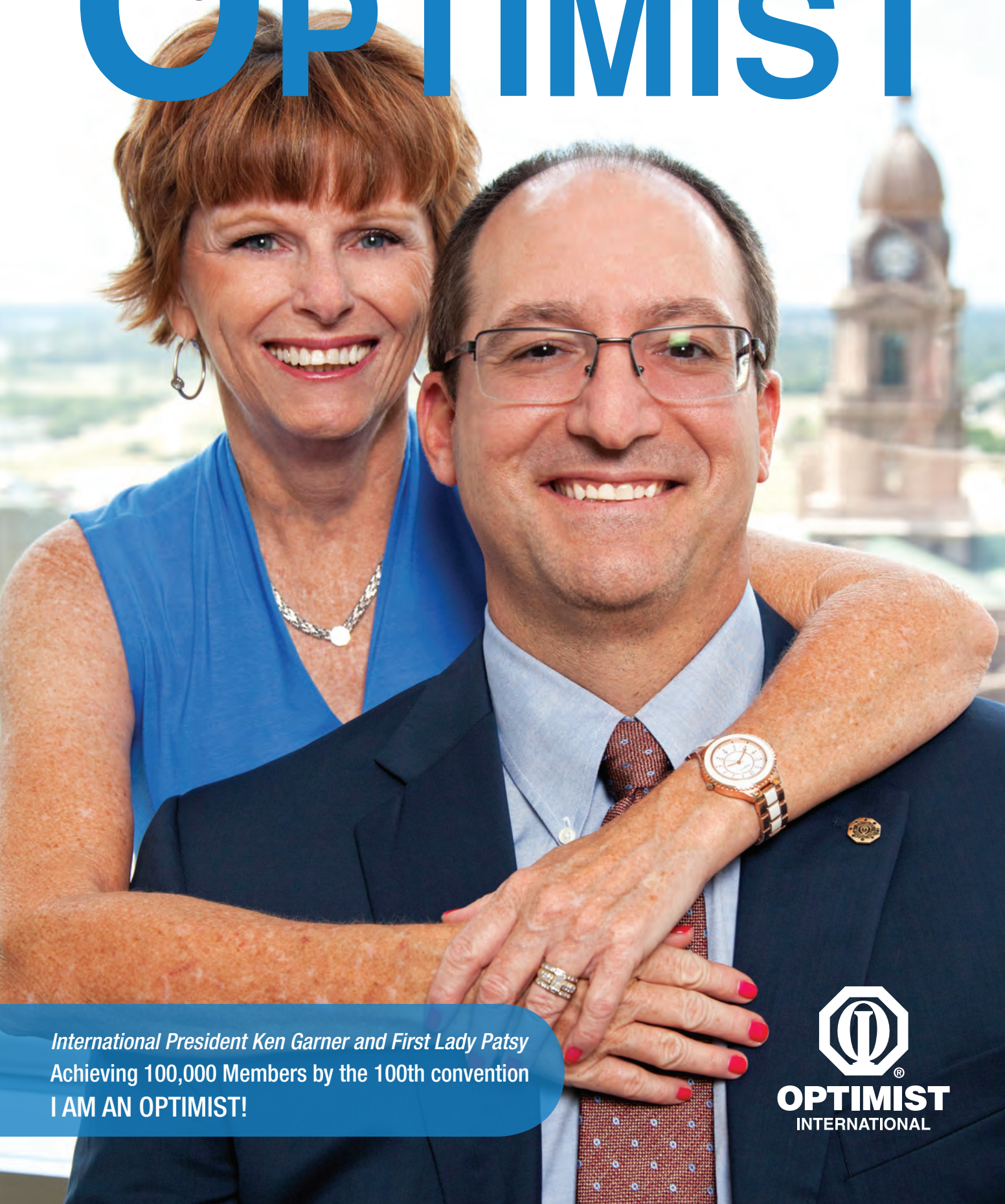


Fall 2014

The OPTIMIST



International President Ken Garner and First Lady Patsy
Achieving 100,000 Members by the 100th convention
I AM AN OPTIMIST!



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

2014-2015 PRESIDENTIAL INCENTIVES FOR CLUBS

Clubs will receive one new roll-up Creed banner per Adult Club built.

For adding 15 new Adult Members, Clubs will receive one new roll-up Creed or Purposes banner. JOOI Members and Friends of Optimists are not included.

Bonus: Clubs will receive one additional new roll-up Creed or Purposes banner for adding another 15 new Adult Members for a total of 30 new Adult Members.

Builders of Excellence

New Clubs may be sponsored by two existing Clubs and up to four Builders of Excellence may be named.

30 and Under for \$30

The 30 and Under for \$30 Membership program will continue during the 2014-2015 Optimist year. A New Member that is age 30 or under may join Optimist for \$30 International dues and registration fee for one year. When the year is over, the Member will be required to pay full International dues.

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



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.

Optimist International®

www.optimist.org

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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The Optimist

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On the Cover

If every Member were to strive to grow the project they are the most passionate about by 10% each year, they would need to recruit more volunteers to achieve their goals. Bigger and better projects mean more Members and more kids affected by Optimists!

A CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT FOR OPTIMISM

P R E S I D E N T K E N G A R N E R



As a young boy in New Mexico, Ken Garner had a goal – he wanted to be a Carlsbad Caveman football player. In seventh grade, he committed himself to helping the team win a state championship for the city. That might seem like a big dream with unlikely odds, but Ken was determined to meet his goal. On a Friday evening in October 1986, Ken stood in a huddle with his team, watching the clock run down to the end of the game, which they would win to guarantee the city's first state playoff spot in his lifetime.

"At that moment, every weight lifted, every drop of blood spilt, every broken bone, torn ligament and injury was worth it!" Ken recalls. "A multiple year goal was coming to

fruition for all of us and I played my part. The entire town celebrated!"

While Ken has come a long way from that young football player in Carlsbad, one thing has certainly stayed the same. He believes in setting goals and making a team effort to reach them. His goal of winning a state championship with his team is similar to the challenge he takes on as he moves into the office of 2014-2015 Optimist International President. The organization is facing numerous challenges unlike those it has dealt with in the past and is in need of a strong team to turn around membership losses and deletions.

Now Ken's team consists of his International, District and Zone officers, as well as every Optimist Member in the organization. Again, this may seem like a big goal with unlikely odds and that is why the commitment of every Member of the team is a necessity. President Ken understands how big this goal is and his response is, **"We can do it. I Am An Optimist! We are the Optimists!"**

Early Years to Today

Ken was born and raised in Carlsbad and instilled with a strong work ethic from an early age. His family raised horses, sheep, dogs and earthworms on three acres of pecan trees. During the summer and on most holidays, he worked on the assembly line manufacturing concrete blocks at his dad's company, Carlsbad Block and Supply. He was taught that if it was worth doing, it was worth doing the best you could. That simple lesson carried over into his life including sports, school and volunteering and has stayed with him to this day.

In 1991, Ken received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Lubbock Christian University (LCU) and received a Masters degree in Taxation from Baylor University the following year. "The great thing about going to LCU was that it allowed me to be active in chorus and drama, as well as the typical intramural sports and the collegiate soccer team. The drama, choral and chapel experience was priceless in giving me an opportunity to address people," Ken says.

[LEFT PHOTO: President Ken and First Lady Patsy attend the 2014 President's Ball. RIGHT PHOTO: President Ken, First Lady Patsy and the 2014-2015 Vice Presidents or as Ken likes to call them, 'Le Super Ocho!']



