

The OPTIMIST

Fall 2013

President Ron Huxley,
First Lady Debbie and
their family ask you to
embrace your Optimism.



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

The Leadership Summits

are 16 one-day training sessions that will be conducted across the organization. These sessions will provide the best training possible for every Optimist Member in attendance.

2014

January 18	Jacksonville, FL
January 25	San Francisco, CA
February 1	San Diego, CA
February 15	Dallas, TX
February 22	Atlanta, GA
March 1	Charlotte, NC
March 22	Jamaica
March 29	Kansas City, MO
April 5	Dayton, OH
April 26	Baltimore, MD
May 3	Denver, CO
May 17	Madison, WI
May 31	Montréal, QC
June 7	Regina, SK
June 14	Portland, OR
June 21	London, ON

Enjoy fellowship with other Optimists and 2013-2014 International President, Ron Huxley and First Lady Debbie.

Learn valuable skills on a variety of topics and pick up new ideas to strengthen your Club and reach more children in your community.

Register online by going to www.optimist.org and clicking on the 'Leadership Summits' link. The registration fee is only \$25.00 and includes lunch!

Optimism is what you make of it. Your Optimism matters.

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The Optimist

The Official Publication of Optimist International

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On the Cover
**Optimist International
President, Ron Huxley
with his wife, daughters
and son-in-law in
London, Ontario.**

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.

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.

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.

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A Motivation to *Unite* Optimists in Service

International President Ron Huxley recently took time out of his schedule to speak with the editor of *The Optimist* magazine. Here is his story and special insight into the plans and objectives for the 2013-2014 year in his words—



I was born in February 1952, the second son of four boys to Bernice and James Huxley of London, Ontario. At the young age of ten, I was burned in a camping accident that left me scarred for life and somewhat physically limited. My high school and post graduate studies in the field of commercial art led me into my first career as an apprentice in a jewelry manufactur-

ing company. In June 1981, I opened the doors to R.G. Huxley Jewelers Ltd. in the heart of my hometown.

It was while working as a paper boy for our local newspaper that I met the love of my life, Debbie. My closest friends said she had made such an impression on me that they knew we were destined to be a couple. Now, Debbie and I work together. Debbie does the bookwork, answers the phone, aids the customers over the counter, does the invoicing and shipping and I do as I'm told. This past July, we celebrated 40 years of marriage.



Our daughters Tracy, Carol and son-in-law Shawn round out our family and in recent years Tracy has started working at the store. Carol embarked on a career as a Registered Massage Therapist and got married three years ago to Shawn Young, who soon became a treasured fishing buddy. I'm proud to say we are a family of Optimist Members, who care about the children we serve.



I became a Charter Member of the Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks in 1983. At the urging of my Charter President, I moved into leadership roles within the Club and after serving as President, I accepted the position of Lieutenant Governor. I liked being part of the big picture and moved up through the ranks holding several District Chair positions, until finally being elected to the office of Governor-Elect. While serving as Governor in 1990-1991, I realized that the world of Optimism was what I needed; it guided me and gave me purpose.

As a young burn patient, I spent two years in and out of the hospital and underwent thirteen separate surgeries. Years later, the hospital was replacing the old facility and needed the community's help. I got approval from my District and our sister District to proceed with a five-year million dollar campaign. The project was a huge undertaking and a huge success.



In less than five years, the combined Districts raised over one million dollars for the Sick Children's Hospital in London and became that hospital's first ever million dollar contributor.

My spare time isn't confined to Optimist work or performing the duties assigned to a Fire Chief. Whenever I can, I like to go fishing. It is this outdoor world that I reach to for solace and a tranquil feeling. I don't just go out to drown worms. For me, fishing is a science. It is a form of art displayed with the finesse of mastering the use of a rod and reel. That is where my son-in-law Shawn comes in. He is a master through and through.

Many of my best memories surround my fishing adventures with my Optimist fishing buddies. I have gone on an annual northern fishing trip with ten to twelve Optimists from around this great organization until this year. It was through this adventure that I became a Member of the Jeffersonville Evening Optimist Club in Indiana. My fishing trips are on hold while I serve as President, but don't worry guys, I'll be back and I left you all the small ones.

Past International President Jim Hubbard approached me in 1998 and asked me to serve on the International Candidate Qualifications Committee. This was a three-year appointment and I was honored to serve. During the first meeting, fellow committee member Past President JC Boone explained that while serving on the committee, I was ineligible to be considered for any nomination. Then he asked me if I were ever asked, would I agree to serve as President. You could have knocked me over with a feather. Everything I had done internationally was done to benefit Optimist International. I had always looked upon Presidents with admiration and never considered myself of the caliber to stand alongside those special Optimists.

Life for me was about working hard and having fun doing it. In February 2012, Past President Michel Listen-

berger called me as Chairman of the International Candidate Qualifications Committee and officially asked me to accept their nomination as President-Elect. I thought I was ready, but still fumbled for the words I promised myself I would say – "It will be an honor to serve and I will do my very best."

In developing a theme for the year, I had to consider what hadn't been done before and what Members would find relevant for today's challenges. I don't remember how I stumbled onto it, but what I originally had was just too big a mouthful. After bouncing it off a few people, I settled with "MO." It is an acronym that stands for many things, but I refer to it as "My Optimism." I wanted it to inspire everyone to readdress the reasons they work or continue to work as an Optimist.

(continued on page 18)



Presidential *Incentives* for Clubs

Thank you is generally the most appropriate tribute and recognition we ever get for a job well done as an Optimist. The 2013-2014 Optimist theme, “My Optimism” —MO— honors our roughly 80,000 individual reasons for why we are Optimists. I have worked to develop these incentives with you, the Club and the children we serve in mind. I appreciate you and on behalf of the children you serve, I say thank you.

—President Ron Huxley

Recruitment Incentive (all year)

Add 3 new Optimists to your Club and your name will be placed into a pool, where a quarterly draw will be held for each of the 8 Regions for a \$250 monetary award that will be presented to your Club for youth activities in your name. Clubs may qualify for each quarter.



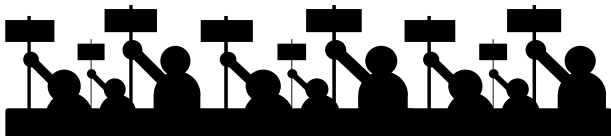
30 Under 30 (all year)

This targeted incentive for each Club to recruit younger Members will inspire new ideas and bring new energy to your Club. Club and District dues still apply. This incentive only applies for Optimist International dues for the first year.



Now Program (1st and 2nd Quarters)

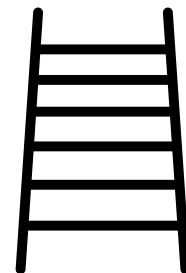
Conduct a NOW program that strengthens your Club by 9 new Optimists, including Friends of Optimists and receive an International Convention registration for your Club.



Watch Us Grow (WUG)

In the first month of every quarter, Clubs should develop a prospect list of potential new Members. Then in the third week of each second month of every quarter, work as a Club to approach the people on your list. Enroll them with Optimist International during “Recruitment Week” and go online to watch our numbers grow.

- November 17 - 23, 2013
- February 16 - 22, 2014
- May 18 - 24, 2014
- July 20 - 26, 2014



Finally, use the last month of every quarter to give each of these new Optimists their first job.

If your Club has questions about these incentives, please contact Optimist International at 800-500-8130 or e-mail membership@optimist.org.

