

Fall 2017

The OPTIMIST



**Optimist Strong –
Be the Difference!**



July 8-10, 2018



See You Next Year!

MISSION STATEMENT

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

VISION STATEMENT

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the first volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; To inspire respect for the law; To promote patriotism and work for international agreement and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself-

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Optimist, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. © Copyright 2017.



Features

Fall 2017 | Vol. 98, No. 1

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | President Nick Prillaman |
| 8 | Oratorical World Championship |
| 12 | Optimist Club of the Year |
| 16 | International Convention |
| 18 | International Board of Directors |
| 22 | Junior Golf |
| 24 | Junior Optimist Convention |
| 27 | Optimist International Foundation Board of Directors |
| 29 | Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Board of Directors |
| 30 | OIF/CCOF Donors |

The Optimist

The Official Publication of Optimist International

Managing Editor Ronda Vaughn

Editor Heidi Schertzer

Senior Designer Nancy Letts

Editorial Office 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

Office (314) 371-6000

Fax (314) 371-6006

Email magazine@optimist.org

On the Cover Optimist International is ready for another successful Optimist year! For a full listing of International leaders, see pages 18-21.

STANDING IN A PANTHEON OF HEROES:

President H. Nick Prillaman, Jr.



As far back as he can remember, H. Nick Prillaman, Jr. had a dream of being a hero – of being a person who made a difference in the lives of others. He wanted to be faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, a seemingly impossible dream driven by the imagination of a young boy determined to make his mark on the world. Little did Nick know that some sixty years later, he would find himself standing in a pantheon of heroes. After all the dreaming, hoping and searching, he came to realize he was already a hero. He is one of the thousands of men and women who bring their passions, hearts and souls to their communities, workplaces, Clubs and projects every day in an effort to build a better world, be a force of positive change and make a difference in someone's life. Better yet, not only was Nick a member of this mighty band of heroes, he had been chosen to lead them.

It has been said there are two kinds of heroes. Some heroes shine in the face of great adversity, or perform amazing feats in difficult situations. Then there are the heroes who live among us, who do their work unceremoniously, unnoticed by many of us, but who make a difference in the lives of others.

Each of us as Optimists exemplify this second kind of hero. We are driven by the knowledge we have an obligation to care for and serve youth, and the communities we live in and in doing this, we bring out the best in ourselves. We are united by a common goal of being a force of positive change! In each Optimist's heart, there lives a hero, destined to make a difference in someone's life.

IN THE BEGINNING

The eldest of four children, Nick was born in Baltimore, Maryland. At the age of two, Nick and his family moved back to his parent's hometown, Bassett, Virginia, a small town located in the south central part of the state. From an early age, Nick learned the importance of hard work, being dependable, and being accountable and responsible for your actions, good or bad. Summers were spent running barefoot through the fields and pastures of his grandparents' small farm and learning to grow and nurture things – from planting tomato plants, raising chickens and harvesting the crops. Each day was filled with a new experience and adventure. It was a wonderful place to grow from a boy to a man.

As Nick grew older, he worked in the parts department of his father's International Harvester dealership. Working alongside his dad, he was taught that you are in control of your life, and if you're willing to work for it and make the sacrifices, you'll be successful. He also learned the principles he lives by today – always do an honest day's work, be brave, be a person of integrity, be a man of your word, be kind, and never ever give up. These gifts from his family guide every aspect of his life. Nick always loved designing and building things.

As a boy, he built model airplanes, treehouses and small storage buildings on his grandparents' farm. In high school, he designed animated homecoming floats and stage sets. In 1965, he entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, "Virginia Tech," to pursue an education as an architect. He was the first member of his family to attend college. Moving from a small town to a big university was a major turning point in Nick's life. Six years later, he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture and a Master's Degree of Architecture in Urban Design. Nick said, "The great thing about studying architecture is that you are required to make presentations of your work to a faculty jury. This experience taught me very early how to formulate my ideas and present them in a concise, interesting, and factual manner."

Nick worked for fifteen years with several large architectural and planning companies on large planning and transportation projects, such as the Washington, D.C. Metro and the Miami-Dade Transit Systems. In 1981, Nick left the architecture and planning world and formed Graphix, Inc., a design and marketing company. He has guided this company for the last 36 years. Graphix, Inc. specializes in corporate identity, annual reports, and marketing strategies for medium-size corporations.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Nick met his wife, Dottie, on a blind date while he was in graduate school. One of Nick's roommates decided to have a birthday party for his girlfriend and insisted Nick have a date. His roommate's girlfriend knew a girl she thought would be a perfect match for Nick. With much anxiety and trepidation, a telephone introduction was made and the date confirmed. The big day arrived and as Nick waited in the lobby of the freshmen's dormitory at Radford College, his mind was full of questions – How did she look? Would they have anything in common? Would they even like each other? Having only spoken to her on the telephone for a few minutes, he had no idea what she was really like.

A number of other young men waited in the lobby along with Nick and his roommate. Soon the young ladies began coming down to meet their dates. Nick's roommate's girlfriend arrived and announced Dottie would be down in a few minutes. His anxiety built as he watched girl after girl enter the room and greet their dates. All of a sudden, a young woman entered the room – she was a real heart stopper. Nick, along with several of the other young men, remarked as to who the lucky guy was to have her as a date. The young woman walked past Nick. A moment later there was a tap on Nick's shoulder. He turned around and his roommate's girlfriend said, "Nick, I would like to introduce you to Dottie Jaloway." He could not believe it – she was the girl he had just remarked about. It was truly love at first sight. All the anxiety went away and as they began to talk, he realized they had a lot in common. That evening, alone in his room, Nick got down on his knees and prayed to God, asking that if he was to be blessed with a wife someday, please let it be Dottie. Eight months later that prayer came true when she said yes. They have been best friends, partners, confidants, and lovers for 48 years, and yes, they like each other very much. Dottie is committed to following in the footsteps of a long list of outstanding First Ladies and doing her part in helping the 2017-18 team reach its goals and have a productive year.

THE RELUCTANT OPTIMIST

Nick became involved in Optimism due to the persistence of a man by the name of Harry Hackett. A long-time Member of the Smyrna Optimist Club in Atlanta, Georgia, Harry is the owner of a printing company Nick's firm dealt with. He showed up on Nick's doorstep one day and announced the Smyrna Club was forming a new Optimist Club in the area where Nick's office was located. Harry told Nick he thought he would make an excellent Member and invited him to come to an informational meeting. Nick had no idea what an Optimist Club was, and with his new business venture underway, was not really interested. But as a favor to Harry, he promised to attend the meeting.