He now works as a Certified Public Accountant and Executive Tax Director for Ernst and Young LLP. As part of their National Exempt Organization's tax practice, he works with large exempt organizations, hospitals, foundations and Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Associations for Fortune 500 companies across North America.

Becoming an Optimist

During a career counseling session at an early job, his senior manager advised him to become involved in a volunteer group. The mother of a girl he was dating suggested the Optimist Club so they could get free spaghetti supper tickets. Ken joined the Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth twenty years ago this year.

Over those twenty years, Ken has served as Honor Club President, Distinguished Governor, Vice President and Member of the International Board of Directors. Like most Members, he has a favorite Optimist experience that reminds him why the work of Optimists is incredibly valuable to the community they serve and just how much of a difference they can make in the life of a child.

"My favorite experience occurred when we put on a Tri Star basketball event in

2003," Ken says. "After we gave basketballs to the winners, a grandmother of one of the young men approached us in tears to let us know that this was the first day she had seen him smile since his parents had died."

Article continued on page 12 >



[The Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth after a successful meeting.]

WELCOME to the 2014-2015 OPTIMIST YEAR!



While every new year comes with new challenges, they also bring new opportunities for growth. In order to overcome the challenges and make the most of these opportunities, every Club should develop a Member Recruitment and Growth Plan that they implement right from the start.

Every Club is different, so no two plans should be exactly alike. Clubs should start by establishing a Recruitment and Growth Committee. The committee should ask itself hard questions about what has worked in the past and what has not. Members of the committee will need to consider how things that did not work could be improved. Answering these questions can help the committee form a solid foundation for a comprehensive and effective Growth Plan. Clubs and their

Growth Committees are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available. The Membership Department at the International Headquarters is ready and willing to help Clubs develop and implement Member recruitment strategies. Recruitment brochures and materials are available upon request. Contact membership@optimist.org or (800)500-8130 ext. 227 for more information.

However, the best resource may be closer to home. Talk to District Leaders and other Clubs who have had successful growth strategies in the past. Invite them to a meeting, so they can share their ideas and success stories with the entire Club.

Member recruitment and growth is important for the entire Optimist organization. If we work together, we can ensure that all Clubs grow, so they can have a greater impact in their communities and bring out the best in more kids.

Start the New Year off Right!

Resolve to make the 2014-2015 year the most Optimistic year to date! This is the perfect time to set new goals and make a few Optimist-related resolutions. It may be getting a Club project off the ground, recruiting a new Member or Friend of Optimists or starting a new Optimist or JOOI Club.

Consider setting small goals that can be achieved throughout the year. Perhaps it is time to get involved with a new committee. Make an effort to sit by someone new at your next Club meeting. Practice your pitch so that when a potential Optimist crosses your path, you will know how to approach them about joining your Club.

Whatever your goals, meeting or exceeding them can help you grow as an Optimist and assist your Club in making a greater impact in the community.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR

While all Optimist Clubs offer something special to the communities they serve, some outstanding Clubs go above and beyond in fulfilling the Optimist mission. Optimist International and International President Ken Garner are proud to announce the “Optimist Club of the Year” award to recognize these Clubs that personify what it means to be an Optimist.

The award will be presented annually to the most outstanding Club in each Region based upon the following criteria:

- Service Projects Sponsored
- Member Development Programs including PGI, International Conventions and Summits
- Club Growth and Increased Community Awareness Campaigns including NOW, Marketing Campaigns and more
- Increased Volunteer Member Base
- New Community Efforts

Points in each category will be awarded based upon community outreach, impact on children and Members, new and independent ideas, as well as benefits to individual Club Members.

Recipients of the “Optimist Club of the Year” award will receive one paid registration to the International Convention, a banner patch and the opportunity to compete for Overall Optimist Club of the Year.

Interested Clubs are invited to submit information as outlined on the judging form available at www.Optimist.org/CluboftheYear. Clubs can submit any materials they chose as the items relate to the specified criteria.

Overall Optimist Club of the Year

The “Overall Optimist Club of the Year” is the highest achievement a Club can attain in the Optimist organization. The eight “Optimist Club of the Year”



recipients will be evaluated and ranked by multiple judges. Community outreach and impact on children and Members from projects conducted will be considered using the same criteria mentioned above.

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

If you have questions, please call 800-500-8130 or e-mail leadership@optimist.org.

Paying it Forward



FOR THE KIDS

Mark Miller, the 2013-2014 Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan District Governor, set the theme of "Paying it Forward." He told Members that Optimism is about giving back or paying it forward, not for themselves or awards, but for children and their communities. Mark challenged every Member of the 62 Clubs to go out and make a difference.

At the first quarter conference in November, Mark announced an initiative called the "WINUM District –Peyton's Promise Initiative." Peyton's Promise is an organization started in Wisconsin in 2006, when eight-year-old Peyton Medick found out that children just like her go to bed hungry every night. Her goal was to "make the world a better place, one can at a time" by keeping local food pantries stocked. The organization has grown to include over 50 youth advocates working in their own schools to raise awareness and with their help, Peyton's Promise has collected over 100 tons of food and thousands of dollars in grants, donations and scholarships for pantries in central Wisconsin and across the United States.

The District initiative was to pay it forward in each of the Clubs' communities by working with youth to put additional food on the shelves of local food pantries, spread the Peyton's Promise objective of raising awareness of the problem of hunger and have fun while making the world a better place.

A contest was announced at the second quarter District conference. Each Club was asked to purchase or solicit food items and build a food sculpture. Clubs were to submit a photo to the District, so the best sculpture could be voted on at the third quarter conference. Clubs were encouraged to do this as a social activity, possibly with a JOOI Club and have fun while working to benefit local food pantries, where the food would be donated.

While only five Clubs submitted photos of sculptures, all were creative. At the third quarter conference, voting for the best sculpture raised \$35, which was donated to Peyton's Promise. During the conference, Peyton's Promise Advocates were invited to join Optimists in building food sculptures. About 20 of the advocates built a four foot wide Optimist International logo and the Optimists built an American flag sculpture about four foot tall. The close to 300 pounds of food used was donated to the Wausau Area Food Bank on behalf of the District.

At the end of the initiative, 18 Clubs and 2 Zones reported donating 18,275 items to food pantries with the assistance of 525 youth. The District lived up to the theme of "Paying it Forward," not for themselves or awards, but for children and their communities.

Thanks to Charlie Pufahl, WINUM District Newsletter Editor for sharing information about the District initiative.

By Jill Rodgers, Member of the Breakfast
Optimist Club of East Fort Worth, Texas

Little Red TO THE RESCUE

Wagons

Many Optimists likely have fond memories of riding in a little red wagon during their childhood. The Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth, Texas discovered that kids still enjoy this pastime, especially those in the hospital. While conducting a service project at Cook Children's Medical Center, Members noticed red wagons around the hospital.

While young patients are receiving care for serious illnesses, they are often too weak to safely walk on their own. Wheelchairs are not a good solution because are too big, and can sometimes be scary. The hospital staff said children tend to be calmer and even have fun while riding in a red wagon like the one they may have at home. The wagons get lots of use taking kids to receive treatment, outside to get fresh air, to visit the playroom, and finally to the car to go home.

Members identified a need due to some parents sneaking the wagons into their cars to take home. When the Club learned that the medical center was opening a hospital unit for palliative care, a new project was created. The Club would provide red wagons for kids in the hospital.

The Club was excited and started finding ways to raise money. While general donations were collected from Members, it was decided that the \$40 received from Optimist International for sponsoring a Friend of Optimists would be a good addition to the fund. An Optimist Foundation print was raffled and the Club took donations in memory of long-time Member, Joyce Waller and in honor of the past Optimist International First Ladies. In a short time, the

Club had raised enough to purchase the first group of wagons.