NOW WOW

By Paula Reyling

International Leadership Development Committee Member



small town Optimist Club in the Indiana South District conducted numerous NOW

programs over the years, but each program only generated one to three new Members. The approach was to plan a special event, such as a cook-out or guest speaker to allow potential Members to experience the Club and then invite them to join. The Club decided to try the approach recommended by Optimist International. As a Member of the Club, I would like to share the results!

A group of four Members was assembled to plan the NOW event. All Club Members were contacted to generate the prospective new Member list. An invitation letter was sent to each prospect, using the format suggested on the Optimist website, www.optimist.org.

The sponsors followed up with phone calls to confirm their new Members' reservations for the evening. Packets containing a Creed card, the purposes of Optimism, a flyer with information about the Club, a question and answer sheet and information on PGI were created for the prospective new Members. The tallies began to come in and we realized the 15 packets we made were not going to be enough.

We needed to double that number to keep up with the confirmed reservations.

It was important to ensure the experience of the evening and promotion of our Club was superb for these prospective Members. Issues of *The Optimist* magazine were placed on the tables for guests to read, Optimist placemats were set for the meal and our presenters were ready to share the topics they were most passionate about. We invited our Governor and Lieutenant Governor to top off the special attention for our

"Excitement mounted as we reached 16, 17, on to 20 new Members! It didn't stop there, 2 more came forward and then our final 4! We welcomed 26 new Members at this NOW event... WOW!"

newcomers. Our registration table was prepared to greet our guests and distribute their packets as we welcomed them.

Once guests were seated with their sponsors, the evening began with dinner. We chose some of our most visible and popular programs to share and also showed the "I am an Optimist" DVD. We took time for questions and then asked the guests

to join us by filling out the applications. We kicked off the signing and collection of checks with the gift of an Optimist pen for each guest.

Excitement mounted as we reached 16, 17, on to 20 new Members! It didn't stop there, 2 more came forward and then our final 4! We welcomed 26 new Members at this NOW event... WOW! Our Governor installed our new Members, assisted by our Lieutenant Governor, who distributed Member pins.

We have many new enthused Members, as well as excited current Members, who are still smiling as they remember our evening of "Wow"ing our guests with the Club's wonderful community projects. Spreading the spirit of Optimism in Jasper, Indiana was easy and lots of fun when we followed the program clearly outlined on our Optimist International website. Just don't skip any steps; each one is important!

Our next NOW program is already being planned. All our new Members have friends they would like to share Optimism with and our current Members are already thinking of more people to invite.

News & Views

Showcase Your Club's Best Projects and Win

Optimist Clubs conduct countless projects that meet the needs of their individual communities and bring out the best in kids. Now your Club can be financially rewarded for your efforts! Clubs can win \$500 simply by showing off what they do best.

All it takes is entering one or more of your Club's projects in the Community Projects Awards. The categories and entry process is easier than ever before. Winning Clubs will also be recognized on stage at the International Convention, have a feature article in *The Optimist* magazine and be in contention to win an additional \$500 as the Best Youth Project.

Contest rules can be found on the Optimist website, www.optimist.org. Don't forget that 2012-2013 projects must be submitted to Optimist International by December 15!



Protect Your Members Against Abuse and Molestation Charges

Optimist International's Club liability insurance offers optional abuse and molestation liability defense coverage for Members accused of abuse and molestation. To protect from financial loss due to plaintiff judgments, Optimist International has made this abuse and molestation coverage available for purchase by Clubs.

United States and Caribbean Clubs can apply for this special coverage by following this two-step process:

1. Contact Praesidium at 1-800-743-6354 for a review of your Club and Loss Prevention certification. Clubs can visit praesidiuminc.com/optimist.php
2. After certification, apply for abuse coverage. Contact Marsh U.S. Consumer at 1-800-503-9227 and ask for the Abuse or Molestation Liability Insurance application.

Promote Your Club's Website



If your Club has a website, make sure Optimist International knows about it. The organization would like to have links to all Club websites. This helps active Members as well as potential Members in your area.

To find out if your Club's website has been reported, go to www.optimist.org. Look under 'Members' and click on 'Club/District directory.' Find your District name, Zone and then look for your Club's name and number. If your website has been reported, there will be a house icon next to the Club's name.

If you would like to report your Club's website, please send the information to communications@optimist.org.

Optimist International at a Glance

Membership: 90,294*

Total Clubs: 3,139*

Founded: June 19, 1919

*As of August 8, 2013, figure includes JOOI Clubs

For more information about all of Optimist International's Club and Member insurance coverage, please visit: www.optimist.org/insurance.

Scholarship Contests Highlight Deserving Youth

The 2012 - 2013 Optimist District scholarship winners submitted a wide variety of thought-provoking and insightful essays and presentations. The following are excerpts from a few notable recipients:

1.) **Essay – How Can I Help My Friends Realize Their Value?**

A friendship is often described as one person living in two bodies because not only do you share everything, you also both depend on each other and affect one another's attitudes. If you are sad, your friends will be sad; and if you are happy, your friends will be happy as well. To help friends realize their value you can kindly encourage them, bravely tell them your own past stories, and willingly spend time with them.

— Tiana Linkus, age 13, Colorado-Wyoming District

2.) **Oratorical – Why My Voice is Important**

It's a question which, when it appears in my mind, asks for a reflection on myself. Voice is an integral part of us; it is the reflection of our thoughts. So if it's not important, it means that I am not important in return. Voice is important. It allows people to leave traces during a lifetime or at least, to create a meaningful role within society. Our opinions have in a certain way a considerable influence on our decisions.

— Thomas Desrosiers, age 14, Quebec East-North Shore District

3.) **CCDHH – Why My Voice is Important**

My voices can be heard or visually seen. My voices are spoken loudly through the written (or typed) word, through my actions, or in person. My life has a purpose and part of that purpose is giving myself (sharing my voice) with others. My voice should be heard. When I see injustice, I can improve the situation by speaking up. I need to express myself. When I have an idea, I can speak for the voiceless. When people are voiceless, they worry about what others may think. Once you overcome the fear, your voice will become powerful.

— Jake Schwall, age 15, Indiana South District



2013 - 2014 Scholarship Topics

The new topics encourage youth to consider their ambitions, as well as the impact those can have on their lives and the world they live in. Today's youth are the future and these topics will likely produce some inspiring responses!

Essay – “How Dreams Lead to Success”

Oratorical and Communication Contest

for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing-

“How My Passions Impact the World”

Optimists Create Santa at the Station



Optimist Leland Yates was a Trailways/Greyhound bus driver and noticed many of the children traveling on buses over the holidays had very little or nothing for Christmas. This seemed like the perfect opportunity for Members of the Evening Optimist Club of Albuquerque, New Mexico to bring some cheer to these kids spending time in an often dismal environment.

In Albuquerque, there is a station served by Amtrak, Greyhound and other smaller bus lines. The Club has provided Christmas gifts for children riding the buses and trains for the past three holidays. Members begin when the first bus or train arrives after 9:00 am on Christmas Eve and distribute gifts until the last bus or train arrives on Christmas Day or whenever all the gifts have been given out.

Members of the Club have established an excellent rapport with the station management. They provide the Club with a room, where they can decorate, hang their Optimist sign and stage the gift bags.

Between 140 and 150 gift bags containing toys, games, coloring books and comics are passed out to children. Members avoid distributing items that would disturb other passengers, such as musical toys or water guns. The bags are made to be gender and age range specific to ensure the gifts are appropriate and will be enjoyed by the children who receive them.

The budget set for the purchase of gifts is approximately \$400 a year. However, the fund is increased greatly by outside donations, all of which have been unsolicited. Many friends choose to donate gifts in lieu of money. Every year, members of the community ask to participate in the event.



