

Spring 2017

The OPTIMIST



Swing into Spring with
Optimist Junior Golf!



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

THANK YOU

TO ALL OPTIMIST
MEMBERS & CLUBS FOR
PARTICIPATING IN OPTIMIST DAY!



Our organization greatly appreciates each and every one of our Members striving each day to bring out the best.

Mark your calendars for Optimist Day 2018: February 1

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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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On the Cover Have you volunteered with Optimist Junior Golf? Learn more on page 22!



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2016-17
JIM KONDRASUK

Spring is coming! The days are getting longer, the sun feels warmer, and we begin to see the signs of new growth. It is a wonderful time of year – it is a time to think about all that we have to be thankful for, and one thing we all must particularly remember to be thankful for is Optimist International itself.

It is through our great organization that we touch the lives of millions of youth every year, complete a multitude of community projects that are tailored to our local communities, and truly make our world a better place to live. We have fun and share fellowship at our Club meetings. We experience so much personal growth and development by doing what we do as Optimists.

We all must remember that all of this is possible because of one thing! This one thing is the base of our entire organization. No surprise, it is our Clubs – the only real Member of Optimist International. Too often, we forget that, and too often, we take our Clubs for granted. Our Clubs need all of us to be involved and committed to bringing out the best in our youth, our communities and ourselves.

Unfortunately, we sometimes totally forget that our Clubs do really need us. They need our input and support – we cannot take our Clubs for granted. It is a sad day when an Optimist Club nearing its 100th anniversary folds. Now, you may ask “why” or “how.” When a Club folds, our youth lose, our communities lose, and the fun, fellowship and personal growth disappears. A tragic loss for everyone!

The good news is that we all have the power to stop this from happening in our own Club! This Optimist year is the “Year of the Honor Club.” Honor Club is a time tested, and proven way to keep our Clubs strong and active. Along with fun meetings and great

fellowship, you will have an overall healthy Club. Each of us can do our part. If we do not, our Clubs will suffer, and unfortunately, unhealthy Clubs do not survive long term.

What do we do, as Clubs, to remain healthy? It is really quite simple: complete a few projects, pay dues, support our Foundations, file Club reports, recognize a Member or community member as an Optimist of the Year, participate at District meetings, and recruit new Members. New Members are very important to carry on the Optimist Club legacy. A Club might complete a few of the tasks listed, but without new Members, it will not succeed.

Therefore, I personally ask each of you to look to family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to become Optimists. Share your experience and invite them to join the Optimist family. As a Member, it is a great way to serve more youth! Share our Optimist Creed. Everyone should strive to be more optimistic. Our Optimist Creed is a perfect model for any individual to follow for a happier life. “Promise Yourself” to share the Optimist Creed with those around you and you may recruit a Member for your Club!

THE YEAR OF THE HONOR CLUB
**TOGETHER WE CAN!
TOGETHER WE WILL!**

Jim Kondrasuk
International President 2016-17
Optimist International



OPTIMISTS IN ACTION MONTH

During the month of May, Optimist Clubs will create a widespread spirit of unity bringing together Optimist Members and other community volunteers for a variety of local-based activities, fundraisers and special events. Optimist Clubs can conduct any program or special event that meets the needs of their community, such as:

- Hosting a book drive for a local school library
- Planning a 5k run/walk
- Volunteering at a soup kitchen

Optimist Clubs should contact local media with details about their Optimists in Action Month program. Take photos and videos and share your Club's program on social media by tagging **#OptimistsInAction**. After completing your May project, send in your Club's project details and photos to Optimist International to be featured in a future issue of *The Optimist* magazine! Stories can be sent via email to magazine@optimist.org or a hardcopy to: Optimist International, Attn: The Optimist Editor, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108



Add a Member for a Chance at \$500!

Club Members actively sponsoring new Members is critical to the health of your Optimist Club. Unfortunately, 80% of Optimist Members have NEVER sponsored a new Member. In order to increase individual sponsorships, Optimist International will be giving away three \$500 prizes for the 3rd and 4th quarter. The goal of these raffles is to increase Member sponsorships, especially amongst those Members who have never sponsored a new Member.

- \$500 Drawing for Members sponsoring their first NEW Member (2 winners per quarter)
- \$500 drawing for all Members sponsoring a NEW Member
(all sponsoring names will be entered each quarter, 1 winner per quarter)



A Member will receive one (1) entry per Member sponsored. A Member who sponsors their first Member in a given quarter will have all entries for that quarter go into the 1st time sponsor drawing. Any sponsorships in subsequent quarters will go into the repeat sponsor drawing. Friend of Optimists sponsorships do count towards this incentive. For questions, contact membership@optimist.org.

NEWS

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 December 1 and March 1:

LEVEL VII

Jodi Arriola	WINUM
Susan Carlson	WINUM
Kristian Eggum	AMS&NW
Sylvia Lujan	NMNTX
Jessica Von Fange	NE

LEVEL X

Jurgen Walther	SWONT
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CONGRATULATIONS to the Top 10 Member Sponsors for the 2016-17 Optimist Year!

MEMBER	CLUB	MEMBERS SPONSORED
John Dina	Optimist Club of Naples, FL	35
Haley Limper	USI Optimist Club, IN	26
Matthew Janes	Optimist Club of Fort Worth, TX	25
Matty McGarvey	Bennie-Johnnie Optimist Club, MN	22
Abby Riegelman	Bennie-Johnnie Optimist Club, MN	21
Marc Nettles	Boyertown Optimist Club, PA	19
Jonetta Carter	Optimist Club of Winchester, VA	16
Brian Poe	Sylvan Hills-Sherwood Optimist Club, AR	16
Joe Smith	Optimist Club of Huntsville, TX	11
Charles Robinson	Mt. Hebron Dreamkeepers Optimist Club, SC	10

VIEWS

Vote Online

for the next Optimist International President, two At-Large Board Directors and your Regional Vice President.

Your Optimist Club will once again have the ability to participate in the election of Optimist International officers by casting its vote online. Voting begins on June 1 and ends June 30. But to be eligible to vote your Club must have a valid e-mail address for your Club President on file with Optimist International. And your Club will need to have all of its financial obligations paid by April 30.

Dates to Remember

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

May – E-mail is sent to every Club President outlining online voting procedure.

June 1 – Online election voting will open for 30 days.