Unfortunately, on the day of the meeting Nick got busy and forgot about the meeting. The next day he received a call from Harry telling him how much he had been missed and asking him if he would be willing to come to the next meeting. Although Nick really had no interest in joining such a club, he had made a promise. Being a man of his word, he went to the next meeting planning to make his excuses about why he couldn't join and be done with it. Nick arrived a few minutes late so the meeting had already begun. A gentleman was speaking about Optimism and the benefits of membership. He said Optimists were in the people-building business. As Members worked to build and shape the lives of young people, they were also building and shaping their own. He promised Nick and the other potential members, that if they would become Optimists and give just a little of their time, Optimist International would make them a better person. Nick became a Charter Member of the Cumberland-Vinings Optimist Club that day and in the thirty-two years he has been a Member of Optimist International, he can truthfully say it has never gone back on its word. All the Optimist experiences he has had over the years have truly provided him with the opportunity to become a better person.

Nick is now a Member of the North Perimeter Optimist Club. In his thirty-two years of Optimism, Nick has served as the President of an Honor Club, Governor of a Distinguished District, International Board Member, Vice President of the number one region, and has had the privilege of serving on numerous International Committees. During his years of service, Nick has enjoyed many defining moments that remind him of the importance of the work Optimist Clubs do and the impact they have on the children and communities they serve. One of the most memorable moments happened many years ago at a Christmas party for needy children. Each child received a toy and something he or she really needed, such as a



clothing item. One little boy received a pair of winter gloves. With the gloves in hand, he stood quietly by appearing to want to say something to someone. Nick asked him if he needed anything. The little boy looked up at him and asked, "Who gave me these gloves?" Nick answered Santa Claus. The little boy replied, "I know, but who really gave them to me?" Nick answered the Optimist Club and asked him why he wanted to know. The child replied, "So I can thank you for this wonderful present." Many times, it's those little happenings that have the biggest impact.

OPTIMIST STRONG – BE THE DIFFERENCE!

The theme for the 2017-18 year is, "Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!" Optimist International's mission is to bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. To be a force of positive change and make a difference in the lives of others. We gain strength by working together, sharing new ideas and passions, and opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities of serving more youth and communities. The inspiration for the theme comes from two separate conversations Nick had with two wonderful Optimists, best friends and mentors. Not long ago each of these individuals had to come to grips with devastating health issues that drastically changed their lives. One, a runner, was robbed of his ability to run, by a degenerative muscle disease that may soon confine him to a wheelchair, and the other, a quick-witted, story-telling, motivational speaker lost his ability to remember and rationally organize his stories and thoughts. As their friend, Nick was at a loss of what to say to them or how to comfort them in the midst of such devastating circumstances.

Each of these individuals appeared to realize Nick's dilemma and said to him in almost the same words, "Don't worry, I'm Optimist Strong. I can still make a difference." Their words stuck with Nick for days. How could two individuals faced with such terrible news be so positive and optimistic in their outlook? It was inspiring and heroic, and as a tribute to their courage and willingness to carry on, Nick decided to use their words for the 2017-18 theme, "Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!"

Optimism is not a plaque on the wall, a pin on your lapel, a metal around your neck, a watch on your wrist or a ring on your finger. It is not even the words of our sacred and beloved Optimist Creed. Optimism comes from within us – its comes from the human soul. This is what makes us Optimist Strong and gives us the power to make a difference. The more we use it, the more powerful we become!

THE ACTION PLAN

The goal of the 2017-18 team's action plan is to create an environment of empowerment throughout Optimist International providing our leadership and each of our Members/volunteers a level of fulfillment that far exceeds any of our competition. Providing knowledge, inspiration, guidance and support will develop a strong organization from the top down, enabling Optimist International to continue to strengthen and sustain itself.

The 2017-18 plan will be focused on growth in membership and retention, leadership development, and the expansion of the Optimist International brand. These three areas of concentration are essential to the health and welfare of our Clubs and Optimist International. Clubs are the heart and soul of our organization. Optimist Members working within their Clubs are a force of positive change within their communities, are engaged in service to others, and are dedicated to bringing out the best in youth, their communities and themselves.

The primary goal for every Club is to achieve Honor Club status. This time-tested, Club health maintenance program has been in existence for almost 60 years – it represents what we do best as an Optimist Club. Clubs that achieve Honor Club status are healthy, active, strong, and have a greater impact on the communities they serve. Honor Clubs consistently serve more youth, produce strong, enthusiastic members and provide a richer, more rewarding experience for their members. Strong, enthusiastic members produce strong, enthusiastic leaders; strong, enthusiastic leaders produce the initiatives and strategies necessary to sustain and strengthen Optimist International. If Optimist International prospers, we all prosper. This is all possible because we are Optimist Strong!



NEWS &

Optimist Strong Conference: Putting the **WOW** in your Optimism!

Want to put some wow, zing, and pizzazz in your Club, Zone or District? Be sure to attend a First Quarter "Optimist Strong" Conference. Developed by your International Leadership Development Committee, these conferences are designed to assist you as a Club Member, Club leader or District leader begin the Optimist year with a strong start!

Take this opportunity to gather with fellow Optimists to share new ideas, learn leadership and team building techniques, and explore how to successfully attract and retain Members. Come and enjoy a high energy, engaged and fun training experience right in your own District!

Facilitated by experienced trainers and working with your District's Governor and Leadership Development team, these conferences will challenge you to dream more, learn more, do more and be more!

Make an investment in yourself! Attend an Optimist Strong Conference and find out how to bring out the best in you! Contact your Lieutenant Governor for more information about your District's Optimist Strong Conference. For general information, contact leadership@optimist.org.

Reel Optimism Winners

The 2017 Reel Optimism contest attracted a number of video submissions by adult Optimist Clubs, Junior Optimist Clubs and the general public. Based on the topic "Optimism," the videos submitted illustrated a broad range of projects, Member testimonials, Club events, inspirational quotes and more.

Optimist Members, Junior Optimists and the general public voted for their favorite videos via an online-based contest hub. During the voting period, 13,440 votes were cast! Congratulations to the following category winners:

Optimists in Action – Adult winner: Harbour View Optimist Club

Optimists in Action – Youth winner: Bixby High School Junior Optimist Club

Make Optimism Go Viral – Adult winner: Galveston Noon Optimist Club

Make Optimism Go Viral – Youth winner: M4 Junior Optimist Club of Yuma

Optimism – Public winner: Sabrina Roualdes

Each of the Clubs received a \$750 Club grant courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. The winner of the Optimism – Public category donated her winnings to Work Play Love, an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of orphaned children in Guatemala.