The original goal was to buy medical grade red wagons with built-in IV poles that could be used for children of any age. While Members were raising money, the only company in the country that made these wagons went out of business. After conferring with the hospital, the Club chose a replacement wagon, that even though it was not a medical grade, would work great. Instead of being able to purchase three, the Club had enough funds for a dozen!

An Optimist Wagon Assembly party, complete with ice cream, was scheduled and Members put the wagons together, loaded them up and personally delivered them to the hospital. They were immediately put to good use and now the Club is gearing up to do it all over again.

If your Club wants to put a big smile on the faces of kids stuck in a hospital, consider buying wagons for them. If you would like information on how you can sponsor a similar project, contact jillrogers@sbcglobal.net.



NEWS

A New Look for Optimism

If you visited the Optimist International website recently, you may have noticed the enhancements that have been made. The website now has a fresh, updated look to make both Members and visitors feel welcome.



A slider of images associated with important Optimist topics such as membership, programs and youth Clubs has been added to the main pages. The images can be clicked on for more information on the various topics. Social media icons and links are now included in the header of every page, to make following the organization and communicating with other Members easy.

Now when visitors go to www.Optimist.org, they can choose to go to the 'Join Us' section with basic

information about the organization and details on how to become an Optimist or Friend of Optimists. They will not have to navigate their way through information that while helpful to Members, may seem confusing to visitors unfamiliar with the organization.

Optimists can go to a special Members section. The website still features an incredible amount of information and resources, but users have more options upfront so they can find what they are looking for quickly.

Another great new feature is automatic display adjusting. The new website will accommodate various desktop, laptop, tablet and smartphone screen sizes. Visitors will be able to easily view and utilize the website from any device.

Please take some time to look around and become familiar with the new site. If you are unable to locate a piece of information, use the "Search" function, or feel free to contact (800)500-8130 for assistance.

Strengthen Your Leadership Skills at a Summit

Optimist International is proud to introduce its 2015 Leadership Summits. If you

attended a Summit last year or if you were unable to, you will not want to miss one of the upcoming events! The agenda will include new topics and updated information to make you and your Club successful.

Every Member and even non-Optimists are invited to participate in this exciting program developed for Optimist leaders, leaders of volunteer or charitable organizations, business owners, corporate managers, department heads, and front-line employees. This intense, one-day training experience will provide attendees with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to lead a relevant and thriving organization.

Each Summit will include energetic and inspiring trainers that will provide training and skill building exercises designed to help each participant become a better leader and improve the operation of their business or organization.

More information will be included in future publications and on the Optimist website. Attend a 2015 Leadership Summit to bring out your best leader!



VIEWS

Reel Optimism Winners Announced

Congratulations to the South Side Optimist Club of Fort Wayne, Indiana, on winning the 2014 Reel Optimism Video Contest! The Club's entry received the most votes from among the five finalists, earning the Club the grand prize of a \$1,000 Club grant.



The Optimist Club of Brooklyn, Ontario, received a \$500 Club grant for finishing in second place. Third place honors

went to the Optimist

Club of Bloomington, Minnesota and the Club received a \$250 Club grant. Club grant prizes are courtesy of the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

Be sure to check www.Optimist.org/ReelOptimism and future Optimist publications for information about the 2015 Reel Optimism Video Contest.

IN MEMORIAM Former Executive Director Hugh Cranford

Optimist International's Executive Director from 1967 to 1986, Hugh Cranford, passed away August 15, 2014, in Charlotte, North Carolina at the age of 94.

Cranford spent over 50 years of his life as either a volunteer or the chief staff official of the organization. Prior to being chosen Executive Director in 1967, he spent 20 active years as an Optimist Member in his native Charlotte. His volunteer service included terms as a Club President, District Governor, International Vice President/Board Member and International committee chair. Following his retirement as Executive Director in 1986, he renewed his volunteer service by serving on several more international committees and as chair of the Optimist International Junior Golf Committee. At the time of his death he was an emeritus member of that committee and also Executive Director Emeritus.

During his tenure as Executive Director, the organization experienced some of its most dramatic growth, increasing from 2500 Clubs and 93,000 Members in 1967 to nearly 4,000 Clubs and 157,000 Members by 1986. The International Essay Contest and the Optimist Junior Golf program are just

two of the major programs adopted during his tenure.

Upon his retirement, Cranford noted that,

"I'm very fortunate in that I have one of the finest vocations anywhere. I've never envied any other business or profession. Almost every day, I've been able to make a new friend or hear of a new project or learn about a new Club being organized."

Cranford is survived by his son, John and his family.



THE UNITED STATES NAVY & OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



The United States Navy is deployed around the world, around the clock, protecting and defending America on the world's oceans. At any given time, tens of thousands of sailors from all across America are serving at home and abroad, ready to defend America at all times. With more than 70 percent of the Earth covered by water and over 90 percent of the world's commerce traveling by sea, the Navy plays a critical role in ensuring the free flow of global trade to preserve America's economic prosperity.



Local Sailors volunteer to help renovate a house for a family as part of Omaha Navy Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Jandik/Released)

Rear Adm. Annie Andrews leads the oath of enlistment for two future Sailors at the Omaha Military Entrance Processing Station as part of Omaha Navy Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Jandik/Released)



MORE SIMILAR THAN YOU WOULD THINK

By Lieutenant Ken Hagihara, United States Navy Office of Community Outreach

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 3rd Class

Nick Kisselman, from Lakewood, Colorado, shows a child a flight suit during Riverfest, a local community event, as part of Omaha Navy Week. Omaha Navy Week is one of six signature Navy Weeks planned across America in 2014, and designed to help increase Americans' understanding of their Navy's mission, capabilities, and relevance to national security. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dustin Good/Released)



While the men and the women of the U.S. Navy protect and defend America on the world's oceans from Navy ships, submarines and aircraft, they also bring relief to people around the world following humanitarian crises. However, much of the most rewarding work accomplished by

Navy sailors takes place within their local communities.

As individuals, sailors contribute to their local communities as youth leaders, mentors, sports coaches, and community leaders. Organized groups of Navy personnel provide support to their communities by volunteering in service

projects, visiting children's hospitals, and partnering with service organizations such as Optimist International.

The U.S. Navy and Optimist International share a common goal of helping to improve the lives of young

adults in local communities across the nation. There are a number of ways in which local Optimist Clubs can team up with Navy sailors to help them boost their efforts in their local communities. For instance, Clubs can request Navy leaders to speak free of charge at official luncheons or events to provide Members with valuable information and

insight on topics such as leadership and management. In addition, by reaching out to the service-minded Navy sailors living in their local communities, Clubs may be able to identify dedicated, hard-working volunteers to participate in service projects. Clubs could even find new Club Members among these service-oriented sailors. There are a host of other Navy outreach programs that may be of interest to the Optimist community.

Optimist organizations at the National, Regional and local Club levels can benefit from the synergies that Optimist International and the U.S. Navy share in the areas of youth-centered community service. For more information on how request a Navy speaker for your next event, or for information on additional Navy outreach programs, contact Todd Martin at the Navy Office of Community Outreach, (901) 874-5805, or todd.martin@navy.mil.



