. If you have a story idea or an Optimist topic you would like to know more about, please let us know at magazine@optimist.org.

The magazine is also designed to give Clubs the opportunity to share and learn about amazing service projects or fundraisers. We hope that Clubs enjoy being featured in the magazine and see it as recognition for their efforts. As Optimists, we know that not every project works the way it was intended and sometimes modifications have to be made. Sharing the challenges your Club has faced and the methods you used to overcome them can serve as a learning tool for other Members. It is likely that other Clubs have faced similar issues or will in the future; we can all learn from each other and grow as Optimists.

We would like to invite every Club to submit stories about the work they are doing! All submissions should include the traditional news information: who, what, where, when, why and how. Please also include the name, phone number and e-mail address of an individual we can contact for more information.

Please submit digital photos in a high-resolution format. You may e-mail digital images as attachments to magazine@optimist.org or send a CD to Optimist International. Please do not print out digital images. *The Optimist* also accepts 35mm photography by mail.

With more than 2,600 Clubs around the globe, *The Optimist* receives excellent submissions that do not make the magazine all the time. Do not be discouraged if your submission is not published right away. Please keep sending!

Thank you for sharing your Optimist experience.

Respectfully,

Danielle Baugher, Editor



JOOI is Meant to be Shared!

Help *Your*
JOOI Club
Start Filming Today...



JOOI Video Contest Details

The International JOOI Committee is pleased to announce an exciting new contest. Sandy Cyphers, a Committee Member from the North Carolina East District is spearheading this effort.

All JOOI Clubs are encouraged to create and submit a video that should be a positive marketing tool that Members can use to promote JOOI and as a resource in building new Clubs.

All entries must be submitted by June 1. Members can mail their entry to the JOOI department at Optimist International 4494 Lindell Blvd. St Louis, MO 63108 or e-mail them to youthclubs@optimist.org.

The winning videos will be announced at the JOOI International Convention in San Diego. The first place Club will receive \$300! The second and third place winners will receive \$150 each.



The following are JOOI Honor and Distinguished Honor Club award winners for the 2012-2013 year. Congratulations to these Clubs!

HONOR CLUBS

Greensburg Community H.S. Octagon Club, IN
RAOK Junior Optimist Club, NE
Norfolk Panther Junior Optimist Club, NE
Making a Difference JOOI Club, MI
Madison H.S. Octagon Club, VA
Club Octogone S.M.A.T. de St-Eustache, QC
Octagon Club of Ardenne High School, CAR

DISTINGUISHED HONOR CLUBS

Brighton High School JOOI Club, MI
Octagon Club of Coronado, CA
Norfolk Panther Octagon Club, NE
UHS Octagon Club of Underwood, IA
Wayne Blue Devils Octagon Optimist Club, NE
Merl Grove High School Octagon Club, CAR

Applied Optimism

*By Mark Weinsoff, Chuck Champlin and Elroy Pinks,
Members of the Optimist Club at the University of California in Santa Barbara*

Imagine you are faced with a challenge that threatens to overwhelm you or your self-confidence. As an Optimist, you know you can look on the bright side and think positively to make the best of the situation. Our Optimist Creed offers a remarkable set of insights to help us in our daily lives.

Working together in the Optimist Club at the University of California Santa Barbara, we developed a three-part presentation for university staff called “Applied Optimism,” which we believe will provide you with an extra boost as you work to meet your life challenges. Applied Optimism can help you be more intentional in your positive outlook, more successful and happy.

Applied Optimism:

First, we consider the science behind the growing field of positive psychology. Martin Seligman, the founder of the field and Director of the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania, believes that much of our general well-being is determined by how we interpret events in our lives.

In a series of experiments, Seligman found that some people have more resistance to “giving up” in the face of negative circumstances. He attributes this to an “explanatory style” that helps some individuals maintain their positive outlook better than others. These individuals do not blame themselves unfairly or in a self-inhibiting way by saying “these things always happen to me,” or “there’s nothing I can do to make things better.” Instead, negative events become attributable to temporary causes.

An Optimistic explanatory style instills the hope to confidently say, “I can change things for the better,” and the resilience to act to change them, regardless of current circumstances.