The Club usually has more volunteers than they have slots to fill.

"I encourage Club Members to bring their own kids and grandkids to participate. This will show them that you care and they will experience the emotional rewards of helping those less fortunate," said Leland. "Some Members may balk at leaving their family and comfortable setting to go to the bus station, but what better gift can you give your child or grandchild than to have them participate with you in doing something this good."

The first year of the project, the local newspaper printed an article with photos. Every year, the Club has received coverage from one or two of the three local television stations. In each case, all that was required was a phone call from a Club Member.

This project provides happiness, goodwill and awareness that there are people who care. It received recognition as the 2011-2012 Best Film CPA project, as well as the Best Youth Activity. The Club received \$500 for each honor and was recognized on stage at the 2013 International Convention.



KETTERING NOON
OPTIMIST CLUB
& Surprise Entertainment
WELCOMES YOU TO:
*Diva's
Day Out*



Celebrating Inner Divas at *Diva's Day Out*

*T*he Kettering Noon Optimist Club of Ohio knows that raising funds can be done with style! There was a need to raise funds for their local backpack program, which provides easily prepared, nutritious food for the weekend to children in the free or reduced school lunch program. As an all female Club, Members thought it would be a great idea to plan an event to celebrate their inner divas.

The goal was to have 100 attendees for a Saturday morning brunch. Members agreed that a personal ask with a handmade invitation would be more appealing to potential guests. An electronic invitation was also distributed to the entire Club and many Members posted it on their Facebook pages and e-mailed it to family and friends.

On the day of the event, 210 female guests -the divas - arrived and were greeted by Club Members in pink boas and Brad Pitt. While Brad was a cardboard cutout, there was plenty of real fun awaiting the divas. Door prize tickets were passed out at the membership table and divas were asked to purchase raffle tickets for baskets filled with items donated by local businesses. Divas were invited to visit displays from vendors featuring jewelry, baked goods, cookware, handbags and much more.

As divas were seated, there were offered drinks, including the Club's special "diva juice," a pink drink consisting of cranberry juice and champagne. The Club President welcomed everyone and presented on the mission of Optimist Clubs. The emcee for the event was a meteorologist for a local news station. The divas enjoyed a delicious brunch while a local business owner presented the latest in footwear fashion.

Then the day of fun was crashed by two suspicious divas,

who appeared to be Members of the Dor-Wood Optimists, a men's Club. The two divas gave speeches about themselves and pulled the names for door prizes donated by local businesses. They also assisted by selling raffle tickets.

Everyone was having a wonderful time when the emcee mentioned that it was getting really hot in the room filled with divas. Then three local firefighters burst through the back door with hoses, ready to take care of potential fires generated by the heat created by all the divas. After the laughter from the crowd, the firefighters drew the winners for the basket raffles.

The event was incredibly successful and a lot of fun. The Club welcomed six new Members and raised awareness of their work in the community. Over \$3,000 was raised to benefit the backpack program. The Club received the 2011-2012 Best in Writing Community Projects Award (CPA) and was recognized on stage at the 2013 International Convention. Taking the time to celebrate your inner diva is a great way to bring out the best in everyone involved.



Optimists See Cincinnati



The 95th Annual International Convention in Cincinnati

was full of fun and fellowship! From the opening night Volunteer Appreciation Banquet to the Closing Business Session, from Cincinnati's own Fountain Square to the banks of the Ohio River and beyond, good times were had by everyone in attendance.

Just over a thousand Optimists visited Cincinnati this summer to meet up with old friends, share new ideas and listen to talks from key Optimist leaders. In addition to the excitement and camaraderie, it was an amazing experience of productive workshops, training sessions and memorable events of all kinds.

A special thank you goes to the Communication Company 4th Marine Division, Cincinnati, OH for their assistance at the 2013 Convention Appreciation Luncheon.

Don't miss out on the excitement in 2014 as Optimist International makes its way out west to the fabulous city of Las Vegas, Nevada July 10-12, 2014!





Susan Burbank from the Yamaska Valley Optimist Club in the Quebec South District wrote a poem about her first experience at an Optimist International Convention...

“Over one thousand Members from far and wide,
 All talking Optimism and beaming with pride.
 A sense that talking and listening would give you insight,
 The sharing, the belonging, made it all feel just right.
 There were sessions to motivate, to train, to inspire,
 The stars you were shooting for became even higher.
 So many children are wanting, so many people don’t know
 The greatest solution is to make Optimism grow.
 There’s a definite need to get the word out there,
 To find those beautiful hearts with so much to share.
 Let them know in return, a child may give them a smile
 That they’ll remember forever and make it all worthwhile.”

A Day of Fun and Awareness

In the Optimist spirit of fun and community, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) conducted a day full of activity for youth called "Future Shop Day." The event was created with the assistance of District Foundation Representative Alain Métivier and conducted in the city of Sherbrooke, Quebec. The morning began with a car wash, followed by a hot dog sale. Then a treasure hunt, inflatables, silent auction and surprise draws kept the entire crowd amused.

Over 200 people participated in the event and made it a great success. This was the first of what will likely become an annual event. The activities generated a large amount of interest in the surrounding neighborhoods and allowed the CCOF to gain great visibility.



The day of activity and fun can easily be recreated in another area with the same worthwhile results. Alain was more than happy to share the secrets to success, from researching potential sponsors to promoting the event.

"You must be prepared and make sure you know all the answers to fundamental questions one could ask you, or else you instantly lose any credibility," said Alain. "Above all, you must convince your potential sponsor that he can benefit from cooperating with our Foundation."

Alain arranged for a meeting with the director of a local

electronics retailer. One of the first steps in organizing a successful event is to find sponsors with whom you can establish a mutually beneficial relationship. Make sure to avoid obtaining sponsorship from companies in the same line of work as it may put them in competition with each other.

Once the main sponsor has agreed to assist with the event, it is recommended that meetings be conducted on a regular basis to plan the details. Since you are working with the sponsor, make sure to include a representative in all important decisions. The main sponsor of Future Shop Day contacted other businesses, who supplied necessary equipment for the activities. Staff from the sponsoring company also served as volunteers during the event.

"The fact that the sponsor considers himself to be a partner and not just a donor really changes the dynamics of the relationship," said Alain.

One of the keys to the success of an event is gaining media exposure. Alain met with members of the local media and participated in a televised interview to explain the role of Optimist Clubs in the community. He had materials on the projects of the CCOF to distribute. While some Clubs may not have contacts in the media, make sure to utilize the networks and resources available in your community.

Future Shop Day was a lot of fun and helped spread the word about Optimism. More than 18 door prizes were awarded and \$1,700 in donations were collected by the CCOF.





Colorado Club Receives Prestigious Recognition



Service is a word that holds quite a bit of meaning, especially for Members of the Optimist Club of Monaco South. It is not only what they do for their community, it is the lasting impact they hope to make on the lives of the children they touch.

National Philanthropy Day (NPD) is a special day recognized nationwide in November to honor the thousands of generous people and organizations who donate their time, talent and financial resources to worthy causes. National Philanthropy Day Colorado selected the Optimist Club of Monaco South as

the Outstanding Service Organization in Colorado for the 2012 year. The Club was honored at an awards banquet.

The Optimist Club of Monaco South received this honor as recognition of its dedicated support of youth and their work improving the community. The Club was chartered in 1976 and is one of the District's largest Clubs with 155 Members. Through the more than 55 youth and community projects sponsored by the Club, Members strive to bring out the best in every child and help them to recognize their strengths and value.