Club grants are funded through the generous support of the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

To view the videos of the winning Clubs, in addition to all other Reel Optimism submissions, go to www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism. Stay tuned for information about the 2018 Reel Optimism video contest!

VIEWS

Optimists Accomplish P.G.I. Goals

The following Optimists submitted their requirements for achieving Levels VII and X of the Personal Growth & Involvement Program between June 1 and August 1:

LEVEL VII

Jeffery Barnhart	AMS&NW
Gwen Gable	GATE
Daniel Grice	SC
Dale Hoffert	MDS
Delia Matthews	AMS&NW
Hailey Mills	NE
Michele Sansenbach	GATE
Linda Shepherd	NCE

LEVEL X

Gwen Gable	GATE
Daniel Grice	SC
Dale Hoffert	MDS
Diana Morrison	CARH.
Nick Prillaman Jr.	GATE
C. Albert Still	GATE
Russ Thomas	GATE
Corinne Wastell	NE
Marvin Wastell	NE

2017 Optimist Leadership Academy

Optimist International held its fifth annual Optimist Leadership Academy class at the International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The candidates selected were invited to attend a one-day training program to share their leadership knowledge and participate in an advanced leadership program. As a member of the Leadership Academy, individuals were recognized for their exceptional leadership skills and as future leaders of the Optimist International organization. A number of great leaders have participated in the Leadership Academy – both as candidates and trainers. Congratulations on the Optimist Leadership Academy Class of 2017, the largest class to date!

Brent Card	Carlene Hunter	Linda Shepherd
Ben DeRemer	Calvin Hunter	Marguerite Fehseke
Beryle Lantz	Dee Friel	Pauline Langelier
Curtis Huston	Dyhanara Rios	Sandra Allen
Connie Wastell	Janette Lawrence	Aaron Gunnare
Connie Webb	Larry Brown	Lynn Martin

The 2018 Optimist Leadership Academy will be offered in both English and French. Nominations can be submitted to leadership@optimist.org now until February 15, 2018.

2017 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Second Annual Optimist International Oratorical World Championships was a huge success! Optimist International's partnership with Saint Louis University resulted in a premier event for Optimist Oratorical participants from around the world. 30 contestants competed in person at the Saint Louis University Center for Global Citizenship, six contestants for the St. Lawrence Region competed in Montreal, and 11 other students from the United States, Canada, Jamaica, India, Russia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Haiti competed via virtual technology. The event began on Wednesday, June 14 with a meet and greet and contestants determining speaking orders. The Regional and World Championships competition took place Thursday, June 15 and Friday, June 16.

The next Optimist International Oratorical World Championships will be held summer 2018 with the topic: "Where are My Roots of Optimism?" District Chairs will set the deadline date for Optimist Clubs to complete their contests. The District deadline to submit the District winner information to Optimist International is May 15, 2018.

Congratulations to the Regional winners of the 2017 Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. Each Regional winner received a \$5,000 scholarship. These students advanced to the World Championships contest to compete for the title of Optimist International Oratorical World Champion:

- **Northeast & Great Lakes – Matthew Leon (New York-New England District)**
- **Southeast – Adia Wynter (Caribbean District)**
2nd Place in World Championships, additional \$10,000 scholarship
- **Mid-Atlantic – Jay Falk (Capital Virginia District)**
- **Middle America – Laura Kelly (Illinois District)**
- **Great Plains – Ye-Jean Park (Alberta Montana-Northern Wyoming District)**
3rd Place in World Championships, additional \$5,000 scholarship
- **Southwest – Abbie Upshaw (Kansas District)**
- **West Coast – Meena Venkataramanan (Arizona District)**
1st Place in World Championships, additional \$15,000 scholarship
- **St. Lawrence – Olivier Brunet (Quebec Central)**
- **Global Region – Simran Shah (India)**



WORLD CHAMPION: MEENA VENKATARAMANAN

Meena Venkataramanan, representing the Arizona District and the West Coast Region, is the second overall winner of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. As the World Champion, Meena has won \$22,500 in scholarships for competing in the Optimist Oratorical Contests.

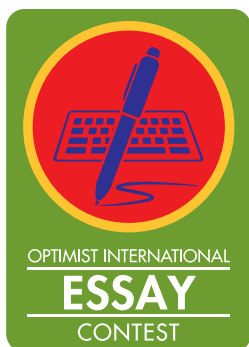
Meena will be attending Harvard University this fall and eventually, attend law school after obtaining her undergraduate degree. With a law degree, she hopes her career will allow her to give back to her community through public service and government. The contest empowered Meena to continue to pursue a career to serve others. During the contest at all levels, she learned persistence, resilience and the art of effective communication.

Meena expressed how honored and grateful she is for the Oratorical program and the number of kind, optimistic people she has met along the way. Congratulations to Meena and we wish her the best of luck with her future!

SUPPORT THE ORATORICAL PROGRAM

Help to make education affordable by donating to the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships! The Oratorical program is the longest running Optimist program and Optimists can be proud of the quality of young people competing in the contest - all speaking each year on the topic of Optimism. For more information about the contest, contact programs@optimist.org.

You can help fund the scholarships by contacting the Optimist International Foundation, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation or donate directly to the contest at www.optimist.org/oratorical.



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 youth, look no further than the Optimist scholarship contests!

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

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

Here are the scholarship topics for the 2017-18 year:

Essay: "Can Society Function Without Respect?"

Oratorical and CCDHH: "Where are My Roots of Optimism?"

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

2017-2018 WEBINARS

The Leadership Development Committee will be hosting various webinars during the 2017-18 year. Continue to check upcoming Leadership Hotlines and communications from Optimist International for registration links to sign up for the webinars. For questions, contact leadership@optimist.org.



Oct. 3, 2017	Utilizing Skype
Oct. 17, 2017	NOW/Member Recruitment Events
Nov 7, 2017	How to Hold an Oratorical Contest
Nov. 29, 2017	Club Within a Club
Dec. 12, 2017	The Elevator Speech
Jan. 9, 2018	Just Ask
Feb 21, 2018	Catch a Rising Star
Apr 12, 2018	Parliamentary Procedure
May 15, 2018	Using the PGI and PDP Programs in Your Club
June 19, 2018	Finishing Strong

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PDP)

The Professional Development program gives Members the opportunity to build skills that will help them professionally and ultimately enhance their Club, District and Optimist International. Members participating enhance their marketing, project management, and communication talents. Our organization and Clubs want to bring in younger professionals and the Professional Development Program is one tool to help them do that.