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

Make sure your Club President's e-mail address is correct in the Optimist membership database to ensure that your Club receives the voting procedures. The Club President or Secretary should:

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

Scholarship Contest

DEADLINES

Mark your calendar for important dates regarding Optimist International scholarship contests:

District Essay Winners Deadline

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

District Oratorical Winners Deadline

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

CCDHH Winners Deadline

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

2ND ANNUAL OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Optimist International and Saint Louis University have once again partnered to host the 2nd Annual Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. Each Optimist District will have the opportunity to send one contestant to St. Louis to compete at Saint Louis University's Center for Global Citizenship. Each Region of Districts will have a winner receive a \$5,000 scholarship and compete in the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships to win another \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 scholarship. The winners of each Region will compete with Saint Louis University's Global Region made up of at most seven contestants from around the world.

District contests must be completed by May 15, 2017 in order to submit their 2016-17 winner's paperwork to Optimist International. Districts are responsible for the expenses to send their winner to St. Louis. For those Districts that are not able to fund their winner to compete onsite, their winner may compete remotely. In order for a District contestant to receive the full benefit of competing in the World Championships, please find the funding in your District through Members, Clubs, and other sources.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We have a variety of beneficial sponsorship opportunities available for businesses interested in supporting youth achieve their dreams and higher education pursuits. Sponsors of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships will receive benefits of branding and media placement in local, national, and global markets. Furthermore, sponsorship offers organizations the unique opportunity to connect their company's brand to the positive feelings associated with bringing out the best in youth. For more information about sponsorship opportunities or to assist Optimist International with identifying corporate sponsors, please send inquiries to finance@optimist.org.





Reel OPTIMISM

VIDEO CONTEST

Cast a Vote for Your Favorite Reel Optimism Video

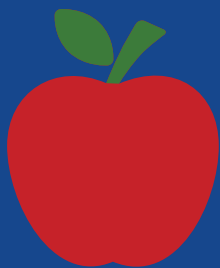
When creating a video entry for the 2016 Reel Optimism contest, adult Clubs, youth Clubs and other community groups, nonprofits and individuals were asked to construct a short video that visually illustrates the topic, “Optimism.” Optimist International received many outstanding submissions and the International Marketing & Communications Committee has narrowed the contest down to a limited number of finalists in each category.

An integrated Facebook and online contest experience allows you to view, share and vote for your favorite video. Votes are tabulated based on “Likes” with Facebook users allowed to submit one vote per day during the voting period. Help promote your favorite videos by visiting the contest site and the Optimist International Facebook page often. Encourage your social media connections to participate, too! Public voting will be open from May 12 to May 31.

During the Optimist International Convention in Albuquerque, winning videos in each category will be announced and shown on stage. Each winning video will receive a \$750 grant, courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation.

Save the dates of May 12 to May 31 to cast a vote for your favorite Reel Optimism entry by visiting optimist.org/ReelOptimism or the Optimist International Facebook page.

RECRUIT A TEACHER FOR \$30 INCENTIVE



Last September's "Recruit a Teacher" incentive was so well received that Optimist International is bringing it back at an even greater value than before!

For the entire 3rd quarter (April 1 – June 30), Optimist Clubs are encouraged to recruit teachers from their local schools. Optimist International is waiving the \$15.00 membership fee and offering a year's dues for only \$30!



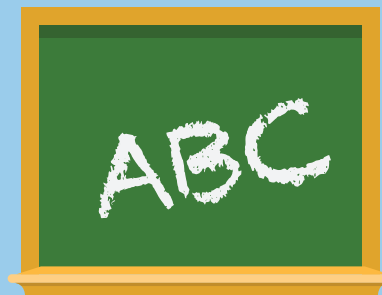
OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL



WHY TEACHERS?

Optimist Members of all professions are important to Clubs, so why the emphasis on teachers?

- Strong connections with local schools is extremely beneficial for Optimist Clubs. More teachers on your roster strengthens this connection.
- They can open doors for attracting more students to our youth projects – including Oratorical, Essay, Sports and other programs.
- Provides the foundation for new Junior Optimist Clubs.
- Teachers are able to provide first hand insight into the needs of the children of your community.
- Your Optimist Club will serve more children!



WHO QUALIFIES?

- Teachers
- Administrators
- Coaches employed by the school
- Aides
- Counselors
- May be active or retired
- If "teacher" is on their resume, they qualify.

Please contact the Membership Department with any questions: (800) 500-8130 ext. 226 or e-mail danny.schuetter@optimist.org. This promotion may not be used in conjunction with any other membership promotions including Friend of Optimists. Clubs will be billed \$30.00 at the time the teacher is added to their roster and then will not be billed dues for that Member for a calendar year.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF HUNTSVILLE STEM ENGINE: HELPING STEM PROJECTS STAY ON TRACK

Submitted by Alfred Adams, Optimist Club of Huntsville, Alabama-Mississippi District

The Optimist Club of Huntsville, Alabama chartered in 1947, a few years before Huntsville became known as “Rocket City” in the early 1950s. Located there are NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center and the Headquarters of the U. S. Army’s Space and Missile Command, as well as the Nation’s second largest research park. This concentration of high-tech agencies and companies fosters much interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in local schools.

Some schools in Huntsville, however, do not have enough funds to support STEM education projects, especially the extracurricular ones, sought by students. Other schools in the rural area surrounding Huntsville have students from low-income families who have little or no familiarity with today’s technology.

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Huntsville voted in the spring of 2016 to initiate a new program to alleviate both of these shortcomings, and designated it as the STEM Grant Program. This program was chartered to issue grants to schools that needed funds to support an existing STEM project, or to enable a school to initiate a new STEM project. Funding for the grants for \$10,000 was obtained from the Huntsville Optimist Foundation, and a committee chairperson was named.

The STEM Grant Committee took the following steps in early October of 2016:

- A unique program logo was designed for the letterheads and grant application form
- A STEM grant application form was created for the schools to describe the intended use of the grant and the amount requested
- Letters were mailed to principals of every middle school in the city and surrounding county announcing the program and enclosing a grant application form
- The STEM Grant Committee adopted evaluation criteria for grant applications received

A unique feature of the program was a requirement for the school requesting a grant to have the students who were to benefit from the grant make a presentation to the STEM Grant Committee. Presentations were to be at the requesting school so any “show and tell” items or audiovisual needs would be convenient. Quality of the presentation was one of the evaluation criteria used by the committee.

At the conclusion of the program in mid December, eight grants, ranging from \$880 to \$2,800, were awarded. Grants were awarded for diverse uses including mathematics competition books for a math team, hardware for a hydroponic garden, hardware for robots, science curriculum kits, a field trip to the Alabama Space and Rocket Center, and travel expenses for a greenpower race team. Most of the grant requests were fully funded, and the dedicated teachers and/or sponsors of Clubs and classes receiving funds were overjoyed to get the funding they requested.