Secondly, we reveal a tool to be used in Applied Optimism called a “CAN-do” attitude. The acronym suggests that one should **Conceive** a goal or a plan, **Announce** it to the world, and then **Notice** who offers to help.

In our observed Optimistic view, most people have positive intentions and want to support interesting and worthwhile projects. At the very least, people love to offer advice and suggestions. With the ‘CAN-do’ attitude, we reward this natural human impulse by openly acknowledging these contributions, especially the ones that may be most helpful. If we maintain this “attitude of gratitude,” then we continue the process by deepening the awareness and appreciation of the assistance that is offered.

Finally, we outline a five-level process for intentionally applying Optimism in our lives:

1. Commit to being Optimistic.
2. Surround yourself with Optimistic cues, such as the Optimist Creed.
3. Be conscious of how you express your Optimism in the presence of others.
4. Richly manifest Optimism in your life with a goal to benefit yourself and others.
5. Expand the reach of Optimism as a way of life to as many people as possible.



The authors of a motivational talk on "Applied Optimism" are (left to right) Mark Weinsoff, Chuck Champlin and Elroy Pinks.

Trust that your positive energy and efforts will surely spread, because Optimism is integral to the infinite possibilities of the universe.

It takes effort to make the best of anything. We love the classic story of Thomas Edison, who famously tried 1,000 different materials for the filament of the light bulb he was inventing before he found the carbon wire that would glow brightly in a vacuum without burning up. Edison had the Optimistic confidence that success would eventually come. He applied his Optimism with true determination, and now we all benefit from it!

There are numerous stories of athletes, explorers and ordinary individuals who committed themselves to worthy goals and changed the world

as a result. With our Optimist Creed, our 'CAN-do' attitudes and our beliefs that Optimism is the natural order of the universe, we can confidently continue to bring out the best in kids and in our own lives as well.

If you would like to learn more about Applied Optimism, please contact the authors of this article.

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Member Recruitment Yields Big Benefits

Every quarter, each Member that sponsors three or more Members has their name placed in a pool. One name is drawn from each Region, and the winner will have \$250 awarded to their Club, in their name, to be used for youth activities.

Keep recruiting Members so your Club has a chance to win!



The first quarter winners are:

Region 1: Bruce Linkletter – Optimist Club of Conestogo-Winterbourne, ON

Region 2: Obryan Leighton – Optimist Club of Uwi Mona, Jamaica

Region 3: Christina Alms – Towson University Optimist Club, MD

Region 4: Taylor Hasenour – USI Optimist Club of Indiana

Region 5: Jason Kraft – Optimist Club of Dickinson, ND

Region 6: Gail Lindley – Mile-Hi Optimist Club of Denver, CO

Region 7: Jane Ross – Optimist Club of Garden Grove-Orange Coast, CA

Region 8: Lucie Choquette – Club Optimiste de St-Jean Sur Richelieu, QC

Club Pride Makes Everyone a Winner

The following Clubs are the lucky winners of the President's Pride Submission Award. Each of these Clubs received \$100!

1. Optimist Club of Sacramento Country Club, California - Pacific Central District
2. Buena Park, Suburban Optimist Club, California – Pacific Southeast District
3. Optimist Club of Kearney - Nebraska District
4. Wilmington Cape Fear Optimist Club - North Carolina East District
5. Byron Optimist Club – Midwestern Ontario District

The results of the submitted reports are invaluable to Optimist International. The information is used to evaluate the International programs and activities to ensure they meet the needs of all Members and the children being served. Statistics are also shared with potential endorsed partners and corporate sponsors to let them know what Optimist Clubs do in their communities.

Make sure to submit your Club's President's Pride Report for the 2013-2014 year for your chance to win \$100! You can complete the form online at www.Optimistleaders.org or print a copy at www.Optimist.org. The form should be submitted to Optimist International by September 30.

SUMMIT SUCCESS!



On February 1, sixty-seven Optimist Members gathered for a day of training, fellowship and fun. The setting was the third and most well-attended Optimist Leadership Summit to date. Attendees ranged from Members for 5 months to 41 years and from Governor-Elect to regular Club Member. The training truly offered something for everyone!