Electricians Mate 2nd Class Gilbert Caine, assigned to USS Constitution, visits with a patient at the Children's Hospital and Medical Center as part of Omaha Navy Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Benson/Released)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 2nd Class David Ikuta, from San Jose, California, writes a message to onlookers at Henry Doorly Zoo as part of Omaha Navy Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dustin Good/Released)

A CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT FOR OPTIMISM

CONTINUED

Opti-Match at its Best

Ken met his lovely wife Patsy through Optimism. They were both Lieutenant Governors during the 1999-2000 year and then Patsy convinced him to follow her as Governor in 2000-2001. During that year, they became dates for each other at events and an Optimist love match was made. Now they are each other's biggest fan and supporter. First Lady Patsy is poised to play an important role in the 2014-2015 year helping the organization reach its goals.



Optimism is a “Family Thing”

When Ken and Patsy got together, they not only increased their Optimist family, they combined their biological family of Optimists. Patsy's mother was co-founder of the cheerleading club, which has become the ACA Optimist Club. Both Patsy and her sister Pam are Members and this year, Patsy's daughter Glenda White, will be the Club President so that she and Ken can be Presidents together.

Both their dads, Jim Garner and Woody Cahoon, are Friends of Optimist and Carolyn Garner soon will be as well. Ken's brother and sister-in-law James and Audra Garner help with various projects and their children,

the three M's (Matt, Morgan and Maysen) pitch in with creative insight. Kevin White takes care of cheerleading needs for granddaughter Kournie and supports Glenda. Then there are five C's (Chris, Carole, Camden, Crewe, and Cavin) who have been across the country with the President and First Lady.

Bringing Out the Best

While “bringing out the best in kids” is a theme that has meaning for every Member, Ken is placing the emphasis on “the best.” As part of their Creed, Optimists promise themselves to “think only of the best, work only for the best and expect only the best,” so it is necessary for them to also give their best.

“I believe that we should be encouraging everyone, adults as well as children to do their best in everything they do. My best may not be as good as another's best, but it may be enough to be better than their good enough and that could be the difference in victory and defeat,” says Ken.



[TOP PHOTO: Ken and Patsy celebrate with his parents, Jim and Carolyn Garner, brother James and his family at his Dad's 80th birthday party. LEFT PHOTO: A Garner family photo including Ken and Patsy's children and grandchildren minus one.]

[RIGHT PHOTO: Ken with four of the grandkids - Camden, Crewe, Kourtne and Cavin. CENTER PHOTO Ken and Patsy at the 2014 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.]

There are no average Optimists because they are doing extraordinary things. If every Member were to strive to grow the project they are the most passionate about by 10% each year, they would need to recruit more volunteers to achieve their goals. Bigger and better projects mean more Members and more kids affected by Optimists!

Game Plan for Growth

“Members need to consider the Optimist legacy and the power of our organization. We can do good things individually, but great things as a group and greater things as a larger group,” Ken says. “We can’t stop doing good things for kids just because we grow older and pass into the next life; that means we must recruit to keep this passion alive.”

The 2014-2015 year will be focused on significant growth in membership, in our leadership pools and in Junior Optimist Octagon International. There will also be a concentrated effort on increasing the number of children affected by Optimists, the number of people who know what Optimists do and personal growth of the membership.

Ken encourages all Optimists to do a better job of making sure everyone near an Optimist event knows that the Optimists are the ones conducting the activity. This can be as simple as displaying banners, wearing Club shirts or giving away items that promote Optimism. Members should make sure the press is aware of their activities and use social media to their advantage. Every Club should have a Facebook page to let their community know what they are doing, when and where.



Motivational Speech for the Team

“As a Boy Scout, we have a responsibility to leave everything better than we found it. I see the same thing here. I see us with a renewed vigor and belief that we can reverse the negative trend we have seen in the past. We will have more baby boomers, gen X and millennial Members working together and attracting attention from many of our successes and the impact we are making in our communities.

In five years, we will be once again an organization of 100,000 Members who are more effective than ever before because we will be actively using technology to help us in our mission. In ten years, we will be a strong worldwide presence.”

The Optimist team is made up of dedicated players and great coaches in our leaders. President Ken and First Lady Patsy are prepared to lead our team to a championship year and years to come. Remember we have a goal to reach 100,000 by the 100th convention! Don't be afraid... we can do it because **WE ARE THE OPTIMISTS!**

RETENTION is as Valuable as Recruiting

Most everyone can agree that adding new Members to your Club is a great thing. New Members bring energy, new ideas, enthusiasm and more hands to lighten the workload. However, there is one topic that is not as agreed upon – how to increase Member retention. Every new Optimist Member added to your Club will not help your membership grow stronger if you are losing existing Members.

Why do people join?

People typically join an organization because they want to serve their community. However, they also want to get something out of being a Member. Clubs need to determine what motivates Members and make sure those expectations are met, so the Members stay active and involved.

Members are usually motivated by the feeling they are a valued part of the team and making a difference. They like to work on projects they feel will improve their lives and the lives of others in their local community. People enjoy participating in activities that entertain them or have a social aspect. Another motivator is giving Members opportunities to learn new skills or network with other individuals who can help them in their professional lives. Rewards are also motivating, whether they are through personal accomplishments, tangible items or a feeling of satisfaction for a job well done.

The good thing is there are numerous ways to increase Member retention. Clubs may have to try various methods until they find the ones that work best for them.



Twenty Retention Ideas for Your Club

- 1 Create and implement a retention plan in addition to your Club's recruitment plan.
- 2 Encourage new Members to recruit their friends, colleagues or neighbors. While they are recruiting, they will be reminded of the reasons they joined.
- 3 Find duties for all Members so they feel like they are part of the team. Try to personalize each person's job to meet their special talents.
- 4 Assign new Members to active committees that meet their interests or give them tasks of their own choosing. These should be duties that allow them to make a meaningful contribution to the Club.
- 5 Rotate committee members every year for different projects with specific job responsibilities. This encourages Members to become more active and increases their knowledge of Optimism.
- 6 Establish a "Member Involvement Committee," whose focus it is to find ways to increase Member participation and keep them interested in the Club.
- 7 Send a survey to Members annually to get their thoughts on how the Club is doing. Form a committee to address negative responses. Make sure to reach out to those Members who do not respond to get their feedback.
- 8 Contact Members who have left the Club to find out their reasons for leaving, what they liked about being a Member and what areas of the Club need improvement. Discuss what can be done to get them to come back or become a Friend of Optimists.
- 9 Ask Members to complete an interest survey, so activities and social events can be planned that will appeal to the group.

- 10 Host events that include Members' families throughout the year.
- 11 Offer educational events and leadership training as part of regular meetings or in special workshops.
- 12 Organize community service projects that be completed in a short amount of time. Provide opportunities for Members to gather, perform service, socialize and foster fellowship.
- 13 Develop a public relations plan for the Club. Members take pride in seeing their Club activities covered in the local newspaper, which makes them feel they are making an impact in their community.

their reason for missing the meetings. If the Member has a complaint or issue, the Club should take action to correct the situation and retain the Member.

- 17 Make sure all communications with Members are relevant, brief and timely. Allow Members to select their preferred method of communication and opt out of certain methods.
- 18 Create and distribute a calendar that reminds Members about scheduled meetings and programs. Print the meeting schedule in your Club's newsletter and post it on the Club's website.



- 14 Conduct a wide variety of events and encourage Members to participate as their schedule allows. Thank them at a meeting or on the Club's Facebook page for their help, no matter how small the task completed.
- 15 Have random seat assignments at Club meetings to break up regular groups and allow Members to spend time with new and different people.
- 16 If a Member is absent from three consecutive meetings without providing a reason, select someone to contact that person and find out
- 19 Work with another Club on a service project to expand networking opportunities, community contacts and fellowship.
- 20 Encourage Members to attend District conferences and the International Convention to broaden the scope of their involvement.