TRIBUTE TO TERESA JACKSON

President of the Optimist Club
of Cicero-North Syracuse

*Submitted by Patricia Melvin, Optimist Club of Cicero-North Syracuse,
New York-New England District*

Teresa Jackson is truly one of the unsung heroes who flies under the radar without needing any type of recognition. She has been the Club President of the Optimist Club of Cicero-North Syracuse for several years. She was recently honored at a North Syracuse Education Foundation gala this past fall 2016. I have had the privilege of knowing and observing her for nine years.

In psychology, a relatively new paradigm transcends Maslow's self-actualization. It is called transpersonal psychology because it goes beyond the self to the divine or spiritual realm and demonstrates that there is a higher good and purpose to life than ourselves. When we move to this level, we connect the body, mind, soul and spirit in a higher order. Those people who reach out and do this find greater peace and joy.

In my opinion, Christian Larsen, father to the Optimist Creed, was ahead of his time by trying to promote this need and concept for humanity. He gave positive thinking a spiritual grounding, which elevated our Optimist International community to a higher level than mere positive, or wishful thinking.

Teresa Jackson, to me, is the quintessential picture of transpersonal thinking. In the nine years that I have known her, I have always witnessed her humility, grace and serving attitude. She has consistently put others' needs and opinions first. She spends her own money and time to make sure local girls basketball teams and school Optimist groups have the extras that most of our students take for granted.

Because Teresa is one of the exceptional people, I dedicate this poem to her for the hundreds of students you have guided:

*"Before I met you,
I lay trapped beneath the Black Sea
Were the ordinary was mandatory
You pulled me up-unconscious
And waited for me to awaken
It took me some time,
But I did pull through.
You taught me so much,
Now I must move on.
Your job, however, is not complete,
For others lie stranded
Beneath the Black Sea,
Waiting for you,
To reach them - like me."*

– Unknown

Thank you Teresa for all the years you have dedicated your time to the Optimist Club of Cicero-North Syracuse to better the lives of youth in your community!



TAMPA CLUB PROGRAM MUSIC TO YOUTH'S EARS

Recognizing that many kids and young adults are not developing a proper appreciation for orchestral music, the Optimist Club of Tampa, the second oldest Optimist Club in Florida, coordinated and hosted an outing for a group of youngsters who are residents at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Bartow, Florida. On February 15, the Club arranged for the youngsters, several of their chaperones and about six Optimist Club Members to be treated to a rehearsal of the Florida Orchestra at Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The group had the theater entirely to themselves as they watched the conductor, Maestro Michael Francis, lead the orchestra members through preparations for Beethoven's Second Symphony, which was scheduled to be performed in an upcoming show. The kids were able to witness the unusual site of the orchestra members being dressed in their street clothes, rather than in their performance garb.

After the rehearsal, the Maestro came down into the seating area of the theater and spent 15 minutes explaining how the orchestra functions, describing why he may have seemed somewhat overbearing and demanding during the rehearsal (primarily because of the challenging nature of the piece), providing an overview of his career and taking questions. He emphasized the importance of hard work and perseverance – and the message seemed to resonate with the group (including the adults).

Afterwards, the group walked across the street to the Hangar Restaurant at Albert Whitted Airport and enjoyed a pre-selected menu dinner on the second floor outside deck overlooking the airport.

From every indication, the group had a great time and were quite enlightened. In fact, after the kids returned to the Youth Ranch, three of the girls were so captivated by the opportunity that they asked their chaperones if there might be any possibility for them to attend the actual Florida Orchestra concert at which Beethoven's Second Symphony would be performed. The orchestra's community outreach coordinator, who had helped arranged for the rehearsal trip, secured complimentary tickets for the concert, and the three girls attended the actual concert. In addition, one of those three girls is now seriously considering pursuing a career in music.

Although the Club has assisted in several youth focused events over the past several years by way of providing extra hands-on assistance and/or making monetary contributions, it had been a while since the Optimist Club of Tampa had organized its own focused program for youth. The Club Members loved getting back into this hands-on approach. A thank you to Club President Peter Schreuder and Vice President Paul Adee for being the promoters, organizers and coordinators of this very special outing. The whole event was truly indicative of the Club being a "Friend of Youth."

Submitted by Gary Teblum, Optimist Club of Tampa, North Florida District



WORKING WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

Submitted by Sarah Pielhop, Brillion Optimist Club, Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan District

The Brillion Optimist Club has been working with what we have since chartering in 1968. Some of our fundraisers include raffles, our annual "Pizza Make," a ladies shopping night, our first annual "A Walk Through Brillion" event, and food stands throughout the year. We give back around \$14,000 annually, and we raised an additional \$18,000 with our "A Walk Through Brillion" event this year. We also do community events such as the Tri-Star Basketball and our "Electric Parade in June."

Brillion is centrally located between Green Bay, Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, and the Fox Cities in Wisconsin. We have three big manufacturing companies and a good number of small businesses and restaurants. We may not have the population of those big cities. Not everyone likes to go to a big city for fun, family, and a good time. Some enjoy the safety and hometown feel that we offer and we have used that to our advantage for projects.

Our biggest fundraiser in our history was just completed. We planned, fundraised, and installed a \$215,000 indoor splash pad at the Brillion Community Center. We actually did so well on the fundraising end that we ended up with \$234,000, and the excess we were able to put into a community foundation for repairs and upkeep for years to come!

Our Club researched, looked at what our community offered, and decided that replacing the wading pool in the Brillion Community Center and making it handicap accessible was what we should do. We chose to do an indoor splash pad. We have cold winters, and something accessible year round would be great for our youth. New is nice, but "reinventing what you already have also can be great.

We worked with a former Optimist Art Award Winner, Lexi Piepenburg, during her college break, to create the wall mural for the donors. The donors are in the etched glass bubbles that are a part of the mural. We wanted something that was not just a plaque on the wall, and what better person to ask than one of our own winners!

Again, working with what we have, the Optimist International Foundation was incredible. With the help of the Optimist International Foundation, we are able to have a campaign account, submit donations, and allow donors that needed the 501c3 tax number via our Club. Donors sent our Club the checks, and we submit them to Optimist International Foundation. The best part about putting our money in one big pot with other Optimist Clubs is that it is a guaranteed 3% return and no fees. The only stipulation was that we were not able to touch the initial investment for three months. We sent our checks in and the Optimist International Foundation was able to write checks to our contractors from our campaign fund when we needed them.

So, my advice: work with what you have. If you are a smaller Club, what cities are you near that you can work with or draw from their events without taking away from them? What businesses or foundations could you help or benefit from by doing a big event? Establish good relationships with your local businesses and foundations, because it does not have to be just the Optimist Club that benefits. In addition, remember, the overall goal is helping the youth in your community. That is why we are here.