Esthermarie Hillman was the Certified Trainer that presented the session and was both motivational and encouraging. International President Ron was in attendance and shared insights from his long career as an Optimist Member.

The training covered a wide variety of topics and included ideas that could easily be implemented in any Club or District across the organization. Attendees were given tips on engaging Members, conducting a good Club meeting and building new Clubs. A presentation on the Optimist programs gave suggestions on how to reach more children and conduct profitable fundraisers for Club activities. Attendees were also trained in marketing, pursuing leadership opportunities and participating in programs available through the Optimist Foundations.

Bridget Rourke has been a Friend of Optimist for six years and a Charter Member of the Optimist Club of Simi Valley-Moorpark, CA for five months. "All information that was provided has been extremely helpful and I am so excited to take everything back to my Club to share," said Bridget.

Lunchtime included not only a delicious meal, but the opportunity for networking. Optimists were able to meet

Members from outside their local community and District. This allowed attendees to discuss numerous topics, including but not limited to recruiting and retention, fundraising, New Club Building and new project ideas. Members were able to share what works for their Clubs and also learn what is working in other communities. It was also beneficial for attendees to share difficulties they have experienced and receive suggestions from Members who may have dealt with similar issues in their own Clubs.

"This was a great meeting. I'm so glad I came because I learned some things I already knew, but it reinvigorated us about all the things we can do in our Clubs," said M. Joyce Bakersmith, President of the Optimist Club of Pomona-Breakfast, CA. "Thank you very much for having this. It was worth the \$25. My sandwich was delicious and I had a great time!"

The Leadership Summit in San Diego was a worthwhile experience for everyone in attendance. There is still time to attend a Summit and learn valuable information to benefit yourself, your Club and your community.

Share Your Summit Story

Have you attended one of the Optimist Leadership Summits? If so, we want to hear from you! Let us know about your experience, what you learned and how you plan to implement it in your Club or District. If you have photos from the event, please share those too! Send your comments to magazine@optimist.org. Submissions may be included in future publications.

For more information, visit www.Optimist.org/summits.

Touching Lives



Every year, more than 5,000 young people compete in official Optimist Junior Golf qualifying tournaments. The best of those golfers, along with international golfers from around the globe, advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. While not every golfer is able to come out at the top of the leaderboard, each participant benefits from the opportunity to participate in top-level tournament golf, meet new friends and have a great deal of fun.

Here are a few stories about how this innovative program has impacted the lives of junior golfers.

Dear Optimists,

My twelve-year-old son, Wyatt Iles, has competed in past Optimist Junior Golf tournaments held in California. I would like to share his story. I find it most spectacular and hope you might as well.



At the age of two, Wyatt was diagnosed with autism and was severely affected by his disability. Between the ages of two and four, Wyatt did not speak a single word. It was as if he was in his own isolated world. When he was four years old, I turned on the television for some children's educational programming. I was pushing the 'channel up' button and the Golf Channel appeared on TV. Upon seeing it, Wyatt quickly

asked out loud, "What's that?" As these were the first words he had spoken to me ever, I left the TV on the Golf Channel and began explaining what little I knew about golf. From that point on, the TV had to be on the Golf Channel when Wyatt watched television or he would have autistic tantrum-type behaviors.

I decided since he liked watching golf so much on TV, I would buy him a junior set of golf clubs and take him to a local golf

course to play on the putting green and driving range. Wyatt quickly fell in love with playing golf. I then decided to incorporate his passion for playing golf as a "reward system" for having good behavior and meeting educational goals during his autism therapy sessions. This "reward system" worked perfectly. Wyatt became much more alert and attentive to his autism therapies. This pretty much pulled him out of his severely autistic traits.

Wyatt is now out of special education classes and in regular classes at school. Wyatt is also getting straight A's. I attribute Wyatt's academic success to his passion for golf, as it was the one motivating factor that compelled him to attend and concentrate on his autism interventions.