If your Club has a successful retention strategy, then share it with Optimist International. Ideas may be included in future publications or on the Optimist website. E-mail your strategies to membership@optimist.org.

QUEBEC CLUBS RECOGNIZED FOR



In a rare but welcome occurrence, two winners of the 2012-2013 Community Projects Awards (CPAs) are from the St. Lawrence Region. While that is unusual, they are also both from the Quebec Central District! In the Best Video category, the Montréal-Maisonneuve Optimist Club was awarded first place and the Ste-Béatrix Optimist Club won first place honors in the Best Writing category.

The Montréal-Maisonneuve Optimist Club's Bicycle and Fire Safety project was created over 30 years ago. At that time, there were a number of children involved in bicycle accidents. The Club wanted to remedy this by offering neighborhood children safety tips and guidance on how to properly ride a bicycle. Members also saw the value in providing children with tips for fire prevention in their homes.

More than twenty Members organized a day-long activity, which required nearly 100 hours of preparation. They were able to teach safety skills to over 500 children between the ages of 5 and 12. All the participants and Optimists enjoyed themselves. There were plenty of smiles as a number of prizes including bicycles, safety helmets and more were given to the children.

The project's chairman, Pierre-André Jacob, noted that a schedule must be prepared several months in advance. It is necessary for the sponsoring Club to establish a financial plan and work at finding partners, a location, prizes for the participants, and of course, a beautiful summer day.

Pierre-André emphasized the importance of promoting the event and garnering publicity. He encourages Clubs that want to conduct a similar project to send letters of invitation to day camps, their partner organizations, other Optimist Clubs in their Zone and local elected officials. Event flyers should be posted in store

windows and around the community. Journalists should be invited to ensure that professional photos are taken and the project receives coverage in the local newspaper.

The Ste-Béatrix Optimist Club project was the *Corvée du Camp Papillon* or Camp Papillon Duty. The camp was bustling with ten Optimist Members who worked an entire day in May, in addition to nearly 40 hours of preparation. This activity helped to renovate and beautify a camp that serves over 1,500 handicapped children in Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez.

The chores completed by Optimists included putting new paint on the cabins, repairing roofs and fences, cleaning up leaves and washing windows. The work gave the camp a fresh appearance and much needed update. Thanks to generous donors, the Club was able to acquire the supplies needed such as rakes, paint and wood, as well as snacks for the campers.

OUTSTANDING PROJECTS



To help the day run smoothly, Optimists were separated into small groups to share the various chores. Now the children can spend their vacations in a safe, clean environment! This was the sixteenth consecutive year the Club has dedicated itself to this responsibility.

Both the Montréal-Maisonneuve and the Ste-Béatrix Optimist Clubs are to be commended for their efforts to serve their communities and for their completion of an exceptional CPA entry.

Participate in the Community Project Awards AND WIN

There is still time to submit your Club's entry for the Best in Writing or Best in Film categories of the 2013-2014 Community Projects Awards. The digital

program is designed to allow every Club to participate.

In the Best Film category, Clubs are asked to showcase their project in a 10-minute video clip. The questions from the CPA Project Story need to be answered during the video and the entry must be submitted on CD.

In the Best Writing in a CPA entry category, Clubs are asked to complete the Project Story and instead of printing it and their supporting documents, save them to a CD in .pdf format.

A CPA tutorial PowerPoint that explains the process of assembling and submitting an entry is available on the Optimist website, www.optimist.org.

There are also sample entries available for review.

Showcase your Club's projects in whichever category best fits your Club's interests and resources! Clubs can submit as many entries as they like in either of the categories. However, each project may only be entered in one category.

All entries must be submitted to Optimist International on a non-returnable CD in either .pdf or .wp4 format by December 15. Your Club could win \$500 to help carry out your work in the community! If you have questions, contact the Programs department at (800) 500-8130 or programs@optimist.org.



Club Efforts Count **AT EVERY LEVEL**



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL AT A GLANCE

Membership:
87229*

Total Clubs:
3061*

Founded:
June 19, 1919

**As of August 25, 2014,
figure includes JOOI Clubs*

Your Club can help Optimist International in its efforts to improve the quality of the International programs and community activities. All it takes is for a Club officer to complete the President's Pride Report and submit it to the International office. The form can be filled out online at www.optimistleaders.org or printed and completed by hand at www.optimist.org.

Even if you cannot make the September 30 deadline to have your Club entered in a drawing to receive one of five randomly selected prizes of \$100, Club officers are still encouraged to complete the President's Pride Report. The information compiled from the reports shows which programs and activities Clubs are participating in and which ones may need to be reviewed to encourage participation.

Get in on the Action with Tri-Star Sports

Encourage local youth to get active with the Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests! Through this community activity, Optimists can offer youth a unique approach to sports.

Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests are designed for youth ages 8-13 and test three skills in the following sports:



baseball, basketball, football, soccer and hockey. Clubs can hold one or several of the contests at a time.

The contests are a great way to bring youth together in the spirit of fun competition. Each skill offers opportunities to increase a child's self-confidence and encourage physical fitness.

The Tri-Star planning guide is available by contacting the Programs department at 800 500-8130 or programs@optimist.org. The guide contains contest rules, lists of necessary equipment, diagrams of how to set up events, entry forms and scoring instructions.

Invite the local media to the event. A fill-in-the-blank news release is available on the marketing section of the Optimist website. Just type your Club's information into the specified fields, print the form and mail copies to publicize your event.

While there is no International-level contest, there are District-level competitions in some areas. To find out if there is a District contest in your area, please contact your District Activities Chair.



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHT FOR JOOI Members



The 2014 JOOI Convention was conducted July 6-8 in San Diego and was a great success. Members from four countries including the United States, Canada, Jamaica and Anguilla attended. The keynote speaker was Scott Backovich, who presented during the Opening Session. Backovich also hosted leadership and team building activities. Javier LaFianza, President and CEO of Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) also made a speech to the attendees. A beach clean-up service project at Coronado Beach rounded out the activities. Attendees enjoyed the fellowship, leadership training and fun.



SEEKING STORIES OF LONG-TERM SUCCESS

The JOOI Board of Directors wants to hear from you! Junior Optimist Octagon International is planning to produce a high-quality brochure to promote JOOI to those unfamiliar with the organization. The best way to promote Optimist youth Clubs is through long-term success stories that tell how JOOI has affected a young person's life, inspiring them to attain the success they now enjoy as adults.

Optimists are asked to share their stories of memorable JOOI Members, their accomplishments in JOOI and what they are accomplishing now. While full stories are appreciated, please feel free to provide a name and contact information for the JOOI Board to follow up with for further details. If you have worked with a former JOOI Member who can inspire others, please contact **Amy Keller, JOOI Director at (800)500-8130 or youthclubs@optimist.org.**

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:

Allied Gardens Optimist Club
Jody Bethea, Boy Scout Master Troop 816
Bonita Optimist Club
California South District
Coronado Optimist Club
Del Mar-Solana Beach Optimist Club
El Cajon Optimist Club
Terri Fuller, previously of Vista Optimists
Imperial Beach Optimists
Lakeside Optimist Club
Point Loma Optimist Club
Southern California Boy Scouts
Uno Hit, Chamorro Dancers at Luau
U.S. Navy Band Southwest

A JOOI-FUL WELCOME

Junior Optimist Octagon International is pleased to announce that as of July 25, the organization has welcomed 63 new Clubs and 1,276 New Members during the 2013-2014 year!