COLUMBIA BREAKFAST OPTIMIST CLUB

Submitted by: Lois Duke Whitaker, Columbia Breakfast Optimist Club, South Carolina District

The Columbia Breakfast Optimist Club with only about a dozen members could be in the category of Watty Piper's "The Little Engine That Could." That is, as the Club has taken on several successful projects of late, their attitude seems to have been "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can. I know I can."

Beginning with their reactivation of the Club's Oratorical Contest in 2015-16, the Club was happy to see their best male orator, Justice Hill representing the Club and Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia, South Carolina go on to win the District Oratorical Contest and placing third at the Optimist International Oratorical World Championship in St. Louis in June 2016. Justice was the recipient of a total of \$13,000 in Optimist scholarships. He was only 16 years old at the time of his great success.

The Columbia Breakfast Optimist Club has met since 1956 for breakfast with a common purpose: helping youth in the Columbia area. Members of all occupations represent the Club: physicians, architects, financial advisors, professors, contractors, insurance agents and retirees to name a few.

One of the Club's activities include sponsoring the Governor's Carolighting Ceremony on the South Carolina State House Steps the Sunday following Thanksgiving. The Club has volunteered their sponsorship for over thirty years. The Club and Carolighting Committee members organized and coordinated more than 1,200 volunteers. It was the impetus for founding the Columbia Children's Choir, the South Carolina All Star High School Band, and High School South Carolina All Star chorus members. The Club received the Order of the Palmetto by then South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges in 2002. This award is the state's highest civilian honor awarded for extraordinary lifetime achievement and service to the state and nation. It is a once-in-a-lifetime achievement and previous recipients are not eligible.

Other projects include sponsoring:

- youth baseball
- the Judy Thomas cottage at the Carolina Children's Home
- a Junior Optimist Club at the Carolina Children's Home
- a Boy Scout troop at Epworth Children's Home in Columbia
- Camp Discovery, which offers a variety of innovative programs, activities, and special events for children, families, school programs and educators through experiences in nature
- a breakfast for about 150 campers each summer at Camp Burnt Gin, a summer camp in Wedgefield, South Carolina for children who have physical disabilities and chronic illnesses

Additionally, the Club has supported the local Columbia YMCA for years, provided breakfast for Camp Kemo, a local camp for youngsters afflicted with cancer, and sponsored Canoeing for Kids, a non-profit organization serving as a free recreational outlet for disadvantaged children.

During all of these projects, the Club still had the time and talent to build twelve new Optimist Clubs in the District.

Current officers for the Columbia Breakfast Optimist Club are Jim Bradley, President; Brooks Metts, Vice-President; Paul McClanahan, Secretary; and Hunter Rentz, Treasurer.





THE SEASON OF GIVING IN QUÉBEC EAST AND ACADIE



Maria Optimist Club

The Maria Optimist Club is accustomed to joining with other social clubs in affiliation with a radiothon, which is held every November on the New Carlisle CHNC radio station.

During the week before the radiothon, Club Members make their cars available to a group of high school students to accompany them in their fundraising for an end of the school year activity. They collect from Monday through Thursday, 6-8PM. This year, the Club accompanied 27 young people to help collect \$1,265.

Cap-Chat Optimist Club

The Cap-Chat Optimist Club organized the Christmas basket lottery at the Christmas market and the visit from Santa Claus to the St-Norbert School in Cap-Chat. The activity at the elementary school was a great success. There was a wonderful collaboration between the Members and the school board. Nearly 120 children received a gift from their community's Optimist Club.

St-Fabien/Saint-Eugène Optimist Club

The St-Fabien/Saint-Eugène Optimist Club held a delightful Christmas party at the St-Fabien sports center where nearly 70 children participated. The celebration included gifts, entertainment, snacks and a visit from Santa Claus. The Optimist Club acted in partnership with the municipality.

The Optimist Club also held a party for seniors at the Domaines des Érables in St-Fabien. The seniors enjoyed musicians who provided Christmas music and songs. Each resident received a gift, as well as a snack and beverage served by Club Members. The Club Members paid for this activity for the seniors, who amply repaid the Club with their many thanks!

St-Épiphanie Optimist Club

During the Hometown Christmas in Rivière-du-Loup, the Zone 7 Clubs funded a float for the Santa Claus parade. Thank you to those Optimist Members who made this realization on the Zone level possible!

The St-Épiphanie Optimist Club also hosted a Youth Appreciation event with a lunch offered to 95 students from the St-Épiphanie and St-François-Xavier-de-Viger elementary school. Each year, the students are very appreciative of this activity! Thank you to the volunteers, teachers and school principal for their involvement.





COVERS WITH LOVE AND HONORARY OPTIMISTS

Five Optimist Clubs in the California South District participate in the “Covers With Love” project for children with cancer: Del Mar – Solana Beach, Carlsbad, El Cajon, Oceanside, Valley Center, and Remington Optimist Clubs. The project provides treasure bags for children in Rady Children’s Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House, and for children attending the Seany’s Camp Reach for the Sky free summer camps. The Seany Foundation provides a magical place where children dealing with the stress of cancer can go and connect with other children who truly understand what they are going through.

Girls and boys, ages 4 to 9, first select a unique “Covers With Love” treasure bag, and then choose an “Honorary Optimist” hat with a colorful theme. The hats were made by the extremely creative, and very talented, Kristina Valentino, President of the El Cajon Optimist Club. Valentino is a dedicated supporter of the “Covers With Love” project, and for children with cancer.

Seany’s Camp Reach for the Sky is based in Southern California and is made up of camping sessions to meet the needs of children ages 4 to 19 dealing with cancer. This includes Resident Oncology Camp for kids with cancer (residents), Sibling Camp for the brothers and sisters of kids with cancer, and Day Camp for residents and siblings.

Robby A Medina, Chief Mission Director has been affiliated with Seany’s Camp Reach for the Sky for 22 years, beginning as a camper, then a volunteer counselor, and now Camp Administrator.

To learn more about Seany’s Camp Reach for the Sky, please visit: www.theseanyfoundation.org/

Submitted by Audrey Eller, Optimist Club of Del Mar-Solana Beach, California South District



99TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JULY 6-8, 2017 | ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER

CONVENTION IS FOR EVERYONE!

The annual gathering of Optimists is open to each and every Member and their guests! There truly is something for everyone. Are you an everyday Optimist from whom others could gain insight? How about a volunteer who has a successful program, a Member looking for a unique project idea or maybe a first-time Club or District Officer? Are you thinking about being a Club or District officer in the future? Are you someone who supports an Optimist Member in the family? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you have something to contribute and gain from attending the International Convention!