Wyatt's golfing ability is also quite unique for an individual with autism. Although he does enjoy competing in Special Olympics tournaments with friends he has made and maintained over the years, Wyatt has competed in numerous local junior golf tournaments with the SCPGA Junior Tour, and Optimist Junior Tour golf tournaments in California. Wyatt was especially excited this past summer, as he was one of only eighteen junior golf enthusiasts, out of a thousand applicants nationally, to be accepted to the Tiger Woods Foundation National Junior Golf Team. As a member of this team, Wyatt earned an exemption to compete in the Callaway Junior Golf World Championship Tournament, held annually in San Diego, California.

Most Respectfully,

Luther Iles



Fore the Better

In the summer of 2012, I won two Optimist tournaments, the local qualifier and the Midwestern Ontario Championship. In the summer of 2013, I had two top 5's in Golf Association of Ontario U15 series tournaments.

The highlight of my 2013 season had to be my trip to the Optimist International Championships in Florida. There I met new friends from all over the world, and also some mentors whom I still keep in touch with today. I also experienced the highest level of competition the world had to offer at this tournament. Because of this tournament, I have been motivated to play in other high competition events back home in Canada to pursue my dreams.

When all the snow is gone, golf is my only focus. I play every day in competition or just a fun round with my friends. To enhance my game, I have a personal coach who helps me with my technique, as well as my fitness and nutrition. I played on the high school golf team this fall. My strength, other than golf, is my academics. I currently have a 4.0 GPA and hope to combine my golf and academics for a US Golf Scholarship, studying business and playing golf in University would be a dream come true.

Conner Steckly



Optimist Junior Golf Notes and News

District Qualifiers

Optimist Districts host more than 50 qualifiers with top finishers advancing to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. These Districts will be seeking contributions from Optimist Clubs and Members to help send these junior golfers to the International Championships in Florida this July. To view the schedule of District qualifiers, visit golf.optimist.org.

Tournament of Champions

The dates of the 2014 Optimist International Tournament of Champions are November 8-9 at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. This competition is a 36-hole stroke play event with golfers competing in the following divisions: Boys 11-13, Boys 14-15, Boys 16-18, Girls 11-13 and Girls 14-18.

Optimist Junior Golf Tour

Optimist Junior Golf partnered with the Greg Norman Champions Golf Academy to hold an Optimist Junior Tour event in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in February. This two-day tournament featured more than 60 junior golfers competing in three age divisions. This new event on the Optimist Junior Golf calendar has been included in the Junior Golf Scoreboard and North Carolina state rankings.

In early March, WaterChase Golf Club in Fort Worth, Texas, hosted the second Optimist Junior Tour event of the season. This tournament was also ranked by the Junior Golf Scoreboard. Top finishers of both events will advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships in July. For tournament results and details, visit golf.optimist.org.

Meet Charlotte Baker @ the International Office

If you have called Optimist International in the last few years, it is likely you have spoken with Charlotte Baker in the Membership department. Charlotte recently set aside some time to chat with the editor of *The Optimist* to talk about how she assists Members in “bringing out the best in kids.”

How long have you been with Optimist International?

I have been with the organization since August 2005. I work in the Membership department as the Friend of Optimists and Data Entry Manager.

How does Membership staff help Members and Clubs accomplish their goals on a local level?

Our goal in Membership is to be available to assist Clubs with any roster adjustments, adding and deleting of officers and ordering supplies. We help Members with any requests or concerns they may have. Just talking to Optimist Members is like making a friend forever.

Who is a Friend of Optimists?

A Friend of Optimists may be an individual or company who does not have the time to attend Club meetings or volunteer for fundraisers. While they may have a hectic schedule, they would still like to support the children in their community and the Friend program gives them that opportunity. The cost to become a Friend is \$100 and the Club receives \$40 of those funds to use as they see fit.

When someone becomes a Friend of Optimist, they receive a copy of the Optimist Creed, a membership card, decal, membership certificate and most importantly *The Optimist* magazine, which gives them the latest information on what Clubs are doing.

Once a Friend is added and has the chance to see what Clubs do for kids and their community, they realize this is a wonderful organization and often want to become regular Members. Companies can display the membership certificate in their offices and that may influence visitors to attend an Optimist meeting. This is also a great way to let people know about the organization. If anyone has questions, they can call me at 800-500-8130 ext. 227 or e-mail me at bakerc@optimist.org.