A few examples of requirements for achieving Professional Development Program levels include:

- Write a brief description of a favorite Club project and submit it for either the Club newsletter or the Club website/Facebook page
- Create a project plan including a budget for a new community project and present it to the Club Board of Directors
- Recruit three new Members in a single Optimist Year
- Create and lead a team to build a New Club
- Help create and submit an entry for the Reel Optimism video contest.

For more information, contact leadership@optimist.org or visit www.optimist.org.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT KEY TO OPTIMISM

Submitted by: **Patrick Prendergast, Sunset Optimist Club of Liguanea, Caribbean District**

Membership development is a core part of Optimist International's mandate as it seeks to bring out the best in youths, communities, and ourselves. Making Optimism a way of life has seen Optimists working with children globally, but particularly in Canada, the Caribbean and the USA since the early 20th century.

For almost 100 hundred years, tens of millions of children have benefited from the care, love, and compassion of hundreds of thousands of Optimists spread across the world serving up their special positive brand of charitable investment in the future. Numerous communities have been transformed through the many scholarship programs, childhood cancer research, and new initiatives in health and education conducted by volunteers who call themselves Optimists. No Optimist can truly say that serving children has not made him/her a better person emotionally or socially. In fact, for many Optimists, the personal development that comes from being an actively involved Optimist is so tremendously invaluable.

One platform designed to promote active participation of members is the Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) Program. In more recent times, the introduction of the Professional Development Program (PDP) has literally rebranded the PGI into more of a professional development platform. This is a deliberate acknowledgment of the incredible training and education opportunities that exist in our great movement. Webinars, workshops, and seminars abound in both the virtual and real worlds. There is even a leadership academy.

These initiatives and opportunities cover such critical areas in personal growth and development as leadership and management, project management, communication skills and techniques, marketing, public speaking, and general relationship building. After all, we as Optimists are in the business of relationship building. Improving the lives and wellbeing of our children and young people is about engaging beneficiaries, benefactors, and people who believe in spreading hope and Optimism and converting that into action! Making the world a better place starting with the transformation of our communities, is also about ensuring that as Optimists we become even better human beings while advancing the welfare of the whole human race.

Every Optimist should therefore be engaged in the Optimist International Personal Growth and Involvement and Professional Development programs. It guarantees involvement, ensures personal development, and sustains interest in the welfare of others and in self. Above all, it makes us better volunteers, driving us to greater impact on our future, and is one of the best ways to keep our Members and the movement of our organization on the path of growth. Embracing these programs and all the initiatives that allow membership growth and personal development as Optimists demonstrates our commitment to optimal performance – being the best!

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

to the Centerville Noon Optimist Club for being named the 2015-16 Optimist Club of the Year!

Centerville Noon Optimist Club conducted many successful community service projects such as the Haunted Trail, a Club oratorical contest and essay contest, an Easter Egg Hunt, Tri-Star basketball and soccer, Fire Fighter EMT Recognition (Robert O'Toole Memorial), Respect for Law: Police and Sheriff Recognition (John Kalamam Memorial), Community Hero Recognition, Care Giver Award, Build a Bear Events for Childhood Cancer and Sickle Cell Children, numerous scholarships including Will Cale and Educational Assistance, and Terry Blair Memorial, Fishing Derby, Safety on Wheels, CCDHH, Kids Day in the Park, Nation Hunting and Fishing Day, and Care Giver Breakfast.

Fundraising events include Christmas Tree Lot, Avenue of Flags, and Tom Frasier Tee Off for Youth. The fundraising events allowed Centerville Noon to donate in excess of \$100,000 to community events and programs for children in the community.

The Club's leaders and Members attended Optimist International Leadership Summits, the Optimist International Convention in Quebec, and participated in the PGI program. The Club received the AFLAC National Duckprint Award for "making a significant difference in the lives of children. They were also nominated by Dayton Children's Hospital for their commitment and work with the Hematology/ Oncology department. The Club won the "Club Showcase" category of the 2016 Reel Optimism video contest and voted the best overall video at the Québec International Convention. The Club also was voted best presentation at "Braggers Hall" at the Québec International Convention.

The Centerville Noon Optimist Club sponsored the Sinclair Optimist Club during the 2015-16 Optimist year.

THE CENTERVILLE NOON OPTIMIST CLUB 2015-16 LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Myron Rheahme, President

Gary Smiga, Treasurer

Larry Lynde, President-Elect

William Stone, Foundation Representative

Joseph Madden, Secretary



Congratulations to all 2015-16 Optimist Club of the Year finalists:

Apple Valley Optimist Club, Apple Valley, CA

Centerville Noon Optimist Club, Centerville, OH

Old Harbour Optimist Club, St. Catherine, Jamaica

Wilson Golden Circle Optimist Club, Bailey, NC

Optimist Club of the Year

The Optimist Club of the Year award is presented annually to the most outstanding Club in each Region based upon the following criteria:

- Service projects sponsored by the Club
- Member Development Programs a year (i.e. PGI Program, Optimist International Conventions and Summit, etc.)
- Club Growth and Increased Community Awareness Campaigns (i.e. NOW Program, Marketing Campaign, etc.)
- Increased Volunteer Member Base
- New Community Efforts



Overall Optimist Club of the Year

The Overall Optimist Club of the Year is the highest achievement an Optimist Club can attain in the Optimist organization. The eight “Optimist Clubs of the Year” will be judged and ranked by multiple judges. The recipient of this prestigious award will be chosen regardless of number of Members, or Region and will be known as the “Best Overall Club” in Optimist International.

Community outreach and impact on children and Members from projects throughout the year will be considered as part of the judging, using the same criteria as Optimist Club of the Year.

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

For additional information about the Optimist International Club of the Year, visit www.optimist.org.



MENOMONIE OPTIMISTS KEEP PLANTING

Submitted by: **Dave Williams, Optimist Club of Menomonie, Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan District**

Beginning seven years ago, the Optimist Club of Menomonie, Wisconsin, began a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to re-establish an oak savannah at the nearby Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area. Each year since then, the Club, with help from our Menomonie Middle School Optimist Club and other friends, has continued that work.

To date we've planted just over 700 oak trees, cleared brush and stacked the brush piles, placed tree shelters on the earlier plantings, and begun a prairie seed collection effort to help the Department of Natural Resources at both Hoffman Hills and other sites.