Following is the schedule of events including all the training opportunities to be provided. **If you have any questions regarding training, contact leadership@optimist.org.**

TUESDAY, JULY 4

8AM-5PM	VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND GOVERNOR-ELECT TRAINING	8:30-11:30AM	VICE PRESIDENT & GOVERNOR TRAINING
9AM-4PM	DISTRICT TRAINER CLASS	9-11:15AM	WORKSHOPS: 9-10AM, 10:15-11:15AM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

9AM-4PM	CLUB TRAINER CLASS	1-5PM	CLUB PRESIDENT-ELECT & LT. GOVERNOR-ELECT TRAINING
10AM-3PM	DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING	1-5PM	CLUB SECRETARY-TREASURER DESIGNATE TRAINING
3-6PM	REGISTRATION, CREDENTIALS DESK & HOUSE OF OPTIMISM EXHIBIT HALL	1-5PM	DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER DESIGNATE TRAINING
		1-4:30PM	WORKSHOPS: 1-2PM; 2:15-3:15PM; 3:30-4:30PM

THURSDAY, JULY 6

7-7:45AM	FIRST TIMERS ORIENTATION	4:30-6:45PM	FOUNDATIONS WILLIAM H. HARRISON DINNER
7-8AM	FACULTY MEETING	7-9PM	OPENING CEREMONIES - "TOGETHER WE CAN!" ENTERTAINMENT PARADE OF FLAGS NATIONAL ANTHEM INTRODUCTIONS PRESIDENT JIM KONDRASUK
7:30AM-6PM	REGISTRATION, CREDENTIALS DESK & HOUSE OF OPTIMISM EXHIBIT HALL		
8AM-12PM	DISTRICT CHAIR DESIGNATE TRAINING: CLUB FITNESS ADVISORS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERSHIP, NEW CLUB BUILDING		



FRIDAY, JULY 7

7-8AM	CERTIFIED TRAINER MEETING
7-8:15AM	CLUB PRESIDENTS-ELECT & LT. GOVERNORS-ELECT BREAKFAST
7:30AM-4PM	HOUSE OF OPTIMISM EXHIBIT HALL
7:45-8:45AM	CREDENTIALS DESK
9-11:30AM	1ST BUSINESS SESSION <i>KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JEAN NADEAU</i> <i>AWARDS PRESENTATIONS</i> <i>RESOLUTIONS REPORT & VOTING</i>
11:45-1:30PM	APPRECIATION LUNCHEON <i>"AMAZING ALBUQUERQUE!"</i>
2-3PM	WORKSHOPS
3:15-4:15PM	TOWN HALL MEETING
5:30-6:30PM	FOUNDATIONS PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBER RECEPTION (BY INVITATION)
7-9PM	PARTY ON THE PLAZA: A NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, JULY 8

7-8:30AM	FELLOWSHIP / OLD TIMERS BREAKFAST – FOR EVERYONE
8-9:45AM	TIP TALKS (INSIDE HOUSE OF OPTIMISM EXHIBIT HALL)
8AM-2PM	HOUSE OF OPTIMISM
8AM-2PM	BANQUET COUPON EXCHANGE
10-11AM	WORKSHOPS
11:15AM-12:30PM	TIP TALKS (INSIDE HOUSE OF OPTIMISM EXHIBIT HALL)
11:45-12:45PM	CREDENTIALS DESK
1-3:30PM	2ND/CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION <i>2015-16 DISTINGUISHED GOVERNORS</i> <i>AWARDS PRESENTATIONS & INTRODUCTIONS</i> <i>BYLAWS REPORT & VOTING</i> <i>PRESIDENT-ELECT, NICK PRILLAMAN</i> <i>PRESIDENT JIM KONDRASUK'S CLOSING REMARKS</i>
5:30-11PM	PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, BANQUET & BALL <i>"UP, UP AND AWAY!"</i>

SUNDAY, JULY 9

8:30AM-4:30PM	OPTIMIST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
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YOUR SOURCE FOR UP-TO-DATE CONVENTION INFORMATION

Visit optimist.org/convention to view the agenda and learn more on numerous topics, including registration fees and group meals costs, housing, travel and rental car discounts, youth activities, group tours, featured events and more.



If you would like information sent to you, e-mail convention@optimist.org or call (800) 500-8130 ext. 221 or 205.



JEAN NADEAU

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Friday, July 7 – First Business Session

Jean Nadeau is an author, international professional speaker and a radio host in Quebec, Canada. He is uncompromising on this: he is not an inspirational nor a motivational speaker! He actually likes to say that he is more of an intense speaker. He is frank, brutal, tough and sometimes even obnoxious, yet very funny!

However, once you get to know him, you understand that he has a big heart and an even bigger gut for how you can and should re-think your personal and professional growth. He tells it like it is and gets in your face to make you face reality. Brace yourself and meet Jean Nadeau.

Jean Nadeau explains his keynote presentation: *"I've got no time to lose. Nor do you. So brace*



yourself, things could turn ugly. A 60 minute eye-to-eye talk about what it takes to bring out the best in youth, in yourself and in your community. I am the Hulk of personal development. A good guy at first sight, but when it comes to personal development - you have to be prepared for this - I kick butt! In fact, I wake up every morning to make people uncomfortable with the aspects of their life they know they need to change. Uncomfortable to the point that they may finally decide to take action and move from where they are to where they want to be in life. My challenge is to have people re-think personal development in a more lucid and practical way."

Join Jean Nadeau in Albuquerque at the First Business Session on Friday, July 7.

To learn more about Jean Nadeau, visit www.jeannadeau.net.

CONVENTION TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

NEW – Sign up in advance for the officer elect training!

For convention, please sign up in advance for the following officer-elect training sessions:

Thursday, July 6 8am-12pm

- **District Chair Designate Training:**
Club Fitness Advisors, Leadership Development, Membership, New Club Building

Thursday, July 6 1-5pm

- Club President-Elect & Lt. Governor-Elect Training
- Club Secretary-Treasurer Designate Training
- Secretary-Treasurer Designate Training

Sign up in advance when registering for convention. Visit optimist.org/convention to register for convention. If you have already registered and did not sign up for the training sessions, contact Haidera Wilhite at haidera.wilhite@optimist.org. For question regarding officer-elect training, contact leadership@optimist.org.