Why is it important for Optimists to register their Club officers?

It is very important that current officers are registered with Optimist International to make sure your Club receives the most up-to-date information. You can now add your 2014-2015 officers online. A current officer should login to www.optimistleaders.org, click on “Reports” on the right side of the screen and then click on “Club Officer Elect Report.”

Is there a question you get asked often? If so, what is the answer?

The most frequently asked question is, “how do I change an officer?” I also often hear, “I need to delete a Member and cannot because that Member is listed as an officer.” Members can submit a Club Roster Adjustment Form (CRA) with current officer changes



to the International office. Another option is to notify me by e-mail.

At the annual International Convention, you can often be found in the Optimist convention office. Which convention have you most enjoyed attending and why?

I have enjoyed all the conventions I have attended. I can finally put a face to the Member that I have talked to on the phone.

You're not only an Optimist staff member, but also a Member of a Club. Is there an Optimist activity you enjoy most?

I am a Member of the Southside Optimist Club in St Louis, but I am not able to attend their meetings due to my work schedule. They have many good projects. My favorite is supplying dictionaries to third graders in the local area.

What do you do in your free time outside the office?

I have been the Vice President of Our Lady of Sorrows Women's Guild for 20 years. Our main fundraisers are our quilt socials, which are held in the spring and fall. We play bingo and everyone wants to win a quilt. I am one of the quilters, but have not won a quilt yet. I am on the Parish Picnic Committee. I am also a soccer, baseball and basketball grandma, who enjoys watching my 3 grandsons play ball. I enjoy all sports, but bowling is my favorite.





New Member Spotlight

While Clubs always celebrate additions to their membership, Optimist International is also pleased to welcome new Members to the Optimist family. This new feature will highlight some of our newest Optimists and share interesting facts about them. A big “thank you” goes out to every new Member for helping to bring out the best in kids!

If you have joined an Optimist Club in the last year, please visit www.Optimist.org/newmember to complete a brief survey. Submitted information may be included in future Optimist publications.



Michael Gorsline

Club: Deerfield Optimist Club, Illinois

Occupation: Alumni Relations

Reason for Joining: I wanted to become more involved in the community and had heard great things about Optimist service projects.

Favorite Club Project: Relay for Life

Favorite Line from the Optimist Creed: *To look at the sunny side of everything and make your Optimism come true*

Greatest Thing about Being an Optimist: Being able to give back to youth in the community

Goal: Be involved in as many Club projects as my schedule allows

Hobbies: Spending time with family and sports

Fun Fact: I love watching airplanes fly!



Nicole Morrison-Mathern

Club: Bismarck Optimist Club, North Dakota

Occupation: Entrepreneur

Reason for Joining: I joined because of the Optimist Creed. It was exactly what I needed to hear the day I visited my Optimist Club. I now have it hanging from my car visor and read it on the days I need a dose of Optimism!

Favorite Club Project: Funds for the Future

Favorite Line from the Optimist Creed: *To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble*

Greatest Thing about Being an Optimist: Being surrounded by kind people doing great things for our youth and community

Goal: My goal as an Optimist Club Member is to play an active role in our Club and never be just a name on the Member list.

Hobbies: Lots of volunteering, public speaking, spending time with my kids

Fun Fact: I have helped set two world records - most people simultaneously making snow angels and world's longest chicken dance.



Shawn Rearden

Club: Sumter Evening Optimist Club, South Carolina

Occupation: Teacher

Reason for Joining: I wanted to make a difference in the lives of children.

Favorite Club Project: Christmas Stocking Stuffing for the Orphanage

Favorite Line from the Optimist Creed: *To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own*

Greatest Thing about Being an Optimist: The large amount of time and energy spent helping the children of the community

Goal: My goal is to improve the well-being of children, whether it is financially, socially or academically.

Hobbies: Gardening, learning new things, staying busy

Fun Fact: I love to make others happy.