OPTIMISM HAPPENS IN VEGAS

The International Convention started with a schedule packed with top-notch training for Optimist leaders, quality workshops for Members and the House of Optimism. The Opening Ceremony was an event to remember, featuring entertainment by childhood cancer survivor, Austin Gatus, the parade of flags, introductions of the organization's current and past leaders and inspiring words from 2013-2014 International President, Ron Huxley.



The fun continued into Friday, which started off with lots of laughs at the Old Timers' Breakfast. There were additional workshops, the House of Optimism and the First Business Session, filled with Member awards and recognition, voting on important issues, and a well-known guest speaker, Jack Canfield. The Presidential Banquet included a fantastic meal and great entertainment.

“ My favorite part was the great workshops and being together with over 1,000 Optimistic people all there for the same purpose - learning how we can serve more youth! I'm looking forward to New Orleans! ”

- Julie Milliken Robison,
Optimist Club of
Elkhart-Luncheon, IN



On Saturday, 2014-2015 International President, Ken Garner hosted a special breakfast for Club Presidents-Elect and Lieutenant Governors-Elect. The Closing Business Session included inspirational messages from Ron Huxley and International President Ken Garner. The afternoon included one final group meal event, the Appreciation Luncheon. What happened in Vegas will not stay in Vegas as Members took ideas, memories and excitement for the new year back to their Clubs!

“ There were many highlights; however the speeches by Ken Garner and Jack Canfield are both etched in my mind. ”

- Neil Dolson, Optimist Club of Norwich and District, ON



“ My favorite part was the best training classes that were given. I went in with a big question mark thinking, “will I be able to be the President of our Club?” I came out saying, “I am going to my best and I will do it! ”

- Margarita Silva, Optimist Club of Pomona Breakfast, CA



“ I was a first timer and upon registration, everyone welcomed me with a cheer. My fellow Burlington Optimist friends introduced me to so many great people and I am inspired by all the great workshops and speeches to go into my second year as an Optimist! ”

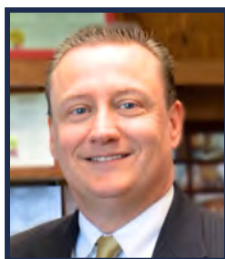
- Paula Weese Montgomery, Paragon Optimist Club of Fairfield, OH



INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



KEN GARNER
President



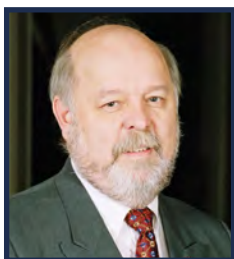
DAVE BRUNS
President-Elect



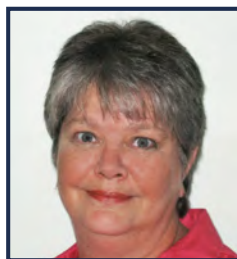
RON HUXLEY
Immediate Past President



JAVANNI WAUGH
JOOI President



BENNY ELLERBE
Executive Director



MARLENE PHILLIPS
Director



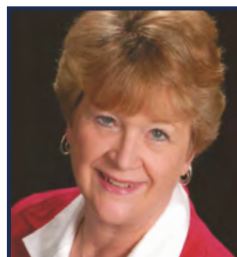
RICK QUINLAN
Director



MARC KATZ
Director



JAMES "JIM" OLIVER
Director



JUDY BOYD
Director



SUE CRESWELL
Director

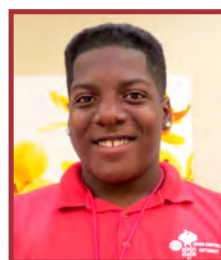
JOOI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JAVANNI WAUGH
President



STÉPHANIE THÉRIAULT
Past President



JADEN MCFADGION
Director



KYRA WOODLEY
Director



DÉRYCK ESSAK-BRUNELLE
Director



LOGAN CLEMENTE
Director

MID-ATLANTIC REGION



LAWSON HEADLEY
Vice President



DAVID BOWMAN
Maryland-South Delaware



GERENDA DAVIS
North Carolina West



RAMONA FULWIDER
Capital Virginia



JAMES "JIMMY" LAMM
North Carolina East



ROLAND "COACH ROE" WILLIAMS
Kentucky-West Virginia

NORTHEAST & GREAT LAKES REGION



FATIMA PLATER
Vice President



LOLA CUMBO
Atlantic Central



TERI DAVIS
New York – New England



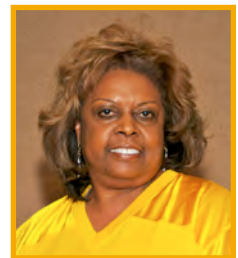
ELAINE MCLAREN
Midwestern Ontario



KENNETH "KEN" NEIL
Southwestern Ontario



SANDRA STOKES
Central Ontario



CHERRYL THAMES
Michigan

SOUTHEAST REGION



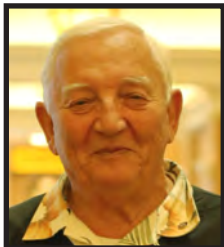
DEANNA MORROW
Vice President



BARBARA ARRINDELL
Caribbean



MARINO "DJ" GARBIN
South Carolina



THOMAS HOWELL
Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi



EDDIE LEWIS
South Florida



MARTHA "MARTY" RITTER
North Florida



RUSSELL "RUSS" THOMAS
Georgia

SOUTHWEST REGION



JANET OORD GRAVES
Vice President



CASSIE AHEARN
North Texas



CECIL CUNDAY
Kansas



JOHN COWART
New Mexico-West Texas



ABIGAIL NICHOLAS
Colorado-Wyoming



GLEN POOL
Arkansas



TERRY WATSON
Oklahoma



IRVIN WILLIAMS
South Texas

MIDDLE AMERICA REGION



TODD MCMILLIN
Vice President



DORIS DICKMAN
Ohio



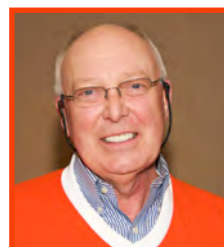
MELVIN "MEL" JACKSON
Indiana North



HELEN NIEMIRA
East Missouri



MICHAEL "MIKE" UNDERWOOD
Indiana South



ERNEST "ERNE" VANHOOSER
West Missouri



BILL WEST
Illinois

GREAT PLAINS REGION



JANET LLOYD
Vice President



KENNETH "KEN" EIRICH
Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan



JEFFERY "JEFF" KUCHENBECKER
Southern Wisconsin



MARGE MELROY
Nebraska



DAN PETERSEN
Alberta-Montana-Saskatchewan
& Northern Wyoming



DONALD "DON" PFEIFFER
Iowa



DONALD "DON" STOVER
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota

WEST COAST REGION



EDWARD "ED" MURPHY III
Vice President



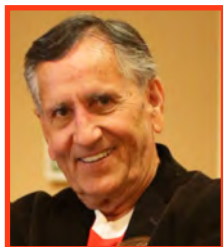
RICHARD "DICK" DISNEY
Pacific Northwest



THEODORE "TED" GAFFIN
Arizona



ANGELA "ANGIE" HAWKINS
California South



JAMES MINYARD
Pacific Southwest



MICHAEL "MIKE" PADILLA
Pacific Southeast



JAMES "SULLY" SULLIVAN
Pacific Central



PHYLLIS CAUGHRAN
Pacific Central

SAINT LAWRENCE REGION



DANIELLE DUPONT
Vice President



RÉJEAN BACON
Quebec East-North Shore



SYLVAIN COUTURIER
Eastern Ontario



ROCH DAIGLE
Quebec Central



LISE LAMARRE
Quebec West



BERTRAND LAMBERT
Quebec South



JACQUES PELLETIER
Quebec East-Acadia



By Jordane Dorsainvil, Administrative Assistant, CCOF

The South Huron Optimist Club of the Midwestern Ontario District is to be commended for their efforts to bring some summer fun to their community. Members saw a need and spearheaded the creation of the Exeter Splash Zone. This enjoyable addition to the area provides a free and accessible recreational activity for local children and families.