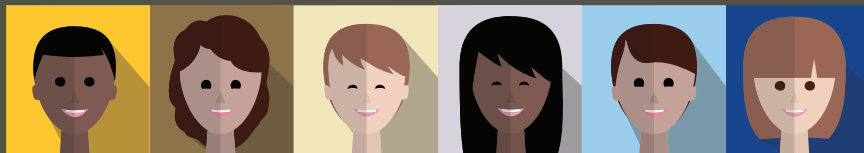
Convention Workshop and TIP Talk Topics include:

Branding and Rebranding	Junior Optimist Clubs
Childhood Cancer Campaign	Kids Speak Out! Speech Contest
Club Grants	Marketing Through the Proper Usage and Creation of Videos
Club Meetings	Member Retention
Club Projects	Oratorical World Contest
Community Service	Parliamentary Procedure
Cultivating Mindfulness	Professional Development Program
District Conferences and Conventions	Presentations
Foundations and What They Can Do for You	Recognition
Fundraising	Social Media
Goal Setting	Speed Mentoring-Activities
How to Create a Weekly Optimists Radio Program	Speed Mentoring-Leadership Development
Insurance: What's New with your General Liability Coverage?	Team Work
International Club Development	

For all convention information, including a full agenda, visit optimist.org/convention.

PRESIDENT'S
INCENTIVE:

ADOPT A SISTER CLUB



The "Adopt a Sister Club" incentive is for current Junior Optimist Clubs to build a Club in an area where people already gather. An example currently in the works is building a Club at a horse stable where students already meet. The original Club would mentor the new Club. After one to two years, the new Club is encouraged to do the same and build their own Club.

The top three current Junior Optimist Clubs that sponsor the highest chartered number of Members in a new Junior Optimist Club will receive the following free registrations for the 2017 Albuquerque Convention:

- 1st place - 5 registrations
- 2nd place - 3 registrations
- 3rd place - 2 registrations

**Charter paperwork must be submitted by May 1. Winners to be determined by Optimist International staff.*

2017 JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 3-5, 2017



Junior Optimist International Convention registration for adults and youth is \$199 and includes the following meals:

July 3 – Dinner

July 4 – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

July 5 – Breakfast, Lunch and President's Banquet

Check out junioroptimist.org for workshop topics and a schedule of activities!

CREATING LIFE LONG OPTIMISTS

As most Optimists know, Junior Optimist International has been immensely successful in recruiting youth Members to become more involved in their communities. These Junior Optimists are a vital part of Optimist International. Unfortunately, we lose many of them as Members when they graduate from high school and do not transition into a regular adult or college Optimist Club. Our hope is that more Junior Optimists will remain Optimist Members for life.

In order to help students remain Optimists, Optimist International is offering all Junior Optimists graduating from high school a free membership for any adult or college Optimist Club. Your Club will not be billed a \$15.00 processing fee OR international dues for a full calendar year. This is a great opportunity for all Optimist Clubs. Please encourage any graduating Junior Optimists to take advantage of this opportunity by joining either their local Club, or a Club where they will be attending college.

If your Club has a graduating Junior Optimist senior who wishes to take advantage of this offer, contact membership@optimist.org or call 800-500-8130 ext. 226.

HAILEY MILLS

Retaining Junior Optimist Members post high school as adult or college Club Members is extremely important for our organization. Hailey Mills, former Junior Optimist Member and current college Club Member, tells her story below and encourages current Junior Optimist Members to follow in her footsteps. If your Club currently sponsors a Junior Optimist Club, share Hailey's letter and encourage graduating seniors to join your Club!



Hello Junior Optimists!

My name is Hailey Mills! I am a junior at a small state college in Nebraska. I started as a Junior Optimist when I was in middle school. I am currently continuing in a college/community Club in the town that I go to college in! Joining a Club after high school is such an important and amazing opportunity that I highly encourage you to do.

By joining a Club after high school, it provides you with so many opportunities, resume builders, networking skills, and so much more! I have received all of the above by joining the Club that I did. I was a Distinguished President of my Club at the age of 20, and I am currently serving as a Lieutenant Governor for the Nebraska District. I have given many presentations at the District level and serve on two international committees.

Being a part of a college/community Club, I have had the amazing opportunity to make so many great friends and connections. All of the leadership positions I have earned within Optimist International has helped me gain other positions in school and in the community. Future employers or graduate schools look for community involvement and leadership skills. We, as younger Members, are the future of Optimist International, and I know that with all of you and all of your top-notch skills, we will do amazing things within this outstanding organization!

Joining a Club after high school was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I have made so many memories and have met so many amazing people. The opportunities are abundant and you get to serve so many people. It is just simply amazing. From here, I can only continue to encourage you to join a Club after you finish high school.

Have a great day!

Hailey Mills

Nebraska District Zone 4 Lieutenant Governor

Optimist International Ad Hoc Young Professionals Advisory Committee

Optimist International Ad Hoc College Club Committee

VOLUNTEERS: MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE!

Our District Chairs

Each year, our District Chairs spend countless hours coordinating the District Qualifier. They are the central point of contact for your District. The Chairs follow the Optimist Junior Golf guidelines for all qualifiers to meet the same standards. A big thank you for their dedication! All Optimist Clubs are asked to support your District Junior Golf Qualifier by sponsoring a local golfer, promoting the date and location of the qualifier in the community, and volunteering at the tournament. The qualifiers are a lot of fun and a time to get out and enjoy the outdoors. You do not need to be a golfer to help!

Volunteers at the Championship

We have approximately 40 volunteers come out each year to help any way they can at the Optimist Championship. This dedicated group of people pay their own way and work every day from sun up to sun down. Our Championship is well known for our volunteers. Kids that play in our events talk it up when they go to other tournaments to play. We hear so much during the year about how well organized we are and how much fun the players have while at our events. All of this is because of the hard work and generosity of our volunteers. Each person gives a 110 percent each day with a smile. We are always looking for volunteers to come out and help. Once you experience the appreciation of the players and their families, you will understand the excitement about the program.



Photos by Tina Valant, Extraordinary Photography

There is a reason Optimist Junior Golf has become the premier program of Optimist International, **it's because of YOU:** our Chairs and volunteers! Optimist opportunities like these help kids become better people and help them pursue their dreams.

**Come and attend the Championships to see what make us
one of the biggest programs of Optimist International.**

SRIXON®

OFFICIAL GOLF BALL SPONSOR

Srixon has become the Official Golf Ball Sponsor of the Optimist Junior Golf program. Srixon is offering a fantastic deal to our Members for the Z-STAR Srixon, which would include the Optimist Junior Golf logo. The cost is only \$30.00 plus shipping for a dozen balls. This would be a great gift for yourself, Club Members, Junior Golfers and any adult tournaments.

Srixon is the fastest growing golf ball used on the PGA Tour! These golf balls are for players that demand tour-validated performance with the highest possible quality, a tradition Srixon is proud to continue in the fifth-generation Z-STAR Series. There are 31 Players on the PGA Tour using Srixon golf balls. Players like Hideki Matsuyama, JB Holmes, Russell Knox, Shane Lowry and Will McGirt to name a few. If interested in purchasing the Z-STAR Srixon Golf Ball with the Optimist Junior Golf logo, contact the Optimist Junior Golf Department at (800) 500-8130 ext. 207 or e-mail golf@optimist.org.