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

538	Ken Mitchell	541	Paul Hovis, Sr.	543	Glen Kreller
539	Georgia Langhorst	542	Joseph Hammen	544	Geneva Sopchyshyn
540	Bill Newsome				

Top Districts as of December 31, 2013

District	Representative	Average Member Contribution
Arizona	Sandy Williams	\$20.11
Michigan	Janet Oord-Graves	\$13.95
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$8.39
Maryland-South Delaware	Michael Weston	\$7.73
Oklahoma	Deborah Crall	\$7.12
New Mexico-West Texas	Ludwig Bezemek	\$5.32
North Florida	Ric Carvalis	\$4.76
Kansas	Lawrence Drbal	\$4.71
California South	Alma Vinson	\$4.10
Colorado-Wyoming	Philip Perington	\$3.55

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Janet Oord-Graves	\$47,800.60
Arizona	Sandy Williams	\$17,435.76
Maryland-South Delaware	Michael Weston	\$9,463.50
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$8,968.33
Kansas	Lawrence Drbal	\$7,064.00
Colorado-Wyoming	Philip Perington	\$6,011.75
North Florida	Ric Carvalis	\$5,725.55
West Missouri	Debbie Hill-Lynch	\$4,948.23
Oklahoma	Deborah Crall	\$4,669.82
North Carolina West	Lawrence Kelley, Jr.	\$4,641.00

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Member Contribution
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$13.34
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$7.84
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$6.18

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$11,829.65
Québec Central	Claude Duhamel	\$6,752.00
Southwestern Ontario	Gordon Brownlee	\$4,647.87

Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

****COPPER BENEFACTOR,**

\$100,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA

Optimist Club of Vienna, VA

****GOLDEN BENEFACTOR,**

\$50,000

MICHIGAN

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****SILVER BENEFACTOR,**

\$25,000

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William and Linda Meyers

****BRONZE BENEFACTOR,**

\$15,000

EAST MISSOURI

Kenneth and Stephanie Monschein

MICHIGAN

Harry J. Margo

****EMINENT**

BENEFACTOR, \$10,000

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SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN
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Optimist Club of High River, AB

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OKLAHOMA

Optimist Club of Bixby, OK

PACIFIC SOUTHEAST

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PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

T G Thomas

****HONORED BENEFACTOR,**

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CARIBBEAN

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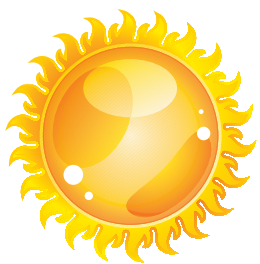
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If you would like to make a donation to the Optimist International Foundation, please do so by visiting www.oifoundation.org. If you are interested in making a donation to the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, please visit www.ccof-foec.org.



Picking Kittens

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were 2 boy kittens and 2 girl kittens."

"How do you know?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

School Essay

Jimmy's English teacher was a perfectionist and demanded the very best of his pupils. So it was to be expected that he would get furious when Jimmy handed in a poor paper.

"This is the worst essay it has ever been my misfortune to read," ranted the teacher. "It has too many mistakes. I can't understand how one person would have made all these mistakes."

"One person didn't," replied Jimmy defensively. "My father helped me."

Lending a Hand

A man is out walking when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. The doorbell is much too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for a moment, the man moves closer to the house. He crosses the street, walks up behind the little fellow, and placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder, leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring.

Crouching down to the child's level, the man smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?"

The boy replies, "Now we run!"



Las Vegas Fun Facts

A 1910 law made it illegal to gamble in Las Vegas. The Nevada Legislature later approved a legalized gambling bill in 1931.

The famous "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign was created in 1959 by a lady named Betty Willis.

In 2011, more than 368 million people visited Las Vegas. Compare this to 1970 when a mere 6.7 million people visited the city.



2014 JOOI Convention

The 2014 JOOI International Convention will take place in San Diego, California on July 6-8, at the Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside.

Room rates will be \$129 per night. Registration will be \$199 per person for adults and youth. You can register online at www.jooi.org or call (800) 500-8130.



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To help your Club receive these benefits, Optimist International is offering a one-year traditional membership to civic-minded individuals under the age of 30 for just \$30. Any new Member under the age of 30 that joins an Optimist Club between now and September 30, 2014 will receive this special offer. Have questions? Call (800) 500-8130 or e-mail membership@optimist.org.