Best of all, it has provided a chance to get our youth Clubs out for a joint work day twice a year with our adult Club. In addition to the Middle School Club, we occasionally have also had the help of the Menomonie High School Optimist Club, and the University of Wisconsin-Stout Optimist Club as well. As the accompanying photos attest, we are all having a good time while working to improve this beautiful recreation area.

Our partnership working on Hoffman Hills goes back over 30 years. Before the oak savannah project, our Menomonie Optimists also helped clear trails when the park was initially being developed, and we built a 60 foot tall observation tower with assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers and Navy Seabee battalion. Over the years we have also built a picnic shelter, and helped finance ski trail grooming equipment and trail maintenance equipment.

Optimist International Foundation helped expedite our work in 2011 with a grant to help pay for transportation and meals for our Menomonie Middle School Optimist Club during our initial tree planting effort. We invite Optimists from all over the country to stop to see this marvelous project in development – both the natural resources and the youth who are helping make it happen.

Background Checks

Ensuring the safety and security of your organization



We understand the importance of protecting your Optimist Club and the children you serve. IntelliCorp has partnered with Optimist International to ensure Optimist Clubs receive comprehensive and validated screening services at the lowest possible cost.

Optimist Background Check Package

The following cost-effective screening package has been created to simplify your background check process. The package uses a combination of multiple sources of criminal record information. In addition, we validate database records by returning to the source to ensure that we have the latest updates regarding your applicant's history.

Package Pricing: \$13.86

Includes:

- Validated Criminal Database
 - Validated Nationwide Sex Offender
 - Validated Department of Corrections
- Unlimited Single County Searches (7 year address history)*
- SSN Verification w/Address History
- Government Sanctions (Terrorist Search)

Notes:

*Some courts charge a mandatory fee. These are treated as pass-through fees to our clients and are clearly highlighted before processing the search.

Package Add-Ons

- Motor Vehicle Reports
- Employment Verifications
- Education Verifications
- Drug Testing
- Federal Criminal Searches
- Civil Searches
- I9/E-Verify
- Credit Reports



Program Benefits:

- Preferred pricing
- Criminal product validation
- Compliance information/online sample forms
- Personalized customer support
- System & product training sessions
- Secure online report ordering & retrieval

Please Note: Information and preferential pricing provided for U.S. Clubs only. Canadian Clubs should contact IntelliCorp for more information.



Contact:

Mike Terrell
800-539-3717 x157
mterrell@intellincorp.net
www.intellincorp.net





99TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ALBUQUERQUE TOGETHER WE DID!

The International Convention attracted many Optimists this summer in Albuquerque!

The excitement began with attendees arriving early to take in the breathtaking sites of Albuquerque by participating in the optional tours.

The crowd continued to grow as folks arrived to attend the Vice Presidents-Elect and Governors-Elect Training on Tuesday and to register, visit the exhibit hall, and attend the TenderLove Community Center Fashion Show on Wednesday.

Optimists started early Thursday morning to attend workshops and training sessions, including an orientation session in the morning for the First Timers.

The House of Optimism exhibit hall was open Wednesday through Saturday. Members and the public were able to see a myriad of vendors and Optimist International Club project displays.

The Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening was one attendees would not soon forget after witnessing the fantastic performance by Native American Singer Shelley Morningsong accompanied by her husband as he performed Native American Dances. The Albuquerque Boy Scout Troop 1 served as flag bearers for the parade of flags, then everyone remained standing as the Albuquerque Boy Choir performed the United States national anthem! The ceremonies continued with introductions of the organization's current and past leaders and inspiring words from the 2016-17 Optimist International President Jim Kondrasuk and Junior Optimist President Madison O'Hara Wickham.

On Friday, 2017-2018 International President, Nick Prillaman kicked off the day with a special breakfast for Club Presidents-Elect and Lieutenant Governors-Elect followed by a morning business session. The First Business session was rewarding and informative as awards were presented and keynote speaker Jean Nadeau took the stage giving advice on how we can and should re-think our personal and professional growth! Immediately after the First Business Session, participants headed to enjoy the performance of the local area marimbas and mariachi groups at the Amazing Albuquerque Appreciation Luncheon! The evening was full of fellowship and fun at District dinners and the gathering on Civic Plaza for a taste of the local culture including dancers, food trucks and even some chalk art fun with the Optimist International Foundation's President Don Crall.

Before the business session resumed on Saturday, the day started with a relaxing meal and performance by Cowboy Singer, Earl Gleason at the Old Timers Breakfast! The afternoon closing session covered the bylaws report and voting and included inspirational messages from our current and incoming International Presidents Jim Kondrasuk and Nick Prillaman. The finale was the President's Banquet and Ball where many danced the night away to music played by local DJ extraordinaire Brad King!

What a great way to spend a few days away from home – experiencing another part of the world, having fun, learning and sharing ideas with almost 1,000 other Members of our Optimist Family – a true Optimist Experience where TOGETHER WE DID have a good time! A huge thank you to everyone that attended with an extra special shout out to Jim White and his Host Area Committee for all they did to organize such a great and successful Convention!

See you next year in Ottawa!