UPCOMING OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF EVENTS:

Optimist Qualifiers

For a date and location of the Optimist qualifiers – visit optimist.org/golf-championships-qualifiers.cfm

The 2017 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships – A fun, competitive atmosphere!

July 18-23, 2017 - Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12

July 23-28, 2017 - Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14

July 28-August 2, 2017 - Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

Junior Tour Events –

Qualifiers for the 2017 Optimist Championship -

Saddlebrook Optimist Junior Tour (Wesley Chapel, FL)
May 6-7, 2017

Qualifiers for the 2018 Optimist Championship -

Kingsville Ontario Canadian Open (Kingsville, ON)
August 14-15, 2017

Green Valley Ranch Optimist Junior Tour (Denver, CO)
October 14-15, 2017

NEW CLUBS BUILT IN 2016-17

We are excited to announce that since October 1, **15 new Optimist Clubs** and **33 new Junior Optimist Clubs** have joined our organization! Hundreds, if not thousands, of children will directly benefit from these new Clubs. **Thank you** to our new Charter Members and Junior Optimists, as well as our Members who were active in building these Clubs, for making this possible.

Accra Optimist Club, Ghana
Cousins Empowered Optimist Club of Chicago, Illinois
Echo Hills Optimist Club of Accra, Ghana
Englewood Optimist Club, Colorado
Loras College Optimist Club, Iowa
Optimist Club De Cabalgata Jinetes De La Esperanza of El Paso, Texas
Optimist Club of Lake Gaston, Virginia
Optimist Club of Lakeville, Minnesota
Optimist Club of Mali
Optimist Outreach Mission Club, New York
Roseville Area Optimist Club, Minnesota
San Luis Optimist Club 800, Arizona
Sunset Optimist Club of Annotto Bay, Jamaica
The Childhood Cancer Optimist Club, South Carolina
Wingate University Optimist Club, North Carolina

Big Shanty Intermediate School Junior Optimist Club, Georgia
Burlison Collegiate High School, Texas
Camarillo Junior Optimist, California
Cape Henry Collegiate Junior Optimist Club, Virginia
CVMS Bobcats Junior Optimist Club, California
Downtown St. Louis Junior Optimist Club, Missouri
Hillside Secondary School Junior Optimist Club, Michigan
Hope Model Girls Junior Optimist Club, Michigan

Javawockies FRC Team 6336 Junior Optimist Club, Ontario
Jeffersonville High School Junior Optimist Club, Indiana
Jesus Cares Primary School Junior Optimist Club, Uganda
Junior Octagon Club of Mukwonago, Wisconsin
Junior Optimist Auto Club, California
Junior Optimist Club of Holston Middle School, Tennessee
Karamni Secondary School Junior Optimist Club, Michigan
Madison Starlings Junior Optimist Club, Wisconsin
Meadowbrook Junior Optimist Club, Texas
Minot Junior Optimist, North Dakota
Model High School Junior Optimist Club, Georgia
Octagon Club of Garrison, Barbados
Paso Robles High School Junior Optimist Club, California
Place Bridge Academy Junior Optimist Club, Colorado
Ralph L. Fike Junior Optimist Club, North Carolina
Ranch Elementary School, Arizona
Salem Awesome Alpha Club, Alabama
San Diego Junior Optimist Pony Scouts, California
Scott Elementary Junior Optimist Club, Colorado
SPHS Octagon Club, California
St-Pascal Baylon, Ontario
Student Optimists Helping Others, Michigan
Truth Youth Junior Optimist International, Barbados
Village Junior Optimist International Club, California
Winter Springs High School Junior Optimist Club, Florida

SOCIAL, SERVICE AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP

A new concept was born last December designed to strengthen our existing Clubs and to reach out to new demographics. The Social, Service and Young Professionals Group, or “Club within a Club” initiative, combines the best of both worlds for membership and new Club development.

Here’s How It Works

A Club recruits 15 new Members of any age range and adds all 15 to the Club roster at the same time. The Club Secretary-Treasurer then notifies the Optimist International Membership Department to note the development. The Social, Service and Young Professionals Group carries with it a new Club building credit for the Club and the District, and a Builder of Excellence credit for up to two people. There is no new Club fee of \$425. The regular new Member fee of \$15 still applies and regular dues will be assessed for the new Members. Programs such as \$30 under 30 will apply to the new Members and any of the new Optimists can be designated as a Friend of Optimists. The new group can hold its own meetings, elect its own officers, and develop its own project(s) while still helping the “parent” Club with its projects. The new Social,

Service and Young Professionals Group’s finances are handled through the parent Club’s account. People eligible for the program must not have been a Member of any Optimist Club for four months prior to becoming part of the Social, Service and Young Professionals Group.

These new Optimists can come from any demographic area such young professionals, veterans, teachers, people of retirement age and so forth. The point of the program is to rejuvenate our existing Clubs with a small membership roster. Reach out to groups in your communities that otherwise might not become Optimists, develop a new Optimist Club without having to travel great distances, or give an opportunity to individuals to provide volunteer service to more young people.

The Social, Service and Young Professionals Group is a way for your Club to expand their outreach and strength in their community. A Social, Service and Young Professionals Group could provide a traditional Club with an increased volunteer work force to tackle more complex projects and provide a platform for younger professionals to join an Optimist Club.

For more information, visit optimist.org or contact membership@optimist.org.

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER



The Optimist International Foundation is pleased to welcome Janet Oord Graves from the South Texas District as the newest member of the Optimist International Board. Janet will begin her four-year term on October 1, 2017.

Janet has been an Optimist Member since 1996. She has served in many capacities within the organization including:

Distinguished and Outstanding Governor of the Michigan District, Optimist International Vice President of the Southwest Region, and current Leadership and Development Committee Chair. She served the Optimist International Foundation as a Distinguished and Outstanding District Foundation Representative in 2014-15. She is a William H. Harrison Society Member, Christian D. Larson Partner and a President's Club Member.

“We all joined an Optimist Club to provide support, mentoring, and programs for the youth in our communities; a strong Optimist International Foundation is essential to ensure that we continue to be able to do so. **I will be proud and honored to represent the youth we serve and my fellow Optimists** beginning on October 1 on the Optimist International Board of Directors. Thank you for your support and confidence!”

Welcome Janet!



amazon smile

You Shop. Amazon Gives.

There is a quick and easy way to support Optimist International Foundation when you shop at **Amazon.com**. The Foundation is participating in the **AmazonSmile** program. Every time you shop, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Foundation.