Construction started in April with 50 volunteers joining the workforce, including numerous local businesses and contractors who donated their time and expertise. Organizations, such as the local Lions Club and

fire department also provided assistance. Much of the work was completed as in-kind donations, which shows how a community can join together to help Optimists provide service and bring out the best in kids.

The South Huron Optimist Club raised more than \$40,000 in donations for this project. The money was raised through gifts from Optimist Members, supporters and the community at large.

The grand opening of the Exeter Splash Zone was held on July 30, and brought together numerous people and many non-profit organizations from the Exeter community. The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) was pleased to be a partner of the South

Huron Optimist Club in this worthwhile endeavor. The

Club's success is an inspiration for people leading new projects and a great example of what the 2014-2015 Foundation's theme is all about:

"Helping Optimists Help "OUR" Kids"

They are my kids; they are your kids; they are all ethnic groups, all nationalities; they live next door and they live thousands of miles away. So when you think of kids this year, remember all "Our" kids.



LYLE MERRIAM President



DUANE KELLY
Immediate Past President



YVES BERTHIAUME
President Elect



NINA STRICKLAND Director



RAYMONDE MICHAUD Director

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES **TWO BOARD OPENINGS**

The Optimist International Foundation (OIF) is seeking nominations for two seats on the Board of Directors. The four-year terms will begin October 1, 2015. Nominations will be accepted on the Foundation's website,

www.oifoundation.org, until December 31, 2014.

One open Board position is for a member at large and the other is for a Past International President. Members interested in nominating

themselves or others may apply online at the Foundation's website. Please review the candidate qualifications before submitting a nomination. For more information call (800) 500-8130.



NEW YEAR MEANS A **NEW FOCUS**

Optimist International Foundation President, Mel Betts, and the OIF Board of Directors are dedicated to facilitating the Foundation's mission of "Helping Optimists Help Kids"

through the 2014-2015 theme, "For All Our Kids."

The Foundation has a number of exciting programs and incentives happening throughout the year. The

Dime-A-Day pin is awarded

to individuals who donate \$36.50 or more this year. For a contribution of \$100, Members can receive the 2014-2015 Women's Philanthropy

Council Purse pin. When your Club donates \$365 or \$1 a day, your Club will receive this year's Club banner patch. Make sure to submit an application by March 7 for the Club Grant Program that awards \$500 grants to 20 Clubs for new projects.

Please contact the Foundation office at (800) 500-8130 if you have questions about any of these programs or incentives.



MEL BETTS President

2014-2015
OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ED FINN President Elect



DON CRALL Treasurer



SANDY WILLIAMS Director



< **WILLIAM
"BILL" H. TEAGUE**
Past President
2009-2010

STEVE SKODAK >
Secretary/
Executive Director



A Remarkable Passion for GOLF and HELPING KIDS

By Dick Volker, 2013-2014 Illinois District Governor



The Illinois District held its qualifier rounds at Taylorville for three years. Due to the popularity of the event and the well-organized structure put in place by Terry, the tournament moved to the Piper Glen Golf Course in Springfield, Illinois. Six years ago, the qualifier rounds were moved to Red Tail Run Golf Course in Decatur, Illinois, where the latest event was held. During the tournament, boys and girls ages 10 through 18 compete in their age brackets.



Over the years, Terry has built the Illinois qualifier into a respected tournament, giving young people throughout the state an opportunity to compete and meet other golfers with similar interests. Terry sends flyers to all Illinois high school golf coaches and Illinois Junior Golf Associations inviting their players to compete at Red Tail Run.

I attended this year's event and offered to help in any way I could. I was assigned the position of a "spotter," since I did not know much about golf. It was interesting watching parents walking the course with their children as they played.

The production of an event this size requires a substantial amount of funding. Terry solicits Illinois Optimist Clubs requesting donations to sponsor a hole. He has built relationships with local area businesses, as well as some nationally known corporations, which donate funds or supplies to be used during the three-day program.

The kitchen crew was led by Noma Wright, Terry's wife who has worked on this project with him for all twenty years. Several Optimists from the Taylorville Club and others volunteer every year to lend a helping hand.

I asked Terry what was his greatest satisfaction in conducting this tournament. He said, "Getting to know the families of these young golfers, many of whom come back every year and building relationships with them. If you have several children interested in golf, you may see the parents over and over again. We had one young golfer who participated for nine years. This tournament gives Noma and I much satisfaction to see the golfing families and the turnout of help we get to operate this event."

While the qualifier has been recognized in Illinois as a premier golf outing, it has also received recognition at the International level. Ron Huxley, 2013-2014 Optimist International President, awarded Terry a citation honoring him for his years of service to children and the community. In appreciation of their work, the Illinois District and the Past Governors Association gifted Terry and Noma with a trip to the 2014 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

Optimist Terry Wright has spent quite a bit of time playing golf, so it was a natural fit when he decided to combine his love of the game with his efforts to bring out the best in kids. In 1995, Terry took on the responsibility of chairing the Optimist Club of Taylorville's tournament for junior golfers. This was the first year of Optimist qualifying tournaments in which winners could advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.



THE OPTIMIST

International Junior Golf Championships

It was another year of competitive play and great success on the golf courses at the 2014 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa. More than 460 junior golfers from all over the world competed for titles for girls and boys in seven age divisions.

2014 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships Standings
For complete results, go to www.optimist.org/golf

GIRLS 10-12

1. Kan Bunnabodee (Thailand) – 69-73-70—212
2. Maria Moreno Sanabria (Colombia) – 72-74-71—217
3. Agustina Gomez Cisterna (Argentina) – 68-79-72—219

BOYS 10-11

- T1. Casey Jarvis (South Africa) – 76-71-75—222*
- T1. Kongpop Kaikaew (Thailand) – 78-72-72—222
3. Xirong Cheng (China) – 72-73-78—223

GIRLS 13-14

1. Saranporn Langkulgasettrin (Thailand) – 69-67-70—206
2. Ela Anacona (Argentina) – 72-73-69—214
3. Jennie Park (Carrollton, Texas) – 74-76-73—223

BOYS 12-13

1. Nattapol Udomrat (Thailand) – 72-70-74—216
2. Karl Vilips (Australia) – 72-69-76—217
3. Diego Hernandez (Mexico) – 72-75-74—221

INTERNATIONAL GOLFERS HAVE STRONG SHOWING AT CHAMPIONSHIPS

BOYS 14-15

1. Joaquin Niemann (Chile) – 69-70-66—205
2. Andrew Kozan (Palm Beach Gardens, Florida) – 71-69-70—210
3. Sam Jung (Chantilly, Virginia) – 69-71-71—211

GIRLS 15-18

1. Fiona Liddell (Germany) – 73-69-78-77—297
2. Ariadna Fonseca (Venezuela) – 73-74-75-77—299
3. Chloe Velasco (Victoria, Texas) – 74-77-72-77—300

BOYS 16-18

1. Varanyu Rattanaphiboonkij (Thailand) – 64-68-70-74—276
2. Rodrigo Rivas (Chile) – 71-71-67-73—282
3. Tapendra Ghai (India) – 68-74-73-70—285

*won the playoff

Congratulations to the 2014 champions of the Optimist Junior Golf Championships! Thank you to all staff, volunteers, parents, and participants for making the event a tremendous success!