"Our future is in our kids and anything we can do to help provide a vision of support is a strength. To instill in them the skills and the confidence to carry forth to fulfill their dreams in their lives can only empower us as well," said Randy Marcove, Past President of the Club.

National Philanthropy Day is formally supported by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and hundreds of other nonprofit and for-profit organizations throughout North America. In 2012, more than 125 communities and 50,000 people around the world participated in NPD events and celebrations.

Congratulations to the Optimist Club of Monaco South!

Amazing Advisors *Support* Amazing Kids

By Don Brose, Chair of the International JOOI Clubs Committee



Our JOOI Members are very special people.

They create, organize and work incredible service and fundraising projects. Then they recognize each other when the project has been completed. Yet almost all JOOI Members will tell you that the assistance of an adult is vital for their success.

Our JOOI Advisors are among the most dedicated Optimists, even if they are not always officially Optimists, who spend precious time working directly with our youth. Optimist Advisors can be teachers, Optimist Members or parents; there are countless possibilities. However, no matter the situation, one of the most important questions when building a JOOI Club is, “who will be my Club Advisor?”

A Little More About JOOI

Alpha Clubs are specially geared toward elementary school-age children. These Clubs focus on teaching youth about volunteerism and teamwork. The Club Advisor plays a large role in an Alpha Club by coordinating simple community service projects and fundraisers. Alpha Clubs do not have to elect officers.

Junior Clubs are for youth in middle school or junior high. These Members elect officers and plan their projects with a lot of help from the Club Advisor. This age group focuses on learning leadership skills and serving the needs of others. Junior Clubs also conduct more social events, so Members can interact with each other and their peers.

Students in upper junior high and high school make up the membership of Octagon Clubs. These Clubs should be Member-driven with the Club Advisor being available to point Members in the right direction. Octagon Clubs hone the students' leadership skills, encourage them to identify needs in their local community and plan projects or fundraisers to address those needs. Members work hard and play hard in various social activities.

How to Find an Advisor

The most difficult part of building a JOOI Club can be finding the special person who will support and advise

the students. It is a big job and it takes a dedicated and caring individual to fill that role.

If you are building within a school, the best place to start is by talking with the school administration. Never underestimate the power of Optimism. Show them the Creed and they may be so impressed that they will assign a teacher on the spot. If not, they may suggest some teachers for you to speak with or go to their next staff meeting looking for volunteers.

No matter where you are building, Optimist Members make great advisors! It can be one Member or a team of Members. Here is a secret for choosing that Optimist Member. At the next Optimist project that has kids directly involved, such as an Oratorical contest, fishing derby or junior golf tournament, observe which of your Members walk up to the students and talk to them. In many Clubs, only a small number of Members interact directly with the kids. Other Members support kids by working on programs, but only a few have that knack of creating conversations with young people. At any rate, those are the people who will make great advisors.

Another great source of advisors is the parents of your JOOI Members. One city in Michigan has 11 JOOI Clubs, all staffed by parent volunteers. They are mostly Alpha and Junior Optimist Clubs. At the beginning of every school year, the JOOI Committee holds a meeting for the students in the evening and invites the parents.

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“One of the most fulfilling positions of being an Optimist is being an advisor for our JOOI programs. The life-changing experiences that happen when children start working in their community are so rewarding,” Mary Ritter, an Optimist from the North Florida District said.

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It is the responsibility of the committee to recruit advisors at that meeting.

“It is so rewarding to see and hear the ideas expressed, and talents, teamwork and humor exhibited, and to be a part of the genuine joy they have while working, learning and playing together,” said Alan Partington, Advisor for the Springfield Plains Alpha Club in Clarkston, Michigan. “Often you can see individual students change dramatically over the school year, as they start to understand their responsibilities to the community, their peers, family and themselves.”

Get Involved Today

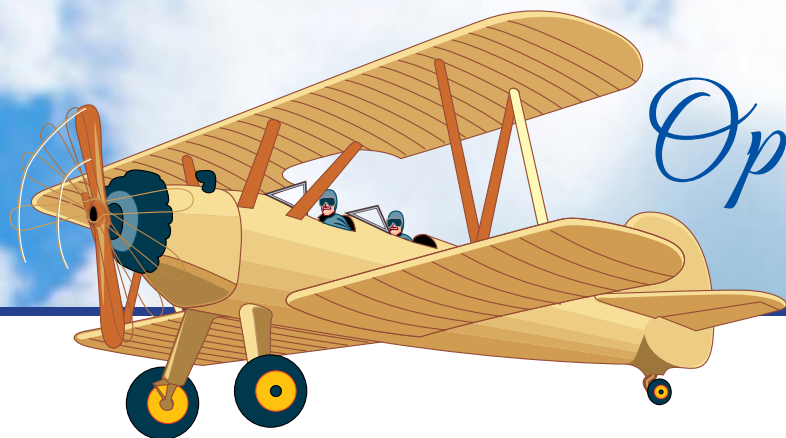
There are over 500 dedicated JOOI Advisors throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. The ability to make a difference in the world with future generations is special to each of them.

We encourage all Optimist Clubs, in the 2013-2014 year to consider forming a JOOI Club. The young people want us and need us. They will always be there. Aggressively looking for people to lead the youth of the future can be challenging, but totally worthwhile to both the young people and the adults who mentor them.

Thank you to the 500 plus advisors we have today, and to the thousands who will mentor JOOI Clubs in the future.



For more information on how to get involved with JOOI, contact the Youth Clubs department at (800) 500-8130 or youthclubs@optimist.org.



Optimist Helps

Most youth at some point have wished they could fly. The Optimist Club of North Hollywood in the Pacific Southwest District has been making that dream a reality since the early 1950s. The Club decided to establish a flying program for youth through the Explorer program of the Boy Scouts. Air Explorers Kitty Hawk Squadron 3 was established in 1951,

headed by Optimist Members who were pilots.



The objective was to introduce young men to aviation. The high cost

of flight instruction and the purchase of an airplane made the dream of flying out of reach for many youth. The Squadron made the dream into a reality and the first flight training was conducted for \$4.00 an hour in a borrowed plane. The fee was to cover the cost of gas and maintenance expenses. Fred Maw was recruited as the Squadron's first flight instructor and he later became a Member of the North Hollywood Optimists.



In 1955, Ralph Truglio, a former Air Force fighter pilot then teaching math at San Fernando High School, was recruited by his principal to be the advisor for a school

aviation club. Most of the members of this non-flying



club were also members of Squadron 3. Fred Maw took him for a flight in the Squadron airplane and shared the details of the program. After that flight, Ralph agreed to reinstate his pilot's license

and begin instructing with Squadron 3.

When Ralph retired in 1983 after a 36-year career as a public high school teacher, he became an Optimist full time. He served as President of the North Hollywood Club twice and participated in numerous Club activities, but his passion and major



contribution was the flight training he provided for the Squadron. By then, he was Chief Flight Instructor, often flying several days a week and also teaching the ground school, which met weekly.

The program evolved to include girls as well as boys.

dreams take flight

The thriving North Hollywood Optimists were happy providing the planes and other support required by the growing flying program.

Sharing the Optimist Mission

In 2005, Ralph and his daughter Nancy attended a 50th reunion of alumni of Squadron 3, where he was honored for his 50 years of service.

“It was incredible to see entire families come up to see my dad. There were teenagers just in the program, and there were older guys retiring out of the airline industry,” said Nancy. “I was so touched, coming to the realization that there was a lot more to this Optimist stuff than I had realized.”