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, search for Optimist International Foundation. Select the Foundation as your charitable organization to receive donations before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make on **AmazonSmile** will result in a donation towards the Foundation's mission of "Helping Optimist Help Kids!"

After you register on **AmazonSmile**, your Amazon online shopping will remain the same. The only difference is that you start shopping by going to **smile.amazon.com** instead of amazon.com. If you have any questions about **AmazonSmile**, contact the Foundation office at (314) 371-6000.

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



THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO THE CALL

A municipal park is a key place for children's development. Children move, play and develop their social circles. Therefore, it is important that it is set up adequately, but in some cases, cities and towns do not have the resources necessary. Many Optimist Clubs strive to collect funds and to work hand in hand with community organizations and various levels of government to offer their community's youth a place that will become a fond childhood memory.

That is the case of the Trois-Pistoles Optimist Club in Québec, which is working with a society to help local development, to add a gazebo to the church park. This idea was itself proposed by the community's youth!

"This infrastructure will allow today's and future youth to gather together and energize Trois-Pistoles' central park for years to come. Whether it's used as a performance venue, for social-cultural activities or for outdoor ceremonies, this place remains the heart of Trois-Pistoles' town centre."

Philippe Veilleux, Optimist Member

The local church and its park are very close to two resource organizations, one for families (Maison de la famille) and the other for 12 to 17 year olds (Maison des jeunes). Numerous young people will be able to use the gazebo after its inauguration planned for June 2017.

The Trois-Pistoles Optimist Club is an active sponsor for fundraising the \$25,000 needed. To optimize their efforts, they have benefited from the Outsourcing Program of the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

"This precious partnership with the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation permitted the March 2016 launch of the fundraising campaign. It allows donors to receive a charitable receipt for their taxes, an important benefit for project contributors. The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation has permitted the promotion of a direct incentive for participating in the project," according to Veilleux.

That is not all. This direct involvement in the community has brought the Club a lot of visibility and enabled intergenerational collaboration.

"For the Trois-Pistoles Optimist Club, it certainly is an important community project that could promote the next generation of membership."

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

The Trois-Pistoles Optimist Club is not the only one wanting to improve infrastructures for children in their region. The East River Park Optimist Club in Ontario started fundraising to refurbish the local park.

"We would like a safe and engaging place for our children in the community to play. We hope to create an inviting place for families to share with neighbors," said Lia Ham, a Club Member in charge of the project. The Club applied to the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Outsourcing Program in order to offer fiscal advantages to their donors.

Another project is "Skatepark 4 Penhold." The aim of the project is to build a safe place for youth of all ages who want to participate in skateboarding, in addition to biking, scootering and inline skating. The funds collected in the campaign "will be used to build a facility that our youth and community can be proud of," according to Brenda Mahoney who is in charge of the project. The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation was proud to collaborate with a project that promotes physical exercise. Thanks to the Outsourcing Program, the Penhold & District Optimist Club is on its way to collect the funds needed for its project.

If you want to leave an indelible mark on your community's landscape and in the memories of your region's children, follow the example of these three Clubs. No matter the amount of funds to be raised, you can count on the Outsourcing Program to help you.

For more information, visit ccof-foec.org or call 1-800-363-7151, ext. 336.



"We would like a safe and engaging place for our children in the community to play. We hope to create an inviting place for families to share with neighbors."

Lia Ham, Club Member



Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

638	Walter J. Merritt (In Memory)	641	Joyce Amer	644	Howard G. Bridges
639	Nancy Lehren	642	Ken Brandel (In Memory)		
640	Bob Burkman	643	Claribel Jackson		

Top Ten as of December 31, 2016

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$9.27
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$5.55
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$5.18
South Carolina	Doug Griffin	\$5.11
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$4.36
New Mexico-West Texas	Suzann Owings	\$4.12
Pacific Southwest	T G Thomas	\$4.08
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$4.08
New York-New England	Bruce Maclain	\$4.02
California South	Angie Hawkins	\$3.95

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	David Fries	\$10,063.60
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$8,571.10
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$7,446.50
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$6,586.65
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$6,433.59
Southern Wisconsin	Maureen Crombie	\$6,083.65
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$5,662.00
Iowa	Don Pfeiffer	\$4,803.75
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$4,691.65
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$4,428.26

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$15.24
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Wes Shewchuk	\$14.84
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$10.96

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$16,409.37
Central Ontario	Susan & Jim Lynge	\$6,296.50
Québec Center	Daniel Frappier	\$5,094.50



Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from October 1, 2016 – December 30, 2016 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

GOLDEN BENEFACTOR - \$50,000

COLORADO-WYOMING

Karen Pasternack

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA

Optimist Club of Hopewell, VA

PACIFIC CENTRAL

Optimist Club of Newark, CA

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN
& NORTHERN WYOMING

Clint Sopchysyn

CAPITAL- VIRGINIA

Thomas A. Shearer

NORTH CAROLINA WEST

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QUÉBEC WEST

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SOUTH CAROLINA

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"I'm a triathlete, I try to jog, I try to lift weights, I try to get off the couch..."



"If you ignore everyone in the room when you're on Facebook, why is it called social media?"

A husband said to his wife, "Do you know what our six year old son wants to be when he is older?"

The wife replied, "No."

Husband: "A garbage man. And you know why?"

Wife: "No, why?"

Husband: "Because he thinks they only work on Tuesdays."

One day a teacher asked her class to give the chemical formula for water.

One student raised her hand and said, "HIJKLMNO."

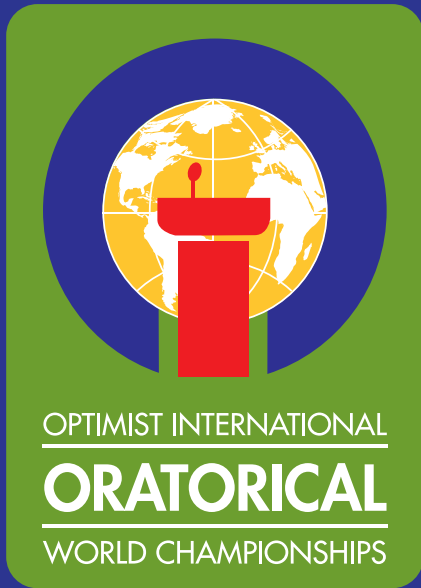
The teacher replied, "What on earth do you mean?"

The student then explained, "Well you said yourself yesterday it was H to O!"

One night a father was reading some bedtime stories to his son to fall asleep.

An hour later, the mother opened the door quietly and asked, "Is he asleep?"

The son replied, "Yes, finally."



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