NEXT ON THE OPTIMIST GOLF CALENDAR: TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

The tenth annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions will take place November 8-9, 2014, at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The tournament will feature top junior golfers who are eligible by way of their top finish at the summer Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, by winning their District qualifier or by being a top-ranked national player. For more information, visit golf.optimist.org/toc.



Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

547	Stephen Sucher	555	Allen Walter Danks (In Memory)
548	Rose Marie Samuels	556	Jeanna Clifford
549	Henry "Hank" Hollyday	557	Linda Ingersoll
550	Raymond Deschamps	558	Marie Leonard
551	Bernard Bougie	559	Gerenda Davis
552	Patricia Sartin	560	Gary Slimmer
553	Alvin Sartin	561	Luc Dubois
554	A. Stewart Mallard, Jr.	562	Sharon Cross

Top Districts as of June 30, 2014

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Sandy Williams	\$23.22
Michigan	Janet Oord-Graves	\$15.04
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$9.24
New Mexico-West Texas	Ludwig Bezemek	\$9.10
Maryland-South Delaware	Michael Weston	\$8.12
Oklahoma	Deborah Crall	\$7.56
Kansas	Lawrence Drbal	\$6.08
North Carolina East	Billy Edgerton	\$5.64
Colorado-Wyoming	Philip Perington	\$5.45
California South	Alma Vinson	\$5.43

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Janet Oord-Graves	\$72,482.01
Arizona	Sandy Williams	\$32,519.81
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$19,243.98
Iowa	Geraldine Barnett	\$16,849.25
Colorado-Wyoming	Philip Perington	\$16,680.45
Georgia	Joey Richardson	\$16,378.73
Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi	Helen Howard	\$15,818.46
East Missouri	Vernon Bradshaw	\$15,427.35
North Florida	Ric Carvalis	\$14,668.07
Kansas	Lawrence Drbal	\$14,480.10

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative Average	Contribution Per Member
AMS&NW	Douglas Kirby	\$21.90
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$10.79
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$10.65

District	Representative	Total Contributions
AMS&NW	Douglas Kirby	\$19,422.65
Quebec Central	Claude Duhamel	\$15,657.80
Southwestern Ontario	Gordon Brownlee	\$13,987.87

Optimists Accomplish P.G.I. Goals

The following Optimists submitted their requirements for achieving Levels VII and X of the Personal Growth & Involvement Program April 8, and August 5, 2014.

PGI Level VII Recipients

Jack Akerman	OH
Bob Hartwig	COWY
Marge Hopkins	IA
Donna Keating	SC
Mike Kliewer	DMM
Joe Lujan	NMWTX
Dave Mason	IA
Leslie Mason	IA
Thomas McNaught	CENON
Diana Melcer	STX
Jill Rodgers	NTX
Julie Toepper	AZ
Kathy Underwood	INDS
John Young	COWY

PGI Level X Recipients

Vernon W Andren	SWIS
Barry E Burnham	MI
Diane Clark	NTX
Maxcine Collier	AC
Robert Collier Sr	AC
Alain Gailloux	QUWE
Michel Geoffroy	QUWE
James P Lynge	CENON
Sandy Middleton	NCW
Denise Nacev	CENON
Philip B Perington	COWY
Dwight Phillips	SWONT
Pat Rabaut-Miller	MI
Charlie Ramirez	NMWTX
Kendra Roper	NTX
Wayne Sidelinger	NCE
Don Stover	DMM
Sandra Van Zetten	SWONT
Delores Y Wright	AC

Please refer to
page 27 for more
information about
the Foundation.

Donor Listings

DIAMOND BENEFACTOR - \$75,000

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Karen E. Monville

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

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Danny Rodgers
OKLAHOMA
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SOUTHERN WISCONSIN
Susan Kranz

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

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Optimist Club of Washington, IA
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HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

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Arnold L. Odefey
EAST MISSOURI
Steve Skodak
IOWA
Earl and Margaret Hopkins
Randal D. Keep
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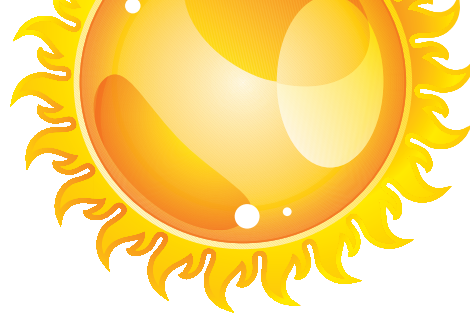
This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from March 1, 2014 – June 30, 2014 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

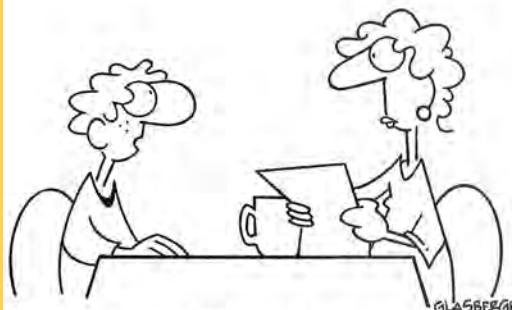
MICHIGAN
Stephen R. Saph
NORTH CAROLINA WEST
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NORTH FLORIDA
Richard and Kim Borsick
OHIO
Judith Martinson
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
William and Evelyn French
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QUEBEC CENTRAL
Yvette Plante
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
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Joey Richardson
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Optimist Club of Fishers, IN
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KANSAS
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OKLAHOMA
Harold E. Diekman
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Danielle Angers-Bouthillier



"When the doctor delivered me, did you get free shipping?"



"No, I can't explain my D in math. That class teaches us about numbers, not letters!"

Back to School Blues

Sam had just completed his first day at school. "What did you learn today?" asked his mother. "Not enough," said Sammy. "I have to go back tomorrow."

Cause for Celebration

A prisoner escaped from jail and said to a little boy he met, "Hooray! I'm free! I'm free!"

"So what?" replied the little boy, "I'm four!"

Number Nuisance

Sue: How are you doing in arithmetic?

Lou: Well, I've learned to add up all the zeroes, but the numbers are still giving me trouble!

Pencil Problems

Teacher: Where is your pencil, Harold?

Harold: I ain't got none.

Teacher: How many times have I told you not to say that, Harold? Now listen: I do not have a pencil; you do not have a pencil; they do not have a pencil. Do you understand?

Harold: Not really. What happened to all the pencils?

Grade Motivation

Little Dwayne wasn't getting good marks in his schoolwork. One day Dwayne walked up to his teacher and said, "I don't want to scare you, but my Daddy says if I don't get better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking."

OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS

NEW TOPICS
CREATE NEW
POSSIBILITIES
FOR YOUTH

If your Club is looking for an activity that allows Members to bring out the best in kids, then the Optimist scholarship contests are the answer!

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

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

Here are the scholarship topics for the 2014-2015 year.

Essay: "Optimism
Should be a Priority"

Oratorical and CCDHH:
"How My Optimism Will
Help Me Press on to Greater
Achievements of the Future"

Start planning your Club's contests today. Make a lasting impact on the life of a child!



SAVE THE DATE



JULY 9-11, 2015

HILTON NEW ORLEANS, RIVERSIDE!



THE 97TH ANNUAL OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
IS FOR ALL OPTIMIST MEMBERS OFFERING FELLOWSHIP,
TRAINING, NETWORKING AND MOST OF ALL FUN!