Following this inspiring event, Nancy was inducted into the Optimist Club of North Hollywood,

with her father as her sponsor. Since then, she has been involved in most of the Club's scouting programs

and served as Club President since 2007.

Still Flying Today

The Club now has its seventh airplane and has enjoyed 62 years of accident-free flying. At 91 years old, Ralph can still fly an airplane and continues to serve as Chief Flight Instructor.

“I cannot understate our flying program, Kitty Hawk Squadron 3, the formation of which would not have been possible without the Boy Scouts of America. Keeping such an expensive and unique program vital over so many years has been a challenge. But when I think back to that reunion and all those kids who achieved their dreams to fly because of us, I am reminded of how worthwhile it is,” said Nancy.

Numerous children have achieved their dreams to fly, thanks to the long-standing service of Ralph Truglio and the Optimist Club of North Hollywood. Their dedication to Optimist International and the Boy Scouts of America exemplifies “bringing out the best in kids.”

During the 2012-2013 year, Optimist International renewed its endorsement of the Boy Scouts of America. There are 241 Boy Scout units currently sponsored by Optimist Clubs, reaching over 7,000 youth via almost 2,700 registered Boy Scout Leaders.



'My Optimist' Story



(continued from page 3)

Every one of us has a memory of something that motivates us into doing the job we do for the children and communities we serve. During my year as Governor, I was asked to attend the first all Ontario Optimist Junior Golf Tournament. I was chauffeured around the course to watch the kids play. It all happened quickly, but was so vivid that I will remember it for the rest of my life. We rolled up on a tee block as four young golfers were about to tee off. The last little guy in this foursome is my story.

This little golfer stood knee high to a grasshopper. He wore what looked like hand-me-down clothes. His shirt was baggy and had sleeves rolled up almost to his elbows. His pant legs were turned up to create a generous cuff at his ankles and one of his running shoes was undone and the lace dragged along behind him. He wore a belt that was extra long and when it was done up, a generous tag end ran down his left leg. His ball cap was drawn in so much at the back that it puckered and stuck out away from his head almost as far as the brim protruded on the front. Even with his hat adjusted so tight, it was his ears and the tufts of hair that stuck out all around that prevented it from falling down over his eyes. It was obvious to me that this little golfer was having a wonderful time, probably enjoying the game of golf for the very first time.

My little friend stepped up to the tee block as the last member of the foursome. He carried what appeared to be a ramshackle set of clubs that he had borrowed or gathered along the roadside. Bending over, he teed up his ball and took his stance. His focus was intense and he had a look of determination on his small freckled face. He proceeded into his back swing, shoelace still dragging and then into his down swing powering through the ball, hitting it smartly straight down the middle of the fairway, just like a pro. The expression on his face never changed. It was as if he wanted us to think he did this every time. His secret was spoiled when I saw a small upturn in the corner of his mouth as he bent to pick up his bag. He marched off the tee with pride in his step, pausing only long enough to put his club back in the bag.

This may have been his best drive of the day, but I quickly realized this little man may never have felt the self-gratification of that moment if it wasn't for the Optimist. Simple but meaningful, he may never remember that moment, but for me it was a turning point in what I was all about as an Optimist. That is "My Optimist" story. It is my hope that my theme will draw attention to everyone's Optimist story.

Our Challenges &

KEYS TO SUCCESS

As an organization, we have an overwhelming task ahead. Many Clubs and Members have developed a major disconnect between their Club, District and anything that relates to Optimist International. There is a thought process that "we don't need those guys; we know what we are doing in our community." Yet when you look at the results, Clubs struggle with repeating Presidents and deletions run rampant, leaving fewer and fewer people to do the work that must be done. As an organization that has successfully survived for almost a hundred years, this isn't the first time we have encountered major challenges, but this is the first time we haven't pulled together to move beyond our problems.

The International Board of Directors has granted me permission to develop sixteen Optimist Leadership Summits. These one-day summits will be focused on helping Club leadership find the answers they need to lead their Clubs to a brighter future that will influence more children and establish a better harmony within the Club, at a cost of only \$25 per person. Stay tuned for more details on these training opportunities for every Club and any current or future leaders.



There are children everywhere in the world of Optimism that have never felt our influence. Clubs have lost their desire to take Optimism to new communities. It has almost become a feeling that we know it is needed, but complacency or excuses have convinced us someone else will step up and make it happen. I ask that we consider getting out, developing a new MO and involving a new pair of eyes and ears to move this great organization back into having a successful New Club building effort. We will turn this world of Optimism around one step at a time, but we all must take the first step now.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



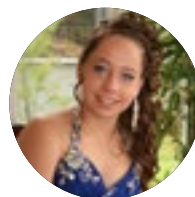
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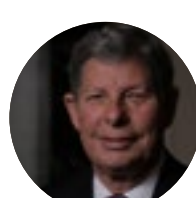
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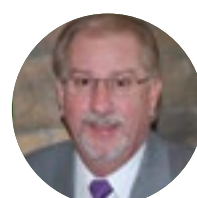
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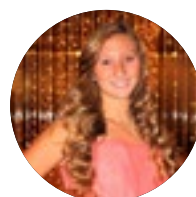
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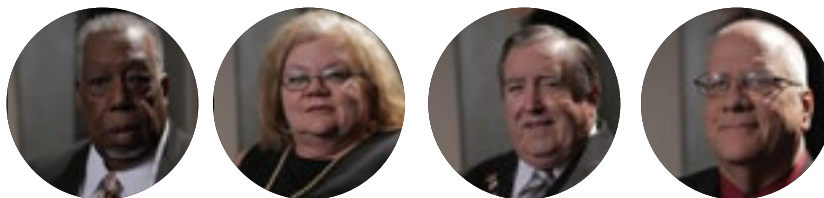


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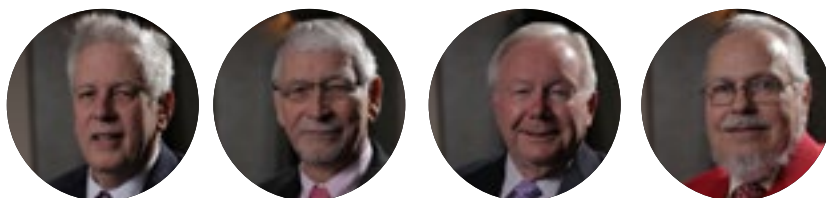
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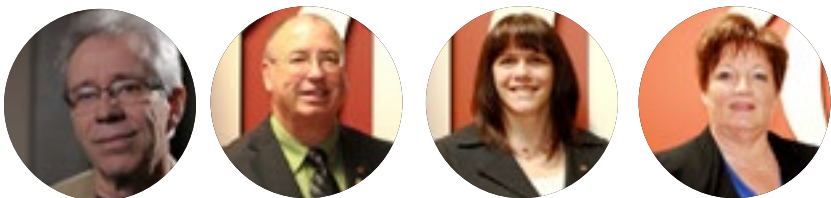


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Canadian Children's
Optimist Foundation

Optimist Foundation Helps Fund **20 NEW PROJECTS**

The Club Grant Program is an annual program designed to assist Clubs in funding new projects. Applications for the 2014 grants will be available in January. The Optimist International Foundation and the Club Grant Committee are pleased to recognize the 2013 Club Grant Program winners! The Clubs were awarded a \$500 matching grant at the International Convention in Cincinnati. Congratulations to these deserving Clubs.