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



NICK PRILLAMAN
President



REBECCA BUTLER MONA
President-Elect



JIM KONDRASUK
Immediate Past President



MATHEW NACEV
Junior Optimist President



BENNY ELLERBE
Executive Director



DON BROSE
Director



SANDY CYPHERS
Director



ADRIAN ELCOCK
Director



PATSY GARNER
Director



NICOLE PAQUETTE
Director



MARK WEINSOFF
Director



SANDY WILLIAMS
OIF President

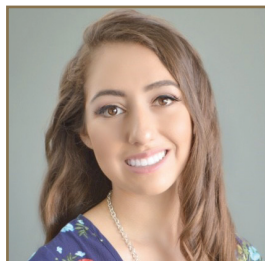


RAYMONDE MICHAUD
CCOF President

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MATHEW NACEV
President



MADISON O'HARA WICKHAM
Past President



TIANDRA CARTY
Director



AMANDA HEINZMANN
Director



NATHAN HILLMAN
Director



COLE MULLINS
Director

MID-ATLANTIC REGION



LOU ANNA HARDEE
Vice President



EUGENE RIORDAN III
Atlantic Central



DONNA AKER
Capital-Virginia



DENISE HAYNES
Kentucky-West Virginia



BILL STONE
Maryland-South Delaware



CAREY FOSTER
North Carolina East



DANIEL MALLARD
North Carolina West

NORTHEAST & GREAT LAKES REGION



ROBERT MCFADYEN
Vice President



TONY EDGE
Central Ontario



THERESA JARRATT
Michigan



JIM PIPE
Midwestern Ontario



LURIE FERRIS
New York-New England



THOMAS KENDO, JR.
Ohio



MARY LOU ABRAMS
Southwestern Ontario

SOUTHEAST REGION



HAL SEWELL
Vice President



JACQUELINE SULLIVAN
Alabama-Mississippi



CALVIN HUNTER
Caribbean



MARY STILL
GATEway



KURT GASSEN
Louisiana



BILL LARGE
North Florida



VIRGINIA RICKER
South Carolina



ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
South Florida

SOUTHWEST REGION



RON BENSON
Vice President



JOHN SWANBORG
Colorado-Wyoming



LYNNE MARTIN
New Mexico-West Texas



DIANE CLARK
North Texas



JOYCE FILSINGER
Oklahoma



GIL ORTIZ
South Texas



JOHN LASATER
TennArk

MIDDLE AMERICA REGION



BOB FLOYD
Vice President



CHUCK SCHUDER
East Missouri



JOHN DEL RE
Illinois



SANDRA DOYLE
Indiana North



MARK WILSON
Indiana South



LANCE KELLENBARGER
Kansas



DARLENE FRIEL
West Missouri

GREAT PLAINS REGION



ROGER LESOFSKI
Vice President



STUART MATICE
Alberta-Montana-Saskatchewan
& Northern Wyoming



KEVIN HAMMELL
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota



DONALD PFEIFFER
Iowa



LES DOME
Nebraska



GARY ENGELKE
Southern Wisconsin



ANTHONY YAGGIE
Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan

WEST COAST REGION



JAMES PEKNY
Vice President



PATTI MCKERCHIE
Arizona



LYNN REITER-WOODHEAD
California South



TIMOTHY REARDON
Pacific Central



BRUCE GILBERTSON
Pacific Northwest



MICHAEL PADILLA
Pacific Southeast



MELISSA COHEN
Pacific Southwest

SAINT LAWRENCE REGION



ROBERT DOYLE
Vice President



YVON QUESNEL
Eastern Ontario



MANON DAIGNEAULT
Québec Central



VALLIER CÔTÉ
Québec East-Acadia



MICHEL FRIGON
Québec East-North Shore



RÉJEAN RAJOTTE
Québec South






DANIELLE DUPONT
Québec West






2017 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the 2017 champions of the Optimist Junior Golf Championship! The three-phase tournament at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida began July 20 and ended August 4. With a strong field of golfers featuring players from 42 states, six Canadian provinces and 25 total nations, the level of play was impressive on the courses.




BOYS 16-18

- Adrien Pendaries (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France) 70-72-71-70 – 283 
- Lorenzo Elbert, Jr. (East Point, Georgia) 75-72-69-68 – 284 
- Agustin Errazuriz (North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina) 73-71-67-75 – 286 

GIRLS 15-18





- Latanna Stone (Riverview, Florida) 71-70-72-73 – 286 
- Catherine Caudill (Clarksville, Tennessee) 73-71-75-71 – 290 
- Viviana Prette Reyes (Luque, Paraguay) 73-78-72-71 – 294 

BOYS 14-15

- Drue Nicholas (Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey) 72-70-72 – 214* 
- Symon Balbin (Pinehurst, North Carolina) 70-75-69 – 214 
- Diego Prone (Buenos Aires, Argentina) 71-71-73 – 215 

HOLE IN ONE – Congratulations to Walker Franklin (Broomfield, Colorado) for acing hole #13 on the Fazio Course on July 26!

GIRLS 13-14

- Alejandra Ferrer (Queretaro, Mexico) 78-70-68 – 216 
- Giovanna Fernandez Lopez (Luque, Paraguay) 72-75-73 – 220 
- Katherine Schuster (Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina) 70-76-76 – 222 
- Madison Spiess (New Albany, Ohio) 77-75-70 – 222 



BOYS 12-13

Gaven Lane (Argyle, Texas) 72-70-66 – 208 

Zachary Ong (Scarsdale, New York) 72-72-65 – 209 

Walker Jennings (Greenville, South Carolina) 74-71-68 – 213 

GIRLS 10-12

Xiaowen Yin (Tianjin, China) 66-72-72 – 210* 

Thanchanok Iadpluem (Thailand) 70-68-72 – 210 

Josefina Rendo (Necochea, Argentina) 72-70-74 – 216 

BOYS 10-11

William Jennings (Greenville, South Carolina) 73-74-76 – 223* 

Matt Moloney (Vienna, Virginia) 75-70-78 – 223 

Rafael Estrada (Guadalajara, Mexico) 74-72-78 – 224 

* Indicates Sudden Death Playoff

**Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, parents and participants
for making the annual event a tremendous success!**

Thank you to the following sponsors:

- Srixon (Official Golf Ball)
- PGA National Resort and Spa
- Palm Beach County Sports Commission
- Arnold Palmer Golf Management
- SEI Communications
- Prize Possessions
- Under Armour



PAST PARTICIPANT/PARENT TESTIMONIAL

"My first exposure to the Optimist organization was in 1980 when I played my first event in the 11-12 age division at Mission Bay in San Diego, California when I was 12 and I finished 6th. I also was a low qualifier in Colorado in 1984 in order to participate in the event at Torrey Pines, also in San Diego. Both amazing, life-changing experiences that helped shape my future in golf. In addition, making friends that I still have today! I ended up receiving a full ride to the University of New Mexico and played professional golf until I went into the LPGA Teaching & Club Professional division in 1997 and became a Class A in 2000. In 2001, I became the teacher of the world famous Dr. Deepak Chopra, author of over 80 books, who ended up writing a book about my teachings called Golf for Enlightenment. However, since my two children were born in 2002 and 2006, teaching golf to children become paramount to me. In 2014, I became a U.S. Kids Golf Master Kids Teacher, which is a Top 50 worldwide designation meaning I was recognized three years straight as a Top 50 Teacher. Both of my children are following in my golf footsteps. Bella had her first hole in one this last January at age 10 and Mikey is so excited for his first Optimist opportunity at PGA National where I once played!"

– Wendy Werley Bullock

Woodlawn/Gwynn Oak Junior Optimist Clubs Prepare Meals at the Believe in Tomorrow House

Submitted by: Joan Keenan-Livezey, Advisor for Woodlawn/Gwynn Oak Junior Optimist Clubs, Maryland - South Delaware District

The Woodlawn/Gwynn Oak Junior Optimist Clubs visit the Believe in Tomorrow House six times a year to volunteer their time and service. The concept of the Believe in Tomorrow House is to keep families together during a child's medical crisis. It is a place where housing is provided for critically ill children and their families. Members of the community provide meals for the families to ease the responsibility of the families of having to prepare meals after spending the day in the hospital visiting their children.



JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Members from the United States, Canada and the Caribbean celebrated the 25th Annual Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico from July 3-5, 2017! The attendees participated in many team-building projects, group activities, the 4th of July fireworks show and finished with the President's Banquet with the theme "A Day at the Races." The Junior Optimist International Board also participated in the Optimist International Foundation's Sidewalk Chalk event. Thank you to all the attendees, volunteers, and Advisors for making the 2017 Junior Optimist Convention a successful, unforgettable event!



STRIVE TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL ADVISOR

Optimists serve young people throughout the continent. We create many exceptional programs to serve the youth in our community. Yet, we have over 15,000 of the world's best youth working alongside us, our Junior Optimists.

This year, Optimist Clubs are making a concentrated effort to support our Junior Optimists. Here are some things you can do:

- Create special recognition programs for your Junior Optimists
- Bring Junior Optimist leaders to your Optimist meetings to thank them
- Allow your Junior Optimist leaders to speak to your Optimist Club
- Create outstanding publicity for your Junior Optimists in local newspapers and other media
- Have motivated Members speak to your Junior Optimist Clubs
- Budget money from your adult Club to support your Junior Optimist Clubs
- Bring your Junior Optimists to your District Convention
- The ultimate: Find a way to bring your Junior Optimists to the Junior Optimist International Convention

Please let us know what special things you do to support our youth.

Send your ideas to: youthclubs@optimist.org.

Our young people are special. We hope you will do something to support, honor and nurture them this year. Junior Optimists may be the future of Optimist International.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST GROWTH

Since October 1, 2016, 49 new Junior Optimist Clubs and 900 Members have joined the organization.

Congratulations to Junior Optimist International and the Optimist Clubs sponsoring the new Clubs and Members!

For more information about Junior Optimist International or if you have questions about starting a Junior Optimist Club, contact youthclubs@optimist.org.



Reaching
NEW HEIGHTS

★ ★ ★
TOGETHER

Optimist International Foundation President Sandy Williams, along with the rest of the Optimist International Foundation Board, is helping spread the mission of Optimist International President Nick Prillaman's theme of "Optimist Strong – Be The Difference" through this year's Optimist International Foundation theme of "Reaching New Heights Together."

2017-18 plans to be an exciting and successful year for the Optimist International/Optimist International Foundation partnership. We hope each Optimist will support the Foundation individually through our basic fundraising efforts such as Dime-A-Day, Presidents Club, The Women's Philanthropy Council and many more! That support is the cornerstone of

Optimist International Foundation's efforts to fund the wide range of programs and services offered by Optimist International.

Likewise, Clubs can be involved in many ways with the Foundation. Donations such as the \$365 or \$1 a day effort are greatly appreciated. The Foundation is also here to assist Clubs through programs such as the Club Campaign Fund, Childhood Cancer Matching Grant Program, and the Club Grant program and others.

If you have questions about any Foundation program or incentive, please contact the Foundation office at (800) 500-8130 or visit our website at www.oifoundation.org.

Optimist International Foundation Announces Board Opening

The Optimist International Foundation is seeking nominations for an upcoming opening on the Foundation Board of Directors. The four-year term for the Board Member will begin October 1, 2018. Nominations will be accepted until December 31, 2017. Contact Craig Boring at craig.boring@optimist.org for more information.

The open Board position is for a Member at large. Members interested in nominating themselves or others may visit the Foundation website to submit an application. Please review the candidate qualifications before submitting a nomination.

For more information, call (800) 500-8130 or visit www.oifoundation.org.

Optimist International Foundation Board



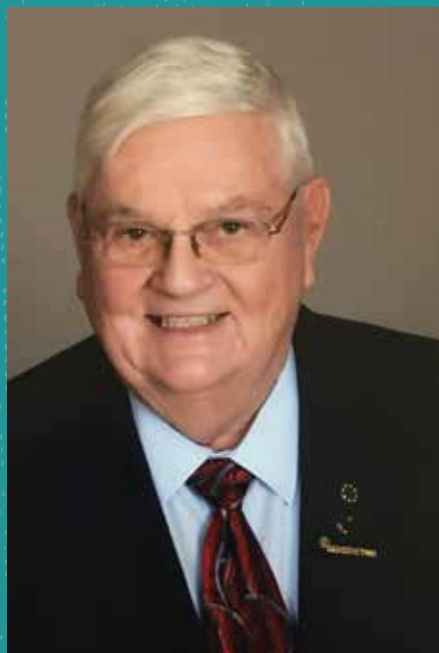
Sandy Williams
President



Melvin Bannister
President Elect



Bill Meyers
Treasurer



Don Sievers
Past International President
2008-2009

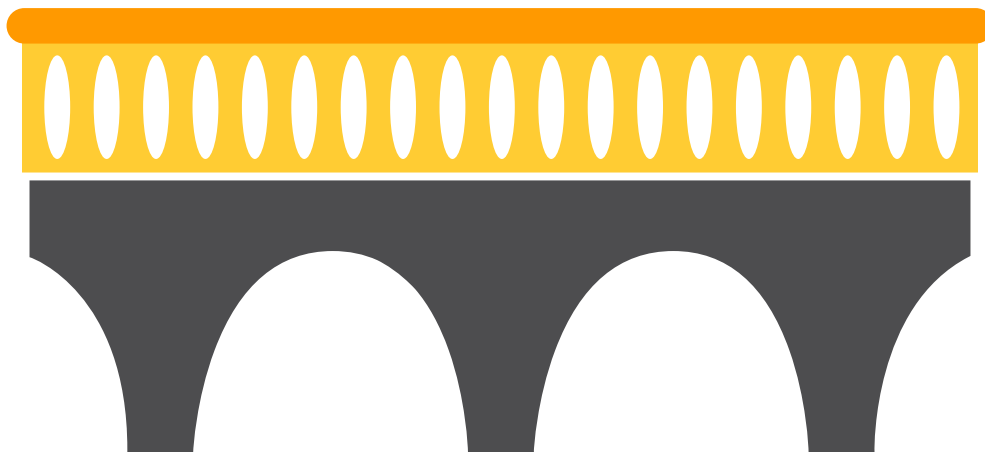


Jan Oord-Graves
Director



Craig Boring
Secretary/Executive Director

Let's Build Bridges...



Towards the 100th Optimist International Convention

Legend has it that if the sun shines on both shores of a body of water, it is possible to cross it like a bridge. This phenomenon is known as a “golden bridge” and the lower St. Lawrence is reputed to have the best golden bridges. St. Lawrence is also the home of 2017-18 Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation President Raymonde Michaud. The Foundation was thus inspired by this marine setting and is starting this Optimist New Year with the theme, “With the Foundation, Let’s Build Bridges.”

We want to build bridges with our Members, participants and leaders – to be proud of their additional contribution to this wonderful Optimism cause. We want to build bridges for the beneficiaries – whether they be scholarship winners or young people through the Outsourcing and Spread Relief program. We want everyone involved to add to the building of this bridge.

To achieve this, we are building you a golden bridge! This is an interesting proposal which could lead you, should you participate, to the 100th Optimist International Convention held in Ottawa July 2018.

Optimist Members: be proud to make a donation to your Foundation. **To all the Dime a Day and other donors who have contributed before December 31, 2017, we will draw 10 basic registrations to the Ottawa International Convention.**

Be proud that at least 10% of the Members of your Club are Dime a Day donors and that your Club gave at least \$100. **Each Club where 10% of Members have all given a minimum of 10 cents a day will receive a ticket for a drawing for a basic registration to the Ottawa International Convention. In addition, each Club which has contributed a minimum of \$100 will receive a ticket for another basic registration. The Club which has reached these two goals and whose total donations reaches \$1,000 by March 31, 2018 will automatically receive a reimbursement of one basic registration to the Ottawa International Convention.**

Be proud that 10% of your District Members make a donation to your Foundation and the total of those donations increase by 10% over 2017-18. **We will refund a basic registration at the Ottawa International Convention and 3 free hotel nights to the District Foundation Representative who meets this goal by June 30, 2018.**

Be proud to use this golden bridge that is offered to you. Be proud to shine Optimism all around and to contribute to building a bridge, maybe a golden bridge, towards the 100,000 Members for the 100th Optimist International Convention.

With the Foundation, together, let’s build bridges... towards tomorrow!

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Board



Raymonde Michaud
President



Vince Parker
President-Elect



Nina Strickland
Immediate Past President



Yves Berthiaume
*Past International President
2004-2005
CCOF Past President 2015-2016*



Rod McKendrick
Director

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

646	Donald G. Pfeiffer	649	John Plank (in memory)	651	Michel Geoffroy
647	John E. Griffith	650	Diane Oulette	652	Raymonde Michaud
648	Lytle Allen (in memory)				

Top Ten as of May 31, 2017

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$21.81
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$14.08
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$13.95
South Carolina	Doug Griffin	\$13.53
New Mexico-West Texas	Suzann Owings	\$13.17
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$12.53
California South	Angie Hawkins	\$11.18
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$10.96
Pacific Central	Joan Estepa	\$10.96
Capital-Virginia	JoAnna Tremper	\$10.61

District	Representative	Total Contributions
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$22,730.35
Iowa	Don Pfeiffer	\$21,891.50
Michigan	David Fries	\$19,529.60
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$19,364.20
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$16,576.90
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$15,400.00
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$15,133.99
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$14,472.00
Indiana South	Kathy Underwood	\$13,194.97
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$11,074.35

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$27.28
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$16.16
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Wes Shewchuk	\$15.44

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$29,380.30
Southwestern Ontario	Edward Stevens	\$22,324.00
Central Ontario	Susan & Jim Lyngre	\$19,155.50



Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from April 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

DIAMOND BENEFACTOR - \$75,000

EAST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Ashland, MO

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Komoka-Kilworth, ON

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN &
NORTHERN WYOMING
Optimist Club of Regina-High Noon, SK

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA
Optimist Club of Radcliff, KY
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Alvinston Dists-Alvinston, ON
Optimist Club of Wallacetown, ON

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
Chester and Barbara Grizzard
EAST MISSOURI
Pat Abernathy

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN &
NORTHERN WYOMING
Kathleen Branter
ILLINOIS
Paul H. Hellrich
Connie Pellock
IOWA
Susan P. Helmers
Optimist Club of Dubuque-Morning, IA
LOUISIANA
Optimist Club of Lake Charles-South, LA
PACIFIC CENTRAL
Lloyd E. Reber
QUÉBEC CENTER
Daniel Frappier
QUÉBEC EAST – NORTH SHORE
Isabelle Couture

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

EASTERN ONTARIO
Tammy Nolan
GATEWAY
Optimist Club of Gilmer County, GA
IOWA
Kathy L. Cox
LOUISIANA
Optimist Club of Jennings, LA
MICHIGAN
Judy Listenberger
PACIFIC CENTRAL
Joan D. Estepa
Optimist Club of Citrus Heights, CA
QUÉBEC EAST & ACADIE
Adrien Tremblay
QUÉBEC EAST – NORTH SHORE
Club Optimiste de Laterrière, QC
Marc Richard
Optimist Club of Yamachiche, QC



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



"I'm being bullied at school by Math, History, Language and Science!"



"My wife made the appointment for me. I'm here for an attitude adjustment."

A team of little animals and a team of big animals decided to play football. During the first half of the game, the big animals were winning. However, during the second half, a centipede scored so many touchdowns that the little animals won the game.

When the game was over, the chipmunk asked the centipede, "Where were you during the first half?"

He replied, "Putting on my shoes!"

A little boy was so excited because his mom told him he was getting a baby brother. He repeated to his teacher every day, when he came to school, "I'm getting a brother." One day his mom allowed him to feel the baby's kicks in her belly. The next day he came to school and didn't say anything to his teacher, so the teacher asked him what happened to his brother.

He replied, "I think my mom ate him."

A duck, a skunk and a deer went out for dinner at a restaurant one night. When it came time to pay, the skunk did not have a scent, the deer did not have a buck so they put the meal on the duck's bill.

GET A DIFFERENT LOOK



A BRAND NEW BRAND OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

The logo you knew is all new. Optimist International has rebranded all the way to the Club level. New logos available at www.optimist.org.

Contact marketing@optimist.org for questions.



FOLLOW US

on Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn and tag all your posts with #Optimist

[optimist.intl](https://www.optimist.intl)



[OptimistIntl](https://www.instagram.com/OptimistIntl)



[optimist.org](https://www.optimist.org)



[optimistintl](https://www.facebook.com/optimistintl)



[OptimistIntl](https://www.youtube.com/OptimistIntl)



[optimist.org/linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/optimist.org/linkedin)



OPTIMIST.ORG

Visit the Optimist International website for Member news, events, programs and more.