Optimist Club of Denver-Monaco South

Know Brainer Competition

Grand Prairie Optimist Club

Back Packs & School Supplies for the Kids of Grand Prairie

Optimist Club of Kettering Noon

Little Divas' Day

Optimist Club of Detroit - Metro Riverfront

Youth Health & Fitness Fair

Olathe Evening Optimists, Inc.

Language Skill Development through Writing

Menomonie Optimist Club

Little Free Libraries of Dunn Co.

Optimist Club of Bismarck

Optimist/United Way "Caring for Kids" Backpack Program

Southwest Omaha Optimists

Slice of Life

Rich Hill Optimist Club

School Playground Fencing

Blue Valley Optimist Club

Blue Valley Quiet Heroes

Optimist Club of Jennings, Inc.

Driver Awareness

Optimist Club of Hubbard

Kommunity for Kids

Optimist Club of Kansas City, Inc.

Sweet Dreams

Nine Wonders Optimist Club

Emergency Bucket Kits

Optimist Club of Virginia Beach

Walking Safety - "It's the Law"

Capital City Optimist

Playhouse for Playgrounds

Optimist Club of Des Moines

Kids Fest

Optimist Club of Lancaster

Better Food Makes Better Kids

Dignified Residents of Chula Vista Optimist Club

Communication Boards for Students with Autism

Arnold-Imperial Optimist Club

Backpack Book Bag Benefaction

For more information, call **800-500-8130** or
visit **www.oifoundation.org/programs/club-grant-program**.

Optimist International Junior Golf Championships: UP TO PAR



Over 500 of golf's top young

players competed in the 2013 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa. The tournament brought together some of the world's most talented young competitors, many of whom have the potential to become leading collegiate and professional golfers in the future.

The Optimist is truly an international event, with players representing 42 states, four Canadian provinces and 20 total nations.

The tournament saw a hole-in-one from the girls 13-14 division and then another from the boys 16-18 division. Last year's runner-up claimed the title this year in the oldest boys division.

The event would not have been possible without the support of a record number of Optimist volunteers. For the full-field results of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, go to golf.optimist.org.



Providing quality training is essential for the success and sustainability of any organization. Optimist International is committed to maintaining a high level of beneficial guidance and instruction for Members and future leaders.

The inaugural class of the Optimist Leadership Academy was held in Cincinnati, at the 2013 International Convention. Five deserving individuals chosen from over 30 nominees met to participate in a program intended to increase and develop the quality of Optimist International's leadership pool. The Academy attendees were selected from successful Club and District leaders who have consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and not served as a District Governor.

A certified training team of individuals from the International Candidate Qualifications and Leadership Development Committees led the Academy attendees in investigating the traits of leadership and how good leaders utilize their circle of influence to mobilize volunteer power and passion. The attendees also explored how values and character are the foundation of any successful leader, and how great leaders are motivated to help others.

The attendees were introduced to the interpersonal skills required to be an effective leader. They investigated the true meaning of the words, "walking the talk" and the value of being proactive.

The Best of the Best: Optimist Leadership Academy

Designed as an intensive one-day session, the attendees participated in a series of exercises and workshops, setting the stage for them to share and learn successful leadership skills and practices.

Effective communications and its impact on a leader's ability to develop, maintain and increase his or her circle of influence was presented to the attendees in conjunction with the importance of understanding the changes that have occurred and are occurring in the volunteer culture. Developing the ability to manage this change was also discussed.

To give the Academy attendees a better understanding of how to build a cohesive and effective team, they were introduced to the "Gung Ho" approach to team building. This approach focuses on building an effective team, increasing team productivity and fostering high morale.

It involves three basic concepts: getting your team members to work together, empowering your team members and the use of active and passive encouragement.





"I was both thrilled and honored to be a part of the Leadership Academy. It was truly a wonderful experience to have the "best of the best" share their leadership skills with all of us! The Academy was both informational and interesting," said Elaine Lyon, an attendee from the Michigan District. "I am excited to use the skills I acquired in my future leadership roles with both the Michigan District and Optimist International."

Call (800)-500-8130 or e-mail leadershipdevelopment@optimist.org for more information. Don't miss your opportunity to be considered for the next Optimist Leadership Academy!

The final sessions of the program were dedicated to thinking and planning strategically, and developing effective ways to keep momentum alive.

Past International President J.C. St-Onge and 2012-2013 International Leadership Development Committee Chair Ken Garner recognized the Academy attendees on stage during one of the convention business sessions.

The Optimist Leadership Academy was a success and a major step by Optimist International in recognizing outstanding leaders and fostering the development of a strong leadership pool within the organization.

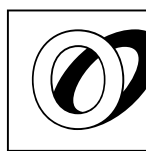
If you are a District leader, have never been a Governor and are among the "best of the best," or you know someone who is, make sure a recommendation is forwarded to the Leadership Development Committee!

The five participants in this year's Optimist Leadership Academy were:

1. **Marino Garbin** – South Carolina District
2. **Cherryl Thames** – Michigan District
3. **Elaine Lyon** – Michigan District
4. **Pat Volpe** – North Florida District
5. **Ashley Lang** – Wisconsin North – Upper Michigan District



Stories of



Optimism

Intangible Rewards

By Russ Testorff, Member of Optimist Club of Ottawa, Kansas

Shortly after I joined my local Optimist Club, I was asked to serve as a judge for the essay contest. As I read through the entries, I was excited by the wonderful thoughts the contestants had so eloquently conveyed. A few years later, our essay chair decided to step down and I was asked to take the position. I readily accepted as I remembered my feelings from being a judge. Little did I realize at the time, the many intangible rewards I would receive.

I went to one of the charter Members of the Club and asked for input on how to improve the program. He suggested finding a teacher who would partner with me in finding contestants. Being a retired teacher, I contacted longtime colleagues in the school district and asked for the name of a teacher who emphasized writing to their students. One teacher's name was mentioned by almost everyone. I made an appointment to visit with that teacher about the contest. When we spoke, she became very excited about the opportunity for her students. The friendship I developed with that teacher was the first intangible reward I received from my role as contest chair. As a result of our working together and her learning more about the work of Optimist International, she became a Friend of Optimist this year.

The announcing of our winner has become an annual highlight for my Club. Each contestant and their family are hosted by one of our Members. The program for the morning is each contestant reading their essay to the Club and the announcement of the results.

Listening to the essays being read has been the second intangible reward. My faith in the young people of this country is buoyed each time I hear these essays.

Two years ago, our Club winner was fortunate enough to be selected as the District winner. The smile on her face and kind words from her mother were another intangible reward for me. Knowing that we played a significant role in making a college education possible was another gratifying moment.

Having taught special education for 33 years, I know the importance of rewarding effort and recognizing people for their accomplishments. I also know the reward doesn't have to be huge to be appreciated. Friendships, faith in our youth and smiles are just a few of the intangible rewards I have received from being chair of the essay contest.

I am reasonably certain there are Clubs who do not participate in this program. Those Clubs are missing the benefits I outlined above. They are also missing the possibility of growing their membership through the friendships they would make as a result of the contest. Finally, those Clubs are missing out on another chance to "bring out the best in our kids."



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www.dbscompany.com/products/products.htm

Optimist Sets District Membership Milestone

By Dave Martin, Lieutenant Governor, Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota District

For Jack Dyvig, a 34-year Optimist Member, it was not a big deal to recruit his 100th Member, a first in the Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota District. It was just one more opportunity to share his passion for helping kids with another person.

Jack was asked by a friend to join the Sioux Falls Morning Optimist Club in 1979. He recruited his first new Member, his friend Art “Bud” Westendorf to join the Morning Club in 1982 and Art remains an active Member today.

to find out what projects really excite them and tell them to come to meetings when they can and get involved in those projects that interest them.”

Jack’s enthusiasm rubs off on those around him. He is always one of the first to volunteer for a project, or to lead a fundraising effort. He has served as President of three different Clubs, has been a Lieutenant Governor three times, was the District Governor and has chaired just about every District committee at least once. He has also built five Clubs, helped re-energize the Sioux Valley

Club and is currently a Member of four different Clubs - two in Sioux Falls, one in Minnesota and one in Manitoba, Canada.

Perhaps his biggest impact has been on the lives of the kids he has touched. He has chaired dozens of youth projects, but the high point for him was leading a committee that started a summer camp for kids with cancer, “Camp Bring It On,” in Sioux Falls in 2006. Sanford Hospital jumped on board, and their doctors and nurses volunteered to help staff the camp, which has grown from 14 kids that first year, to 48 kids, ages 7 to 18, this year.

The Sioux Falls Morning Optimist Club raises more than \$22,000 each year to run the camp.

Jack says the camp has allowed kids, who have suffered with cancer, to be carefree kids again, at least for a week. “They can visit with each other about their experiences; they make new friends who they can relate with and become lifelong friends. The camp is about bringing Optimism to their lives, no matter who they are, or what their circumstances are. That is Optimism at its best,” Jack says.

Jack Dyvig is the embodiment of an Optimist Member at their best.



Now 32 years later, Jack is retired and has become a tireless ambassador for Optimism, as well as serving as a Diplomat for the local Chamber of Commerce, where he meets many of his soon-to-be-recruits. That is where he met his 100th recruit, Bethany Meese, a sales executive with the Sioux Falls Canaries American Association professional baseball team and the Stampede USHL amateur hockey team.

His philosophy of recruiting new Members is to “just ask them to come and see what we are all about and what we do to help kids.” If they need more incentive, the Optimist Creed usually closes the deal. Jack says people like to be involved, but they are busy with jobs, kids and life. “I try

Personal Growth & Involvement Program (PGI)

The following Optimists submitted their requirements for achieving Levels VII and X of the Personal Growth & Involvement Program between April 20-July 23, 2013.

PGI Level VII Recipients

Maxcine Collier	AC
David Morgan	AR

PGI Level X Recipients

Sue Barton	AR
Chris Black	AR
Ric Carvalis	NFL
Lue Drummond	AC
William Drummond	AC
Dale Fox	KS
Violet Hayworth	NFL
Dave Phillips	IA
Alan Wyckoff	PSW

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Cemetery Director at Forest
Lawn Memorial, London Ontario

CONTACT INFORMATION

call: 519.451.2410 Ext. 247

email: cherdman@arbormemorial.com

Top Districts as of June 30, 2013

District	Representative	Avg Member Contribution
South Texas	Joe Smith	\$33.65
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$14.80
Arizona	Nova Sipe	\$14.18
Capital Virginia	Jeffrey Johnson	\$12.82
South Carolina	Donna Keating	\$11.63
East Missouri	Don Sievers	\$11.25
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$10.86
Indiana South	David Kirkman	\$10.82
North Florida	Ric Carvalis	\$10.25
Pacific Central	Russell Blowers	\$9.97

District	Representative	Total Contributions
South Texas	Joe Smith	\$55,887.90
Michigan	Dorothy Tyler	\$26,068.18
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$19,504.82
East Missouri	Don Sievers	\$18,478.46
Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi	Janet Smith	\$17,744.61
Indiana South	David Kirkman	\$16,917.98
Iowa	Gary Miner	\$16,597.52
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$14,942.70
Colorado-Wyoming	Donna Priester	\$14,884.24
Capital-Virginia	Jeffrey Johnson	\$14,304.00

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Avg Member Contribution
AM&NM	Douglas Kirby	\$38.21
MW	Peter Smith	\$23.03
EONT	Yvon Quesnel	\$12.78

District	Representative	Total Contribution
AM&NW	Douglas Kirby	\$31 559.77
SWONT	Nina Strickland	\$16 609.30
MWONT	Warren Bechthold	\$16 262.96

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

503 Gene Lilley
504 James D. King
505 Roger Vaughan
506 Allen Collier

507 John A. Reaves
508 Stephanie Carson-Mann (In Memory)
509 Lawson K. Headley
510 Edward J. "Ed" Bortko

511 James R. Boyd
512 Steve Skodak
513 Jean Mercier
514 Raymond Laliberté

Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from March 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

****GOLDEN BENEFACTOR \$50,000**

EAST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Ashland, MO

****SILVER BENEFACTOR \$25,000**

AM&NW
James McKinnon

****BRONZE BENEFACTOR \$15,000**

GEORGIA
Mark Shriver
IOWA
Optimist Club of Greenfield, IA
KANSAS
William and Monica Kastens
NORTH FLORIDA
Optimist Club of Pensacola-North, FL
OHIO
Optimist Club of Lebanon, OH
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
Optimist Club of Camarillo-Noontime, CA

****EMINENT BENEFACTOR \$10,000**

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
Stephen and Ann Schuneman
IOWA
Wilton Wilkinson
KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA
Frank and Susan Ruman
MARYLAND-SOUTH
DELAWARE
Bertha Price

NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Optimist Club of Rocky Mount-Evening, NC

TENNESSEE

William Stone
QUEBEC WEST
Christian Bourassa

****DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR \$5,000**

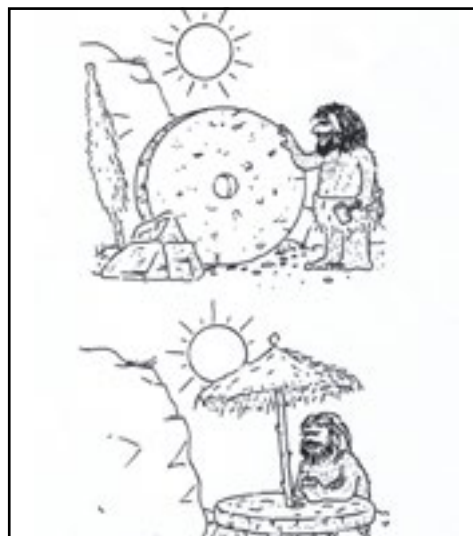
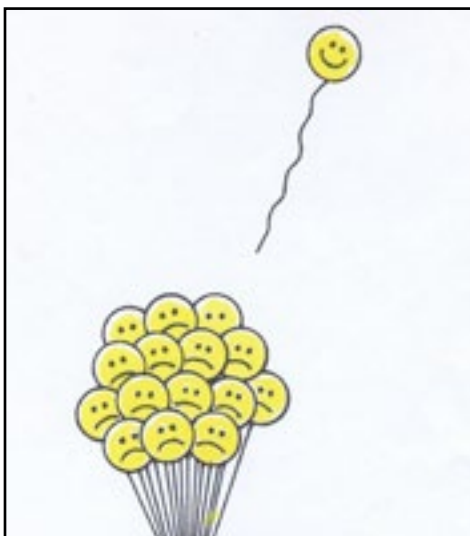
ARIZONA
David G. Beeson
DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA
Optimist Club of Jamestown, ND
IOWA
Duane and Mydge Krob
NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Optimist Club of Duplin, NC
NORTH TEXAS
Optimist Club of Weatherford, TX
SOUTH TEXAS
Richard G. Wiggins Optimist Club of San Antonio-Windcrest, TX
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of St-Thomas-Talbot Trail, ON
WEST MISSOURI
Mary A. Gilpin Optimist Club of Marshall-Mid-Day, MO
****HONORED BENEFACTOR
\$2,500**
ALABAMA-LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI
Janet N. Smith
KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA
Thomas L. Birch

MICHIGAN
Doris J. Modrak
NEBRASKA
Judith Conway-Kluge
Robert "Fritz" Kluge
PACIFIC SOUTHEAST
Optimist Club of Cerritos-Noon, CA
SOUTH FLORIDA
Optimist Club of Sanibel-Captiva, FL
QUEBEC CENTRAL
Optimist Club of Ste-Beatrix

****BENEFACTOR \$1,000**

ALABAMA-LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI
John A. Reaves
ATLANTIC CENTRAL
Optimist Club of Stroudsburg-Stroudsburgs, PA
CALIFORNIA SOUTH
William S. Glover
COLORADO-WYOMING
Optimist Club of Cheyenne, WY
EAST MISSOURI
Constance Pellock
IOWA
David and Patty Mason
MICHIGAN
Robert Smith
NORTH CAROLINA WEST
T. B. Leonard
NORTH FLORIDA
David and Linda Dawley

NORTH TEXAS
David J. Glazener
CENTRAL ONTARIO
Nelson Latimer
Lauralee Reilly
EASTERN ONTARIO
Francine Bergeron
Jean-Guy Chauvin
Rheal Bazinet
QUEBEC SOUTH
Club Optimiste de Bromptonville
Michel Scott
Jacques Desrosiers
QUEBEC EAST AND ACADIA
Robert Proulx
OHIO
James F. Brautigam
OKLAHOMA
Judy Evans
PACIFIC CENTRAL
Jeff Spoelstra
TENNESSEE
Allen S. Collier
WEST MISSOURI
Deborah Hill
WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER
MICHIGAN
Kenneth E. Weber



Looking on the Bright Side

Jim was in a bad mood, and anyone who got in his way was going to regret it. He stormed into his favorite restaurant and plopped himself down on a chair. "Get me a steak well done with mashed potatoes!"

Three minutes later when his order came, Jim screamed, "Didn't you hear me say well done?"

"Why thank you sir," the waitress smiled, "that was the first compliment I got all day!"

Lessons Adults have Learned

Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.

The best way to keep kids at home is to make a pleasant atmosphere and let the air out of their tires.

Families are like fudge....mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.

Laughing helps. It's like jogging on the inside.

Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

A person's mind not only wanders; sometimes it leaves completely.

If you can remain calm, you just don't have all the facts.

Animal Sounds

A teacher arranged her young students into a circle. She then went around the circle and asked each one a question.

"Davey, what sound does a cow make?"

Davey replied, "It goes 'moo.'"

"Alice, what sound does a cat make?"

Alice said, "It goes 'meow.'"

"Jamie, what sound does a lamb make?"

Jamie said, "It goes 'baaa.'"

"Jennifer, what sound does a mouse make?"

Jennifer paused, and said, "Um... it goes... 'click!'"

Every Optimist Club Has the Right to Vote

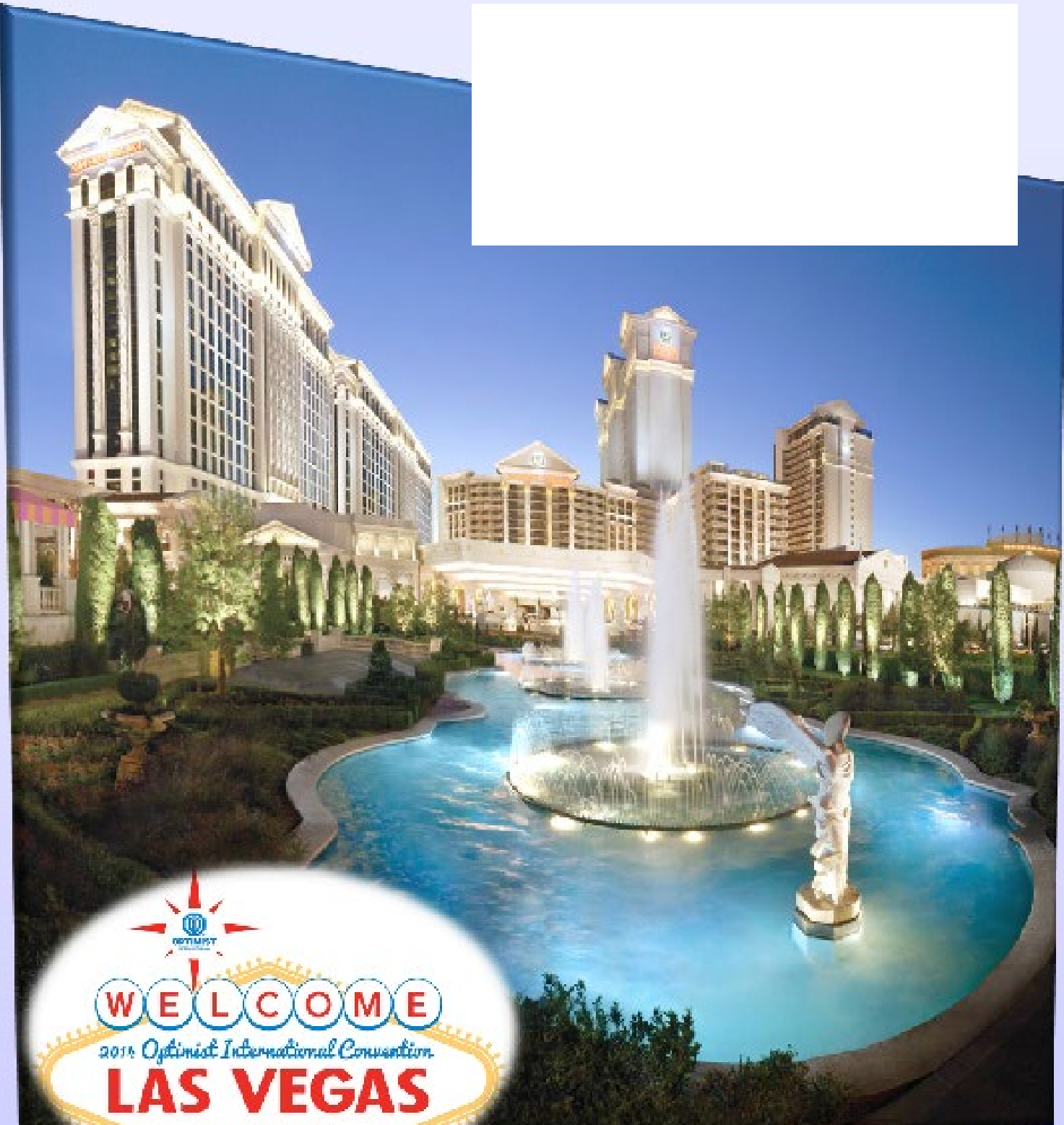


Your Club's right to vote for the Optimist International President, Board Directors and Vice Presidents just got easier. The delegates of the 2013 International Convention adopted a Bylaws amendment to allow each and every Optimist Club to vote for International officers online beginning in the spring of 2014.

To be able to vote for the next Optimist International President, two At Large Board Directors and your Regional Vice President, your Optimist Club's International dues and fees must be paid in full by April 30, 2014.

Please make sure that your 2013-2014 Club President's email address is correct in the Optimist membership database to ensure your Club receives the voting procedures next spring.

Go to www.optimist.org
Login with your credentials
(if you do not know your credentials,
click "password recovery" link)
Select yourself and confirm email is correct.



JULY 10-12, 2014

< CAESARS PALACE >
LAS VEGAS